

# *Our Cats*

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



JANUARY 50

**BIRTH OF THE BLUES** (see page 3)

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# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 2 No. 1

JANUARY 1950

## WILL YOU HELP ?

**A**LTHOUGH the New Year is well under way, it is not too late for me to wish you all the Happiest of New Years. May 1950 bring you Good Health and Good Fortune and may it prove to be a year of peaceful progress and achievement in the Cat Fancy.

So many kind messages and helpful suggestions have reached me during the last four weeks that it is utterly impossible for me to reply to them individually. To all of you who have written I would like to express thanks for the interest shown. The various suggestions and ideas have been gratefully received and correspondents may rest assured that their letters will have due consideration at the appropriate time.

One important fact emerges from the mass of correspondence received—over 90 per cent. are satisfied that OUR CATS Magazine, during its first year of existence, has well justified its claim to be " Authoritative, Instructive and Entertaining." This, you must agree, is an encouraging start.

And now for the task immediately on hand. This concerns the important item of circulation building. The year ahead bids fair to be one of fierce competition in the magazine world and we shall, of course, guard very jealously the leading position we have won among the cat publications of the world.

This position can be held only with the sustained interest and

*(Continued on next page)*



**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.

Yearly Subscription Rate is 17s. 6d. for 12 issues post free. Single copies 1s. 7d. post free. OUR CATS Magazine is distributed nationally through the usual trade channels and can be ordered through any Newsgent or Bookseller. Cases of difficulty in obtaining copies should be reported to the above address.



co-operation of our readers, old and new alike. So may I appeal once again for your help in one or more of the following ways:

- (1) Prompt renewal of your subscription fee when it becomes due. Even a negative reply is better than complete silence.
- (2) Recommending the Magazine to those you think will be interested.
- (3) Supplying me with names and addresses of cat-loving friends at home and overseas to whom you think a specimen copy would be acceptable. Such information would, of course, be treated in confidence.

The attention of those who have enquired about binder cases in which to preserve their copies of OUR CATS is invited to the announcement on the outside back cover of this issue.

Our front cover photograph this month shows Mrs. S. S. Culley's lovely Blue Longhair female Herries Chloe, by Beau Brutus ex Juliette of Dunesk, and bred by Miss Stephenson. Photo is by Kemsley Newspapers, Ltd.

EDITOR

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## FORTY YEARS AGO

You could buy a Cattery for 10s. and a Cattery and Run cost only another 10s.

Some of the leading Fanciers were advertising as many as eight studs and the fees ranged from 30s. down to 10s. 6d.

The owner of one famous Blue sire announced that 94 queens had visited him during the first nine months of the year; 416 kittens resulted. The diet of this active fellow was largely cod liver oil biscuits, raw meat and a well-beaten egg in milk last thing at night.

A number of firms were offering a comprehensive range of cat remedies. These consisted of capsules, lotions and powders.

A London butcher, advertising himself as "The Noted Pussy Butcher," offered "fresh boiled meat from the rump of selected corn-fed horses, neatly packed in

parcels of 6 lbs. and upwards." The price—2½d. per lb., carriage forward!

Plenty of pedigreed Blue Persian kittens were on offer at two guineas each.

The Official Register of the National Cat Club was kept at offices in Chancery Lane, W.C.2. It was announced that "only N.C.C. registrations were accepted by the United States and other governments for the purpose of admitting cats duty free."

*These interesting items were culled from the special Christmas Number of "Our Cats" in 1909. The publication bearing this title in those early days was a two-penny weekly edited by Mrs. Sansome of Bowden, Altrincham. Front cover design—a saucy white kitten—was by the famous Louis Wain.*



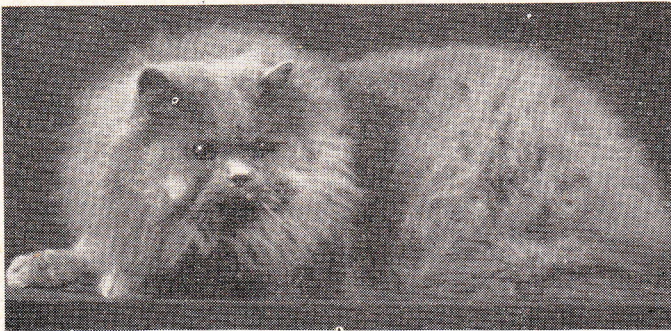
## *Birth of the Blues*

By CYRIL YEATES, G.O.M. of the English Cat Fancy. Mr. Yeates has been a Blue Longhair Judge since 1921 and his record of service to catdom has no parallel in this or any other country. In turn he has been Breeder, Club Official, Show Organiser, International Judge, Chairman and now President of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

**W**ERE I asked to name the cat which, in my opinion, was the most representative specimen of Blue Longhairs, I should say without hesitation — Ch. Mischief of Bredon. And I feel pretty sure that the majority of Fanciers who remember that great cat would agree. Anyhow, he was a very

from—but let us go back to the beginning!

The late Miss Frances Simpson showed the first all-blue kittens at the Crystal Palace in the early 'eighties, when they created something of a sensation. I knew Miss Simpson very well and always regret not having asked her to tell me more about these



CH. MISCHIEF OF BREDON—"the most representative specimen of Blue Longhairs."

good cat. Not only was he a superlatively good show specimen, but he proved himself a truly wonderful sire.

Whence did he come? Born in 1928, he was bred by Nurse Nicholls, his sire being Cupid of Callow and his dam Dawn of Hope, and he was descended

kittens, whence they came, etc. As it is, their origin is shrouded in mystery!

The year 1889 may be said to have seen the birth of the Blue cats, as in that year classes were provided for the first time at the Palace for "Blue Self Cats without White." These classes were



for cats or kittens and drew 17 entries, some of them being six weeks old kittens! In only three instances were details given and in each case the sire was a cat called Turco, owned by Mr. A. A. Clarke, a well-known Fancier and judge.

Prior to this there had been Blue Tabbies and Blue and Whites shown, which had to go into the Any Other Colour classes. Blues soon "caught on," and at Westminster—10 years later—there were 87 Blue adults entered and 23 Blue kittens! In the 56 years that have elapsed since the first Blues were shown great advances have been made and the majority of the cats of those early days would look strangely out of place in a Championship Class for Blues to-day.

### White Spots Gone

Photographs taken of those old-time cats show clearly that the majority had long, straight noses, narrow skulls and big ears. Many, we know, had green (or at best pale yellow) eyes and blemishes could often be found in the form of a white spot on chest or stomach. The latter are so rare these days that judges have almost ceased to look for them.

In 1901, Miss Simpson, who was largely responsible for popularising the Blues, founded the Blue Persian Cat Society. The Standard drawn up in 1902 differed very little from the one in use to-day, and from that date Blues steadily improved until temporarily checked by the 1914 War.

In an article of this kind, owing to limitation of space, one cannot refer to all the cats one would like to. So I must confine myself to those *which had the greatest influence on the breed.*

In the period covering the end of the last and the beginning of this century, there are three names that stand out: (1) Darius, (2) his son, Ch. Orange Blossom of Thorpe, and (3) his grandson, Ch. Neila Billi of Thorpe. Darius was owned by Mrs. Herbert Ransome, who, as Secretary of the Northern Cat Club and proprietor and editor of the original "Our Cats," rendered great service to the Cat Fancy.

### Some Famous Sires

Darius was out of a queen called Fatima, his sire being given sometimes as Starlight, sometimes as Bluebeard. His strong points were "shape, bone and head." Mated with Mrs. Slingsby's Daisy Nita of Thorpe, he produced Ch. Orange Blossom of Thorpe, and that cat, mated with Barrymore Periwinkle in 1903, sired an even more famous sire, Ch. Neila Billi of Thorpe, whose name appears in the pedigrees of countless Blues.

Other famous sires of those days were Ch. Woolloomooloo (Best Blue at Cruft's Cat Show at the Westminster Aquarium, 1895), Ayrshire Ronald (Best in Show, Crystal Palace, 1900, and sire of Don Carlos and Sir Archie of Arrandale). Mr. Frank Norris's Blue San Toy sired among many good cats Ch. Lord Monkton of Dundee (bred by Miss Baggs from Bifolia), who sired Oaklands Spearmint, Carn Puff and Scottish Gem. The Gondolier sired Lord Delamere of Delamere, Ch. Oaklands Sceptre,



Ch. Oaklands Sheila and The Gondolier of the Blue Clan. All the above-mentioned cats may be said to have played a big part in founding the Blue cats of to-day.

The first twenty years of this century saw a great improvement in Blues. The greeny-yellow eyes gave way to orange and in some cases were so deep as to be almost copper. General type improved, heads grew broader, noses shorter, and ears smaller. All these improvements did not come at once and there were many setbacks. Cats, like other animals, have an unfortunate habit of quickly reverting to type if given the chance, and the Blue cat has passed through many phases during the fairly long period that I have known it.

If I were asked where they fail most to-day I would say in soundness of colour and length of coat. Speaking generally, eye colour and size of eye are not what they were say 25 years ago. I think judges are very much to blame for this in not penalising more heavily cats which are uneven in colour, being neither

dark, medium or pale blue, and cats which have no pretensions to carrying the long, thick coat of soft texture demanded by the Standard, which also says "any shade of blue allowable."

There is no doubt that the pale shade is the most sought after and that it is more difficult to get soundness in pale blues than in the darker cats. Another point upon which I think judges should be more insistent is on size of eye and expression. To award prizes to cats with eyes they cannot open is going quite contrary to the Standard, which states quite clearly that eyes must be "large, round and full."

At the risk of being called old-fashioned, nothing will ever shake my belief that a cat should be before everything a thing of beauty, but in the craze for exaggerated head type, many cats have been produced which can only be described as ugly. In next month's instalment I will have more to say about the Blues of 1900-1920.

*(to be continued)*

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## A 1,000 MILES WALK!

A cat story calculated to cap *all* cat stories has been front page news in America recently. We pass it on without comment. It concerns Rusty, a ginger cat who followed his owners 1,000 miles from Boston to Chicago. They were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Toeste, who were startled when Rusty walked into their new Chicago home.

"We left Rusty behind with my father when we moved from a Boston suburb in September," said Mr. Toeste. "When he arrived here we were so astonished I telephoned my father, who said he disappeared on 28th September."

Nobody knows how Rusty traced the family to Chicago. But Dr. Young, President of the American Cat Association, said: "It sounds incredible, but it is possible."

To sceptics who maintained that it must be a case of mistaken identity, the Toestes replied that the cat has the same leg injury as Rusty and identical habits.

The best Britain can offer in the way of homing cat records is that of a Siamese hybrid who travelled in 1940 from Devon to return to his Surbiton (Surrey) home—180 miles in 10 weeks.





*Photograph by courtesy of "Evening News"*

**Mrs. Caroline Beale, of Carshalton, Surrey, a grand old lady of 101, with her lovely white cat Peter, a faithful and constant companion.**

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## SIAMESE ARE "QUEER"

Writing about Siamese in a recent issue of "Good Homes," the Journal of the H.S.A., Anne Rivers observes that the autumn Championship Show is an occasion when owners, breeders and onlookers have one characteristic in common: they are totally indifferent to the ordinary codes of politeness to each other, but they are never impolite to a cat.

A Siamese cat, she adds, is "queer." He will answer you when you speak to him; he will try to eat with you at your table, drink out of your cup, sleep in your bed and ride with you in your car, not merely for the usual reasons of warmth and

comfort, but because, it seems, it has never dawned on him that he isn't human, too.

Anne Rivers concludes: But they are expensive. Prize cats for breeding are sometimes as much as thirty guineas; the average price for an ordinary specimen is six guineas. "Six guineas for a cat?" some people say. "No," says the man who owns one. "Six guineas for beauty, affection, intelligence, companionship and a wonderful feeling that since the cat is the animal that does what it likes, if it likes to live with you, you must be the cat's whiskers."





# Tailpieces

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



ALL cat lovers will be interested to know that plans are afoot by the P.D.S.A. to keep evergreen the memory of Simon, V.C., the gallant cat of H.M.S. Amethyst. The Simon Memorial Fund has been inaugurated after consultation with Commander Kerans and it has been decided to divide the proceeds into two parts: (1) to provide extra benefits for the disabled and dependants of those killed in the Yangtze incident, and (2) to help P.D.S.A. work for animals in seaport towns. Simon was so very much one of the crew that this seemed the right thing to do. The patrons of the fund are Sir Robert Burnett (C.-in-C., Plymouth) and Lady Burnett, and a Trust Committee formed to administer the funds includes Commander Kerans, Col. W. W. Dove, Mr. Clarence Winchester, Mr. E. Bridges, Deputy Chairman of the P.D.S.A., and Miss D. St. Hill Bourne, Allied Forces Mascot Club and Press Secretary to the P.D.S.A. Special collecting boxes with Simon's photograph on the front are being issued.

My collection of Christmas greetings included a really novel card from Guy Bogart, Californian writer, poet and cat lover, who sent from his residence, Purr Hall, "Holiday Greetings from Guy, Servant-in-Chief, Hildabruen, Timothy McTicklebritches, White Mama, Uncle Penelope, Lindy Lou, Knight, Catnip, Catnap and Kim, with Bright Memories of Dudley, Sandy of Little Valley, Bruenhilda, Black Boy, Mother Guil de Roi, Blondie, Muffins, Juno, Kitty Gray, Pedro, The Dragon, Iapuwali, Susie Belle, Dempsey, Yellow Prince, Tadpole, Golden Boy, Othello, Pinkie, One-Ear, Barnacle Bill, Twinketoos, Gunga Din, Goldie, Smoke, etc., and many others of whom we say with Michael Joseph—'Sleep softly, dear friend, for while I live you shall not die.'"

The Third Report of the Animal Health Trust, recently published, records the splendid progress which that body has made in the development of its research stations and of its great educational programme. The period under review is from 1st July, 1948, to 30th June, 1949. The Report is fully illustrated and covers a very wide range of health and disease problems. It would be no exaggeration to say that the Report is unique in the history of veterinary science in this country, representing, as it does, the record of achievement of a voluntary organisation sponsored by livestock owners and veterinarians themselves. The Duke of Norfolk is President and the Duke of Beaufort Hon. Treasurer of the Trust, the address of which is 232/235, Abbey House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. The Trust has recently announced a scheme for Fellowship and Membership—open to all interested in animal life and well-being—and details, with a copy of the Report, will be sent to any intending subscriber on request.

Michael Blackmore, writing on British Wild Life in the December issue of "The Ark," the Bulletin of the Catholic Study Circle for Animal Welfare, says: "Let us be fond of animals by all means. Let us remember that they were created by God just as we were ourselves. But for heaven's sake don't let's credit them with powers and feelings for which there isn't the slightest proof. Too many people ascribe to wild animals the attributes that belong to man alone—a thing that is technically known as anthropomorphism. . . . We must face up to the fact that our approach to animals must be not only humane, but also logical. And although sentiment has its rightful place in our outlook towards them, we must, as far as possible, cut out sentimentality."



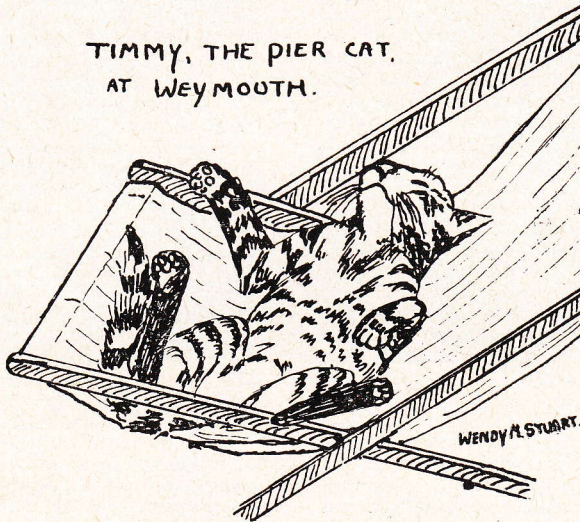
A news item reports that when Mr. Angus Ward, former U.S. Consul General in Mukden, arrived in Yokohama, the Japanese Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals prepared a banquet for his four cats.

It is always a pleasure to recognise talent and especially is it so when that talent has close associations. The delightful sketch reproduced below was drawn by Miss Wendy Stuart, of Isleworth, Middlesex, who is a member of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club and probably the youngest subscriber to this Magazine.

Secretary of the Cat Fanciers' Association. The vacancy caused by her death will be filled by a prominent and popular figure in American feline activities—Mrs. Claire Y. O'Bryon, of Scarsdale, New York, who is also a successful breeder of Siamese.

That popular sixpenny monthly, "The Tailwagger" Magazine, which has for so long been 100 per cent. in canine appeal, is now devoting two pages to other pets and catty articles and pictures will be prominent. "Good heavens!" says the Editor. "Cats in a dog's magazine! Surely

TIMMY, THE PIER CAT.  
AT WEYMOUTH.



"He ate too much"—see paragraph on this page.

Wendy is, of course, a great cat lover and I feel sure you will all agree that her impression of Timmy jolling at ease in the deck chair shows artistic ability far above the average. Wendy writes: "Timmy really belonged to a cargo ship but he was left on shore because he ate too much. He was always at the pier café at 6 a.m. when they opened, for food. As I fished a lot from the pier, Timmy would come and sit by me waiting for my fish to eat. I drew quite a few pictures of him there, as he was so very friendly with me."

The American Fancy suffered a great loss last year by the tragically sudden death of Mrs. Karl B. Norton,

some mistake here . . . or is there?" Nice work "Tailwagger"!

We receive from time to time a number of enquiries as to the availability of suitable collars for cats. These come mostly from Siamese owners and from flat-dwellers in particular. Since the war there has been precious little available in the way of suitable neckwear, but now at last I have news of a serious attempt being made to market what is to be styled "safety harness" for cats. It is sponsored by Miss J. Mary Collier, of 11 West Park Road, Southampton, who has kindly afforded me the opportunity to test out the harness in use. It has accordingly been tried out on



one of my Siamese with admirable results. The harness is light and comfortable and fully merits the recognition it has earned from some of the animal welfare organisations. The "trial horse" for the harness was a lovely white stray cat which Miss Collier picked up in Cape Town

and which wore the harness during his journey from South Africa to this country. You may expect to learn more later in this Magazine about the specifications of this latest line in feline accessories.

MICKEY



## More about F.I.E.

By KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS

READERS of OUR CATS may remember that in an article on feline infectious enteritis in the April issue, I promised to write again when I had more information regarding the production of a vaccine. The Research Laboratories, after overcoming many difficulties, advise me that they now have a strain suitable for vaccine production. The only way virus of the disease can be propagated to provide material from which the vaccine can be prepared is by infection. With human inconsistency, the idea is abhorrent to us and it is time we realised that if we call for help, we should be ready to be wholly co-operative. If you have had

the misfortune to lose a cat or kitten through f.i.e., the body should be sent to the Laboratory through your veterinarian.

With regard to other vaccines made in England, there are at least three. But there would be no point in my naming them because, as far as I can ascertain, they are not specific and in any case they can only be obtained through your veterinary surgeon. So ask his advice.

Are the American vaccines specific? In America "Yes," and my information is that cats inoculated in England have not contracted the disease. It must be remembered that unless the

*(continued overleaf)*

### ALL-IN HOUSEHOLD PETS INSURANCE COVERING DOGS AND CATS

This insurance, first introduced by us in 1933, has recently been considerably increased in scope and simplified after sixteen years' experience, and now include CATS, which can be insured alone.

**Annual premiums from 14s. 9d. per animal**

*This is the first time that a serious attempt has been made to cater for the insurances of Felines, and already it is clear that the new insurance is greatly appreciated.*

Write for Brochure H—sent gratis upon application

### THE CANINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LIMITED (Established 1932)

DEPT. 17, 61-62 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3  
'Phone: MANSion House 8089 'Grams: "ALDOGS," Bilgate, London



inoculated cat is in contact with the disease, it cannot be said to be specific.

### American Vaccines

I have used both American vaccines — Pitman-Moore and Lederle—and believe them to be definitely specific in England. This does not rule out the possibility that the American vaccines have a strain different from that attacking our cats. These vaccines have no reaction on the inoculated cat.

Now for the sulpha group of drugs. I can only repeat that f.i.e. is a virus. This group of drugs is ineffective but can be used for secondary infection, i.e. pneumonia, under the direction of your vet. I stress this point because the use of the drugs can be a danger. Penicillin, while not so dangerous, will not deal with the virus.

Lately, the f.i.e. bogey has raised its ugly head again. There have been cases here and there, not an epidemic. A large percentage have recovered, which would seem to support the theory that many of the cases are wrongly diagnosed or the strain of virus is not as virulent as pre-war. Certainly, f.i.e. has not been rife in this country for some years.

You should therefore preserve

an open mind and do not suspect the worst. Let your cat live as natural a life as possible and, if you have more than one, isolate at the first sign of sickness. I am certain cats develop illnesses through lack of thought at the outset. An upset stomach, for instance, develops into something worse. Some three months ago I received an urgent telephone call: "My cat has not eaten for a day. I put her in with my two big neuters for company during the night, but this morning she looks so ill and listless."

### Don't Fuss

I suggested to my enquirer that she called in the vet., keeping the cat warm in the meantime, and, in the absence of anything better at hand, to give some soda water with a pipette and isolate. "Above all, *don't fuss her!*" Two days later there came the message, "Thank you very much. I did not call the vet. as Tinker was fine by next mid-day." Poor cat! A bilious attack and she had to be pushed about by two friendly neuters. Like ourselves when bilious, cats want peace and quiet for a while. At such times germs take hold.

I am happy to say the Laboratories have every hope of a vaccine being available in the very near future.

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## 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

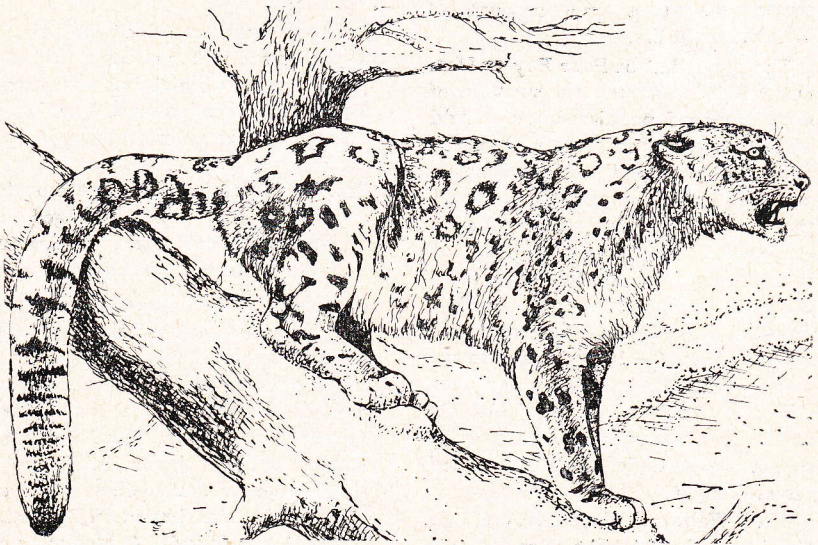
21 January	...	...	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club	...	Manchester
21 January	...	...	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	...	Edinburgh
30 January	...	...	*Southern Counties Cat Club (see advertisement)	...	London

\* Denotes Show with Championship status.





OCELOT



SNOW LEOPARD



# Dick had No Cat

By FLORENCE SPEED

**D**URING the pantomime season, juvenile audiences will once again be delighting in that hardy annual, "Dick Whittington and His Cat," although Richard Whittington, four times Lord Mayor of London (not three, as in the nursery jingle), had no cat! There is not a shred of historical evidence to support the legend of the beloved but fabulous animal, who earned a fortune for his master, a scullery boy, by killing all the mice in Barbary.

Richard was, in fact, no poor boy, but the son of Sir William Whittington, of Pauntley, in Gloucestershire. And the fiction of his cat only started in 1605 with the production of a play, nearly a couple of centuries after his death, called "The History of Richard Whytynton, Of His Lowe Byrth and His Great Fortune," purporting to be a true account of Whittington's life.

The play, that of Poor Boy to Merchant Prince through the medium of a cat, touched popular fancy. And when the engraver Robert Elstracke published a portrait of Whittington with his hand resting upon a skull, the public demanded to have Dick's cat instead. So, obligingly, Elstracke in later printings removed the offending skull, replacing it with a cat. Thus the legend of the cat flourished.

Cats are not native to this country, and in Whittington's time they were still rare and highly prized. As late as 1535 a Spaniard is known to have sold a cat in Chile for six hundred pieces-of-eight.

The Welsh chieftain Howel the Good passed protective laws for cats as early as A.D. 936 and fixed their prices. The price of a kitten from

the night it was born was "one legal penny," the sum paid by Dick in the story. A very high price it was, too, since a skilled man's wage was a few coppers a week.

A cat old enough to kill mice was priced at twopence, "and after it shall kill mice, four legal pence, and so it always remains."

It was illegal to kill or steal a cat, and an odd reparation was exacted from killers. The dead cat was suspended by its tail, head downwards, "touching a clean and even floor," and then wheat was poured over and around the body until it was completely submerged, tail tip and all. The killer's wheat then was forfeit to the cat's owner. But if the offender had no wheat to give, then instead the law pronounced "a milch sheep with her lamb and its wool is its (the cat's) value."

Later Welsh laws fixed the price of a cat, invaluable in early, vermin-ridden ages, as high as a pound. But this was for animals "perfect in eye, perfect in teeth, perfect in tail, perfect of claw and without mark of fire." Rats and mice, it was thought, were wary of the smell of singed fur, and a fireside cat would be lazy and no mouser, hence this last provision.

Richard Whittington could have laid the foundation of his fortune by selling, in his time, a cat to an Eastern potentate. But the legend will outlast truth. It has, indeed, recently been given fresh impetus. In the bombed ruins of St. Michael's, Paternoster Royal, where Richard Whittington was buried, the mummy of a cat was found. A mummy now displayed in a glass case in the church is boldly labelled "Dick's Cat!"



## ***Colour Inheritance***

By ALBERT C. JUDE

MANY of the animals of the small livestock Fancy, including the cat, originated from a similar kind of wild pattern coat. In each of the original coats, which differ only a little in general appearance, there is a mixture of three colours—black, brown and yellow.

It may be of interest to note that these pigments, including the "colours" evolved in the Cat Fancy, belong to two main types—melanin pigments and lipochrome pigments. The melanin pigments are derived from the blood. They are waste products, deposited in the hair, instead of being carried out of the system with the other waste materials. Black and dark brown are the most conspicuous of the three pigments. Yellow and red are lipochrome or fat pigments, and are derived from the reserves of the body.

The pattern of the normal wild coat differs according to the surroundings in which the animal lives. This is so in the great wild cat family, and some instances have been depicted on the "Zoo" pages of OUR CATS. There are animals, too, which change their colouring according to the season, donning even a

white coat during the winter period. All this is nature's way of camouflage for self-protection.

Rarely in animals, but particularly in birds, we find the males adorned in more colourful coat than the females, in order to be the more attractive and conspicuous to the female. But whereas birds see in colour, only the human and the apes of the mammals do so, the rest seeing in black and white.

There, then, we have the beginning of the coat colours—the complexity to unravel. And in the beginning, the unravelling must start by nature itself. The natural complex wild pattern will breed true for generations, whether in the wild or in domestication. Sports or mutations of colour crop up occasionally, and from these the fancier has been able to cultivate something worth while.

He may cultivate the mutation so as to keep it as it appeared, or he may use it as a cross to produce some other new variety or varieties. But of all the possibilities which come within our scope as breeders, there is one fact which has to be considered. We are not able to create new factors. We can cer-



tainly rearrange or re-group existing factors, and thereby create a new variety, but it is the re-grouping which is new, and not the factors involved. But science marches on, and who knows what possibilities may yet materialise?

For instance, during the last few months an attempt has been made to induce the division of the chromosome in mice, without the egg itself doing so, and actually one of the control mouse eggs was found shortly after fertilisation to be triploid. Instead of the usual 20, this blastula had 30 pairs. If the assumption proves correct, it may mean an entirely new form of life so far as mammals are concerned.

When mating colours, a point the fancier has to realise is that each animal has a double hereditary equipment. This means that one equipment is passed on by the sire and one by the dam. So when a cat is true breeding for a factor, it will have inherited identical factors from the father and from the mother. When a cat comes to form ova (eggs) or sperms, as the case may be, the hereditary equipment has to be brought down to a simplex state, so that when the mother germ cell comes to form daughter cells, each daughter cell receives the necessary equipment in the simplex state, one set of factors being passed on to one daughter, the other set to the other daughter.

Now consider the case of, say, a Seal Pointed Siamese carrying

recessive blue-point factor. Seal-point being dominant to blue-point, only one dose of the seal-point factor is necessary to make the cat seal-pointed. But when *this* Seal Pointed comes to form germ cells, the factor for seal-point and the factor for blue-point segregate and pass into separate germ cells. This means that in the case of a cross-bred queen carrying blue-point, half her eggs will carry the factor for seal-point and the other half will carry the factor for blue-point. The same arises with a similarly bred male. Half his sperms carry seal-point and the other half blue-point.

So when a cross-bred Seal Pointed queen carrying blue-point is mated to a true breeding Blue Pointed male, she will be found to breed some seal-pointed and some blue-pointed kittens. The seal-pointed are the result of an egg carrying the seal-point factor being fertilised by a sperm carrying the blue-point factor, whilst the blue-pointed are the result of an egg carrying the blue-point factor being fertilised by a sperm also carrying the blue-point factor. Such Blue Pointed will breed true, although one parent was a cross-bred Seal Pointed.

Where one is only considering a pair of alternatives, it is easy to follow and predict results, but when one comes to consider several pairs of factors, matters are naturally more involved, yet the same principle operates.



# **Report from Australia**

*Cat lovers all over the world will find much to interest them in this report from Mr. Harry H. Wynne, Joint Publicity Officer of the R.A.S. Cat Club, N.S.W., Australia. It is splendid news he sends—that the Fancy “Down Under” is organizing on sound lines to ensure future prosperity and progress.*

FOR a considerable number of years the Cat Fancy in Australia (particularly in New South Wales) has progressed quietly and without fanfare, and although we may be a long way behind England and America with regard to quantity, we are definitely on equal terms in quality.

Two decades ago we adopted a standard which very closely resembled the English ideals and which, with local adaptation to suit our different climate, has invariably ensured a high-class animal.

As in other lands, our felines suffered during the war years, but are rapidly overcoming the inevitable setbacks, and indeed the Fancy is now approaching the flourishing stage. It is significant that many of our top-line breeders are again casting wistful glances at English catalogues, for, undoubtedly, our foremost stock are direct descendants from overseas importations and our native crossings are not as varied as could be desired.

In New South Wales there are three clubs enthusiastically operating and we have high hopes that very soon the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (Cat Club Section) will officially control the entire Fancy in the State per medium of a Consultative Committee elected

by the general cat public. Actually, a provisional committee consisting of the delegates of each club have been doing splendid work over the past fifteen months. The eventual set-up will be similar to the English Government Council.

Perhaps the Mecca of all exhibitors would be the Cat Section of the Royal Easter Show, which draws enormous crowds. We are allocated two days from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Judging is usually completed by 12.30 p.m., and at the two last Shows thousands of people have withstood much jostling and personal inconvenience in the hope of viewing our cats. Readers can easily visualise the enormous publicity derived, although there are many other attractions at the Show and we are obliged to accept any old hall for housing which, although not exactly detrimental, is not to be compared with overseas venues.

Our stock on view during 1949 at the various shows was well up to standard, the popular Blues and Chinchillas predominating. It was interesting to note that at the Royal Easter Show a recent English importation, Stourbank Michele (owned by Mrs. Craig, of Drummoyne, N.S.W.), was adjudged Best Blue Cat in the Show from strong opposition. But the supreme title of Best Cat in Show was a brilliant young Chinchilla, Rex of Chatsworth (bred and owned by Mrs. D. Burnage, of Willoughby, N.S.W.). He could without fear be



awarded the honour of the most outstanding Chinchilla of the year.

The Best Cat of the Year, a title or official designation awarded each year on a points basis to only "Best Cat in Shows," was finally narrowed down to a popular choice in Playboy of Windsor, a sterling Blue male bred and owned by Miss T. Young, of Killara, N.S.W.

Our Whites were extremely well shown, although the beautiful blue eyes are in the minority, most of our species sporting the yellow eyes. The Reds, Browns, Blue Creams, Torties and other Tabby classes are not terribly prolific but are immensely popular with the public. The Blacks are also splendid animals but extreme care has to be taken with them in regard to their coats, which, through the excessive heat of our summer have a tendency to reveal a rustiness. Of the other types, the Shaded Silvers are closely following the pattern laid down; in fact, a Shaded male has twice in succession been Best Cat in Show at the C.F.A. of N.S.W. Championship Shows. The Creams and Smokes, however, are not as near perfection as critics would like. The popular neuters with astonishing poundage and characteristics would vie with any similar type in the world and we often have up to twenty in our big shows.

With the other breeds, the Siamese and the Manx, I am afraid we cut a very sorry picture. At the R.A.S. Show there were exactly three Siamese and of these Mrs. F. Donmall, late of England, contributed two. Perhaps the arrival of some of our English

friends may cause an influx of the Cream and Seals. Strangely, there is not a dearth of these exotic felines in Australia, but for some unaccountable reason the owners have never shown any inclination to exhibit their charges, and as a consequence show organisers do not seriously cater for them. Maybe our new Aussies will get busy and force us to rearrange our classifications. Let's hope so.

Regarding the Manx cats, in sixteen years of show organising I regret that I have never been fortunate enough to see one.

Our greatest deterrent to progress out here in God's Own Country is the apathy of our Press. It is indeed a major sensation if any Club can persuade a paper to publish even the chief awards of a show. Ironically, one often sees in his evening newspaper a photo of some alley cat sitting majestically on a pole with appropriate story, or another freebooter of the tiles strutting despondently on a block of ice. Such is news, not altogether palatable to breeders and fanciers of exquisite aristocrats, but in keeping with the poor sense of news value that our editors display regarding cats.

Notwithstanding, we shall continue along our unobtrusive and unspectacular way and we shall continue to hold exhibitions, which, after all, is our chief reason for existing. Overseas fanciers are assured that we from "Down Under" will always endeavour to uphold the traditionally high place in everyday life that the cat has enjoyed throughout civilisation.

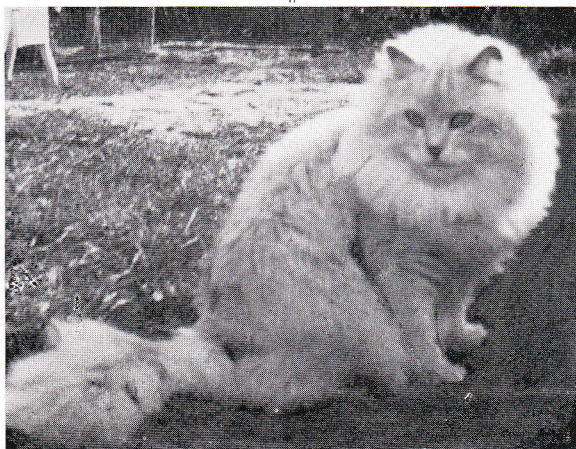
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No official figures of the cat population in this country are available, as cats, unlike dogs, need not be registered. But Mrs. Muriel Larwood, Registrar of the National Animal Registration Service, which has just been restarted, estimates our cat population at nearly 14 millions. This works out at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cats to every dog.

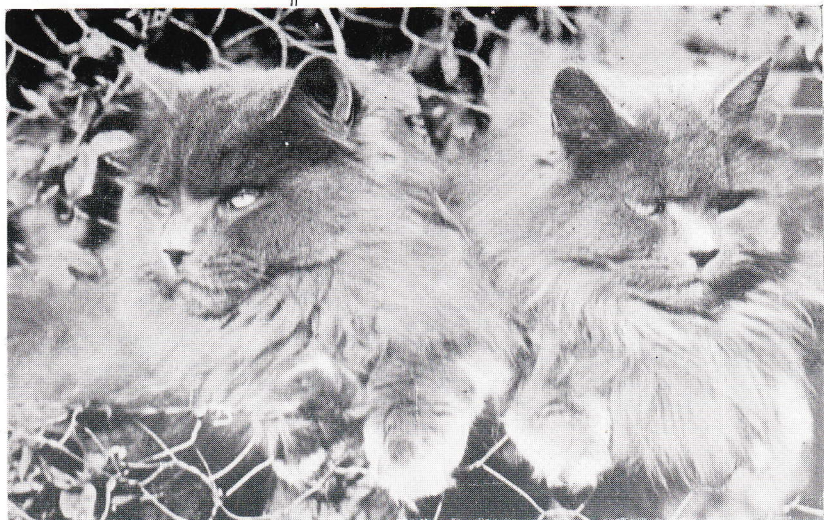
Christmas festivities produced a very mild crop of drunk and disorderly cases. But there was one very amusing incident in a Sunderland police court when a local man was fined 10s. for making himself a nuisance. The policeman said that he discovered the defendant rolling about in the roadway asking a cat if he was drunk.



## On top "Down Under"

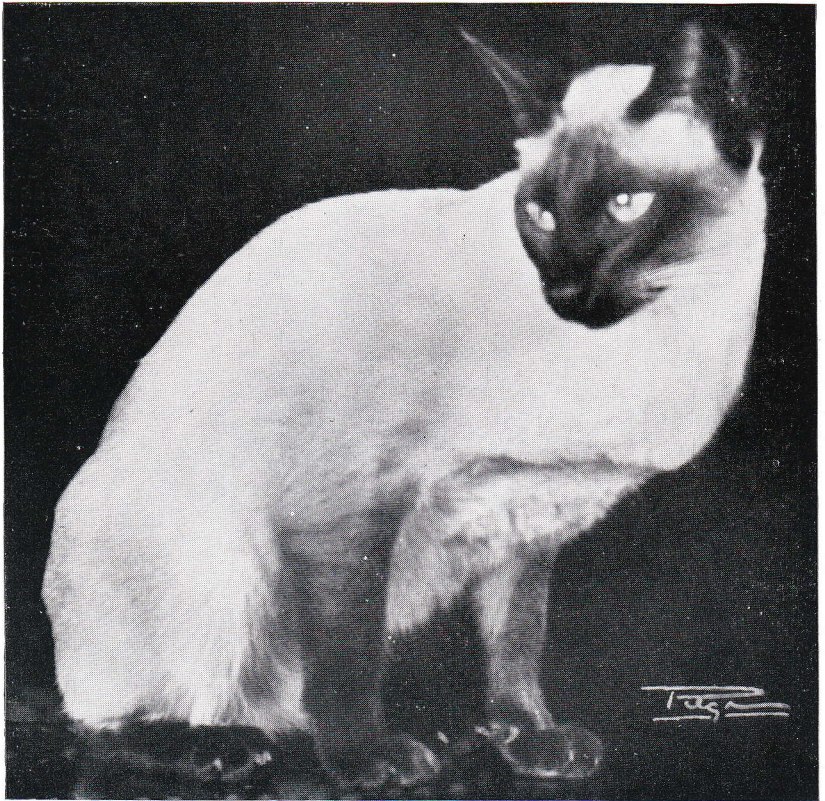


Presenting an Australian Best in Show, REX OF CHATSWORTH, lovely young Chinchilla male. See reference in the preceding article.



And here (left) is PLAYBOY OF WINDSOR with his illustrious mother Lady Gloria of Roma. Playboy, a sterling Blue male, was voted the Best Cat of 1949 in New South Wales, Australia.





CH. INWOOD SHADOW, widely acclaimed as the best Siamese female we have seen in this country since the War. After notable successes at the Siamese Cat Club Show and the National (where she was Best Cat in Show), she went on to capture full Championship honours at the recent Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club Show, where she was Best Shorthair Adult. Shadow, born June, 1947, and bred by her owner, Mrs. A. S. McGregor, of Nettlestead, near Maidstone, is by Salween Conqueror ex Inwood Lou.

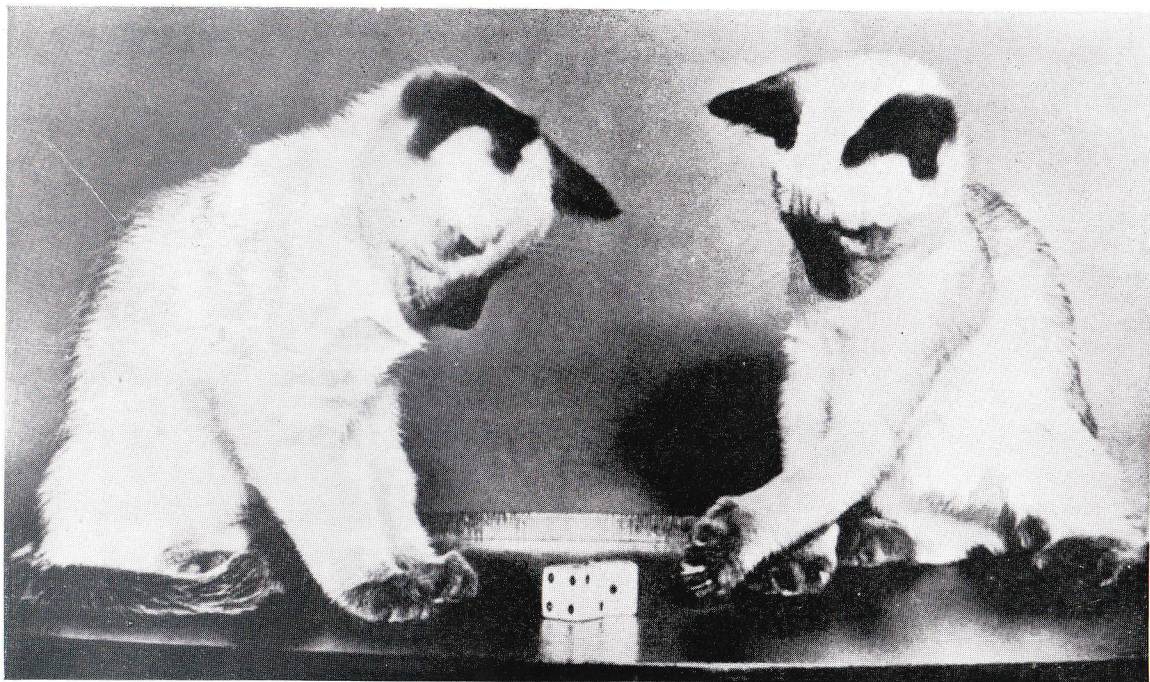




*Photograph by YLLA*

Another gem from a book of exceptional studies by this internationally famous animal photographer, reproduced here by permission of the publishers, The Harvill Press, Ltd. Block kindly loaned by "The Tailwagger" Magazine.





BEAT THAT, BUDDY !

*The Associated Press Ltd.*



## *In reply to yours—*

**I**N the course of a year I receive many letters from novice breeders asking for advice on how to start cat breeding, or seeking to know why some particular misfortune has befallen their pets.

This month I will deal with some of the subjects which have cropped up in the year's mail-bag.

On a number of occasions I have been asked why a queen which is confined to a flat is a bad breeder or a non-breeder. The answer should be perfectly obvious. Although it is certainly possible to keep an adult cat in good condition under such circumstances if great care is paid to diet and allied matters, it is unreasonable to expect breeding condition to be obtained with this degree of confinement.

I know the risks of theft or injury by traffic if cats are allowed to run loose in built-up areas, but if you must keep a cat you must also accept the risks. From the cat's point of view it would be far better to have no cat than confine it for the length of its days to two or three rooms.

Many letters come saying, "I give my cat this and that and the

other; why is she not perfectly fit?" To this I would like to retort, "Why is she still alive?" One cat about which I received a query recently was having, in addition to ordinary food, all the vitamins, a proprietary brand of baby food and about half a dozen different tonics and energisers. Such treatment, of course, is mere nonsense.

Cats do not need this fussing and would be far better without it. Just because Man has ruined his digestion by foolish feeding and attempts with nostrums to put the matter right, that is no reason why the feline race should be subjected to similar ill-treatment. The basic diet of the cat is meat, and if to this you add some starchy food in small quantities, and perhaps some green vegetables, the *essential* needs of the animal have been covered. I am in favour of certain additions from time to time, but those are by way of variety rather than necessity.

A medicine chest in the cattery can be most useful upon occasion, but I have seen such chests which rivalled the doctor's dispensary for completeness. Apart from such things as can usually



be found in any house, such as cotton wool, bandages and a clinical thermometer, the other two items which I should regard as absolute essentials would be liquid paraffin and a few M. and B. tablets.

For Longhaired cats liquid paraffin is a weekly "must" to prevent fur balls if nothing else. The sulphonilamides are very useful in cases of rise in temperature as a modest dose may start the cure before the vet. can arrive. Of this drug,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gm. can do no harm to an adult cat and may do much good.

### **A Pathetic Picture**

I am surprised by the number of breeders who do not know the normal temperature of the cat. Taken in the rectum—and that is the only satisfactory method—the reading should be 101.5. The temperature of kittens fluctuates very quickly and often without apparent reason. There is never any need to panic when a kitten's temperature is up to 103 if there are no other signs of illness.

From time to time I am asked what sort of a collar should be purchased for a cat. Some people, I know, take their Siamese out in collars on a lead and for that there is much to be said if that is the only means whereby a town cat can obtain exercise. Apart from such occasions no collar or ribbon with bells should be worn. To an

active cat a leather collar or a ribbon is always a source of danger.

I am now coming to something which always makes me very angry, although perhaps to other people the incident would not be one to produce any feeling of irritation. I am referring to the photos which are sometimes sent to me in which the cat is dressed up to ape the human. A cat with spectacles on nose and collar and tie round its neck always seems to me such a pathetic picture. Such photos I always tear up and put in the waste paper basket.

I hope I am not sentimental about cats, and I feel bold enough to say that I am not. Nevertheless, I am convinced of the essential dignity of the cat, which certainly does not presume to aspire—if that be the right word—to equality with Man. Please don't make a fool of your cat, for it shows lack of understanding on your part.

### **Painful Decisions**

The last point to which I wish to refer in this article is that of old age and chronic disease. Occasionally I receive a letter from a person who is faced with what appears to be a difficult problem. I suspect that more often than not the decision has been made before my advice is asked. It is hoped that I will reinforce their decision and usually I am able to do so.



In its simplest form the question is: " Shall I have my cat put to sleep? " When one has had a cat for a number of years as a pet such decisions are always painful when they have to be made, yet for all of us who keep small livestock there is one indisputable fact. It is that cats and dogs have a life span which is many times shorter than our own.

As I see it, the problem is a very simple one and resolves itself into just this: " What is best for the cat? " At the moment I have a neuter who is definitely older than sixteen, but he carries his

years remarkably well and is strong in wind and limb. To him life is still pleasant, but should the time come when life to him seems a burden, I shall have no hesitation in having him put to sleep. Old cats often go downhill very rapidly and when that happens a painless death is the only return we can give them for years of happy companionship. Any animal which is suffering from an incurable disease should always be granted the boon of euthanasia. False sentiment and consideration for our own feelings must play no part in such decisions.

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## 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.

### DO CATS SUCK EGGS ?

A farmer near here could not make out why he was finding empty eggs with small holes at the end of them. Thinking perhaps it was his spaniel puppy, he put the idea out of his mind. Then, on going into the barn one day he took out two bales of hay, behind which was an egg. Being busy at the time he left the egg, but returned half an hour later for more hay. There, to his astonishment, he saw a cat with the egg between its paws sucking the egg.

E. A. H. Lowe,  
Combe St. Nicholas, Somerset.

### UNFIT HOMES FOR KITTENS

I recently had an application for a kitten from London, and as I happened to be going near the address, I called. I was so disgusted with the home this kitten would have gone to that I made an excuse not to sell. If only breeders who are real cat lovers would, where possible, make enquiries as to what sort of homes their cats were going to, a great deal of unnecessary privation to the cats would be avoided. I know that it may not always be possible to call as I was able to do, but surely there are other ways and means of finding out the prospective home conditions.

Gordon B. Allt,  
Binstead, Ryde, I.O.W.

### BEST SIAMESE QUEEN

Since writing my article on Siamese (your November Issue), a young queen has come very much to the fore, Mrs. McGregor's Inwood Shadow. She

was outstanding at the S.C.C. Show in October, where she was First and Champion under Mrs. Holroyd. But she has greatly improved even since then as her front paws have been late in darkening. Even so, she is by far the best queen that has been bred since before the war. At the National Show she was not only First and Champion under Mrs. Hart, but she beat all other cats, Longhair and Shorthair, and was acclaimed Best Cat in Show by vote of all the judges. Congratulations to Mrs. McGregor for breeding something really good.

Greta Hindley, Chiddingfold.

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

EDITORIAL NOTE.—Two unusual happenings have conspired to prevent Mrs. Joan Thompson's contribution appearing this month in its usual form. The first—and one that will be deplored by cat lovers everywhere—is the loss of her Blue Longhair Ch. Gloria of Pensford from the National Cat Club Show in Paddington on 6th December. Her account of Gloria's escape and the subsequent search follows this editorial note.

For our part, we are glad to give prominence to this account as it may serve to prevent such another unhappy climax to a Championship Show, and the experiences of Mrs. Thompson during the search for Gloria may perhaps help others who find themselves faced with the strain and anxieties which a hunt for a lost pet entails in a strange and densely-populated area.

Cats have, of course, been lost from shows before, but rarely for any great length of time. In pre-war days, when the Crystal Palace exhibitions were being held, there was the famous case of the cat which escaped and hid in the organ loft. It was traced and rescued. The search for Gloria transcends anything that has happened before in the cat world. And only those who have been "behind the scenes" in this unfortunate affair can appreciate the time, effort and money that have been thrown into the search which, as we write, has been going on for over five weeks.

The loss of Gloria, a queen of outstanding quality and temperament with a whole string of show successes to her credit, is, apart from all other considerations, a grievous loss to the Fancy. The chance of her being recovered is a slender one, but hope remains while reports of her being seen in the district continue to come in. The great difficulty will be to corner and catch her as she is apparently a frightened cat after her alarming experiences. Meanwhile, the search goes on and all cat lovers will hope with us for a happy ending to this story.

The second happening which prevented the appearance of "Just Fancy" in its usual form was the departure for America of Mrs. Thompson to fulfil her engagement to judge at the All-Breed Championship Cat Show of the Atlantic Cat Club Inc., held in New York on 12th and 13th January. We hope to be able to publish details of her experiences in our next issue.

*(continued overleaf)*

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**STOP PRESS :** We have received the splendid news just as this issue is being printed that Ch. Gloria has been captured. On the morning of Sunday, 15th January, she was seen to enter a large shed by a lady who wisely passed on the news to Mr. and Mrs. Marlow. The Marlows rushed to the scene and were able to corner Gloria in the shed. She was, says Mr. Marlow, a fighting fury after her 41 nights of freedom and will need careful treatment for a few days to bring her back to normal. The capture took place in Kildare Crescent, less than a mile from the Show hall.



## **Mrs. Joan Thompson writes :**

**S**O many stories are circulating about the tragic loss of my Ch. Gloria of Pensford following the National Cat Club Ch. Show at Paddington on 6th Deember that I am grateful for this opportunity to publish the facts. Her escape from the Show hall was due entirely to the careless manner in which the pens were dismantled *half an hour before the official closing time of the Show!* There is also plenty of evidence to prove that at 6.5 p.m. the doors leading to the street were thrown open, although at that time the majority of the valuable exhibits were still in the hall.

I was told the next day that the reason for the frantic hurry was because a dog show was being benched at Birmingham the next day and the men were due there with the pens on the night of the 6th. Obviously this should not have been allowed to interfere with the advertised timetable of the N.C.C. Show.

### **Doors Were Open**

The car which I had ordered to take me back to Beckenham with my two exhibits, Gloria and Starlet of Pensford, could not arrive until 7 p.m., so I remained on the platform marking my catalogue, assuming my pens had not been touched. Indeed, from my position on the platform everything appeared quite normal at the far end of the hall where my two pens were situated next to each other. The reason I left my cats in their pens was because they are far less disturbed by noise and commotion if they can see what is going on around them. And, of course, they always detest being closely confined in a basket.

At 6.45 my two cats were seen in their pens looking quite calm and collected. At 6.47, when I went to put them into their baskets, I dis-

covered to my horror that Gloria's pen was empty. Inspection revealed that there were no staples securing the pens to the staging and that the two pieces of string used to tie the overlapping wire sections at the back were lying in the pen. All Gloria had to do to escape was to give the gentlest push, jump to the floor and disappear through the wide-open door into the street a few yards away. I discovered that Starlet's pen was also insecure and it was just a matter of luck that she, too, did not find a way out.

### **The Search Starts**

We searched for a long time that evening, but without success. It would have been a miracle had we found Gloria as the road was full of parked cars and the noise of passing traffic was continuous. I was in the district early next morning, and that was the commencement of a search which has been worse than looking for the proverbial needle.

It has greatly distressed me and so many of my friends in the cat world that a cat who has enjoyed affection, comfort and the best of food in quiet surroundings, should be lost in a neighbourhood such as Paddington, with its maze of cellars, basements and bombed premises and its floor upon floor of flats occupied by a polyglot collection of tenants. There are literally thousands of places where a cat could hide by day.

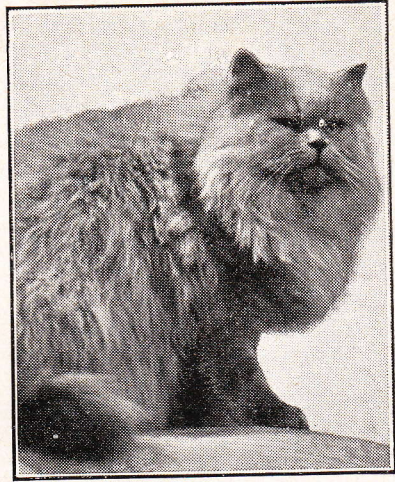
Gloria has been seen from time to time but never by any member of the search parties. The same instinct which has helped to keep her safe from accident has made her difficult to catch. She has run away when approached and has rarely been seen in the streets. She appears to have frequented back gardens where it is comparatively quiet.



Gloria's escape has revealed what a genuine love of cats exists among breeders and how much they are prepared to do for a fellow fancier in distress. Every bit of effort to recover her has been voluntary and spontaneous and on some days four or five of us have been in the neighbourhood. No words of mine can express my gratitude to all these helpers, and especially to Mrs. Eireanne Marlow, of Baron's Court, whose determination and endurance have never flagged. Clad in slacks and a leather coat, and with a sack under her arm in case of a capture, Mrs. Marlow has invaded hundreds of premises and questioned hundreds of residents, often with strange and amusing results. Once we walked right through a private house and out again without being challenged. Sometimes we received sympathetic co-operation from obvious cat lovers, but of course there were other occasions where we met with apathy and a "couldn't care less" attitude from local residents.

What curious facts were revealed about the way some London cats live! It appears that a number of owners go to business and "turn out the cat" to fend for itself all through the day. The cats get accustomed to this routine and in the evening are waiting on the steps or stairs for the return of their respective owners. I got on familiar terms with a number of cats in the district and some of them were very fine specimens who would have held their own in the show pen.

I doubt very much if cat stealing is so prevalent as one is sometimes led to suppose. We became so familiar with the cats of the district and their owners and we found that many had led an out-all-day mode of life for several years. Accustomed to this existence, they become very friendly and the majority are in remarkably good condition. We found



SCO-RUSTON BLUE CHIEF

(Blue Chief is the lovely son of Southway Nicholas, International Champion of Champions and now "The Most Beautiful Cat in the World.")

Mrs. D. D. Crimmon, of Belfairs, Leigh-on-Sea, well-known for her Scaleigh Cats, writes:—

"I have been breeding cats for twenty years—Blue Persians, Siamese and Chinchillas—and my only regret is that Kit-zyme has not been available all along.

Most of the things that help our pets are so distasteful to them but at last, in Kit-zyme, we have something that helps their coats, teething troubles and their condition generally and *yet it is a pleasure to take*. I had a litter of six rather under the weather at teething but, thanks to Kit-zyme, they are now plaguing my life with their pranks.

All my cats love the tablets, which are really wonderful for preventing off-colour times and damp weather blues. I shall now always use Kit-zyme and tell all my friends and customers who buy my kittens of the new wonder tonic and pick-me-up. I cannot praise Kit-zyme too highly."

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several cat lovers who do their best to alleviate the lot of the stray cat by putting food out. But I think it would be more humane if one of the animal welfare societies arranged to catch these unfortunate strays. Some of them must be female and it is heartbreaking to imagine the conditions under which they must have their kittens.

When I visited one house and picked up a lovely little Tabby obviously in kitten, I asked the owner what she did with the kittens, and a child piped up with, "Oh, mother throws them into the pond!" I explained to the owner about the spaying of females and that the P.D.S.A. can put cat owners into touch with a qualified veterinary surgeon who will perform the operation for 10s. 6d. in needy cases. One shudders to think of the cruel way some newly born kittens must end their lives. I have often wondered

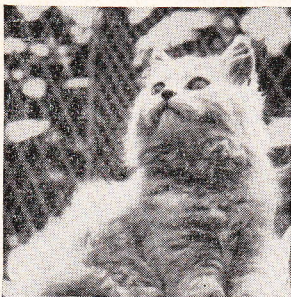
why the B.B.C. do not take a more vigorous line in educating children in the care of animals. What a wonderful medium for spreading this knowledge!

Messages of sympathy have reached me from all over the country, also the Continent and America. Two came from Denmark from acquaintances who had read of Gloria's escape in the "Sunday Express." Gloria was last seen on 30th December and we are still hoping to recover her. But all the time she must be losing weight and condition and she cannot be expected to take kindly to a vagrant existence on scraps.

I feel sure my friends will forgive me for not replying individually to their sympathetic messages and offers of help of various kinds. The search has necessitated my spending so much time in the Paddington area and I have felt too fatigued to do much

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writing on my return home in the evening. I leave for America on 4th January and have had to make hurried preparations for my departure.

My loss has thrown a spotlight on to the post-war penning at cat shows. Although the show rules state:

"Exhibits are only received on the condition that the Club shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to cats, boxes or baskets, or in any other way,"

this, in my opinion, does not absolve show committees from their responsibilities, and if a *laissez faire* attitude is taken to any loss through negligence, few exhibitors will feel inclined to risk showing their cats and kittens.

A substantial honorarium is paid to the show managers of the big London Championship shows and one of their first duties is to supervise the safe penning of exhibits and to ensure that, whilst cats are in them, pens are left intact. Exhibitors are entitled to have security in this respect.

Some of the best and safest penning I have seen at post-war shows is that of the Notts and Derby Cat Club. This young Club worked on the right lines when one of their first ambitions was to buy their own pens. Although they were not able to

afford them all at once, each year we see the picture more complete.

I now quote from a letter sent to me by a member of the Committee of the N.D.C.C.: "There is nothing to beat the penning done by members of the Committee. We always do this at Nottingham the day before and thoroughly enjoy doing it." And then follows comments on the unsatisfactory state of the penning at shows recently when exhibitors have had to staple them down to the benching and tie them together with string. This confirms information I have received in several cases since Gloria's escape. What a pity these incidents were not reported to show managers at the time!

It would be interesting to know how the N. and D.C.C. solved the problem of procuring the wooden benching and storing it. The last two problems, plus that of erecting pens, have been three difficulties which have confronted the Governing Council when suggestions have been made that they should buy pens and loan them to the various Clubs. But obviously such problems can be overcome if ways and means are fully discussed with a real desire to secure safe penning for exhibitors.

**New Year Greetings to Cat Lovers everywhere, and may breeders have a successful year with bonny healthy kittens to reward them.**

**All fanciers should read**

## **"THE CAT FANCY"**

A monthly journal devoted entirely to Pedigree Cats  
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# Potted Show Reports

## THE NATIONAL'S 53rd SHOW

The National Cat Club's fifty-third Championship Show, held in Paddington in early December, attracted 1,369 entries of 310 exhibits from 168 exhibitors. Here is evidence indeed of the steadily growing interest in the English Cat Fancy. The all-round quality of the exhibits was high and sight-seers attended in satisfactory numbers.

This time the Show was "under new management" and Miss L. M. Phillips shouldered the responsibility of organisation assumed for so long by Miss Kit Wilson.

Best Cat in Show was the Siamese female Inwood Shadow, whose photograph appears in this issue—a really lovely cat. Mrs. D. Herod's White male Ch. Carreg Comfort ran her close in this competition and came out eventually as Best Longhair Adult. Kittens of all varieties were numerous. A lovely Red Tabby female—Mrs. Fawell's Barwell Bena—was adjudged Best Kitten and among the Longhair kittens Mrs. Brunton's Blue female Wild Violet of Dunesk was the leader.

Noteworthy winners among the Shorthair classes were the aforementioned Inwood Shadow; Mrs. Druce's Siamese male Hillcross Song; the Rev. B. Rees' well-known Ch. Sylvan Joey (British Blue); Miss Rochford's Russian Blue male Dunloe Silvertoes; Miss Potter's British Shorthair Neuter Vickigawn; Miss German's neuter Dunloe Pavlovitch; Miss Bassett's Abyssinian Croham Gondar and Miss Calvert Jones's Blue Pointed male Tailand Oberon.

Among the Longhairs—Blues were exceptionally strong classes—Major Dugdale won again with his fine male Harpur Blue Boy and Best Opposite Sex was Mrs. Brunton's Southway Josephine. Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson won again with her well-known Ch. Black Beret and Miss Langston was successful with her Chinchilla male Flambeau of Allington and female Felicity of Allington.

Sorry we have no room for all the meritorious wins at this Show!

## MAJOR AWARDS AT

### NOTTINGHAM

The fifth Championship Show of the Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club took place on 9th January in Nottingham and fully merits a high place in this season's list of successful "do's." This event is always a pleasant social affair and the entries and attendance must have satisfied the hardworking Show Manager, Mr. J. F. Barker.

The Club is to be congratulated on the extra effort it put into the production of its catalogue to make it bright and attractive. They were rewarded with a sell-out in double-quick time.

Judges officiating for the day were Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. E. Chappell, Mrs. Yeend, Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, Miss D. M. Beckett, Miss Langston (deputising for Mr. Cyril Yeates), Miss Kathleen Yorke (President of the Club), Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb (just back from his judging engagement in America) and the Club Chairman, Mr. J. H. A. Martin, who acted as referee judge.

Major awards were: Best Longhair Adult—Mrs. D. H. Herod's blue-eyed White male Ch. Carreg Comfort; Best Longhair Kitten—Mrs. Herod's orange-eyed White Carreg Cracker; Best Shorthair Adult—Mrs. A. S. McGregor's Siamese female Inwood Shadow (now a full Champion); Best Shorthair Kitten—Mrs. O. M. Lamb's Siamese S.P. Kitten Avonside Charmian (sired by Ch. Morris Tudor); Best Longhair Neuter—Mrs. F. Walker's Tollerton Monarch (sired by Walverdene Major and bred by Mrs. Oaklev); Best Shorthair Neuter—Mrs. N. Lythgoe-Butt's Siamese Doneraile Chang (bred by Mrs. Williams).

Mrs. E. L. Henn made the journey from Shropshire worthwhile by taking two Championships with her Baralan Boy Blue (Blue male bred by her from Ch. Deebank Michael) and Romany Roma (Blue female bred by Mr. Fred Carman and sired by Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas). Full Championship honours were also achieved by Mrs. S. Druce with her Siamese male Hillcross Song and Mrs. E. Aitken with her Black male Bournside Black Diamond.



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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**SIAMESE** Seal Pointed pedigree Kittens for sale, house-trained, from 4 gns.—Mrs. Halfhide, Ladymead, East Martins, near Petersfield, Hants.

**S.P. SIAMESE** Queens, born Nov. 16, sire Champion cat of Show, house-trained.—Grinder-Welch, Bucklebury Common, Berks.

### 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 and also by the fur trade. In both cases they are liable to suffer revolting cruelty. For further information apply:—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.

**FOR SALE.** Unique antique silver double SCENT BOTTLE with two Cat Heads, genuine Victorian, manufactured in 1871, the heads contain a heavy content of silver, price six guineas.—Box 18, OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

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Renowned for:

**Svelte Type; Sweet Temperament;  
Close, Short Coat; Enchanting  
Sapphire Eyes.**

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NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.

### At Stud

**SCO-RUSTON RAVISANT** (Blue Persian), sire Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Sco-Ruston Kalisa.

**MOLESEY ALI BABA** (Cream Persian), sire Tweedledum of Dunesk, dam Molesey Mischief. Fee for each stud £2 2s. and carriage to registered queens only.—Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., Danehurst Cattery, Pitts Lane, Binstead, near Ryde, I.O.W. Ryde 2794 (2½ hours from London).

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**MORRIS SIRDAR**, 30 awards 1948/9, Sire Sam Slick, Dam Morris Una.—M. W. Richardson, Grinstead, Ottways Avenue, Ashted, Surrey. (Breeder of Ch. Morris Tudor.)

**VALLEYEND COMMANDO**, by Valleyend Blue Prince, sires lovely Kittens. Fee 2 gns.—Voss, Fairlight Glen, Rayleigh, L.N.E.R.

## SOUTHERN COUNTIES CAT CLUB

## CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

MONDAY  
30th JANUARY, 1950

*Do not miss the Last  
Show of the Season*

to be held at

**Lime Grove Road Hall  
Shepherds Bush, W.12**

*Further details from the  
Show Manager:*

MRS. K. R. WILLIAMS  
92 CHILTERN ROAD  
SUTTON - SURREY  
VIG 1389



## KITTEN PARADE IN AUSTRALIA

The Melbourne Cat Club held its annual Kitten Parade at the end of November last and entries were 25 per cent. up on the figures for the previous year. So (writes Mr. George Dykes) a new venue will be required for 1950 if interest continues to expand at this rate. The Club hoped to secure the attendance of Mr. Michael Joseph, but unfortunately he had to leave for Sydney on business affairs the day before the Parade.

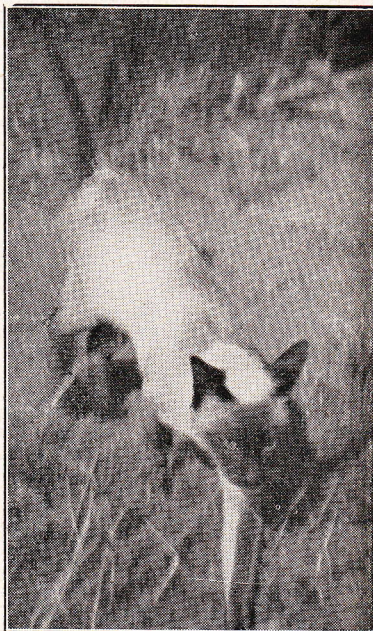
Exhibits showed welcome increases in Siamese and Chinchilla classes, which have been poor in Victoria for years. Additional interest will come later when Mrs. Hawke's two importations, Fleurette and Lorenzo, are released from quarantine.

Best Exhibit went to Mrs. Rose with her two months old Blue female Marlee of Goulburn, a kitten of even colour and good type. Another Blue, Mrs. Wells' Pips of Merriwu, took Opposite Sex. This strain is unbroken Blue back to importations of many long years ago. Best Siamese was Mrs. Chandler's Westwood Centaur.

A few days later, continues Mr. Dykes, the Australian Cat Club staged a show at the same venue, the Savoy Theatre. This Club is run by its enthusiastic President, Mrs. H. J. Brown, whose Chinchillas (descendants of Dickon of Allington and Langherne Molly) are renowned throughout Australia. Here again exhibits showed an increase. Best Exhibit was a Seal Point Siamese, Mrs. Hines' Suzette of Woornyalook, a farm-bred exhibit. Best Kitten was Mrs. Boys' Blue male Robin of Elsford. A feature of the Show was a shaded Silver neuter which looked thoroughly bored with all the special attention he received.

## PRESTWICK SIAMESE CATTERIES

Noted for Type and  
Brilliant Eye Colour



CH. PRESTWICK FENGLIMA-PERTAMA

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**CHAMPION PRESTWICK  
FENGLIMA-PERTAMA** £3 - 3 - 0

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Dam—Prestwick Piccanini

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**PRESTWICK PERSON** £2 - 2 - 0

Sire—Prestwick Perzephon  
Dam—Prestwick Prithie Puss

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Sire—Ma Cha Polyphemus £2 - 2 - 0  
Dam—Li Soo

**MRS. DUNCAN HINDLEY  
HIGH PRESTWICK  
CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY**

Chiddingfold 60

Station: Haselmere

Breeder of many famous Siamese—see entry  
in Directory of Breeders—this issue



# A Chapter of Accidents

By DOROTHEA ST. HILL BOURNE

**A**N unusual accident which happened to a black kitten was dealt with at the P.D.S.A. dispensary at Battersea two days before Christmas. The kitten literally "caught the bus"—but luckily it was a toy one! Seeing a clockwork bus moving, the kitten sprang at it and rolled over claspng the toy. The wheels were still revolving and the mechanism caught the fur of the stomach and even tore into skin and tissue. The owner tried taking the bus to pieces, but the chassis remained firmly attached to the kitten. Kitten and chassis were brought to the dispensary and were carefully separated when the kitten was under an anaesthetic. The bus was a complete casualty, but the kitten was none the worse except for some cuts and bruises.

## Round and Round !

It was late on Christmas Eve that a tiny black and white kitten was brought to the P.D.S.A. at Hendon, where, luckily, Miss Bloom (Technical Officer) was working late. How the little scrap had managed to survive is a mystery, as it had been trapped inside the discs of the double wheels of a lorry, which had travelled from Shoreditch to Hendon, and had only been discovered near the end of the journey. The driver, Mr. Ernest Jones, thinking he heard a kitten mew, had stopped several times on the way and searched the lorry unsuccessfully. It was only when he caught sight of a tiny tail sticking out of an aperture in the wheel that he discovered and rescued the kitten. It must have been whirled round thousands of times in the moving

wheel! On examination, it was found to be uninjured but for a bruised head and a bitten tongue. Mr. Jones has now adopted the kitten, which has recovered completely.

## And Down Below

A third strange adventure occurred just after Christmas when a tabby cat was trapped in a lift shaft at Elephant and Castle Underground Station. A P.D.S.A. ambulance was quickly on the scene and two officers descended a ladder into the gloomy regions under the lift. The terrified cat retreated into a narrow air vent out of reach, but the smell of cods' heads from a baited cage soon brought it out and it was captured and taken to the surface, where it shared the milk and fishpaste sandwiches supplied by women of the station staff from their tea rations. The cat was ravenous and must have been trapped some days.

There was a particularly happy sequel to this incident as the rescued cat was identified and claimed by its lady owner, who keeps a shop in South Farnborough. Apparently her Tiger had been whisked away to London in a delivery van and had in some mysterious fashion travelled over a distance of ground in London to find itself trapped eventually in the lift shaft. Tiger is now back home after his adventures.

---

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO  
REMEMBER YOUR SUBSCRIPTION  
RENEWAL FOR 1950 IF IT  
HAS FALLEN DUE NOW !



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A HANDY GUIDE TO ESTABLISHED FANCIERS . . .

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Ryde 2794

Enquiries invited for the popular  
Danehurst Longhairs — Blue  
Persians, Creams and Chinchillas

See displayed and Stud advertisements in this issue

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Sire of Best Kitten Herts. & Middx., 1948. Best  
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For BLUES and CREAMS of outstanding  
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ADRIAN OF PENSFORD (BLUE)  
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By Ch. Widdington Warden ex Widdington  
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Queens met by arrangement  
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EIREANNE BLUE BOY\* By Playboy of the  
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NEUBURIE BAMBI\* Lovely pale son of Blessed  
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First Prize Winner and Sire of First Prize Winners  
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Kittens may be booked in advance to  
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Queens met at Eastbourne

Fee £2-10-0 and expenses, payable in advance

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Healthy stock usually for sale

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Fee £2-2-0

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Fee £2-12-6

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Noted for type and brilliant eye colour  
Breeder of Ch. Prestwick Mata-Biru, Ch. Prestwick  
Pertana, Ch. Prestwick Perak, Ch. Prestwick Perling,  
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HIGH PRESTWICK, CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY  
Chiddingfold 60 Station - Haslemere

## MORRIS SIAMESE KITTENS

CONSISTENT PRIZE WINNING STOCK

44 awards, including Trophy for most points  
1948 9 Show Season. 3 times Best Shorthair  
in Show. G.C.C.F. Championship Medal won

MRS. M. W. RICHARDSON, "GRINSTEAD,"  
OTTWAYS AVENUE, ASHTEAD, SURREY  
Ashtead 3521

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At Stud (to approved queens)

**CH. PINCOP AZURE KYM**

Winner 5 Challenge Certificates and Best  
Exhibit Siamese C.C. Ch. Show 1948. Sire of  
CH. PINCOP AZURE ZELDA

Seal Pointed Studs include

**CH. MORRIS TUDOR**

Best S.H. National C.C. Ch. Show 1948  
and many other awards

Particulars from MRS. O. M. LAMB

"TWYLANDS," GRANGE HILL, HALESOWEN,  
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SIAMESE at Stud

"All big winners — siring big winners"

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At Stud—**HILLCROSS SHENGSON** and  
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Hillcross Cats and Kittens obtained 130  
awards, including 60 Firsts and Specials  
1945-48. Kittens usually for sale. Noted  
for good eye colour and light coats.  
Bred from noted pre-war stock.

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**SIANNA CHARLES** Fee £2-2-0

By Prestwick Poo-Too ex Sianna Priscilla. 4 Firsts,  
Kensington, July 1948. Novice Kitten Cup, Sandy  
Show, August 1948. Holly Grove Kitten Cup,  
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Queens met at any London Station

ROBERT J. LEWIS, 111 MORLEY HILL  
ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX Enfield 3054

## DONERAILE SIAMESE

At Stud: **DONERAILE DEKHO**  
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Noted for eye colour, type and gentle  
temperament. Queens met at London  
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Phone: Vigilant 1389

Please mention OUR CATS when replying to advertisements



## To the Children



# From Uncle Peter



### *Boys and Girls*

#### **Broadcast on Cats**

I was very sorry to have to tell you that the broadcast on cats had been postponed, but I am hoping now that it will take place on 29th January immediately after the one o'clock news. You will have your cat by the radio, won't you, so that he can receive his New Year greetings from other cats?

#### **Holiday Plans for your Pets**

I wonder if some of you went away this year for Christmas? If you did I am sure that you made arrangements for your pet to be looked after while you were away. Some people are very cruel to their cats when they go away and shut up the house, leaving the cat to fend for itself for a few days. Whenever you go away make sure that your pet has a warm bed somewhere in which he can sleep and also that a kind friend will see that he is fed.

#### **Laddie**

Since he came to me Laddie has really turned into a "red" setter. At first he was a very pale brown, but now he is almost the rich mahogany shade he must be when he has his adult coat.

Just at present his teeth are causing him some trouble as the baby teeth are falling out and the permanent ones are forcing their way through the gums. Sometimes this can be a very painful business for a puppy, so you should inspect his mouth from time to time and if his gums are very inflamed and sore bathe them with a solution of water and glycerine of thymol.

#### **Butterflies and Moths**

Have you ever bred butterflies as a hobby? It is a hobby which costs very little money if you are satisfied with the varieties which fill our gardens with caterpillars during the summer. It is, however, much more interesting to keep unusual butterflies or moths.

I wonder how many of you have ever seen the wonderful Moon moths from India or the even larger Atlas moths from the same country?

A friend of mine always keeps Peacock butterflies during the winter and about once a week he brings out the tea chest in which they are sleeping. A bright light will soon wake them up and a mixture of honey and water on a piece of cotton wool will repay them for being awakened from their winter sleep.

It is a very beautiful sight on a dull winter's day to see these bright colours flitting round the room. After a short time you collect them and put them back in their box for another rest.

If any of you are interested in breeding butterflies or moths you must write to me and I will then tell you all that is necessary to make a start.

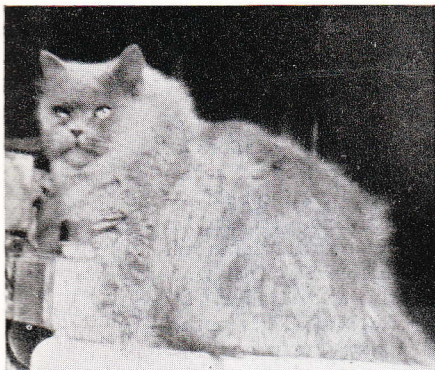
*Uncle Peter*

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.



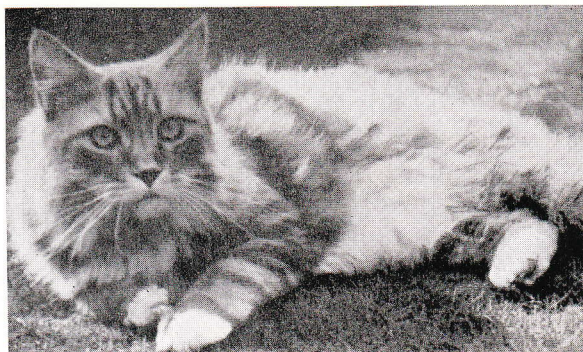
*. . well-fed, well-petted  
and  
properly  
revered .*

Mark Twain



WOBURN WINK, handsome Blue queen bred by Miss Constance Page, of Watford. W. W., now nearly three years old, was a winner at the N.C.C. Show, 1948.

Mrs. V. E. Jenkin, of Southgate, N.14, is justifiably very proud of her 4-year-old Red and White Longhair Neuter, MALLOW, an intelligent and affectionate companion.



Just like quicksilver! A recent litter bred by Mrs. A. M. Deane, of Newark, Notts, from Mystic Dreamer ex Crawstone Belinda. Note the elegant style in neckwear!

Readers who are interested to submit photographs for inclusion in this feature are reminded that the prints should have sharp contrasts and need not be mounted. Selection by the Editor is final and photos cannot be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for this purpose.



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