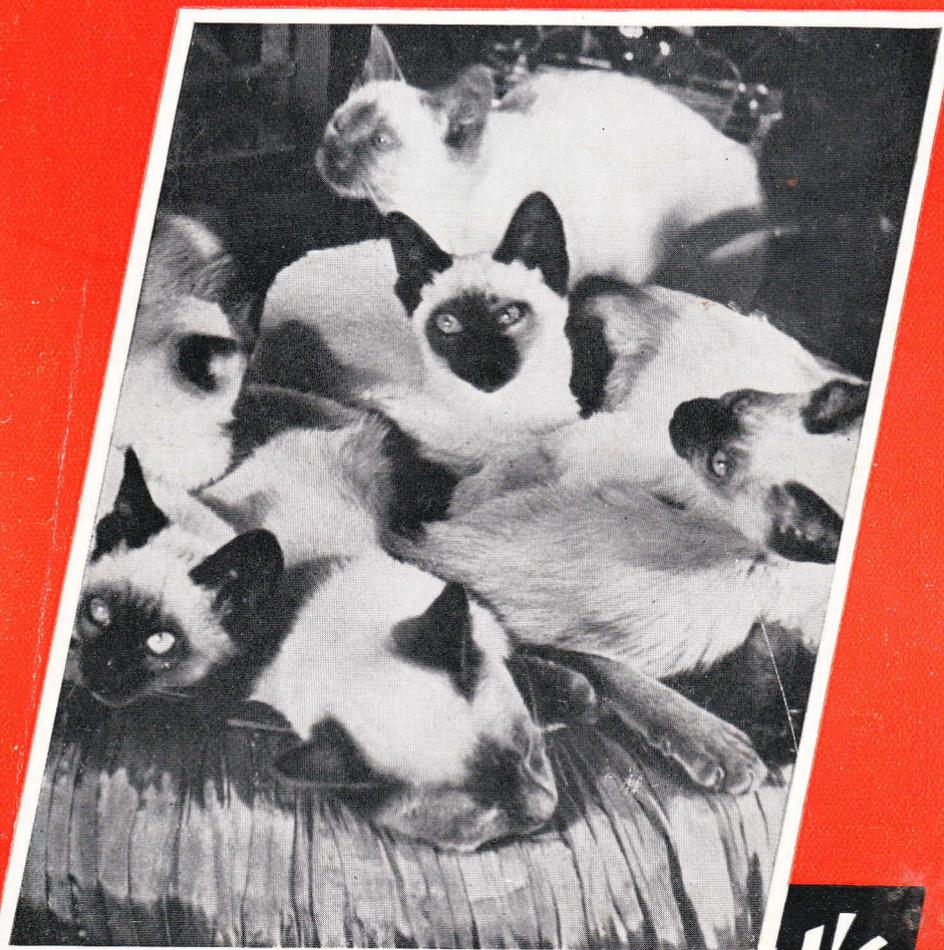


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



1/6

FEBRUARY 1950

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 2 No. 2

FEBRUARY 1950

Published every month with the best-possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is:

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management;
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

OUR TARGET

THIS issue has two unusual features to which I would like to invite your attention. First, it carries four extra pages—a step towards fulfilment of my promise that the Magazine would be enlarged and improved as the measure of improved support justified it. As it stands now, OUR CATS carries more reading matter and more illustrations than any other periodical in the world devoted entirely to feline subjects.

Even so slight an addition as four pages involves an increased postal rate to our direct subscribers. But there is no question of any addition to the existing rate of 17/6 for twelve issues post free.

I cannot promise yet that all forthcoming issues will be enlarged. It is entirely up to *you* and the help you can give us in making the Magazine more widely known and read. The drive for a 1,000 new subscribers during 1950 is making steady progress and I would like to renew my thanks to all who have given a helping hand.

The second interesting feature about this issue is its Anglo-American atmosphere, which I hope you will approve and enjoy. It is my belief that the interchange of news and ideas between countries works for the ultimate good of all.

Just as we go to press with this issue we have received an exciting item of news that Olympia has been booked for a super Cat Show on 20th and 21st September next (Wednesday and Thursday). The Show Manager will be Mr. Arthur Towe (Croydon Cat Club) and it is the intention of the promoters to stage a really ambitious and

attractive programme and to provide members of the public with the opportunity to see feline aristocrats of all varieties as well as household and children's pets.

Fuller details will appear in our March issue, which will also contain a survey of our first year's activities, an article on Kitten Management by Miss Kathleen Yorke, Mr. Cyril Yeates' third instalment on Blue Longhairs, Miss M. Rodda in the "Who's Who Among the Breeders" series, Mr. A. C. Jude on Colour Inheritance, a further contribution from America by Mrs. Joan Thompson and many more attractive features.

EDITOR



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).

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My American Impressions

This interesting and thoughtful contribution from MR. B. A. STIRLING-WEBB, who recently arrived back in England from his judging assignment in New York, should be read in conjunction with the feature dealing with Siamese in America which opens on page 17 of this issue — that is if you are interested to have a clear over-all picture of the Siamese Fancy in North America. Mr. Sterling-Webb revealed to OUR CATS that the interest aroused over there by the visit of an English judge was something to wonder at—and so was the hospitality; his warning about quality of our exports must be heeded.

DURING my recent visit to New York I had the opportunity of studying American Siamese cats at first hand and Fanciers in this country may be interested in my impressions. If they are not, well, it's just too bad; but at least they can spare themselves the trouble of reading any further.

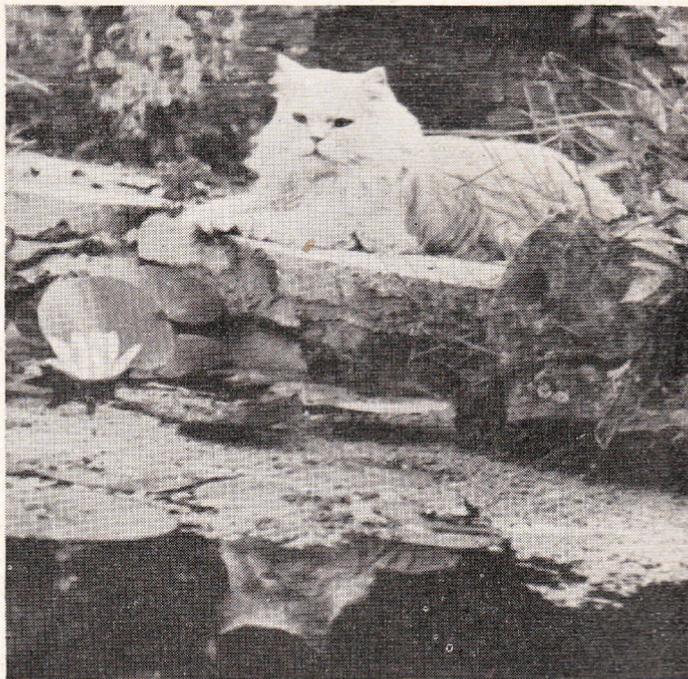
My principal reason for making the journey was that I had received an invitation from the Committee of the Empire Cat Club, Inc., to judge the National Siamese Cat Club Specialty Show which they were running in conjunction with their own annual Championship Show in New York last December. I had long sought an excuse to visit America so, of course, I seized this one with both hands. In any case I was extremely flattered at the invitation, as I was only the fourth English judge to be asked to officiate at an American show since the beginning of this century. This I recognised as a compliment of no mean order.

I stayed with friends near New York and was royally entertained. Hospitality in the States is something one must experience to appreciate, and my enjoyment was only marred by a sense of shame which stole over me from

time to time at the thought of the poor reception so often given to American visitors in this country. It seemed to me that everybody I met was party to a gigantic conspiracy to see that I had a really good time, and I shall always remember with gratitude the very many kindnesses I received at the hands of one and all. I could continue in this vein quite indefinitely, but I originally set out to write about Siamese cats, so cats it must be.

Fanciers attended the Show from many distant parts of the country, a number of them travelling by air. There were 97 entries in the classes scheduled for me to judge, but some were absent and I actually handled about 70 cats. Those which had come from the warmer parts of the country had close coats, with paler body colour and points, whilst the rest had thick coats, darker body colour and denser points. Of course, there were exceptions but the generality conformed to these rules.

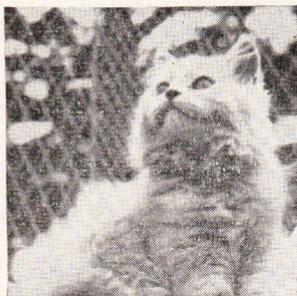
I was sorry not to be able to form a very good opinion of the exhibits, but the fact is that, with a few exceptions, the standard was not high. Most were lacking in type and had short heads. The best had either been imported



This charming snapshot—a picture either way—with its promise of sunny days to come, shows DEEBANK SANDY, Cream Persian pet of Miss L. B. Cochrane, of Hundleby, Lincs.

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from England or had English blood in their immediate ancestry. I also came across one or two cats which had been purchased from England which were not up to the standard of many of the American ones and which should never have been anything but neutered pets.

English breeders, if they care anything for our reputation, should be very careful to send nothing but worthy specimens abroad to represent us. Apart from any moral considerations this is only common sense as orders are unlikely to be repeated if good value has not been given in the first place. The proper course to adopt before exporting is therefore to ask the opinion of a recognised judge about the actual cats or kittens intended for export.

Owners of large catteries in the States, that is, the serious breeders, are well aware that England has the best stock and most of them try to have at least one well-bred English cat amongst their animals with a view to "pepping up" their strains. Some of the best-known strains are founded from stock originally obtained from England.

Best Cat I Handled

Mrs. Virginia Cobb's Ch. Newton's Jay-Tee, the best cat I handled, was bred from two English cats which she imported before the war, namely, Ch Oriental Nanki Pooh of Newton and Ch. Wivenhoe Tarn of Newton. Jay-Tee, now eight years old, is full of type and would certainly gladden the hearts of those two well-known breeders Miss Gold and Mrs. Bowle, who bred her parents.

The best Seal Point male was H.R.H. of Ebon Mask, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sven Nelson. He, too, has English blood behind

him. His dam is Doneraile Drusilla, exported by Mrs. Frank Williams about two years ago, and his sire is from the famous "Amdos" strain of cats founded in America by the late Madame D'Ollone with Bedale stock which she took with her from England when she settled there.

The winner of the open S.P. female class was yet another Englander, now called Imperial Shy (owned by Mrs. Fred Wilson), and bred by Mrs. L. K. Sayers, of Farnham, from Oriental Silky Boy and Southwood Trinket. The best S.P. male kitten also went to America from this country. He was Doneraile Dandie and is another of Mrs. Frank Williams's exports.

Finer Bone

The best Blue Point in the Show, Kaybee Mia Lescula, was bred by Miss Kennedy Bell, of Highgate, and there were others all helping to keep our flag flying.

It was noticeable that Siamese over there had finer bone than the general run of English cats, and this was most apparent in their beautifully shaped legs and feet. British breeders would do well to concentrate on improvement in that direction. Blue Points also were superior to ours in the matter of colour, their points being a definite blue shade rather than the grey tone which seems to prevail over here.

To sum up, American Siamese could do with longer heads, better placed ears (too many have up-standing ears on the tops of their heads) and less cobby bodies. Their coats vary according to climate, whilst they have finer bone formation than ours and, so far as B.P.'s are concerned, better colour.

Eye Troubles Explained

By FORCEPS

(Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

MANY animals have what is called a "third eyelid." This consists of a fold of membrane covering, and partly enclosing, a curved plate of cartilage. This "nictitating membrane" is usually pinkish-white and often has a chocolate-coloured border. Normally, only its edge is visible, but if the pocket of fat in the eye socket becomes depleted, the third eyelid makes its appearance—like a curtain partly drawn across a window.

In the cat this is a sign of ill-health, and one well known to breeders; although many cat owners, seeing it, imagine that something is wrong with the eye itself. This is not the case, however, the loss of fat and consequent protrusion of the third eyelid indicating systemic rather than local trouble. Under-nourishment, illness, a heavy infestation with worms—these and other causes may be responsible.

A tonic may be all that is needed, plus attention to the diet. Make sure the cat is receiving a balanced one, apart from merely having what seems "enough" to eat. A drop or two of halibut oil, or about six times this quantity of cod-liver oil, may be added to the food. If there is not rapid improvement, or if there are other signs of ill-health, seek a veterinary surgeon's advice so that a diagnosis may be made as to the exact cause and the appropriate treatment applied.

Conjunctivitis

Eye troubles generally are less common in the cat than in the dog, which is perhaps a little surprising

when one thinks of the damage cats can inflict upon each other with their claws. Acute inflammation of the conjunctiva—the membrane lining the eyelids, etc.—is not uncommon, and may be due to a variety of causes; for example, draughts, the presence of a piece of grit or a grass awn, or to germs which may have taken advantage of a sick animal's lowered bodily resistance.

Conjunctivitis is associated with swelling of the eyelids and with a discharge, either watery or greenish and thick. In severe cases the lining membrane may bulge beyond the margin of the lids, puffy and blood-shot. Keep the animal out of a draught and away from a strong light. As a first-aid measure a drop of cod-liver or castor oil may be applied (with the chill taken off first). The oil forms a thin film, which becomes interposed between the abraded surfaces and so gives relief.

Cataract

A cataract is opacity of the lens of the eye. The lens takes on a milky or smoky appearance, which can be seen quite easily through the pupil. It has nothing to do with the outside of the eye, which remains clear and transparent. Cataracts due to old age do not seem to be common in cats, though after ten years of age a few cats may develop them. Under that age a cataract is sometimes associated with tuberculosis.

Please don't forget to remember your subscription renewal for 1950 if it has fallen due now!

Potted Show Reports

FIRST SHOW IN EDINBURGH

History has been made over the border! Following the Show recently held in Glasgow, interests in the eastern part of the country have been busy and on 21st January (at the New Gallery, Edinburgh) the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club staged their first Open Show under the patronage of their Hon. President, the Countess of Crawford and Balcarres.

Mr. R. N. Oswald, an enthusiastic Show Manager, expressed himself as being well satisfied with the initial effort. Some classes had to be cancelled or amalgamated, but Miss Kit Wilson found about 50 cats (mostly Siamese) awaiting her judgment.

In the Open A.O.C. Longhair class for females the winner was Mrs. C. Gilbert's Craziepatch of Carne (by Ch. Black Beret), who was also adjudged Best Longhair Adult. Other Longhair class winners were Capt. Simpson's Forton Lucy and Mrs. McPhail's Tweeniehills Susan. Best Siamese was Mrs. G. M. Stephen's Andersley Azure, bred by Miss Gerber, and Mrs. J. Howden's Canna Beadag led the females. Other class winners were Mrs. E. M. Manclark's novice Siamese male Prince Bongie, Mrs. G. M. Stephen's Siamese female Norinna Azure (also Best Shorthair Kitten), Mrs. M. Morland's kitten Longovis Daphne Witton (also Best Longhair Kitten), Mr. J. Mathewson's Siamese Kitten Braid Charlie. Best Cat in Show and Best Shorthair Adult went to Mrs. M. Morland's lovely Longovis Smutz,

pedigree unknown. Classes for neuters, household and children's pets were not strongly supported.

CROWDS AT MANCHESTER

The Members' Show of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club on 21st January gained the success it merited. It took place on a Saturday afternoon in Manchester Corn Exchange, a roomy hall which absorbed the big crowds that came to see a record number of exhibits.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. S. S. Culey, and her assistant, Mrs. Brittlebank, worked unceasingly to make everything go with a swing. Judges for the day were Miss Lelgarde Fraser (Longhairs), Miss Kathleen Yorke and Mrs. K. R. Williams (Siamese and British Shorthairs)

Best Cat in Show and Best Exhibit was a lovely Red Tabby Manx, Shaun Shortt, shown by Miss Speakman, who won over Mrs. Nicholas's Typey Siamese Ch. Southwood Sunya. Best Blue Adult was Moorland Iris, exhibited well by Mr. and Mrs. J. Macfarlane. Among Longhair Male Adults (A.O.C.), Rockwood Huntsman, a nice Chinchilla bred and owned by Miss M. E. Hirst, was the winner. Best Kitten was Mr. Pedley's Siamese Silverdene Apha, bred by the exhibitor.

Notable class winners were Miss Bull's Blue Longhair Deebank Sturdy, Mrs. Brittlebank's Hazeldene Amber, Mrs. Benbow's Blue kitten Snab Silver Sue (which was Reserve Best Kitten in Show), Mrs. Lord's Siamese male Sir Timothy Shrimp and Mrs. Kirkus's fine neuter Karulino Psyche.

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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. Here we present the second instalment in the series he has prepared exclusively for OUR CATS Magazine.

AFTER the digression at the conclusion of last month's introductory instalment in this series of articles on Blue Longhairs, let us return to the cats of 1900-1920. Of these, I consider the following most worthy of note:—

Ch. Neila Billi of Thorpe, by Ch. Orange Blossom of Thorpe ex Barrymore Periwinkle, born 1903, sire of Blue San Toy and Kew Blue San Toy, Blue Cap, Derrick, and Ch. Erica of Thorpe, Barry Bluejohn, Blue Riband, Gentian of Emberton, and very lovely queen Sapphire of Castlethorpe, dam of Ch. Blue-jacket of Hyver. She was also known as Oaklands Sapphire.

Ch. Lord Monkton of Dundee, by Blue San Toy ex Bifolia, born 1905. A very fine cobby cat of good type who sired Oaklands Spearmint, Carn Puff and Scottish Gem of Thorpe.

Blue Cap of Thorpe, born 1907. A small cat excelling in type and full of quality, sire of Ch. Bluejacket of Thorpe, Blue Domino of Hyver. Lightning of Thorpe, and many others. The other day I asked Mrs. Slingsby (who owned the famous Thorpe Cattery and, as a judge, has no superior) if Blue Cap was not the nearest to the modern type of all her Blues, and she replied: "No,

Blue Cap was not the nearest to the modern type but their prototype. He handed down his distinct type to practically all his descendants—whole litters of them." Mrs. Slingsby considers Ch. Mischief of Bredon, when in form, the best Blue male she ever handled, and says that he resembled Blue Cap in many ways.

Sir Archie II of Arrandale, by Sir Archie ex Blue Lassie of Arrandale, born 1907, was a big cat excelling in colour and a prolific sire. Among his best sons were Ch. Remus of Highgate (cobby and round headed but short of coat), Ch. Oaklands Seabreeze and Edward the Peacemaker, and that very famous brood queen Scilla of Hadley, dam of Ch. Princess Patricia of Hadley and Ch. Azure of Hadley.

Ch. Bluejacket of Hyver, by Blue Cap of Thorpe ex Sapphire of Castlethorpe, born 1910, was beautifully bred and a good winner and sire.

Barry Bluejohn, by Ch. Neila Billi of Thorpe ex Ch. Regina of Emberton, and his litter brother Blue Riband of Emberton, were born in 1911. Barry Bluejohn was one of the greatest sires of all time and but for the first Great War would have been a full champion. He stamped his personality on all his progeny, which included countless prize winners.

He excelled in head and physique but had a dark spine line which came out in his stock and persisted for several generations. Blue Riband of Emberton also proved himself a good sire.

Blair Athol and Larry of Hawkhurst were also litter brothers, being by Ch. Bluejacket of Hyver ex Verona of Hawkhurst, and born in 1912. They were bred by Miss Clements, whose strain of Hawkhurst Blues was famed for their colour and profuse coats. Larry, Ronnie and Ch. Glenvictor were well-known bearers of the Hawkhurst affix. Blair Athol sired many good cats, all inheriting to a great extent his beautiful lavender colour and deep orange eyes. I saw him when he was eleven years old. One eye had faded, but the other was as deep as ever!

Keep Blues Going

Craganour, by Desmond of Hawkhurst ex Dinah, born 1913, is best known as the sire of that beautiful cat Barry Blue Prince.

Ch. Azure of Hadley, by Bunnyhug ex Scilla of Hadley, was born in 1915 and bred by Miss J. M. Fisher. To this cat, and also to Barry Bluejohn and Blair Athol, is due the credit of keeping the Blue fancy going and reviving it after the first Great War. For a long time Azure was the only Blue champion, though the other two cats mentioned also both deserved that title.

Rigside Dandy, by Scottish Model ex Ruby, born in 1916, was at stud in Scotland but was much patronised by English breeders. A small light or medium blue with almost red eyes, he handed these on to his progeny. Two of the best cats he sired were Lanark Lad, who was a rapidly improving cat when he got pneu-

monia and died, and Mr. Connor's Mafada, a very beautiful queen, their dam being Bernice.

John Jameson, by Sundog of Thorpe ex Bluebelle, born, 1918, breeder Mrs. Conran, will go down to fame as the grandsire of Dazzler of Henley. He also sired Dogstar of Thorpe and Jamesina before being exported to America.

Swept the Board

Ch. Bluejacket of Hyver was another descendant of the Thorpe cats who made a great name at stud and was the father of Blair Athol, Desmond and Larry of Hawkhurst. Mocassin (by Goliath II) and Don Carlos (by Ch. Ayrshire Ronald ex Beauty, who was descended from Ch. Woolloomooloo) were good cats and so was the Gondolier, by the Countess of Aberdeen's Haddo Blue Beard ex a Blue San Toy queen Fionnuala.

Between 1912 and 1914 Miss Gladys Cheetham's Blues were carrying all before them. At the Southern Counties Show of 1914 the Oaklands cats took 1st and Ch., 2nd, extra 2nd, 3rd and extra 3rd in Blue female adults! Two of these—Ch. Oaklands Sceptre and Ch. Oaklands Sheila—were sired by The Gondolier. Another queen that did a lot of winning at the war-time shows was beautiful Ch. Princess Patricia of Hadley, by Blue Domino of Hyver ex Scilla. My wife claimed her as a kitten, won a championship with her, and then sold her back to Miss J. M. Fisher, who had bred her. Her dam, Scilla, was a fine queen and the mother of Ch. Azure of Hadley, Tom Thumb of Hyver and Derry of Hyver.

To go back a bit, Don Carlos, by Ch. Ayrshire Ronald ex Beauty, who was descended from

Ch. Wooloomooloo, was the sire of Honoria of Highgate, who took 1st, and Ch. at the Southern Counties Show in 1909, was claimed at catalogue price and went to America. Her dam, Fifi Grey Cloud, went back to Goliath II and Ch. Wooloomooloo.

Sundog of Thorpe, sire of John Jameson, was by Blue Cap of Thorpe ex Ch. Erica of Thorpe, and remains in my memory as the squarest faced cat I ever saw—too square, in my opinion, as it gave him rather a forbidding look. John Jameson, who belonged to Mrs. Conran, sired Jamesina, a

He carried a great wealth of coat of lovely texture, which most of his stock inherited. As a show cat he was very unlucky as the third certificate required to make him a full champion should have been his on more than one occasion. He was in great demand as a stud and among the many good cats he sired were Gleggarry, Eros of Allington, Sweet September of Hawkhurst, Townfield Flyfast, Blessing of Cullo-den, Downend (who went to France), Pandora of Boreham and Sweet Lavender of Dunesk.

I am pleased that the Editor has been able to reproduce a

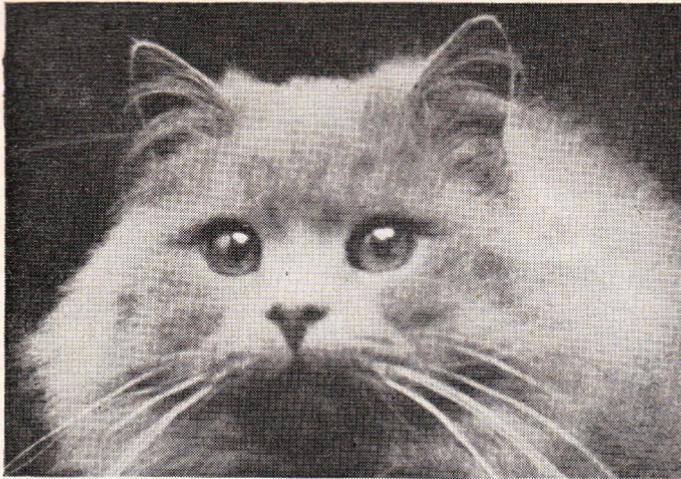


HONORIA OF HIGHGATE, an old-time winner who went eventually to America. Owned and bred by Mrs. Fisher White, Honcra (shown here as a kitten) was First and Champion in a class of 24 at a Westminster show in 1909.

lovely queen that took 1st and Ch. at the Crystal Palace in 1923.

Milord o' Mendip, by Bembo ex Dignity of Delamere, was born in 1919 and bred by Mrs. F. H. Stevens. He was a beautiful medium blue and excelled in type, had a fine head, very neat ears and large, expressive eyes of good but not particularly deep colour.

photo of Blue Cap of Thorpe, in which is noticeable the distance between the base of the ears and the nose, and also the smooth, perfect flatness of nose and between the eyes. Mrs. Slingsby has kindly given me some further notes on Blue Cap. "He was a pale blue, but *very blue*, like all the Thorpe strain, sound from



BLUE CAP OF THORPE

nose to tail and from root to tip. His eyes were gorgeous and his ears small, beautifully rounded and thin. I would have liked him to have been bigger, but what a sire he was! He was out of a Blue Boy II queen and so were Ch. Zeus, Bertrand of Thorpe and other good sons of Ch. Orange Blossom."

Mrs. Slingsby thinks Blue Cap got his wonderful blueness from Darius, as his dam, Daisy Nita of

Thorpe, was very dark indeed. She had gorgeous deep orange eyes, solid, large, round and well set, a very short, flat nose as wide at the base as above—quite square. Mrs. Slingsby always regrets never having had the chance of mating a Ch. Blue San Toy queen to Ch. Orange Blossom. "It should have been a great cross, but might not have nicked!"

(To be continued.)



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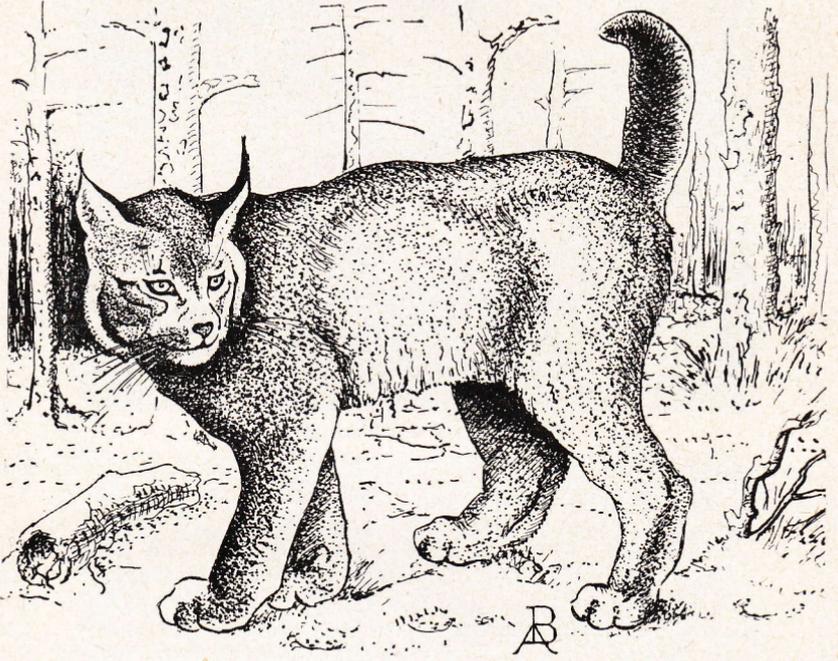
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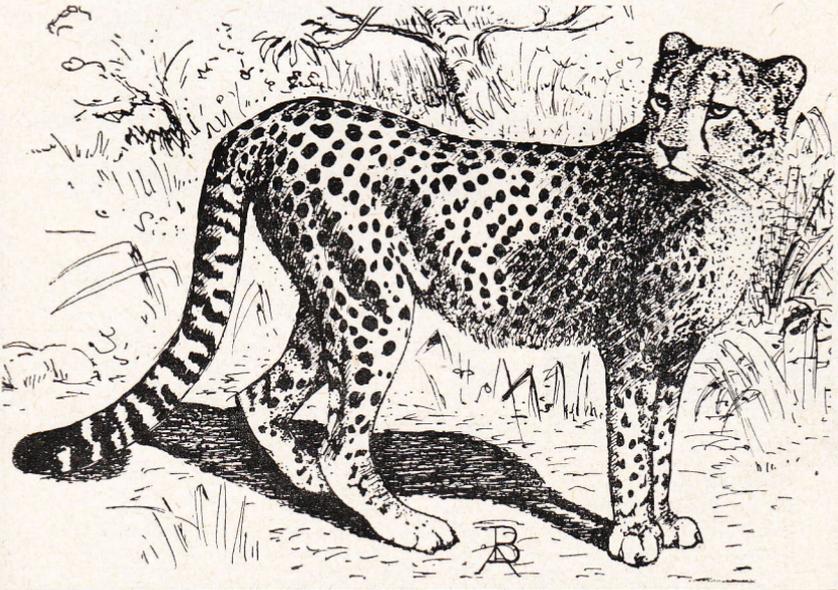
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CHEETAH

Colour Inheritance

By ALBERT C. JUDE

THE only colour pigments found in cats are black, brown and yellow. No red pigment, as such, exists in cats, although yellow is intensified to "red" on the one hand, or reduced to cream on the other.

In the original tabby cat all three primary pigments are present, and their distribution throughout the coat is determined by the tabby coat pattern factor. This factor is a top dominant and under favourable conditions may be seen to some slight degree in all self-coloured cats. This is especially so at the kitten stage.

If the pattern factor is "lost" and replaced by the factor for "self," the three pigments freely intermingle. As black is the densest, it overshadows the brown and the yellow, and in consequence the cat will have a coat black in colour. In the case of the Red Tabby, the brown is "lost," leaving the pattern factor and the yellow. Depth of colour and the definition of "ticking" or markings are the variables with which the Fancier may work on, to intensify or alter according to his taste.

The self Red, which is the top colour of the yellow group, is obviously the dropping out of the pattern factor, plus any remaining black and the brown.

Apart from the Tabbies, the self Black and the self Red, there are two other self colours—the

Blue and the Cream. But these are dilutes. The former is dilution of black and the latter dilution of yellow (the Red). In order to make this matter of dilution clear, it has to be understood that the basic pigments referred to occur in the form of granules, and the distinction between full colour and dilute is probably due to a greater scarcity of pigment granules in the dilute rather than to diminution of their size. Blue has a reducing effect on the pigments brown and yellow, but has little effect on black in cats.

It can be mentioned here that there are other interactions between colours in addition to the effect of blue just mentioned. A notable case in cats, apart from inter-colour action, is the effect of brown on size. Its action is to increase size. This is illustrated in the Brown Tabby, which may be cultivated into a really hefty animal.

When speaking of the dropping out of colour to give the Red Tabby, I made no mention of the Silver Tabby. I passed this over purposely so that it might be taken together with the Chinchilla. The Silver Tabby obviously carries the pattern factor and is without the yellow. It does, however, retain some brown but in small quantity. It is this small amount of brown which gives the silver effect to the ground colour, but it is up to the Fancier, by strict selection, to

prevent any definite brown tinge due to overloading.

This "tinge" is set out as a fault in the official standard. The gene for brown is recessive to its normal allelomorph black. For brown, the oxidation of the melanin pigment does not proceed to its highest state, which is black, but stops short at brown. It has been found that in the absence of other colour genes brown reduces the amount of pigment per unit weight of hair by about a half. At the same time, the average size of pigment granule is also reduced to about one half. The main effect of the brown gene seems to be reduction of pigment granule size, not number. There would be no doubt that the original Silver Tabbies, owing to the brown content, would carry the hazel eye, and it is fair to suppose that the connection between this eye colour and the body colour would be that the markings would be dense and well defined.

Dilutions of Black

It is possible that with the introduction of green eye there would be a lessening of the definition of the markings, or at least a tendency to restriction of definition. There is no doubt that the Chinchilla has added beauty by virtue of the green eye colour, but there is the practical value also. The Chinchilla is minus the pattern factor, the brown, the yellow and some of the black.

It has been written that the Smoke is a mixture of the three "self" colours Black, Blue and White. This, of course, is quite a fair description from the Fancier's point of view, but is hardly right from the genetic aspect. The Smoke is a dilution of black, but is not complete as in the case of the Blue. This is

probably due to modifiers which affect the pigmentation of hairs and areas of hairs in such a way that the lower portion of some hairs is almost devoid of pigmentation, while in other areas the pigmentation is almost completely absent from the whole length of hair. The outcrosses are Black or Blue. If the "silver" portion needs improvement, Blue is indicated, but for increase of black the outcross would, of course, be the Black.

But the novice would be well advised not to resort to outcross, but rather to effect any required improvement through selection alone.

(To be continued)

Mrs. Christine went to the R.S.P.C.A. for a watchdog to guard her tobacconist shop in Birmingham. Despite warnings, she came away with Robbo, a young Dalmatian under sentence of death for cat killing. After some weeks of careful training Robbo now sleeps with a little black kitten, Cherub, between his paws each night.

Dart players at the Russell Arms in Plymouth get a lot of help from Tim, the ginger and white cat belonging to the house. Tim first of all loosens the darts with his paw; he then pulls them out with his mouth and returns them to the thrower.

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“A volume to browse in”

THERE are so many enchanting glimpses of notable people and their cats in Lady Aberconway's "Dictionary of Cat Lovers"* that it is difficult to make a selection conveying the admirable entertainment that this book provides throughout most of its 466 pages. Obviously its compilation has been a labour of the heart for the authoress, no matter how many years it must have taken, and so it is a volume to browse in with delight, with your cat by your side.

Lady Aberconway tells us the interesting story of why she began her task. In the early days of the war, during a night train journey from London to North Wales, the "Alert" sounded and a fellow passenger remarked: "That noise is like the screaming of demon cats in agony." "I found the speaker liked cats," continues Lady Aberconway. "The man sitting opposite then declared he loathed them. The woman beside me said, for her part, she liked them. The little man opposite her said he loved them. I have always loved them. . . . It occurred to me, sitting in that darkened train, that if I could read about people who had liked cats, and if I could read what they had written about their own cats, perhaps I might discover why those exquisite, fastidious and sympathetic

animals are either warmly loved—or loathed."

The Dictionary, ranging from the fifteenth century B.C. up to the present century, and over many countries, entailed a tremendous amount of reading. Such a work has never been compiled before, and as she began to take soundings for the uncharted voyage confronting her, Lady Aberconway might very well have felt much like Dr. Johnson as he surveyed the gargantuan labours required for the writing of his Dictionary of the English Language. The authoress perhaps sensed this affinity when she came to write the entry concerning the famous doctor himself, for he, too, loved cats.

Here in this book we can read about the cats in the lives of Gautier, Jeremy Bentham, Samuel Butler, Lord Byron, Carel Capek, Cowper, Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Hogarth, Abraham Lincoln, Isaac Newton, Jenny Lind, Theodore Roosevelt, Sir Walter Scott, H. G. Wells, and scores of only slightly less immortal personages.

Where shall we begin to dip? Why not near the beginning, where we read Matthew Arnold's revealing letter to his mother written from Harrow in 1869: "Atossa, or Toss, as we generally call her, now lies stretched out on the floor by me, letting the sunshine bathe all her deep, rich, tawny fur over her stomach; her ways are beautiful,

as you will see when you have been with her a day. . . ." Truly, Arnold had a tender affection for cats.

When the feline beloved by Domenico Balestrieri, the Italian poet, died in 1741, he and 80 of his friends wrote poems to its memory published as a book entitled "Tears on the Death of a Cat" and running to 280 pages. A special grave was made for the faithful cat of the eleventh Emperor of the Ming Dynasty in China when she died in 1566. A contemporary declares she was of "faintly blue colour but her two eyebrows were clearly jade-white," and where she lay was erected a tablet inscribed 'Grave of a Dragon with two horns.'

Drollest of Creatures

Williamina was the name of the lady cat which won the heart of Charles Dickens, who allowed her to bring her kittens to him in his study. One of these kittens, so his daughter Mamie has recorded, "was always with him and used to follow him about the garden like a dog, and sit with him while he wrote." William Cowper found much comfort in cats. In 1787 he wrote to his cousin: "I have a kitten, my dear, the drollest of all creatures that ever wore a cat's skin. Her gambols are not to be described, and would be incredible, if they could. . . . No wisdom that she may gain by experience and reflection hereafter will compensate the loss of her present hilarity. She is dressed in a tortoise-shell suit, and I know that you will delight in her."

We learn of the written standing orders of the native guard at Government House, near Poona, which required them to regard any cat passing out of the front

door after dark as His Excellency the Governor and to be saluted accordingly. We read of the nineteenth century rector of Morwenstow who sometimes appeared at the lectern in his church during the service accompanied by four or five cats who "rarely conducted themselves otherwise than with great propriety." And of the cat who, so distressed at the loss of her kittens, played with them and even cooed to them in her dreams.

So fond was Cardinal Richelieu, French Minister of State, of his cats and kittens that at every idle moment he was surrounded by them, while to the 14 who outlived him he left pensions. In this book their names are recorded, with a sketch of the character of each.

Translations Would Help

And so we could continue with remarkable instances of cat love, and with the penetrating observations of great men on the nature of these ever-mysterious pets.

For the ordinary reader, there is one fault with Lady Aberconway's dictionary. She appears to give an unduly large amount of space to French lovers of cats, and there are too many quotations from French poems without translations. It is to be hoped that in any future edition of this excellent work—which is attractively printed and bound, with many illustrations—more translations will be included and perhaps the French bias corrected by new discoveries of "catophiles" nearer home.

S. R. F. J.

* "A Dictionary of Cat Lovers—XV Century B.C.—XX Century A.D." Compiled by Christabel Aberconway. (Michael Joseph, 30/- net.)

MRS. FRED J. WILSON writes about

Siamese in America

Our contributor is a well-known breeder and judge who is in close touch with American Siamese activities. The breed does not "lead the field" as it does in this country but it appears to be gaining considerably in popularity and efforts are being made to raise the standard by importation and other means.

SIAMESE in the U.S.A. have gone from strength to strength in the past fifteen years and particularly so in the last decade. Now more time can be given over to hobbies, their popularity has increased enormously.

Shows were held during the war years, though scarcely in terms of present-day numbers. Many new clubs have formed recently, which in turn has created an impressive array of championship shows. With exhibitions being held all over the U.S.A. and Canada, it is possible to chalk up formidable travel records during a season, if an exhibitor is so inclined.

The season is now in full swing, with Siamese watching the proceedings rather disdainfully from their pens. It is customary to use draperies in the benching cages for decorative effects. They provide a nice background for the cats and very often there is a prize for the best decorated cage. Some cats rest in comfortable wicker baskets, others dose regally upon plump pillows. An air of excitement hovers over the showrooms.

Seal Points still outnumber their brethren the Blue Pointed Siamese, but the latter are coming to the fore both in quantity and quality. Photographs of this variety seldom do justice to their beauty. A superb example of Blue Pointed breeding is Miss Elsa Wunderlich's Double Champion Zarucki, All-Eastern, 1948.

Undoubtedly he is one of the finest studs in the East, outstanding for type and colouring.

Repeatedly taking All-American honours each year are Mrs. Hecht's glittering winners, the Vee Roi Siamese, both Seal Pointed and Blue Pointed. The most notable is Double Champion Vee Roi's Lantara Gene, Best Cat, St. Louis, 1946; All-American Blue Pointed Female, 1947; and Best Opposite Sex Cat of the Year, 1947.

The Seal Point classes continue to be heavily filled and competition keen. Probably one of the most publicised and well known is Charles Knight's Double Champion Knight's Peter Piper, All-American Seal Pointed Male, 1947, sired by Tremunith Montgomery. The Montgomery strain originated with Mrs. Protheroe, of Virginia. During the 'twenties, this breeder imported Robbies-Son, sired by Robin Goodfellow ex Queenie, as well as Rao of Colston, Sire Champion Bonzo, out of Rao of the Forest. Readers of OUR CATS will doubtless recognise these famous cats of the past. There are numerous other well-bred and champion Siamese of to-day, though regretfully space does not permit their mention.

In Canada, too, there is widespread interest in Siamese, with Mrs. Steward's Sunshine Cattery and Kathleen and Stephen Walsh's Royal

Flush Cattery amongst the more prominent. The Walsh's are owners of the American-bred Quinn Marla of Royal Flush, 1948 All-Canadian Seal Pointed Female.

A few breeders in the U.S. and Canada have imported some handsome specimens from England. Probably the very latest to arrive, via B.O.A.C., is the little Seal Pointed kit, Lemling English Rose, whose photograph appeared in the November issue of OUR CATS. Already a widely travelled youngster and endowed with great beauty, she shows promise of becoming a star of tomorrow for her owner, Price Cross, of Texas.

There seems always to be a demand for healthy, well-bred stock. New-comers to breeding and purchasers of pets usually manage to search out the cats or kittens with pale coats. Though a pale fawn coat makes a pleasing contrast to deep seal points, wise breeders are not concentrating on this feature alone, to the exclusion of type and well-shaped eyes of good colour.

In breeding to the standard, Siamese enthusiasts have carried forward their plans with tremendous

success. Type is excellent, and though occasional Blue Pointed individuals show traces of fawn in the coat, on the whole pale coats of the desired shade are to be found in abundance in both varieties. Those all-important factors, strength and stamina, do not appear to have been sacrificed to beauty in breeding programmes.

In the past there was some concern over the objectionable squint which cropped out in occasional specimens, but energetic measures have well-nigh eliminated this fault. The kinked tail, too, has for all practical intents and purposes disappeared from breeding stock and in the showroom. There is still need for improvement in the breed, chiefly in eye colour, with the much-desired sapphire—deeper and clearer—to be aimed at. There is also the tendency for some cats to fall into the oversized, heavy category, which determined breeders will surely remedy.

To sum up, the trend seems to point towards an even greater future for Siamese. The surface of interest seems hardly to have been scratched, as untold numbers of the public are still unacquainted with the breed.



A remarkable accident befell Beauty, a lovely young Tabby belonging to Miss E. Hooper, of Kensington. He slipped and fell from a parapet 70 feet above street level. Down he hurtled, 30 feet, 40 feet, 50 feet, then through the glass dome of a boot and shoe stores, finally ending up on a skylight. Beauty picked himself up, pulled himself together and strolled homewards. Some cuts on his legs necessitated stitches, otherwise he is no worse for his acrobatics!

Prince, a Tabby cat belonging to a St. Albans family, found all the windows and doors closed. It was cold and he wanted to get inside for a feed and some warmth. So he tried to get down the chimney—and got stuck! The Fire Brigade had to be called and part of the chimney dismantled before he was rescued. A stray white cat ran into a room in an Enfield house and disappeared up the chimney. Firemen were again called in to effect a rescue.

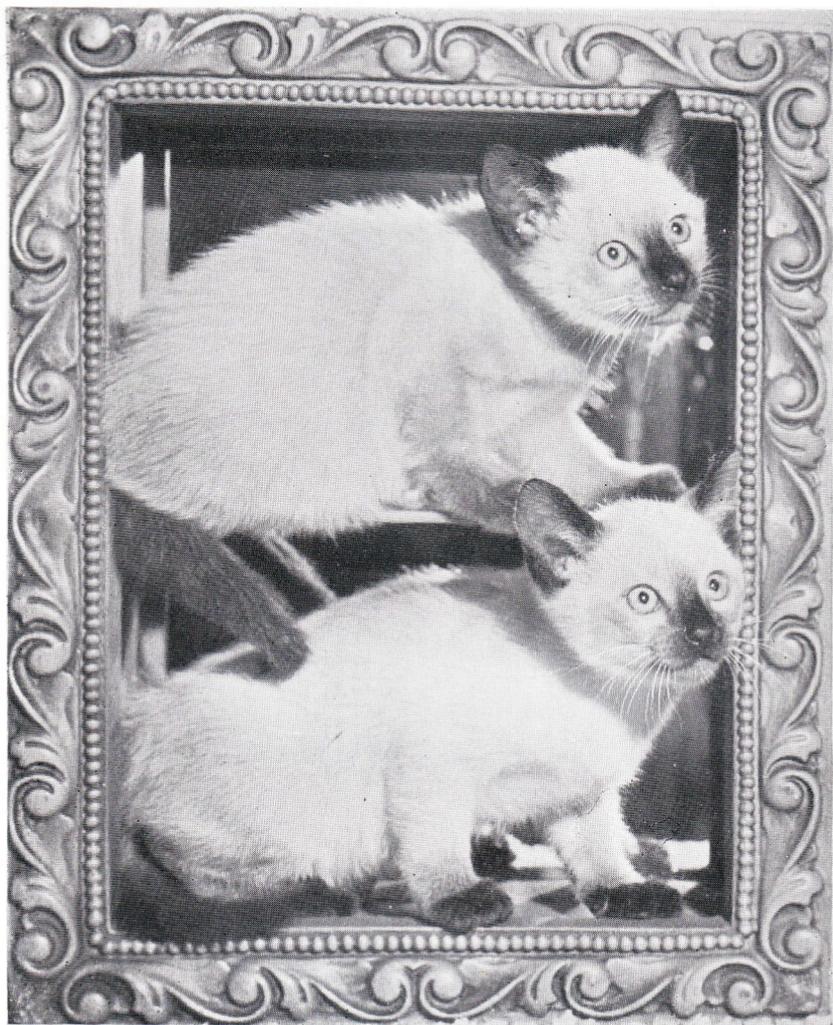


Photo by "Newark News," U.S.A.

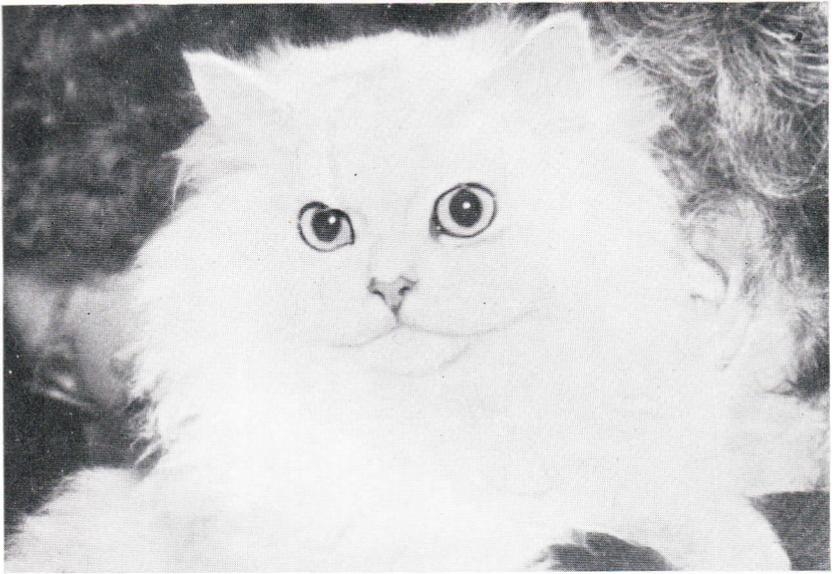
WELL WORTH FRAMING !

This fine pair of Seal Point Siamese kittens was imported by Mrs. Fred J. Wilson, of East Orange, New Jersey, contributor of the preceding article. The young fellow on the top shelf is Imperial Prestleigh and below is his brother, Imperial Petam, who has won many awards and is now well on the way to Championship honours. Their sire is Prestwick Prithie Pal and their birth date October, 1948, so they have quite grown up since they were framed for this unusual picture !



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ONE WAY TO GET A FREE RIDE !



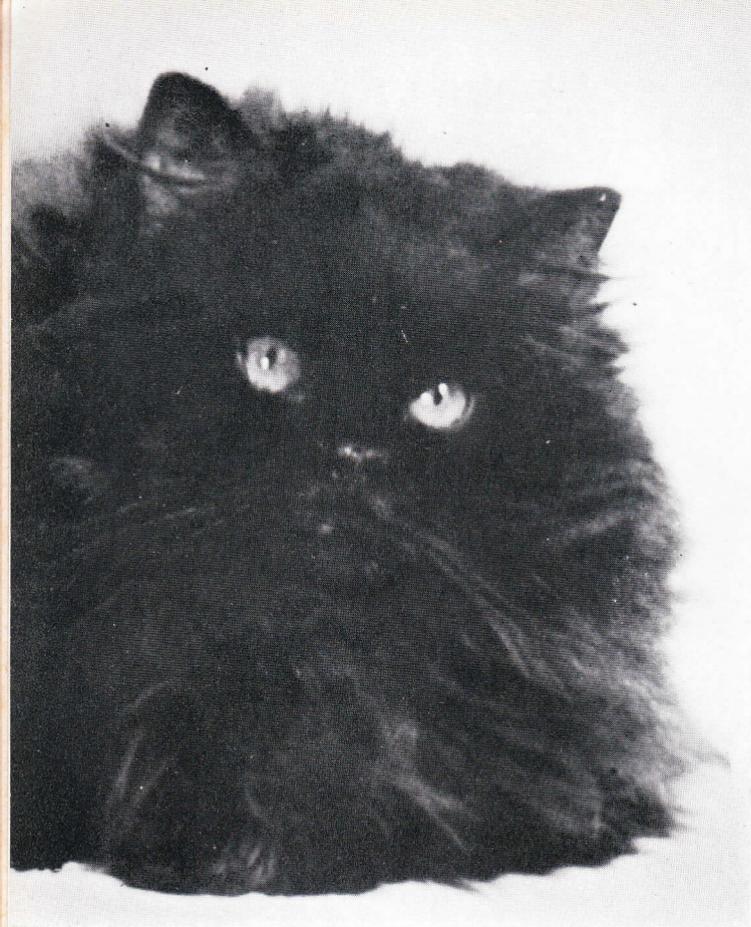
Craie, Roche & Co.

Lovely SARISBURY LYCIDAS, Chinchilla kitten at 6 months, owned and bred by Mrs. Warren, of Maidstone, Kent. By Stourbank Silver King ex Foxburrow Felicity, Lycidas won eleven prizes, including three firsts and three specials, at two Shows last year.



Keystone Press Agency

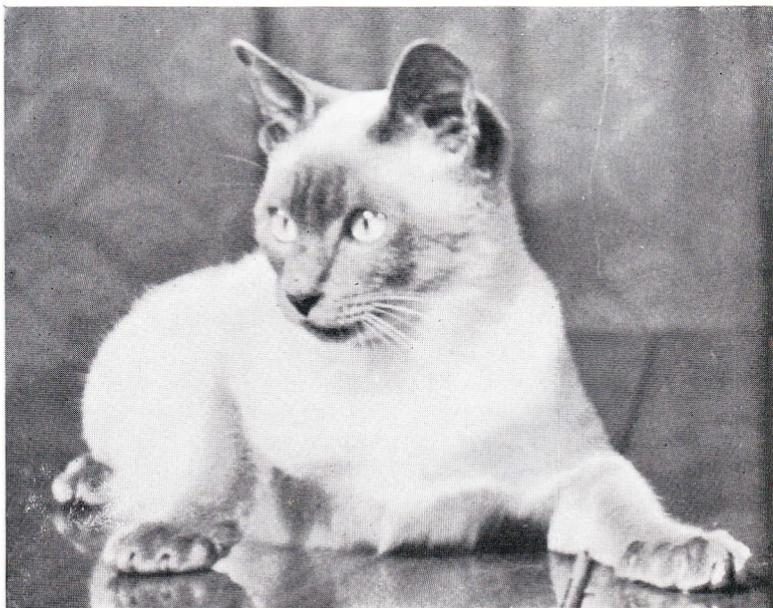
ANCHOR CREAM CRACKER, a fine Cream female, has been shown successfully at most of this season's shows (including Best L.H. Kitten at the Herts and Middlesex C.C. Ch. Show at Watford) by Mrs. E. M. Hacking, of Liphook, Hants. Cream Cracker is shown here in the hands of Janet Aitken, youngest steward at the recent Croydon C.C. Ch. Show.



A grand camera study of Ch. CRAYHAVEN'S REGENT OF NIGRETTE, the All-American Black male of 1947, owned by Mrs. Walter E. Limpert, of Mentor, U.S.A.

"Posed so prettily on the floor, two behind and two before." *

This perky Blue Point Siamese kitten is RAARD ERLE, born May last year, belonging to Mrs. John Spencer, of Woodford Green, Essex.



* Quotation from Eleanor Farjeon's vision of Mr. Sheraton's cat. Sheraton chairs have teet very like cat's paws.

Keeping a Stud

MY personal experience of keeping stud cats is small, yet it is indeed sufficient. That slight experience has been enough to prove to me that breeders who are contemplating keeping a stud would usually be well advised to adopt the advice of Punch to those about to marry—"Don't."

Now obviously there must be studs or those of us who keep pedigree queens will find our case desperate, and happily there are many breeders who undertake this work, thus providing a service which is essential. These breeders may even find that this is the side of cat breeding which may be profitable, but they earn every single penny that is paid in fees. If this fee could be worked out on a basis of so much per hour for the time spent, I can think of many jobs which I would prefer to undertake—even writing about these breeders and the excellent service they give to us who are Fanciers!

If you do decide to keep a male cat as a stud, he must be the right sort of animal. The fact that you have bought a male of good pedigree does not really count for much by itself. There are some students of pedigree who will choose such an animal for their queen because they think that

they can foresee what will be the result of the mating, but there is little shadow of doubt that the ordinary breeder who is intelligent usually chooses a stud for other reasons which are more obvious.

Theoretically, and I say that advisedly, "like produces like" in stock breeding, and thus males which have themselves been big winners on the show bench will have very heavy demands made on their services. Often these demands are much higher than the stud owner dare allow, for a male who is used too frequently cannot be expected to produce robust kittens. It follows from this that, however good the pedigree of your stud, comparatively few breeders will want to use him unless he has done well at the shows.

This may not be the most intelligent method of choosing a stud for a female, but it works successfully as often as it fails and there is thus an even chance that you will obtain first-class kittens.

The ideal stud, however, is the one which produces kittens of outstanding quality later to develop into champions. Your stud may be one of that type, but, as you see, unless he has other attractions he is handicapped from the start. Quality of progeny is the proof of the stud, but for proof of this kind the animal would have to be at least three years old. Thus his own show record takes prior place in the choice.

That disposes of one reason why you should think very carefully before you attempt to start stud work. Of course, if you can find an outstanding male who possesses the above qualifications and whose owner is prepared to sell at a price which you can afford to pay, most of the objections disappear.

There is also the stud's own point of view, which it cannot express in words but can show in other ways. Any stud cat must be satisfied with a reasonable number of queens each season or he is an unhappy creature. If he is confined and rarely sees a visiting queen, he will become restless and may become noisy. In any case he will give unmistakable signs of the fact that he finds himself maladjusted to his life. It would not be so bad if you could allow him to run loose, but if you did he would try to come into the house, where he would be a nuisance. Most studs are affectionate creatures and will try to find human companionship. On the other hand, if you let him run wild to find his own mates he would fare badly against the stray toms of the neighbourhood. Your pedigree male cannot stand up to the hurly-burly of wild life. So do give one thought to the future of the male before you embark upon any such adventure.

Keeping Own Stud

There are definite advantages in keeping your own stud if you have one or two queens, but such advantages are more apparent than real. It saves a lot of trouble having a male on the spot for there is no need to pack up the queen and send her off on a journey with the prospect of a

second visit if the first is not successful. You will also save the stud fee and the cost of carriage. By simple arithmetic it is easy to prove that a stud can be a good investment if he is kept solely for one's own few queens. Alas! It is not as simple as all that.

An inexperienced male, when he meets a maiden queen, may be quite useless, and if you have missed one or two callings with a queen as a result of failure at home, you finally send her off to the stud whom you have heard can manage any queen, however difficult. It is here that the arithmetic starts to go wrong. I know that fact from my own experience. I wonder, too, whether you will be prepared to mate your queens year after year to the same stud. I doubt it.

Your Responsibilities

No male will produce outstanding kittens from every mating and you may find that your stud is only really successful with one of your queens. After all, the male with his qualities is only half the business. What do you do, then? I suspect that you look for another male for those queens which do not suit your own stud. By this time your calculations are right out and you begin to wonder why you ever thought of keeping your own stud.

Another argument against keeping a stud is you yourself. You may possess the right qualifications, but you should certainly ask yourself if you have sufficient spare time for the work and also if you possess sufficient patience for a very exacting task.

This mating business is rarely so simple that the queen comes one evening and can be sent off early the next day. More often

it means many hours of patient endeavour. You can leave the male and female separated, but sufficiently close and within sight so that they may become friends, and when you go back you find them crooning to each other as proof that all is well. It may not be as you find when you have them in the same house together. Desire and its fulfilment in this case are two different things.

Frequently it happens that the two have to be put together on several occasions before success is achieved. All the time they are together you must be with them. That is a responsibility you owe to the owner of the queen. There must be no risk of damage from fighting, and some queens are very fierce when they are mated and not all males are passive when attacked. Nor must there be any doubt as to whether

the female was mated or not. Cat nature is such that the time when most matings take place is when all around is quiet and you would have liked to have been in bed at least an hour earlier. If this statement exaggerates it errs on the side of understatement. Well, there it is! Have you the time and the patience?

Finally, there is the danger of introducing infection into your own cattery. Whenever a queen comes there will be a risk, although the sender never wittingly sends a queen who is suspect on the score of health.

There must be stud owners and I take off my hat to them. Perhaps you should become a stud owner, but do consider the matter with care before you embark on a project. It would be a thousand pities to spoil what had been an interesting hobby!



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Just Fancy

Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline. This month's contribution comes from America, where she has been judging and meeting many prominent Fanciers.

4th January. Left Waterloo and had a delightful send-off from a number of my friends in the Cat Fancy. This is to be my first visit to America and naturally I am very thrilled. Embarked on the Queen Mary and found lovely flowers in my cabin from the Croydon Cat Club Committee and from other friends.

5th January. Left Southampton at 10.30 a.m. Very pleased and surprised to suddenly see Mr. Baude standing beside me as we left. Mr. Baude is well known as a breeder of lovely Reds and Torties. Later in the week he showed me over other accommodation in the Queen Mary. Very impressed by this lovely ship. Spent the next few days reading about America and catching up with some of my correspondence.

10th January. Arrived at New York at dawn and missed the thrill of seeing the Statue of Liberty because the morning was too dark and misty. The ship was 24 hours late

after a rough but enjoyable crossing. Mrs. Ralph Wilkinson, President of the Atlantic Cat Club; Miss Elsie Hydon, President of the Cat Fanciers' Association; Mrs. Elsie Collins and Miss Doris Hobbs were there to meet me. We had lunch together and I was very pleased to hear the entry for the Show was a good one.



Mrs. Ralph A. Wilkinson, popular President of the Atlantic Cat Club
"was there to meet me."

12th January. The 48th Championship Show of the Atlantic Cat Club and 29th of the Silver Society were held in conjunction at the Hotel McAlpin on Broadway. Two hundred and twenty-eight cats and kittens were exhibited and some very lovely specimens were presented. The Show

was held in the Crystal Room of the hotel, a very lofty and spacious ball-room. For the actual judging a row of pens was erected on the platform and the stewards brought the cats to these. Exhibitors sat on the other side to watch the judging, which continued until about 9.30 p.m. on the first day and early afternoon of the next. Doors were open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day and over 1,000 spectators paid for admission.

Mrs. Elsie M. Collins, acting Secretary, Treasurer and Show Manager, and the Committee organised a very well run event and were working on the night previous to as well as on both nights of the Show, but they were always very alert and attentive to every detail. Miss Doris Hobbs, of Massachusetts, judged the Silver Society Specialty. Her mother, the late Mrs. Hobbs, was a very well known breeder of Silver and Shaded Silvers, but her daughter has retired temporarily from breeding, although she is still very interested in cats. After she had judged, I had the Silvers to judge myself later in the day and it was interesting to find that there was very little difference in our placings.

In America two varieties are recognised—Silvers (which in colouring and type are equivalent to our Chinchillas) and Shaded Silver, which we frequently saw in England several years ago. Some very lovely cats were presented in each variety and I admired very much the depth of colour in their large, expressive eyes, which in many cases were the true deep, seagreen so desirable in Chinchillas.

The Best Exhibit in Show was Mr. A. De Santis's Blue Lavender Liberty Beau, a magnificent male, which excelled in head, type and physique. I afterwards heard he had been Best in Show at other Shows, including the Empire Cat Club Show in December, and was a full Champion under Cat Fanciers' Association rules. Best

opposite sex was a very lovely Blue Cream, Mrs. La Fayette's Double Ch. Rosegate's Patsy Ann.

When all the Longhair cats were assembled for Best in Show judging, they made an imposing array and the average quality was very high. Another lovely cat which ran the winners close was Miss Denhard's White male Solomons Seal. His head, type, deep orange eyes and expression were lovely and his long, dense coat very pure in colour. A close runner-up for Best Orange-eyed White adult was Mrs. Rita Swenson's beautiful female Ch. Periwinkle Paleface of Casa Loma, a daughter of Grand Ch. Woodchurch Periwinkle, the latter bred in England by the late Mrs. Forrest.

Miss Herm's Black male Hermcrest Natajha (a Champion under C.F.A. rules) was another glorious cat distinguished by a broad head, full muzzle, short nose, wideawake orange eyes and jet black coat.

Mrs. Alexander Mackenzie's Tortoiseshell, Purr - a - Tunes Pixie O'Dunoon, was beautifully patched and the colouring on her paws, back legs, head and ears so well distributed and brilliant in colour. The winning Blue females were Mrs. Arvid G. Ohlin's Wilshire Myfanwy of Allington and Wimauma Morfydd of Allington, litter sisters to our Miss Langston's Ch. Mair of Allington. Both these lovely cats were remarkably like their famous sister and both were C.F.A. Champions. The Best Kitten in Show was a Shaded Silver male, Mrs. Thomas Austin's Ta-Ghas Leo. He excelled in type and physique and had a lovely long, dense coat. The Best Opposite Sex was a well-grown Blue, Mr. W. A. Sebring's Northledge Acacid. Competing for Best in Show was a Red self kitten which I should like to have brought home if we did not have six months' quarantine laws. This was Mrs. G. Lowes's Glad-Lowes Red Coach—very well

grown, in splendid coat and condition, lovely head, eyes and type and was as nearly self-colour as I have seen in this difficult variety. No award exists equivalent to our Reserve Best Kitten, so after selecting the Best in Show one has to choose the Best Opposite Sex. I understand this is to give the females a better chance for high awards. There is evidently a universal tendency for males to beat females when competing for Best in Show because we have observed the same thing in England.

No written reports in detail are published by judges and there is little necessity for lengthy notes, as the numbers competing are fewer and there are no mixed breed Club classes such as we have in England. Rows of satin ribbons stamped in gold are placed in rows on the long judging table, and when the class is judged the winning ribbons are put on top of the pen. The cats are then taken away and the competitors in the next class presented. The colours are: blue ribbon for first, red for second, yellow for third, and green for fourth place. Lovely ribbons with pleated rosettes and an enamel pin across the centre are given later for the Best Exhibit in each variety, the Best Cat in Show, Best Opposite Sex, Best Champion, etc. Although entry fees are paid, there is no prize money except for the highest awards, such as Best in Show, Best Opposite Sex, Best Champion, etc.

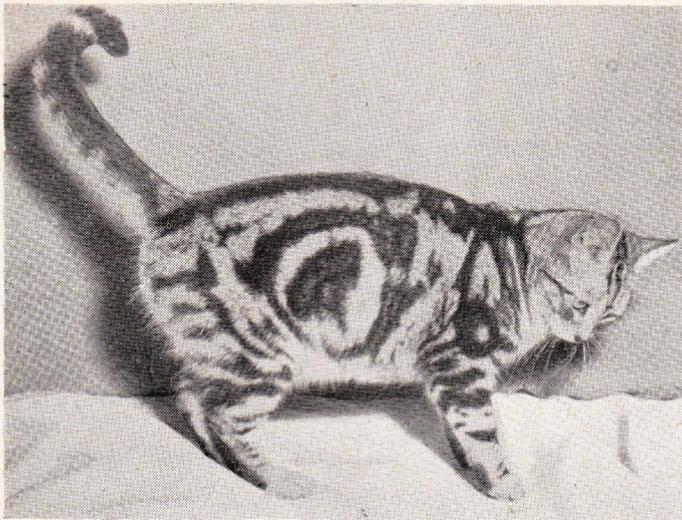
Exhibitors motor or fly hundreds of miles. Mrs. Nack came 800 miles from Pennsylvania to exhibit her winning Silvers and Shaded Silvers and won the highest honours with them. Best Shaded Silver under Miss Doris Hobbs and myself was her female Champion Kute Kit Silver Dinah, a very lovely cat, beautifully presented in perfect coat and condition. Another of this owner's big winners was Ch. Kute Kit Norah Lee and Edgewoods Citation of Kute Kit bred by Mrs. Bertha Costello. These

cats were a joy to see and handle. I had a chat with Mrs. Nack just before she left the Show about midnight. Some of her cats travelled in smart cases with transparent plastic tops and chrome plated fittings.

Mrs. Millie Walker's Pike took four days to motor from Florida and acted as hostess on her arrival. She was full of fun and wit and, I was interested to hear, gives a weekly interview on the radio in Florida and introduces stories about cats whenever possible. Cats have great publicity in America and one sees photographs of them every week in the press, on cute boxes of notepaper (each sheet with a different print), on lovely scarves and handkerchiefs, and cards and valentines have serious, dignified and saucy cats disporting themselves.

I should have loved English Shorthair breeders to see the display when six Silver Tabbies were up in the judging pens. I never remember seeing a lovelier array. The Best Domestic Shorthair was Mrs. Freudenthal's Ch. Lavender Top Notcher and the Best Opposite Sex Champion Aztec's Belinda, both beautiful cats. Mrs. Piccikno's were also fine specimens. These Silver Tabbies are pedigree bred from the same variety and nearly all were beautifully marked, had good round heads and nice type and eye colour. Best Siamese was a Blue Point, Mrs. B. Dragon's Chiang Tse Soong, and Best Opposite Sex Mr. and Mrs. Roose Chidwin's Charm of Millbrook. She was a dainty, typey queen with a short, close coat and excellent mask and seal points. I understand she won well under Mr. Stirling-Webb at the Empire Cat Club Champion Cat Show last December. She is a daughter of Champion Oriental Nanki Pooh of Newton, bred by our Miss Gold in England.

Interesting exhibits in the Household Pets class were two Red Pointed Siamese, an orange Siamese-type



**One of America's lovely Silver Tabbies, CH. AZTEC'S BELINDA
belonging to Mrs. Freudenthal.**

Tabby and a Tortoiseshell Siamese-type cat, three of them bred from the same sire, Quigug.

The sales table at the Show was an interesting feature presided over by Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Pike. I thought this an excellent idea as there one could buy cat food, periodicals, books, cat nip mice and several novelties attractive to cat lovers. Mrs. Cicely Mellor was in charge of her Felinia Cat Specialties—stationery, toys, jewellery, photos and novelties—and I wished there had been more time to see and enjoy these interesting side-shows. The less fortunate cats were not forgotten as proceeds from the sales table were contributed by the Atlantic Cat Club, Inc., to the Greenwich Village Humane League and Cat Cartons for Britain. On 12th January there appeared in the "New York Journal" a short article with the caption, "Atlantic Cat Club Hits Vivisection," and explaining that "members of the Atlantic Cat Club attending the 48th Annual Cat Show of the organisation, which opened to-day at the Hotel

McAlpin, will be asked to go on record against vivisection." Mrs. Elsie M. Collins, Show Manager, said the exhibitors will be requested to sign a petition supporting the growing demand to outlaw the "cruel use of animals for scientific study."

It was a very interesting and enjoyable Show, with lovely cats and sporting owners whom I was delighted to meet. My one regret was that I did not have more time to talk to them.

16th January. Went to spend a few days with Miss Elsie Hydon and was very interested to see Grand Ch. Lavender Liberty, sire of Mr. De Santis's Lavender Liberty Beau, the latter so like him. Pre-war breeders will remember Mrs. Yeend exhibiting their ancestor, Chu-Chu, a pale blue male excelling in quality and type. He was purchased by Miss Hydon and sired hundreds of winners for her and other American breeders. A glorious queen with deep copper eyes bred by our Miss Langston was disporting herself in the house. She is

by Ch. Deebank Michael and Gloria of Allington. Unfortunately, she comes into coat when shows are finishing so has not been shown yet. Several bouncing Blue kittens were running around and some lovely Silver Tabby Shorthairs.

Shetland sheepdogs are another of Miss Hydon's loves, and they made a brave show, although I could not appreciate the best as I know so little about the show points of dogs, but several were champions.

15th January. My birthday and a wonderful present came to me in the form of a cable from Mrs. Eireanne Marlow to say Ch. Gloria of Pensford had been found that morning. Gloria apparently in good health after 41 nights of freedom, although very thin and one of her paws very sore and her

coat dirty. Her disposition still very lovable after her initial fright at being caught. Words cannot express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Marlow, Miss Yorke, Major Dugdale, Capt. St. Barbe, Mrs. Towe, Miss Manley, Mr. Carman, Mrs. St. Clair Wallis (who reported the news on Gloria's whereabouts on the morning of her capture), Mr. and Mrs. Cowlshaw, and Mrs. Spiers, who is keeping and attending to Gloria until my return. They have all been wonderful.

The affectionate sympathy of my fellow Fanciers has thrown a lovely sidelight on human nature. Many others have searched for Gloria, as much as their business and domestic duties have permitted.

Mrs. Joan Thompson's Diary next month will tell of her visits to some of the leading American Fanciers.

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KEEP CATS KITTENISH



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.

MENDEL "UNDER FIRE"

We are following Mr. Jude's articles with close interest, since for a hobby we have been trying to breed perfect Tortoiseshells for ten years. We concentrate on colours only and our seven queens are more or less non-descript. Four are Torties, one grey Tabby, one Ginger and White and one sleek cross-bred British Blue.

Mendel claims—I quote—"that although both members of a pair of alternate characters are present in the hybrid, they separate when the hybrid forms its germ cells, half of them receiving one character and half receiving the alternate characters. . . . This and the resulting purity of the germ cells are the two fundamental ideas in Mendel's theory of inheritance."

It is my opinion that research into this field will establish in due course that, whereas feature and character inheritance in cats conforms generally to the rules or to the non-existence of rules in all animals (including humans), the colour inheritance has its own unusual rules for cats, which moreover seem inflexible in relation to some colours or colour combinations only. We all know that it is a very rare exception to obtain any ginger queens (or even ginger and white queens) from any mixed colour types. While it is absolutely impossible to breed or procure male Torties.

(Here follow some examples from the writer's records of crossings made during the last ten years. Space unfortunately prevents these being given in detail.—Editor.)

Our Ginger and White queen was mated to a black and white half-Persian

and one of the litter was a silky Blue with tiny white patches indicating a Tortie tendency. This kitten was retained and is now our Blue Belle of Scotland, a Tortie queen of remarkable beauty, main colour a smoky blue with ginger and cream patches, cream triangle on chest and cream paws. She is probably the only Blue Tortie in the country. But the mystery is: Whence the Blue?

Mated to a sleek grey Tabby (and a shiny black tom who got in by mistake), Blue Belle has since produced two Ginger toms, both half-Persians.

Space prevents me from giving more examples, but those given show that Mendel's theory, as quoted, does not apply.

Mrs. Magdalen Munro,

Hildenborough, Kent.

(The main points raised by Mrs. Munro will be dealt with by Mr. Jude in his March issue instalment, which should be read in conjunction with some parts of his January issue contribution on the subject of Colour Inheritance.—Editor.)

TESTIMONIAL FOR MR. JUDE

I have read Mr. Jude's introductory article (October issue, OUR CATS) on Colour Inheritance a few times. It is the best of his efforts I have read so far.

I have read much by Julian Huxley and the start made by Mr. Jude reminds me very much of him. If he (Huxley) had been faced with the task of presenting the subject to the uninitiated Fancy, I feel he would have written much the same and certainly could not have bettered your contributor. I especially liked

the third paragraph for it has always been a fear to me that I should voice a wrong conclusion. Further instalments are awaited with great interest.

Mr. J. Durham,
Reigate Road, Brighton.

SHOW PROCEDURE

Whilst congratulating the Show Manager, Mrs. K. R. Williams, and her helpers on the excellence of the arrangements at the Southern Counties Show on the 30th ultimo, may I suggest that for future shows it should be prohibited that any exhibitor should assist with the handling of their exhibit whilst the judges and their stewards are judging. I actually saw this occur.

May I also have a ruling on the following point? After the general public are admitted and most of the judging is finished it should be permissible for an exhibitor to fix the name of his or her cattery over their exhibits. In my case, I always enquire if I may do so, and I did so at the Southern. About 4 p.m. judging was still going on and I was very nicely and tactfully "told off" for having my cattery name displayed.

If this rule is enforced, how is it possible for long-distance folks such as myself who have passes to remove their exhibits at 4.30, to advertise their "wares"? I ask for guidance on this point as I don't want to transgress again.

Mr. Gordon B. Allt,
Danhurst Cattery, Binstead, I.O.W.

SHOW MANAGERS' REMUNERATION

While not wishing to enter into the question of the loss of Ch. Gloria of Pensford, I would, however, like to draw attention to a statement made by Mrs. Joan Thompson in your January issue. She says: "A sub-

stantial honorarium is paid to the Show Managers of the big London Championship shows."

On present-day rates of payment for work, the honorarium paid to show managers is quite inadequate for the amount of work which the running of such shows entails, and I would remind Mrs. Thompson that, until the unfortunate happening to Ch. Gloria, she was always stating this fact. As a "late" show manager of the National Show and Joint Show Manager of the Kensington Kitten Show, and with knowledge of the honorarium given to all the London show managers, I feel I am qualified to dispel the inference that these sorely tried Fanciers "make a good thing" out of running a show. Such statements are liable to mislead readers, especially our Fancier friends overseas, and in fairness to all concerned, cannot be permitted to pass unchallenged.

Miss Kit Wilson,
Chairman of the Governing Council
of the Cat Fancy.

CH. GLORIA

In your January issue, your correspondent, Mrs. Joan Thompson, gave her version of how she lost her cat after the December N.C.C. Show, and criticised unfavourably the way this and other shows were managed. Mrs. Thompson says her cat's 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."

Admittedly, the men started to dismantle a block of empty pens at 6 o'clock, but to say, as Mrs.

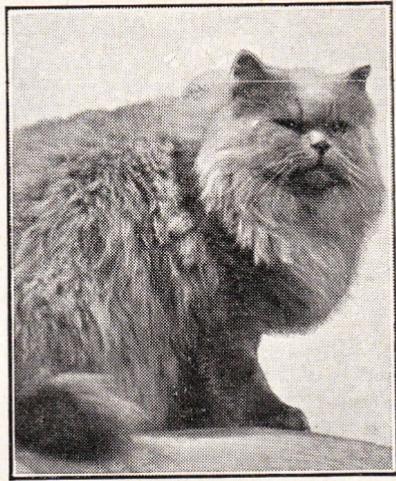
Thompson does, that at that time the majority of the exhibits were still in the hall is quite untrue. It so happened that an exhibitor, Major Murrell (who is an advocate of the earlier closing of shows), seeking evidence in support of his cause, counted the cats still in the hall at 6 p.m. He found that there were 39 out of a total of 311 (see Major Murrell's letter in "Fur and Feather," 27th January). So much for Mrs. Thompson's accuracy!

To say that the dismantling of a few pens at 6 o'clock was responsible for a cat escaping from its pen at the other end of the hall three-quarters of an hour later, is absurd!

Mrs. Thompson is not a novice; she has been showing cats for 25 years. She knows perfectly well that when, as is usually the case, pens and staging have to be removed on the day of the show, dismantling begins as soon as a section of the pens is empty, the said dismantling being a signal for those exhibitors who are still in the hall to start packing their cats.

Mrs. Thompson admits that from where she was sitting she could see her cats' pens and so must have seen that the pens near hers were being taken down. Why did she not, even then, take the precaution of putting her cats in their baskets?

No, the accident is due to her own folly. She should have had her cats in their baskets at 6.45—a quarter of an hour after the show was closed. Her criticism of the way in which shows are run is amusing, seeing that she is on the Committee of the N.C.C., the Southern Counties and Croydon! She has never run a show herself and therefore has no real conception of the amount of work involved and the difficulties to be overcome. I have run many and can tell her that work in connection with the N.C.C. starts at the beginning of October and is not usually cleared



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up and the show accounts ready until well into March.

Although, as I say, she has never run a show herself, she must know something about the work involved in running even a small show, for on one or two occasions her late husband ran the Blue Persian Cat Society's Shows.

Managing a small one-breed show is child's play compared to a big Championship Show for all breeds. Herbert Thompson knew this full well and he often told me that nothing would induce him to take on one of the big shows! Mrs. Thompson's reference to "substantial honorariums" is in bad taste and has caused widely-expressed indignation.

Had OUR CATS been a periodical only read by Fanciers, who know the facts, I should not have troubled to reply to Mrs. Thompson; but it is only right to assure those readers who are not in the Fancy, and overseas readers, that Show Committees in this country do take every care of animals entered at their shows, but **they expect exhibitors to do likewise.** The average exhibitor has two or three cats to look after; the Show Manager as many hundreds!

Mr. Cyril Yeates, (Hon. Secretary, National Cat Club), Kensington, W.8.

INNOCULATION IN CANADA

Please renew my subscription to OUR CATS. We enjoy it very much and the only fault we have to find is that it doesn't come often enough—one every week would be more to our liking.

I was much interested in a letter in this month's issue of the American magazine "Cats" coming from Miss Emens, of Bath, Somerset. She asks for information about our preventive vaccine for infectious enteritis. I know the import restrictions are necessary, but I do think it is time

something was done to make this necessary vaccine available across the seas.

It is becoming more and more known here in Canada and people who love their cats are paying the four dollars to have them protected. I myself have eight cats, kept for pets only, ranging from the best of Champion stock Persians, one Siamese and two who were strays. All have had the protective needles, and while all around me people have lost their cats, mine have had no symptoms whatever.

My spare (?) time is spent in a Cat and Dog Protection Society here in Hamilton, and so I am handling stray cats every day, and I am sure I would have brought the germ home in my clothes many times as enteritis was very prevalent last summer and fall.

Mrs. Harold Lee,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

EGG ROLLING AND SPAYING

I note with interest that Captain Lowe, of Slades Cross, mentions the instance of a cat sucking eggs. Mrs. Gregory, of Bath, has two Siamese, male and female, and she tells me that she has to store eggs in a very safe place or else the male will steal them. He doesn't suck them, however, but rolls them about till they break and then neatly licks the shells dry.

A few months ago you published an enquiry from me as to the after-effects of spaying. Two replies were published giving different verdicts. After a lot of thought and debate we had the operation performed on one of our Siamese and I am pleased to relate that the result is quite satisfactory. The answer to my query as to whether the queen still calls or suffers in any way as the result of such an operation seems to depend entirely on the skill of the vet.

Miss Joan Emens, Bath, Somerset.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the last day of the month* preceding the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9. Use of Box No. costs 1/- extra.

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Miscellaneous

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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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In Memoriam

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SOUTHERN STAGE FINE FINISH TO SHOW SEASON

The Cat Fancy has come to "take it as read" that the Championship All Breed Show of the Southern Counties Cat Club is a worthy wind-up to the show season. This time—on January 30th—Mrs. K. R. Williams (Show Manager) did not disappoint us. The hall was packed throughout the day and visitors saw a representative selection of the various breeds which must have delighted them. Mrs. Williams herself made a notable contribution by showing— for the first time at any show—a litter of six nice Chocolate Pointed Siamese of her own breeding. She is also to be congratulated on arranging valuable publicity for the event on television and for giving us a show catalogue in sans type that made everything easy to read and follow. If consecutive numbering could be arranged next time it would be the perfect catalogue.

Appropriately enough, the outstanding cat on the day was No. 1 in the Catalogue—Miss M. L. Rodda's lovely Black, Chadhurst Sambo, bred by the

exhibitor in May, 1947. Sambo was voted Best in Show, Best Longhair and Best Exhibit.

Best Shorthair was Mrs. A. S. McGregor's Inwood Shadow, the sterling Siamese female whose picture was given in the last issue of OUR CATS. Shadow has had an extraordinarily fine show record and is a credit to her owner and breeder. Best Shorthair Kitten—also Best Kitten in Show—was Mrs. M. Lisle's Siamese S.P. Redmarley Tai-Tu, sired by Ch. Morris Tudor and bred by the exhibitor from Redmarley Psyche. Best Longhair Kitten was Miss E. Langston's eight months' old Chinchilla Musidora of Allington, bred from Macduff of Allington ex Felicity of Allington.

The smooth progress of the day's proceedings was marred late in the afternoon when Mr. Frank Williams slipped on the platform stairs and suffered a nasty fracture of the shoulder. I am pleased to be able to report that he is making good progress towards recovery.

A.E.C.

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items from home and overseas*



A LONDON reader of the "Sunday Express" reports that his Tortie cat lived to the fine old age of 25½ years on a mixed grill which consisted of fried liver, mice and new milk.

An astonishing story of a determined ship's cat has been told to the London "Evening News" by Mrs. Evelyn Ferraby, of Redcliffe Square, S.W. Her husband, Captain E. F. Ferraby, master of the P. and O. motor vessel Paringa, related the facts to her in a letter sent from Brisbane. "When we left Sydney," writes Captain Ferraby, "a black and white cat of ours was missing. She was a nice little thing and we were all sorry. We had been in Brisbane a couple of days when the Aagtekerk arrived from Sydney. This ship hadn't been in a couple of hours when trotting down the wharf, fully knowing where she was going, came our little cat. The Aagtekerk lay fully three miles from us, with a complicated network of streets in between. I would have lost my way a dozen times. The Captain of the Aagtekerk told me the cat just went on board at Sydney and lived quietly in his cabin on the run up."

Sonia, a 2-year-old cat belonging to Harry Larsen, an American fisherman of Long Island, recently had a column of pictures in a Sunday newspaper showing her doing one in her repertoire of tricks. Sonia first of all does a tightrope act across a rope cable. She then springs on to Larsen's back from a box at the end

of the cable and finally perches herself on his head, to await her reward of some tasty, fresh-caught fish.

Poppett is a little black-and-white kitten caught on one of London's bomb-sites. Little Janet Smith, of Leytonstone, rounded her up with others, some of which were so wild that they had to be put to sleep. The experiment with Poppett continues, but she is tough and hard to train and the issue is still in doubt.

A cat and a rabbit were trapped in a store when fire broke out at a Harefield, Middlesex, boarding house. Guests in night clothes formed a bucket chain in an effort to save the pets, but their efforts were in vain. The cat was a much-prized Siamese.

Mr. Angus Ward, former American Consul-General in Mukden, who was imprisoned by the Communists and eventually escaped from China, has been named with his wife as the winner of the 1949 Tabby Award of the Atlantic Cat Club, given annually for "outstanding kindness to cats." Mr. and Mrs. Ward refused to leave their four pet cats behind when they were forced to leave the East.

Spiv, the special pet of Captain B. K. Berry, new Commodore of the Royal Mail Line, has logged more than 110,000 miles at sea since his birth in 1946 in a wardrobe at sea on board S.S. Almanzora. Spiv is a quaint Tortie shorthaired cat.

MICKEY

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To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

The Dog Licence

Have you bought your dog's licence? I was very surprised to read in a daily paper a few days ago that at present there are hundreds of stray dogs being picked up each day by the police just because their owners have turned them out. It is strange, I know, that anybody should do this rather than pay 7s. 6d. for a licence. Many of the owners who act in this way do not realise that they are being cruel.

Do You Want a Kitten ?

I have a Blue-Cream female kitten that I am prepared to give away to any boy or girl who would give it a really good home. This is one of Sheena's kittens. Unfortunately, when they were only a few weeks old they all developed skin trouble and for a time I thought it was really serious because it was taking so long to cure. However, all is now well and if you are interested I will tell you all about it. Remember, though, that I have only one kitten left out of the family of four, so some of you will be disappointed.

Tortoiseshell Kittens

During the month I had a letter from Hallard Croft who wanted a shorthair Tartoiseshell-and-White kitten. He had tried in all sorts of places to find one, but he had not been successful and he wondered if I could help. Unfortunately, I could not say very much that was useful to him. You see, Torties and Tortie-and-Whites are accidents. The Tortie colours are black, red and cream and these colours should be broken up in patches all over the coat. If you try to breed a Tortie by mixing the colours, you may have to wait years before you are successful. Even if you have a Tortie queen she may not have a Tortie kitten in her family. Male Torties are very, very rare. In fact, I have never seen one.

Books on Animals

Before the war there used to be a series of pet books which were very useful and very cheap, but unfortunately most of them are now out of print. The publishers have started work on this series again, and a small book on cats will appear about October this year. Its price will be about half a crown, so most of you will be able to afford it if you want it. A little later there will be another on tropical fish for those of you who have an aquarium at home. Next year there will be one on mice, which so many of you like. Can you think of any other books you would like to see in this series? If you can, write to me and I will see what I can do.

That Broadcast on Cats

I am very sorry to have to tell you that the broadcast on cats had to be postponed again. As you probably heard on the Children's Hour, Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald has been ill. He was helping me with this talk, so it could not take place on 29th January. Keep your eye on "The Radio Times" because it *will* happen one day.

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.

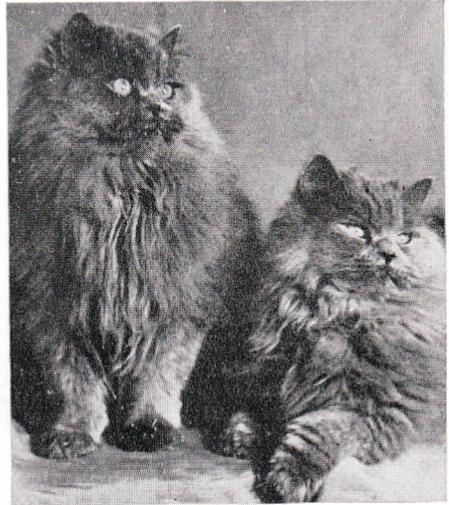
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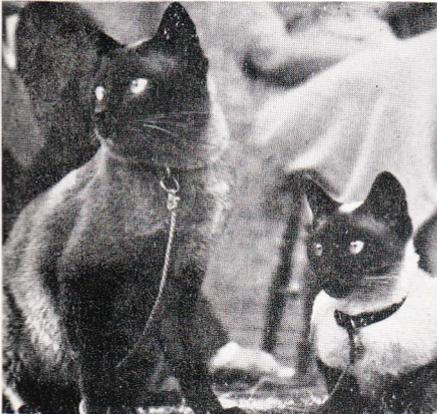
Mark Twain



GATHORNE BLUE BOY ("Pandie") bred by Mrs. Chappell and owned by Mrs. Edith Rump, of Wembley. Pandie has a special pen friend in America, who supplies him with playthings.



Presenting **PHILLIMORE PANDORA** (right) and **PHILLIMORE FLUELLEN**. This fine pair of Blue Longhair kittens were 1st prizewinners at the last Croydon C. C. Ch. Show. They belong to Mrs. Reginald Brown, of Bradley Cross, Somers set.



E. F. J. Cox

Oh, those eyes! On the left **OZYMANDIAS** (2 yrs. old male Siamese) with his companion **HILLCROSS CARA MIA**. Owner is Mrs. M. H. Rutt, of Biggleswade, Beds.

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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