# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

1/6

MARCH 1950

**BRINGING UP THE BABIES** (see page 11)

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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.

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


## THE FANCY'S GREAT LOSS

I HAVE to open this month on a very sad note to record the passing of Cyril Ernest Brettargh Yeates, G.O.M. of the English Cat Fancy

Cyril Yeates died suddenly in hospital on 27th February at the age of 75. Although his health had been affected by the recent changeable weather, it had not given cause for any deep concern although once or twice he had fulfilled engagements when he was feeling anything but well. For most of the day prior to his death he was engaged in writing the third instalment of the series he had promised me for OUR CATS on the history of Blue Longhairs. That instalment was never completed, but I think he would have wished me to reproduce the article as he left it. This I have done in this issue—it is " the swan song " of a very great cat lover.

I feel a sense of great personal loss with the passing of Cyril Yeates. It was to him that I went when I first had the idea of launching this Magazine. To meet him in his home was an experience I always enjoyed ; he was ever kindly, helpful and, as a contributor, reliable and painstaking.

*He was a gentleman because his nature*
*Was kind and affable to every creature*

His Kensington house was for many years the G.H.Q. of the cat world. He was breeder, club official, show promoter, International judge, Chairman and then the first President of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. It was in 1926 that he was elected Chairman of the Council in succession to Sir Claude Alexander. In 1910, Cyril Yeates was taken to his first cat show by the lady who later became his wife and whose death in 1937 left such a big gap in his life.

Cyril Yeates has gone with some ambitions unfulfilled. He wanted to breed a first-class copper-eyed White and he also wished to see the return to popularity of some of the old English breeds such as the Silver Tabby and the Red Tabby. It is sad also to reflect that he has not been

**The late Cyril Yeates at a 1948 Championship Show**

spared to us through 1960, which bids fair to be one of the most eventful years in the cat world.

Miss Kit Wilson, who was for so many years closely associated with Cyril Yeates and who succeeded him as Chairman of the Governing Council last year, writes:

> "His knowledge, wisdom and kindly advice were there for those who asked for them and he had the great quality of fair-mindedness and the ability to see the other fellow's point of view, even though he might not agree with it—a quality which has averted many disasters. . . . His name was honoured both at home and abroad and as a judge he was in constant demand. . . . To follow him as Chairman was a formidable task but one which was considerably eased by the knowledge that he was 'just round the corner,' ever ready to help and advise."

A Sunday newspaper described Cyril Yeates as the "Greatest Cat Lover in the World." Certainly there is none who can equal the wonderful record of service of this exceptional man. Alas! the autobiography we had discussed together will never now be written!

EDITOR

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*The delightful study of Chinchilla kittens on our front cover shows Bonaria Sally and Bonaria Sarah, who were a first prize-winning pair at the Southern Counties Show in January. Breeder is Mrs. Mollie Turner, of Fetett Green, Berks, and the picture was taken by John Barker.*

# *Olympia!!*

By THE EDITOR

SUPPLEMENTING the few lines devoted in our February issue to an announcement of the Show fixed to take place at Oympia in September, I am able now to confirm that this ambitious event is definitely ON and that good progress has already been made to ensure its success. Here is a brief outline of proceedings to date.

The vast National Hall at Olympia has been booked for Wednesday, 20th, and Thursday, 21st September next. Very few vacant booking dates were available, so from the few these were chosen as the most suitable. Running expenses are likely to reach four figures a day. This tells its own story and one can only congratulate the promoter and backer of this event, Mr. H. M. Macdonald, of Ewell, Surrey, on his enterprise, enthusiasm and vision. The Cat Fancy is indeed fortunate to have such a champion.

The authorities at Olympia are intrigued at the prospect of having a cat show and they have promised to throw in the weight of their unique experience in show promotion. They visualise the event as I do—as the Cruft's Show of the Cat World and the Biggest Exhibition of Cats and Kittens ever staged. The great Hall has hundreds of square feet available for the comfortable housing of the exhibits : there is room for numerous stalls and sideshows and the great gallery will provide visitors with a unique bird's-eye view of the whole proceedings.

The big problem of penning is, I understand, practically solved, thanks to the generous gesture of Chappie, Ltd., the manufacturers of the Kit-E-Kat food. Other offers of help and support are coming in from commercial firms and when the time comes there will be no lack of publicity in all its forms.

The Olympia Cat and Kitten Show will be planned to have an International appeal although, of course, exhibits from overseas will not be possible on account of the quarantine laws. But many visitors from overseas are expected to attend —officials of various feline organisations and cat lovers generally who will be interested to see what England—the ancestral home of all good cats—can put on show.

Those who take their exhibits to Olympia may be assured that everything possible will be done to ensure their comfort and security. A panel of veterinary surgeons will be on duty and stations will be set up for the animals' toilet and general show preparation. The first day will be devoted to judging and in this connection I am authorised to state that the list of judges—to be announced later—will contain many popular names, some from overseas.

## This Show is not a Stunt

The Show will conform to Governing Council rules with the added rule that judges, stewards and helpers will be allowed to exhibit, but, of course, judges will not be allowed to judge their own entries. It is a thousand pities that the

great experience of Cyril Yeates is no longer available as he was responsible for the pre-war Crystal Palace shows. He had expressed himself as being most interested in the venture and only a few days prior to his death had agreed to a meeting with Mr. Macdonald at which ways and means of helping could be discussed. A meeting of Fanciers has now been called to take place in London in early April. Ideas, suggestions and criticisms will then be dealt with over a cup of tea. This is a splendid idea.

The only brick heaved so far at the Olympia Show raises the bogey of "commercialisation." Well, well, well! I cannot imagine that any Fancy—in which members are striving for breeding ideals, in which stud fees are involved, in which the sale of stock for export takes place—can flourish for long without an admixture of commercialism.

The Olympia Show is not a stunt. The object is to make it an annual event and I have the personal assurance of Mr. Macdonald that if it is the success he hopes, the various breed societies and the humane organisations will be the first to benefit. Nor need it interfere in any way with the normal programme of Championship and other cat shows. The calendar is big enough to absorb them all.

I can think of nothing more calculated to put cats "on the map," to stimulate interest in their care and management, to make the great B.P. cat-conscious and to provide them with the opportunity to see in comfort not only our feline aristocrats, but household and children's pets of all kinds. It must be remembered that many of the best cats in the country never reach the show bench. Remember Vectensian Copper Eyes, the Red Tabby? Olympia, with its attractive prize list and trophies, will set out to attract these unknowns.

## Start Planning Right Away

OUR CATS, which will keep you up to date with the month by month progress of the Show, will "pull out all the stops" to make the promotion successful in every way. Croft's Dog Show, held at the same venue last month, attracted well over 50,000 visitors during the two days it was held. The Olympia Cat and Kitten Show will be a thumping initial success if it attracts a quarter of this number.

Finally, may I appeal to cat lovers everywhere to give their support to this venture. They should start planning right away if they intend to show. They can help during the coming months by making the Show known among their friends and by marking 20th and 21st September in their diaries as "red-letter days." Schedules will not be ready for some time yet. The Show Manager is Mr. E. Towe, 239 Hillcross Avenue, Morden, Surrey.

# WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

## MISS M. L. RODDA

IT takes all sorts to make a Fancy. And to those who are able to play the rôle of onlooker a study of the various personalities can be an interesting preoccupation. The main interest and purpose of the various Fanciers may be cast in a common mould, but, as we have pointed out before, success can be achieved by a variety of methods, each determined to a large degree by the temperament and personality of the individual. There is Miss M. L. Rodda, for instance.

Miss Rodda lives at Chadhurst, Takeley, a truly rural spot near the Essex market town of Bishops Stortford. She has been a popular figure in the Fancy for many years and one can truly say that her success has been achieved by patience and perseverance, qualities that are so akin to her own quiet and gentle disposition.

Her favourite breed has always been Blacks—not a popular choice in this country—and so for nearly twenty years she has concentrated on Blacks with commendable fixity of purpose. And it is worth noting in passing that on two occasions only has she purchased stock for her cattery. She has a *penchant* for the home-bred variety! Her many successes on the show bench were crowned this year by a splendid Best in Show win at the final Championship show of the 1949/50 season.

**Miss Rodda with her well-known home-bred Black male Ch. Chadhurst Sambo, who was voted Best in Show at the last Southern Counties Cat Club Championship Show.**

Miss Rodda has earned wide popularity throughout the Fancy by her willingness at all times to "lend a hand" and by the fine spirit of sportsmanship she has

shown on more than one occasion. We can tell, for instance, of the incident when her entry at a provincial show was beaten for its third certificate by the cat she had taken up with her own " to oblige a friend."

Miss Rodda's interest in cats started in the orthodox manner with the responsibilities of looking after some ordinary household pets. " As long as I can remember," she says, " I have always had one or two and the cats were nearly always black or black and white neuters." Then came a bad patch through distemper, both dogs became ill and the cat died. It was then that the veterinary surgeon came along with a Blue Longhair kitten and an idea. He had noted Miss Rodda's patient manner with animals, so he suggested that she would do well to try her hand at breeding Blue kittens.

Miss Rodda had the good sense to do the right thing at the right time—she went to an experienced Fancier for guidance and advice and she was particularly fortunate in that her choice of a stud owner was none other than the late Mrs. Gretta Yeates.

Miss Rodda continues: Without the help and advice of Mrs. Yeates I would have been a very long time in breeding a winning

**CHADHURST CHLOE, another of Miss Rodda's lovely Blacks.**

**"My second purchase was NOGO from Mrs. Jinks."**

kitten. And I was greatly helped also in my novice days by Miss Kathleen Yorke.

Blacks have always been my favourite breed and very soon after having a Blue I purchased a Black kitten from Mrs. Lambert and named her April Melody (alias Molly). Molly was a very good colour but her eyes were pale and she was poor type. She loved music and always tried to slip into the room where I was giving piano lessons. I am a L.R.A.M. and gave up teaching to take up work of national importance in the early days of the war.

Molly was duly mated to Ch. Hillingdon Jackdaw and produced Chadhurst Gypsy, who was my first winner at the K.K.C. Show in 1934. Chadhurst Melody from the same litter won my very first Ch. Certificate. Gypsy, mated to Ch. Mischief of Bredon, produced one of my best Blacks, Ch. Chadhurst Gem. Gem, who loved to share sleeping quarters with my St. Bernard dog, was shown eight times and won seven Certificates.

My second purchase was Nogo from Mrs. Jinks. He was a very fine stud excelling in eye colour, tiny ears and pale even coat really blue. He sired most of my winning Blue kits and also a number of Blacks, including Ch. Chadhurst June, Ch. Chadhurst Barry, and Chadhurst Wendy, one of my best Blues, who was Best in Show at Exeter in 1937. Later she won her Ch. Certificate

under Miss Langston. Unfortunately, she did not breed and I lost her in 1942.

I have since added a Tortie and a Blue Cream to the cattery, both by the well-known Cream Ch. Widdington Warden. The Tortie, Ch. Chadhurst Juliet, has now won four Ch. Certificates, so I have had reason to be well pleased with the new additions. Just recently I have sent out some nice Black kits to America, a female kit by Sambo is doing well in Holland, and a lovely Blue male by Ch. Southway Crusader went to Trinidad.

### Not Enough Blacks

I am hoping that we shall see more Blacks at the shows soon. They are a lovely breed meriting more attention. Perhaps coats need a little more preparation for showing than some breeds, but they are worth the little extra work. A dense black glossy coat and deep copper eyes make a lovely picture. I find that five minutes a day with brush and comb are much better than half an hour once a week. I believe, too, in regular feeding and as much freedom as possible if you want strong and healthy kittens. All my cats, with the exception of the studs, have unrestricted freedom of the garden and they thoroughly enjoy their hunting expeditions.

## AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT

WE published a news item in our September issue concerning an Australian heavyweight cat who tipped the scales at 31½ lbs. and was 32 in. round the girth. We enquired if there were any challengers.

An interesting reply, supported by the picture reproduced below, has been received from one of our readers, Mrs. Alice M. Clark, who is well known in American feline circles as President of the Pacific Cat Club.

Mrs. Clark, writing from San Francisco, explains that the hefty fellow in the picture was recently on view at one of her Club Shows. She has since had him televised and his story has been broadcast from coast to coast. He won a fine trophy and was the most popular cat in the Show.

His name is Clause (kiddies call him Santa Clause) and he is a plain tiger and white 8 years old male tipping the scales at 40 lbs. Girth measurement is 36 ins.

Clause (parentage unknown) lives in San Francisco with Mr. and Mrs. Simondson. He was born on the back porch and started to grow apace at an early age. He appears in our picture with one of his little friends, Merla Porter.

We repeat: Any challengers?

**Sixth Instalment in the series dealing with**

# *Colour Inheritance*

By ALBERT C. JUDE

IT is through a series of short articles that one endeavours to start an interest which may urge the reader to delve more completely into the subject. Limitation of space usually prevents the enlarging of even important points and it is a case of setting down facts and then passing on. In this particular article, however, I have been given opportunity to clarify the statement that dominance of a character is not a necessary feature of the Mendelian theory.

Before proceeding, let me say that most certainly the theory applies with cats, just as with other forms of life. Further, the theory is universally accepted by those whose professions, with all the opportunities attached, are in the best position to judge.

I have already said that there are instances which **at first** seem to disprove the theory, but which, when thoroughly investigated, add further weight to the overwhelming evidence which proves the theory. These instances occur in all species, but in some, more breeds are affected than in others.

Colour inheritance follows accepted rules, but colour dominance varies with some kinds of species. Yet, in all, the fundamental principles are governed or may be governed by additional or subtracted factors. We have to look on the tall pea (earlier referred to) as a dwarf pea plus a factor for tallness, and look on blue as black, minus the black modifier.

In a previous article I referred to the crossing of Seal and Blue Pointed Siamese. I said that, providing the Seal Pointed was pure bred, the $F_1$ generation would be all Seal Pointed, all looking alike, even though some would be carrying one "dose" for Blue Pointed. That kind of result is by reason of normal dominance. But there are cases where a generation will show neither parent as dominant.

Choosing instances at random, I pick first the plant Primula. When P. sinensis is crossed with P. stellata the result is all intermediates in both size and appearance. But when these in turn are crossed, the behaviour is in simple Mendelian fashion, giving a generation consisting of one similar to each parent, and two intermediates. The intermediates continue to produce 1:2:1 and the parents when mated with their like always produce only their like. Intermediates occur in coat lengths of cats, and many of the individual outward characteristics work out that way.

The second instance where normal dominance seems to break away is in Blue Andalusian fowls. The Blues when mated give a Black, two Blues, and a White. The Black mated to White gives all Blues. This gives the seeming

paradox of the Black and the White producing twice as many Blues as do Blues mated together. The Black and the White are, in reality, the true breeds, while the "pure" Blue Andalusian is a mongrel which no amount of selection can fix.

A further similar example in the break away from normal dominance is one quite familiar to cat fanciers, namely, in the cross breeding of Creams where the Blue Cream appears.

In all these and similar cases we cannot speak of dominance of either parent in the one generation, but the overall inheritance follows the theory as expected.

One of the most interesting forms of breeding in cats is provided by the Tortoiseshells. This is one of the best known examples of sex-limited inheritance. It is well known that practically all Torties produced are females. But it is wrong to say there are no Tortie males. The late Sir Claude Alexander, in one of his many very interesting letters to me, said he had owned about 20 Tortie males during his lifetime, about half of which he had bred. But it is usual for these males to be sterile, yet even a fertile male is not an impossibility.

The female Tortie is the heterozygous form of black x yellow. When a yellow female is mated with a Black, the male kittens are yellow and the females are Torties. This means that yellow is dominant in the male, but incompletely so in the female. When mated together, this offspring gives yellow, and Tortie females, together with yellow, and black males in about equal numbers. The recessive black reappears in $F_2$ and is confined to the male sex.

The Tortie male is a freak due to an accidental transmission of the chromosomes. It is probable that Black males have but one dose of chromosomes of blackness to pass on to their offspring, whilst female Blacks have two. Yellow and Black males pass on their colour to their female offspring only, so that any male kittens from the mating receive colour chromosomes from their mothers only, but daughters receive both from mother and father. So a male kitten may get yellow chromosomes or black ones, whereas a female kitten gets both, and so her tortie colour. The rare Tortie male comes about when a kitten gets from its parents two doses of colour chromosomes instead of one. In the normal dividing of the chromosomes in cell division that makes for reproduction, these two may fail to separate.

Certain human characters are known to follow Mendel's theory. Blue eye colour is recessive to brown; certain types of feeble-mindedness are recessive to normal; night blindness, colour blindness and deaf mutism follow the theory. Some defects are sex-limited. For instance, colour blindness is much more common in men than women. This is because the colour-blind woman can only appear from the union between a colour-blind man and a woman carrier. Since neither colour-blind men nor carrier (heterozygous) women are common, the chances of such a marriage are remote. Any female carrier matched to a normal male will produce normals and colour-blinds in the Mendelian ratio of three to one, and the colour-blinds will all be sons.

Next month I shall write about "white" in cats, and refer to the "dominant spotting" in Abyssinians.

MISS KATHLEEN YORKE puts you right about

# Bringing up the Babies

None is better qualified to write on this seasonal topic than our contributor, who for many years was associated with one of the largest and best-run catteries in the country.

THE time is here when your mother cat will have had or is expecting her kittens. Their whole future is dependent on the way they are tended and guarded during the first months of their lives. If you know the mother is capable and reliable, leave the kittens to her care at first, always keeping watch on them to see that they are progressing and that each kit is feeding from the mother and not being pushed out. Often the stronger ones push a weaker one away and it is necessary then to ensure that the unlucky one gets several good feeds. The little mother will sometimes put her paw over it to keep it close to her whilst feeding and later when cleaning it.

Handling young kittens is sometimes necessary, but let that be done by yourself as the mother trusts you. But remember to handle as seldom as possible.

Have a change of blankets ready for the bed, so that you put the clean one in as the old blanket is taken out. Thus the kittens need only be put on the clean blanket and not removed from the box.

If the mother cat goes out into the garden she may pick up a flea or two, which will quickly leave her for the young ones. So sprinkle some well known flea powder *under* the blanket. Do not use a powder containing D.D.T. Never put the powder on top of the blanket as the kittens would roll in it and the mother might get very ill through cleaning them. It is a wise plan to pin or fix the blanket to the bottom of the box as this prevents the possibility of any of the kittens getting underneath and suffocating.

I have had cats who liked to roll the kits up in the blanket, making a long sausage of it, when they are going out. They cleverly unrolled the blanket on their return and there was always the danger that one of the kits would be left in the last fold and thus get laid on. So fix your blanket and, if you can, have a count on mother's return to the box to see that none of the kits is missing.

The box itself should be arranged so that the mother can get in and out easily. Place it away from any draught as this is fatal to cats and kittens. Do not have a direct light falling on them. Kittens' eyes must be protected until they are well opened and for a week or two after. Their eyes do not open until about the ninth day, and when

open they are very delicate and must be watched in case they stick up. If this happens, gently bathe the eyes night and morning with warm boracic water and rub a tiny smear of vaseline across the lids last thing at night. I have found the last treatment most effective.

When bathing the eyes use a clean piece of cotton wool each time and see that you dry them gently but well. If left wet the eyes will most likely stick again. If any of the kittens' eyes are not starting to open on the ninth day,

**Another spot of International trouble —Siam invades China!**

hold the kit gently and bathe each eye in turn, keeping the wet, warm wool over each eye for a minute or two. Use the boracic water mentioned above and gently smear with vaseline after you have dried the eyes.

If by the twelfth day the eyes are not opened and look bulgy, do consult your veterinary surgeon or telephone to one of the Fancy for guidance, such as the Hon. Secretary of the Cat Club that you belong to. You will always find that people are willing to help with pets.

Sometimes kittens' eyes get inflamed after they have opened, and this may be caused by the oozing out of the mother's milk, which dries on the fur and causes it to become matted. One should always see that all is clean and free around each teat.

Cleanliness is absolutely essential in everything to do with kittens, just as it is with babies. Never leave saucers about when they start to feed and always see that sanitary pans are washed and dried when they are changed, which should be frequently. A kitten will not use a dirty pan and will run off to a corner; thus bad habits are formed. When they see their mother scratching in a pan they soon understand what is intended. Cats are by nature very clean animals.

The first time a kitten goes to use a pan without its mother's aid, you will often find it running from one spot to another and crying. If the mother is there, she will croon to it. If not, you should talk quietly to the kitten, who will soon understand that all is well and have confidence to use the pan. Sometimes a kit will run to a corner and start to scratch, and if you say "No" very firmly he will run to his pan.

At about three weeks old, if a big litter—perhaps a little later if there are only two or three kittens—I start to offer them some nourishment. Personally, I always start them on pure cow's milk—goat's is better if you have it. To this I add a wee pinch of sugar or glucose. Sometimes I start them feeding from a grapefruit spoon, at which they will nearly always suckle, and I gradually lower it on to a flat small butter saucer. If they continue to try to lap, I take the spoon away.

I try one kit at a time, either on my lap or on a low table, and if the milk is not taken after an attempt or two, I try out another kit. Some refuse and others will lap up hungrily. As a rule I do this once a day for a few days, then twice, but the hungry kits I would feed twice a day from the start. Very little milk is given at each feed and I keep it warm by putting it in a jar which I stand in hot water.

little with the milk and sugar, stirring it well in. This is offered to them round about the fifth week. After the war, when Madame Gibbon, the well-known Continental Fancier, was staying with me, she noticed how well my kittens were thriving on Farex and she has used it ever since with great success.

Well-boiled bread and milk sweetened is also much appreciated by kittens. Add a little

**A pair of perky pre-war Longhair kittens raised by the author in her famous Culloden Cattery.**

After a week the kittens should be lapping well. Increase to three little feeds a day and then to four at four weeks old. Thin Benger's Food or Midlothian Oat Flour of a drinking consistency is excellent for two of the meals. Keep to plain milk for the other meals. If you cannot always get milk, Cow & Gate Full Cream is excellent and kittens thrive well on it.

I am a great believer in Farex for kittens and start by mixing a top of the milk to it first before giving it. At first they will lap up all the milk, but in a day or two the bread is also taken. You can do this with cornflakes if you prefer.

At five weeks I put a tiny sprinkle of calcium powder on the food—about the size of a grain of wheat—and, later on, *one* drop a day of halibut liver oil.

*(To be continued)*

# 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.**

### UNFIT HOMES

I do not think there is any need for undue anxiety about unfit homes for kittens, especially pedigree ones. I assume Mr. G. B. Alf is referring to pedigree kittens of his own breeding in your January issue.

In my view, people who are sufficiently interested and keen on cats to pay 5 to 10 gns. for a kitten as a pet would (a) not dream of ill-treating it and (b) the prices to-day make it prohibitive for poorer people to afford pedigree kittens. Quite recently I heard of an elderly lady who had waited for nearly two years to purchase a Blue Persian kitten. Five pounds was the maximum she could go to, and she said that some people were charging three times that amount.

I am in touch with an R.S.P.C.A. representative here and she makes it her hobby to find homes for unwanted kittens—ordinary common or garden kittens, I mean. This lady says that even the poorest people are kind to the cat. In this district (and I don't see why we should be an exception) there seem to be fewer stray cats than dogs.

Generally speaking, it is the farm building or warehouse cat that is neglected, particularly if it is a female who produces a family in which no one is really interested or concerned about. Kiddies have been known to pick up such kittens and take them home, and, of course, these may go to homes where they are not welcomed.

I feel strongly that the £ s. d. involved protects the pedigree cat.

Mr. L. Owen Jones,
Guildford, Surrey

### KNITTED COATS FOR CATS

I enclose knitting instructions and the paper pattern of a little coat I have just completed for my Siamese cat. He (Boojum) is six months old, weighs 7½ lbs., and the coat fits him perfectly.

I have made a coat for each of my cats and they all love to wear them when they go out on a lead with me on cold days. They would also be very useful for sick cats or kittens. The instructions are easy to follow and although the pattern could be cut out of woollen material, I think the knitted coats are much cosier. Each of my cats has required a different size, so I have just fitted each coat as I have knitted it. Here are the instructions:—

MATERIALS: 1½ ozs. 3-ply fingering wool, two No. 8 knitting pins and a crochet hook.

PATTERN: K. 4, p. 4, reverse after every 4th row. Commence at top of tail by casting on 32 sts. Keeping basket st. pattern throughout, increase 1st at each end of pin in every row (until coat meets right round belly) until there are 100 sts. on pin. Now knit straight for 4½ ins. Divide up for armholes, k. 10, turn, decr. 1 st. at inside edge of first 3 rows, then k. on for 3 ins., then incr. 1 st. at inside edge for 3 rows. Now knit back. Cast off 4 sts., k. across, turn, cast off 4 sts. and knit across. Cast off 1 st. at each end for 3 rows. Knit up other side to match first side and put all sts. on to one pin. Knit on for 3 ins., taking in 1 st. at each end, every 4th row to make coat fit the chest

neatly. Now make a row of ten holes for cord (to make a hole, thr. over, k. 2 tog.), knit 4 ins. more and cast off.

TO MAKE UP: Crochet round arms, sew up under belly, make a cord and thread through holes.

NOTE: For a bigger or smaller size, cast on more or less sts. over tail and incr. until coat meets round belly. Divide up sts. for arms in proportion.

Miss C. J. R. Edmondson,
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

## LONGHAIRED SIAMESE

Relative to the remarkable photograph you published in your October issue of a Longhaired Siamese from Montreux, I append the following notes which I have abstracted from Miss Ida Mellin's famous American book, "The Science and Mystery of the Cat":—

"Longhaired Siamese kittens have been produced by applied genetics first in Sweden (about 1924) by Doctor K. Tjebbes, who used a White Persian in the cross and discovered that Longhair and Siamese colour are recessive traits. After five years of experimentation based on the Mendelian Law as presented by Doctor Clyde E. Keeles, Mrs. Cobb concluded (in 1935) the first successful American experiment in breeding Longhaired Siamese kittens. She crossed with Black Persian instead of White, using pedigree sires and queens. The recessive traits of Longhair and Siamese colour have been combined in the kittens, which exhibit the blue eyes and in some cases the loquacity of the Siamese breed. . . . The experiment still in progress may in time to establish a distinct breed of cat representing a definite triumph in modern genetics."

I have been following with interest the stories of cats with egg-sucking propensities. My butcher could corroborate that cats do suck eggs and he had a good deal of trouble with a cat doing this sort of thing at dead of night in his shop!

Mr. Cartwright Farmiloe,
The Research Apiary, Zoological Society of London, N.W.8.


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# Birth of the Blues

Final (uncompleted) instalment by the late CYRIL YEATES

IN my last article I sketched briefly the history of the Blue Longhairs up to the year 1920. Now I intend to cover another ten years.

The years 1920 to 1930 were a golden period—I am inclined to say *the* golden period—in the history of the Blues. There were many first-rate show cats and many that distinguished themselves as sires, and in deciding which to write about in this article preference has been given to those that excelled in both spheres.

In 1921, Mrs. Esdaile's Barry Blue Prince (by Craganour) was born. A very lovely pale blue with almost red eyes, in his short life he sired Autumn Glory of Henley, June Rose and Ch. Prudence of Allington. Mated with Dewdrop of the Court, he produced Dainty Lady of the Court, and she, mated to Dazzler of Henley, produced The Aristocrat of the Court, a good show cat but a failure at stud. Barry Blue Prince's early death robbed the Fancy of a very fine sire.

The year 1921 saw also the birth of Marcus Superb. He was by Miss Frances Simpson's Buzz Buzz and was one of the first winners that Mrs. Brunton owned. In the same year, too, was born Lancashire Bluejacket (Milord o' Mendip ex Blue Lola). He sired Mrs. Goddard's Ashton Tam o' Shanter, who in his turn sired Ch. Ashton Pride. In 1922 were born Prince Charming of Rayleigh and Simeon of Westfield, both sons of Blair Athol, and the North country cat Hampstead Apola, owned by Messrs. Brown and Wilson. This cat, which won two championships in 1923, was by Ringleader, a son of Mocassin out of a lovely queen Hampstead Blue Lagoon.

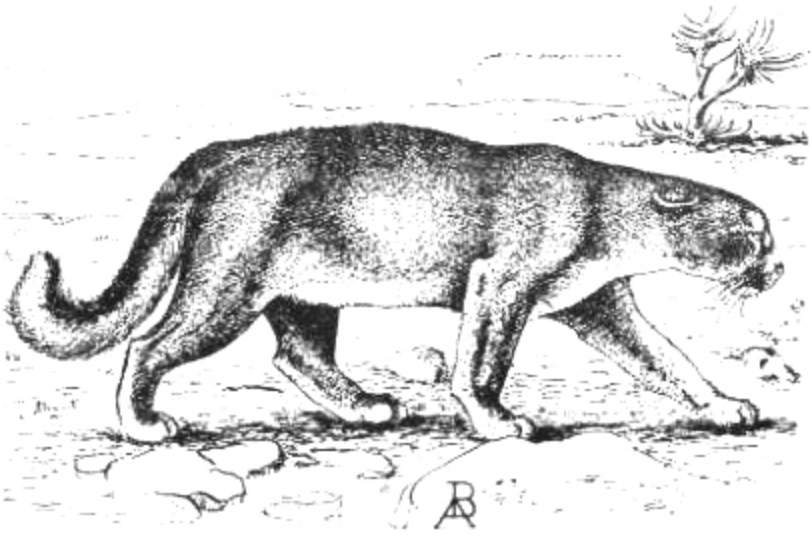
The year 1923 was a vintage year, when three very famous animals were born — Mrs. Bazeley's Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet, Lady Eardley Wilmot's Dazzler of Henley and the same owner's Ch. Gentleman of Henley. Billy Bumpet (by Ch. Azure of Hadley ex Tiddly Winks of Bedale) was one of the very best Blues I ever saw, not only judged as a show cat but as a sire, in which capacity he figures largely in Blue (and Cream) pedigrees. Among the many good cats he sired were Northway Singing Hinny, Eve of Pensford, Mercury of Pensford, Wildflower of Dunesk, Thalia of Culloden, Ch. Eliza Queen of the May and Sara the Magnificent, whom I considered an even better female than Eliza.

Billy Bumpet was a massive pale blue of perfect type, with wonderful frame and bone. He died in his sixth year from bladder trouble caused by an accident.

Dazzler of Henley was one of the most successful sires of all time. By Barry Bluejohn ex Harebell, he was bred by Mrs. Conran, a lady who has been breeding Blues as long as anyone in the Fancy. One of Dazzler's most famous sons was Flick a Maroo, another cat who

# ZOO PAGE No. 12

*By Alexander Ross Bryant*



PUMA

JAGUAR

stamped his personality on Blues and of whom more anon. Neither Dazzler nor Flick a Maroo became full Champions, but were better animals than many which have won that title.

Other cats which Dazzler sired were John of Bedale, lovely Ch. Judy of Hadley, Speedwell Jannock, The Aristocrat of the Court, Glory of Culloden, and Townfield Footprint. Dazzler was a very heavily coated cat and was handicapped as regards soundness of colour when pitted against shorter coated rivals—his cattery companion, Ch. Gentleman, for example. The last named (by Barry Bluejohn ex Electra of Marfa) was one of the grandest Blues ever penned. Massive and with great bone, he had a leonine head and fine eye colour. His only defect was shortness of coat, which did not prevent him winning seven champion certificates and being second six and third five times, in competition as strong as any cat has ever had to meet. Ch. Gentleman was bred by Mr. Daniel, a complete novice, who showed him first at the Crystal Palace, where he was awarded the special for Best Kitten in Show. Dazzler won in the younger kitten class that day and later both were acquired by that very astute breeder Lady Eardley Wilmot. Ch. Gentleman of Henley proved a disappointment at stud though he sired Joyous June of Henley, the mother of Ch. Dion of Allington.

Another good cat born in 1923 was Mr. P. P. Connor's Hampstead Strathterry, by Rigside Dandy ex Jessica. In 1924 was born one of the loveliest cats of all time, Eros of Allington (Milord o' Mendip ex Evadne of Allington), and in the same litter was Sweet September of Hawkhurst.

I remember Eros making a spectacular debut as an adult at Newbury in 1925, when he defeated Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet and was Best in Show. My wife's Bright Knight (Ch. C. Billy Bumpet ex June Rose) was Best Kitten that day, and she went one better at the same show the following year with another Billy Bumpet kitten, The Constant Nymph, who was Best Exhibit. Alas! both these good kittens died young, as did Eros, which was a great loss to Miss Langston and the Fancy. In his short life he sired Ch. Northway Shelmerdine, Melusine of Allington, Merlin o' Mendip and that great cat and successful sire Ch. Dion of Allington, whose dam was Joyous June of Henley. He also sired Caesar of Wise Folly, whose dam was Hope of Knott Hall, and Cupid of Callow, whose dam was Miss Joyce Fair's Northway Singing Hinny. Cupid of Callow will go down to posterity as the sire of Ch. Mischief of Bredon and Ch. Cedro of Callow. He was bred by Nurse Nicholls.

Eros of Allington was only four years old when he died. As a kitten, Miss Langston had decided to send Eros to Miss Clements and keep his litter brother, Sweet September, for herself, but Eros was a bit off colour and so she parted with Sweet September and kept Eros. If Miss Langston had not been judging at the Palace in 1925 and had been able to show Eros, who was then at the top of his form, he might very possibly have won his third championship that day. Miss Langston has always bred on the best lines and has achieved well-deserved success, but she has also had more than her share of bad luck. None worse than when she lost Eros.

In 1925 were born Flick a Maroo, John of Bedale and Mercury of Pensford. Flick a Maroo (by Dazzler of Henley ex Maroo —an exceptionally pale queen), his son, Son o' Flick, Dazzler, and I think we should add Billy Bumpet, whose kittens were a lovely colour, all had a tremendous influence on the Blues of their time and created a craze for pale blues. When Mr. Connor judged Flick a Maroo at Newcastle he wrote, " the best head and eye I have seen on any Blue," but, like his son, he did better as a stud than on the show bench. At twelve successive shows he was adjudged Best Stud Cat.

Among the best of his stock may be mentioned Bobby and Bunkered of Balbedie, Don of Bredon, Son o' Flick, Blue Haze of Cardonald, Dawn of Hope (Ch. Mischief's dam), Dorinda of Allington, and many others. John of Bedale (by Dazzler of Henley ex Tiddly Winks of Bedale) was a grand headed cat which was twice Best in Show.

Mercury of Pensford (Ch. Colneside Billy Bumpet ex Juno of Pensford, by Buzz Buzz) was bred by Mrs. Joan Thompson but passed into the hands of Mrs. Bergman. Mercury sired two lovely sisters, Merna and Musetta, Nona and Winsome of Westfield, the dam of Benjamin of Westfield, from whom were descended Colneside Beniamino, C. Sunshine and C. Bright Angel. In 1926 were born Merlin o' Mendip (father of Jeremy and Marmaduke o' Mendip, Mervyn of Culloden and Elizabeth of Boreham, who was the mother of Ch. Raleigh).

## Report on C.P.L. Activities

AN interesting report covering the activities of the Cats' Protection League over the past two years has just been issued by Mr. A. A. Steward, Secretary and Treasurer of this busy and enthusiastic humane organisation. The work of the League is both educational and practical and it is steadily expanding in ever-widening circles. A start has been made in establishing representation in London.

The report reveals one outstanding fact: there is always more work to be done than can be accomplished with limited funds, and so the appeal goes out for more and more help. We feel sure this appeal will not go unheeded by readers of Our Cats. The C.P.L. always limits its running expenses to the bare necessities in order that the greatest amount possible shall be available for the tasks to which the League is dedicated.

The character of the increasing work at the League's headquarters is illustrated by the following statistics:

| | 1948 | 1949 |
|---|---|---|
| In-patients ... ... | 670 | 720 |
| Out-patients ... ... | 3,520 | 3,970 |
| Cats and kittens found | 240 | 285 |
| Homes found and lost cats restored ... ... | 222 | 261 |
| Road accidents ... | 23 | 34 |
| Cats collected ... ... | 782 | 785 |
| Ambulance mileage ... | 3,144 | 3,024 |
| Occasions baskets loaned | 2,231 | 2,904 |
| Humane destruction ... | 3,476 | 3,782 |

The fact that destructions have increased can to a great extent be accounted for by the fact that the League's activities locally now cover an even larger area and that the district is becoming more heavily populated.

# More about Eye Troubles

By FORCEPS

(Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

## Keratitis

Inflammation of the transparent surface of the eyeball itself may follow conjunctivitis, or may occur as a result of a blow, a scratch, draughts, irritant dust, inturning eyelashes or the presence of some "foreign body." The condition is painful and a strong light causes great discomfort. The normally clear, bright eye becomes glazed, with a greyish-white film making its appearance.

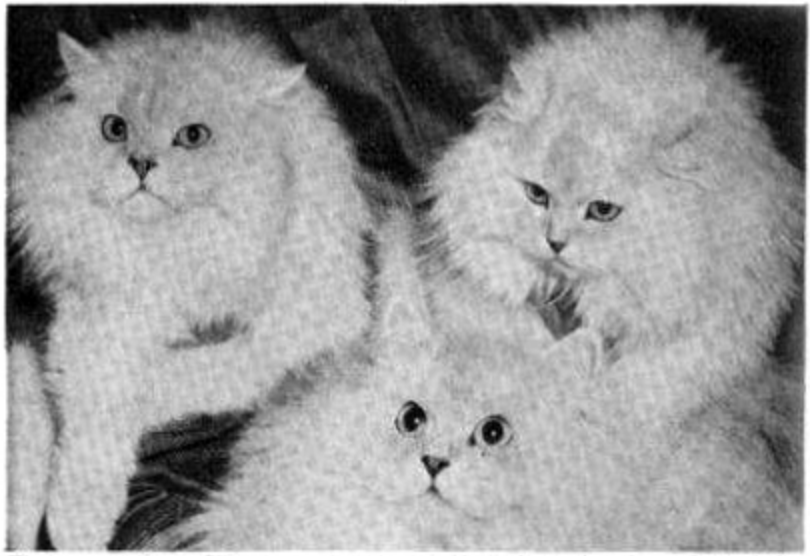
Such a film should always be regarded seriously. Not only does it interfere with sight, but if neglected complications may supervene endangering sight and even life. For example, an abscess may form, leading to infection of the whole eye, or an ulcer may deepen with eventual penetration, blindness or death. Ulcers on the surface are not easy to distinguish, but their possible presence should be borne in mind whenever there is this film on the surface of the eye.

Eye lotions containing zinc, and metallic salts generally, should be avoided, as they tend to make matters worse and may lead to permanent opacity in the region of an ulcer. The cod-liver or castor oil first-aid treatment is safe, on the other hand, and helps to reduce irritation temporarily, until such time as professional services can be obtained. Drops containing a local anaesthetic may be necessary.

Sometimes a tiny white speck, as opposed to a whitish film, may be seen on the surface of the eye, often without any signs of inflammation elsewhere. Such a speck may mark the site of a claw-prick or of a "foreign body" embedded. In one such case I found a minute thorn-tip, which would have passed unnoticed but for the white ring round it which had attracted the owner's attention. Removal of the thorn-tip was accomplished under an anaesthetic without difficulty, and the place healed up very satisfactorily.

## Glass Eyes

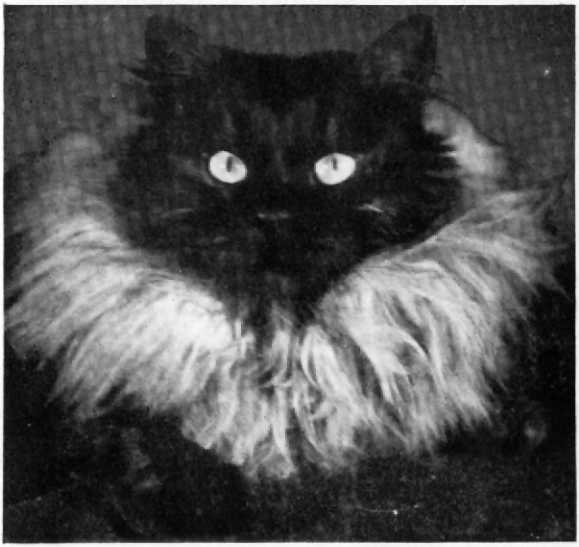
Glass eyes, and very attractive ones, too, have been fitted to cats which have had the misfortune to lose an eye. These glass eyes, however, are not a very practicable proposition. In the first place, the cat is apt to scratch them out; in the second place, they may have to be taken out periodically and the cavity bathed. Moreover, a glass eye has point only for the cat's owner, not for the cat. Where, for example, after being knocked down by a car, removal of an eye becomes surgically necessary, it is always possible for the operation to be done in such a way that no gaping socket is left afterwards. Fur grows over the operation site in such a way as to make it look as though the cat had been born with only one eye. Fortunately, this drastic course is seldom necessary.



These magnificent Silvers are well known throughout America, where their owner, Mrs. H. Earl Nack, of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, shows them with consistent success. Their names are EDGEWOODS CITATION OF KUTE KIT, CH. KUTE KIT NORAH LEE and CH. KUTE KIT SILVER DINAH, a female Shaded Silver.

*The Associated Newspapers Ltd.*

The Owl and the Pussy Cat—with a basket to take the place of a pea-green boat! This interesting photograph was taken at Our Dumb Friends' League Clinic at Blackheath. The owl has been treated for a broken wing and the office pet has taken such an interest in this unusual patient that he has gone out of his way to be specially friendly. Hence the offering of a dead mouse on the basket!



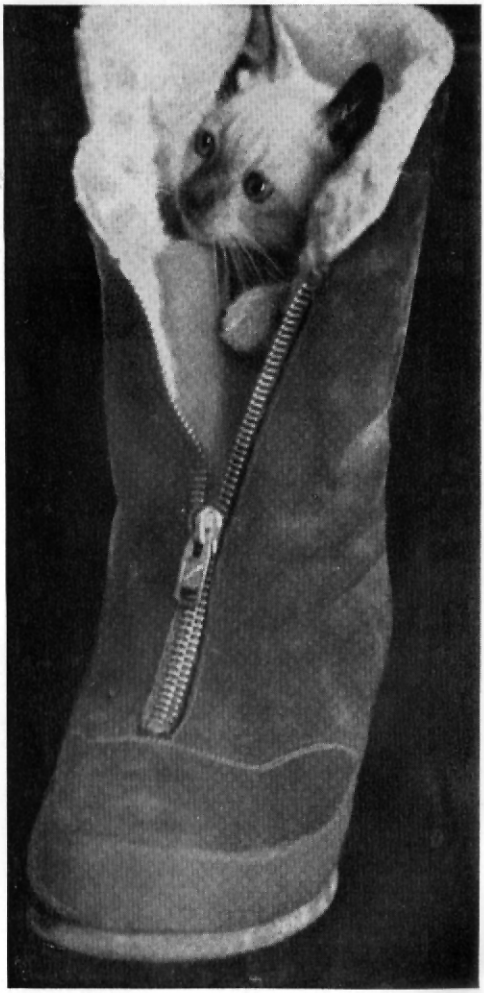
Lovely Smoke Champion RIPPOWAM PENNPUSS, owned by Mrs. Ralph A. Wilkinson, President of the Atlantic Cat Club. See "Just Fancy" feature in this issue.

*Planet News Ltd.*

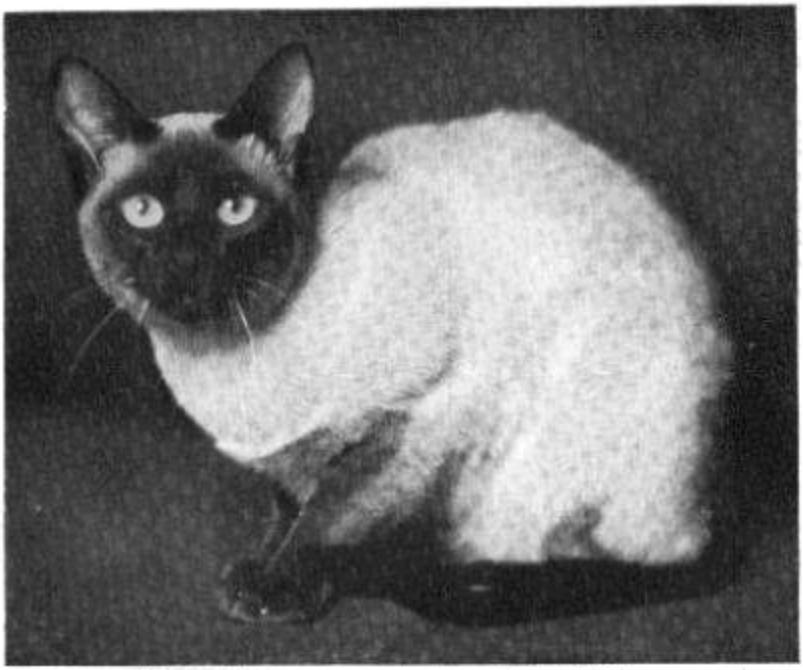
Mrs. L. Davies, Buckinghamshire Fancier with the "Priory" prefix, holds up her favourite, PRIORY ADONIS, who was voted Best Neuter at the last Blue Persian Society's Championship Show.

# SMILE PLEASE!

The picture of the cute little camera kit comes to us from the American Fancier, Mrs. C. V. Pectol, of Ariel Cattery, St. Louis, whose Blues and Whites have many well-known English names in their pedigrees. The little Siamese kitten registering surprise in the wool-lined boot was bred by Mrs. Leopold A. T. Broadwood, of Send, Surrey.



This handsome Silver Tabby, PÉNÉ DE KARNO, won Prize of Honour at the Copenhagen Show last year for Mrs. Ingrid Karnóe, of Copenhagen.



Presenting a Siamese kitten of exceptional quality—REDMARLEY TAI-SU, Best Kitten in Show at the January Southern Counties fixture, bred by the exhibitor, Mrs. M. Lisle, of Maisemore, Gloucestershire. Tai-Su, a year old in June next, was sired by Pincop Pasha.

## Care & Management by P. M. SODERBERG

Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club

# *In answer to yours*

I HAVE received a number of queries recently which apparently I have not touched upon in any of my previous articles. Here are some of them.

**" I am always puzzled about a cat's weight. What should a healthy adult male and female weigh ? "**

There is more in this question than meets the eye at first glance, and I want to counter with another question. What breed are you talking about? The chances are that the sender of the query keeps Persians or Siamese, and it is on that assumption that I make my remarks.

I should expect an adult Persian queen, and by that I mean one over a year, to weigh more than 7 lbs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that one weighing less than that is undersized and probably should not be used for breeding. An adult Siamese female will often weigh a little less, but there will only be a few ounces in it. A limit of 7¼ to 8¼ lbs. is ideal. On the other hand, many adult females weigh more than my top limit. Provided that this surplus is due to bone and size and not mere fatness, all is well, but weight in itself can be deceptive. The best breeders are those which do not carry surplus flesh.

Males are considerably heavier and I like Persian males to exceed 11 lbs. with a top limit of about 13 lbs. Beyond that figure there may be a tendency to coarseness, which is no qualification for a breeder.

**" What factors influence length of coat ? Is it heredity or can feeding influence it ? "**

I should say that the most important factor in length of coat is heredity. You cannot expect good length of coat in a kitten if both parents are lacking in this respect. It used to be believed that the queen had more effect on coat than the male, but it is extremely doubtful whether there is the slightest justification for any such belief.

If you want length of coat in your stock, it is essential that the matings you arrange should bear this factor in mind. You must remember, however, that length of coat also shows seasonal changes. A really long-haired cat when out of coat looks more like a Shorthair.

Feeding certainly can affect length of coat, but only to the

extent that sound feeding will allow the cat to develop the best coat of which it is capable. No excess feeding will improve length of coat, but a balanced diet will definitely put the cat in sound condition. This condition shows in the coat.

Temperature has an effect upon coat quality and density rather than length, and animals which are subjected to really low temperatures usually develop a coat according to their needs. I usually find that animals which live outside in unheated catteries have thicker coats than those which live in a heated house.

**" Would it be a good idea to introduce " Cream " blood into my stock to improve length of coat ? "**

This question pre-supposes that the coat of a Cream is better than that of a Blue, as I know that the stock referred to consists of Blues. The supposition is false as it is almost certain that the best Creams have obtained their excellent coat qualities from Blues. Length of coat in the Persian varieties is not so much a matter of breed as of particular cats. The best Blues cannot be surpassed by any other breed for length of coat.

Personally, I should always consider it unwise to use a Cream in an attempt to improve any quality in a particular Blue. The chances are that more harm than good will be done.

**" You have written much about meat as being the basic food for the cat. What weight of flesh would you consider the minimum for an adult cat ? "**

Yes, it is perfectly true that I am a great believer in meat and not a great advocate of fish except as a variation. An adult female should have a minimum of four ounces of meat a day and a male two ounces extra. This quantity is best divided into two equal portions to form the basis of the mid-day and evening meals. Normally I should expect to add to this carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals to make up sufficient to well fill a teacup saucer. This use of scientific terms only means that you should add a little of all the varied scraps from your own table, including green vegetables. For good measure mix in one drop of halibut oil. There is no need to consult books on dietetics.

**" Do you advocate the use of tinned foods prepared especially for cats ? "**

I cannot answer this question with an unqualified " Yes," for I know insufficient about the subject. I can say, however, that to my personal knowledge there are a number of foods of this kind on the market which are produced by most reputable firms.

Only a few weeks ago I had an opportunity of discussing this subject with a representative of one of these firms, and I was amazed at the care which had been exercised before the food had been put on the market. The

help of the scientist expert in feeding values and the co-operation of the veterinary profession had been obtained to produce something which was sound feeding value.

Certainly I should always keep tins of such food in stock for use from time to time.

**" What price ought I to pay for a Siamese male which I want to send to Australia as a stud ?"**

In the first place I think it will be very difficult to find an adult male. Usually those breeders who have an adult male are unwilling to sell an animal to which they have become attached. If he is a good stud, there is less likelihood that he will be for sale unless there are exceptional circumstances. I certainly could not put a price on such a male, for he is worth just what he will fetch. By the time he arrived in Australia I should be surprised if the total cost were less than £50.

From nearly every point of view it would be far better to try to obtain a young male of about five to six months. The choice will not be great, but there are such young males to be purchased. With good fortune you might buy such a kitten for round about ten pounds.

At six months a kitten could stand the journey and should settle down happily after the quarantine period.

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*94 illustrations, 30/- net*

MICHAEL JOSEPH

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.**

**17th January.** Went to spend a few days with Mrs. Ralph Wilkinson and Miss Doris Hobbs at Connecticut. The former has bred many well-known winners in Smokes and Silvers and one of her famous cats was the late Champion Rippowam Pennpuss, a fine Smoke male. Ch. Rippowam Marora, a Smoke female, was nursing a hefty kitten with good type and a beautifully contrasted coat. His white frill was lovely, his head and face dense black and the black tipping on body coming on well. Hermocrest Amber Rippowam, a black queen, was my special pet. She spent some time with me whilst I was writing this Diary, happily playing with her catnip mouse. One day she had her front claws cut with clippers to prevent her digging up tufts in the carpets. She did not mind a bit, and as she is not allowed to roam in the garden and climb trees it is not an inconvenience.

Ch. Rippowam Danetta Pequosette, a Silver with a long flowing coat and the loveliest huge sea-green eyes, was always posing and the picture of elegance. How well this lovely variety graces a home! A dear old veteran, Rippowam Nippy, seventeen years of age, was taking life easily and comfortably, and how she loved her cushion by a radiator in the kitchen. This gave me a fellow feeling as I just love the comfortable warmth in American homes.

It was a most enjoyable visit and very interesting comparing notes about English and American procedure at shows, etc. To-morrow, 24th January, I leave for Westerley to visit Mrs. Ohlin. Am sure English breeders will be very interested to read about her cats, as she has won so well with Blues bred by our Miss Langston, in addition to those she has bred herself in America.

**24th January.** To Westerley to spend a few days with Mrs. Arvid Ohlin and her charming family amid the pastoral delights of farm life plus modern comfort. The outstanding cats at Westerley are the two lovely females Ch. Mylanwy and Ch. Morfydd of Allington, who have been so successful at the shows. They look even better in their home surroundings.

I much admired a male kitten, seven months old, Wimauma Wilfil. He has the promising all-round quality so pleasing to see at this age and his eyes are already lovely in colour. Mrs. Ohlin would prefer him a little paler. At present his coat is between stages, but when he is fully adult I think he will be a good

medium blue. Judges and exhibitors here seem to share a preference for pale Blues. They also share our own difficulties in selecting kittens that will retain the pale colour when they are adults. Mrs. Ohlin breeds only Blues and her small but select family gives her a tremendous amount of pleasure.

**26th January.** Visited the village store of Mr. Stone, which was a delightful experience. Impossible here to describe fully the serene atmosphere or the range of necessities and luxuries packed so neatly into a comparatively small space. Felt the clock had been put back fifty years when such stores were centres of village life and the proprietors counsellors and friends.

**27th January.** To Mr. and Mrs. Stone's private residence for tea. A bouncing Blue kitten (bred by Mrs. Ohlin) was there to greet me and this young neuter ruled the household. Discovered Mrs. Stone to be a keen amateur photographer and saw some lovely photographs of cats.

During the week Mrs. Ohlin's daughter Barbara took us for interesting drives and I could only reflect how lovely the countryside must look in summertime.

**30th January.** Visited Mrs. Virginia Cobb at Massachusetts, accompanied by Mrs. Ohlin. I was naturally very interested to see the famous Siamese queen Ch. Newton's Jay Tee, Best Opposite Sex female to Mr. De Santis's Ch. Lavender Liberty Bean at the Empire Cat Club Show in December. She certainly is a lovely queen and marvellous for her age. She displayed her best party manners. Quite apart from her show career she is famous throughout America as the kitten who reared herself by bottle.

The previous Saturday I had seen a movie record of this at Mrs. Ohlin's taken eight years ago. I think it was the most remarkable display of kitten intelligence I have ever seen. Mrs. Cobb used to feed Jay Tee by bottle and one day the kitten gently sank down on her back between two cushions on the seat of a settee, holding the bottle between her front paws and taking the weight of it on her back paws. Later she learned to hoist it up as she came to the end of the milk, and it was most amusing to see her doing this in the film.

Mrs. Cobb's Siamese live a similar mode of life to the majority in England. Jay Tee and her companion, another pale queen, are house pets and the kittens and other queens semi-house pets. The male lives in the cattery, which was nicely appointed, with gentle warmth and good runs looking on to a delightful garden.

In the evening to Mrs. La Fayette's to renew acquaintance with her very lovely queen Double Ch. Rosegates Patsy Ann, my choice for Best Opposite Sex at the Atlantic Cat Club Show. She has superb type and colouring beautifully distributed. She is, however, a Blue Tortoiseshell and was so judged as intermingled Blue-Creams such as we recognise in England do not conform to U.S.A. Standards.

Patsy Ann had a companion with her. This cat had the intermingled coat which the Standard demands in England, a lovely head, type and eye colour. Mrs. La Fayette intends to reduce her cattery to about four cats as Dr. La Fayette has had a log cabin built on the shores of a lake at Maine and they propose to spend week-ends there during spring and summer, taking the cats with them. The cattery at Massachusetts was very smart with shell-pink distemper and all fittings painted with aluminium. A big covered run divided into sections had small doors leading into the cattery which were left open all night. A huge stove

maintained what—to us—is a high temperature. I liked the sound choice of raised wooden platforms in the run, a wise precaution as cats nearly always prefer to sit on shelves and seats and they are a good precaution against chills. Two good kittens, a Cream and a Red, were penned together. A Blue male with an immense coat, also a Cream male and a pale Blue-Cream female completed an interesting feline family.

**1st February.** Accompanied Mrs. La Fayette as her guest to a meeting of the Boston Cat Club. I found it very interesting and thought the social aspect an idea that would be popular with many Fanciers in England. Light refreshments were served soon after midday and about two o'clock the Committee presented its reports and Show accounts. After a short discussion the President, Mrs. Saxby-Mabie, made a charming speech and later announced that a young official of the American Red Cross would display a movie and give a short address on the essential nature of the service done by blood donors and appeal for more volunteers to carry on this good work.

I was intrigued by the endless possibilities Societies have in creating interest in human and animal welfare at their A.G.M.s and other meetings. When I visited the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital next day I learned that they also lend suitable films to approved societies together with qualified lecturers.

Yet another pleasing idea of the Boston Cat Club was the scrapbook containing cuttings from the newspapers of reports of the last Boston C.C. Show. The number and variety of these reports were amazing and many of the pictures were fascinating. Altogether an enjoyable occasion and I was delighted to have the privilege of attending this Club meeting.

**2nd February.** With Mrs. La Fayette to the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, founded by George T. Angell in 1868. The humane work on behalf of animals carried on at this centre is a great credit to all concerned. Inside the main entrance small cubicles are provided for owners with sick animals. Patients were therefore unable to "rub noses" to increase the risk of infection.

By courtesy of the Officers we were allowed to visit the wards and it was a joy to see the care and attention bestowed on the patients. Each one had a large pen divided from the next by glass. Feline and canine distemper cases and patients with infectious skin diseases are housed in isolated parts of the building and wisely are not on view to the public. Owners pay for professional services but no case in need is ever refused expert care and attention.

We only saw one pedigree cat, a Siamese female spayed the previous day. She looked quite perky and I was interested to see she had no bandages on. It seemed incredible that the small, clean incision had been made so recently. By the way, separate classes are provided in U.S.A. for spayed females now that the operation is so common. This strikes me as being an excellent idea and one we might well consider at home.

A black-and-white female reposed contentedly in a pen which was marked "Confinement." Another cat had his broken back leg in a splint and he looked fairly comfortable with it spread out behind him. Knowing cats' ways, I asked how they prevented them trying to bite off the dressings, and was informed that a harmless but distasteful preparation is put on which is usually effective. Some severe cases of burns and lacerations were pathetic, but the patients on the whole looked extraordinarily content. An average of 18 veterinary surgeons are in

attendance and it is a training college. In the Eightieth Annual Report of the Hospital ended 31st December, 1947, one reads that 214,782 miles were travelled that year, the ambulance mileage being 34,864 in Boston alone; 45,011 small animals were inspected in addition to 849,125 cattle, sheep and pigs inspected at stockyards, and the organisation kept under constant inspection 75 pet shops and chain stores.

After our tour we were introduced to Mr. Albert A. Pollard, Director of Education, and our talk with him was most interesting. He showed us a large room with "Humane Education" marked over the door, and it is there that movies are exhibited and lectures given. Parties of Boy Scouts, children from schools and anyone interested in animal welfare can, and do, attend. The walls were gay with coloured posters, a selection from about 5,000 submitted each year by amateurs and animal lovers.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Sven Nelson, the well-known Siamese breeders, came on a short visit from Braintree, Mass. As usual when breeders meet, we had interesting exchanges of opinions and I was interested to learn that Ch. Doneraile Drusilla (bred in England by Mrs. K. R. Williams) has a lovely disposition, is a splendid mother and, of course, a big winner.

**3rd February.** Left Boston for New York with happy memories of the wonderful hospitality of the last few days. In the evening met Miss E. Hydon and went as her guest to the Dubonnet Restaurant to dinner and a very enjoyable meeting of the Empire Cat Club. The President, Mrs. John S. Hunter, made a charming speech. The First Vice-President, Mrs. Anthony Avata, was also present. The customary monthly meeting was held whilst guests remained at the table having pleasant cat chats. I was delighted to receive the honour of being elected an Honorary Member of the Club.

**8th February.** I am always pleased when any suggestion is made to visit premises where animals are bred. One can learn something about their management from every contact, so our visit to the Chinchilla Chateau at Paramus, New Jersey, was a very interesting one. Chinchillas are lively little animals and among others we saw two contented pairs in perfect condition, each with two bonnie babies.

I wondered, however, why we call our cats Chinchillas when they have little in common with the little wild animal. The latter's fur for three-quarters of its length is slate grey, the top colour is off-white with really black ticking on back and head. The Chinchillas were priced from 1,200 dollars per pair and are only sold on condition they remain at the ranch for supervised breeding. The total stock is worth about 75,000 dollars and we were told there are only about ten Chinchilla coats in U.S.A.

One point which impressed me was the recognition of the fact that length, texture and silkiness of coat are usually associated with first-class physical condition, feeding and environment. Extensive experiments are carried on to ascertain the foods which produce the best condition and real wheat germ oil is used in the food.

Cat breeders in England had to resort to synthetic Vitamin E during and for some time after the war. It is significant that I have not found anyone using it in America, where the real oil is available. Wheat germ, rich in Vitamin E, is, of course, the fertility vitamin.

Longhair breeders are frequently asked by novices how to obtain long, dense coats. It is usually the result

of a long term policy and profuse coats and bloom are the result of plenty of exercise, fresh air and good food. Continuous grooming with a comb is a debatable point as the fine, soft coat so essential is easily pulled out. In my opinion, January, February, March and April, when Longhairs are losing their coats, are the months when daily grooming is desirable. After that, two or three times a week, using a fine soft brush, should be sufficient. A weekly dose of one teaspoonful of medicinal paraffin is advisable, especially during the coat shedding months.

**9th February.** Motored in the morning with Miss Hydon and Mrs. Leiders to Idlewild Airport to collect two Black kittens which had arrived at 2 a.m. from Miss Rodda, of Chadhurst fame in England. Found them safe and sound in the office and quite unperturbed. They had been fed by the staff with tinned food which looked and smelt wholesome. Chadhurst Samson, by Chadhurst Rhapsody, is very lovely, also Chadhurst Chloe, by Chadhurst Sambo, are kittens excelling in head, type, and eye colour.

After locating the kittens we had to wait until one o'clock for the vet. and a broker to clear the papers, and eventually we arrived at Newark Airport, from whence they left to join their new owner, Mrs. Shipe, of Detroit. We learned later that she was very pleased with them.

When cats and kittens are sent to U.S.A. and have to cross New York to another airport, they may take as long to reach their destination as to fly the Atlantic. It is not until one stays here that one realises the immense distances inland. So I suggest an odd piece of woollen material tied in a parcel with instructions (in an envelope marked "Please Open") to put it into the box in place of the soiled blanket. This change would help to keep the kittens clean and dry. I suggest this only for cases where the kittens have to change planes; otherwise, I think the less they are touched the better for them.

The Chadhurst babies had a damp blanket and so we obtained newspapers and tore them into strips to fit the box. The kittens thought this was a fine game and I was only too glad to be of some service to these little English travellers in a strange land. My experience of taking Dandy of Pensford to Denmark and of seeing these kittens after their journey by air convinces me it is far the best way for cats to travel abroad.

**11th February.** To Mr. Anthony De Santis's home in New Jersey with Miss Hydon. He has come to the fore very rapidly since he commenced breeding cats about five years ago and has lovely specimens of all Longhair varieties. The Blue male Double Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau has been Best in Show at several Championship shows during the past season and finished with this award under me at the Atlantic Cat Club Show in January.

The cattery houses a large family of about 60 cats, many of them being full Champions. They were a show in themselves, and to comment on all the good ones one would need a judge's book and a lot of space in this Magazine. I much admired the lovely Whites, which for head, type, purity and length of coat are exceptionally beautiful in a country where the standard is high. Rosedere White Feather, a blue-eyed White male, was typical of the high quality. Another gem was the Red self female Longhill's Peek-a-Boo, a home-bred cat. Several Blue Longhairs and Blue-Cream queens and the Cream male Ch. Longhill's Lightning of Rosegates were lovely.

Mr. De Santis purchased Ch. Widdington Wintersweet from Mrs.

Sheppard, and the sympathy of all Fanciers in England and America will be extended to him in the loss of this lovely Cream male. Wintersweet arrived in apparently perfect health but refused his food. This was not unusual, as adults often fret and usually take longer to settle down than kittens. He had every care and attention and the best veterinary advice, but he developed pneumonia and died sixteen days after leaving England ; a sad loss for all concerned.

I think it advisable to tell all purchasers of cats and kittens how they have been fed and how frequently. If cats are fretting and are disinclined to eat the trouble is accentuated if they are offered food which is strange to them. For example, most of us know that cats turn up their noses at raw horseflesh if they usually have it lightly baked and probably do not like it at all if they are accustomed to a rabbit and fish diet.

**16th February.** To Long Island, New York to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Silas Andrews and their Smoke, Silver and Siamese cats. Mrs. Andrews is the President of the Cat Fanciers' Federation and holds an executive position in several Clubs.

The monthly meeting of the Atlantic Cat Club was held at her house this day and on the 19th they gave a big party for their many friends and fellow Fanciers. These social functions are a great feature of the American Cat Fancy and one which I should love to see developed in England.

Mr. and Mrs. Nack had a return motor journey of about seven hours, but were very jolly and we all had much fun, especially when pooling


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our ideas about canning food for cats. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews have several grand cats, probably the most famous being the Smoke Double Ch. Inverness Lochinvar of Sunnyknole and the shaded Silver male Ch. Kute Kit Silver Dawn of Sunnyknole. There was a fine litter of five Silvers and shaded Silvers, nearly all with the lovely eye colour, so noticeable in American Silvers. A placid and contented neuter sporting the name of Dynamite was a lovely house pet.

**21st February.** We all motored to Miss Muriel Glenz, at Hicksville, New York, to see her family of Deschunds, Boxers and Siamese. In a showcase we saw literally hundreds of ribbons awarded to her exhibits in 1949. Miss Glenz formerly owned Crispin of Abingdon, bred in England by Mrs. Walker. He was tragically lost in a fire at the beginning of the war and shortly afterwards Miss Glenz came to England with the American Red Cross and did not resume breeding Siamese again until after hostilities.

The Siamese queens are mostly house pets and get on well with all the dogs. In the lounge neat little mattresses with washable covers were placed in front of the radiators and on these the dogs which were house pets had assembled their bones and toys and were playing amicably with each other and the Siamese. No expense had been spared to fit up the kennels, which had long concrete runs and strong link wire sections dividing them.

**22nd February.** Back to New York to dine with Miss Hydon and a party of friends on the eve of the election of officers for the Executive Committee of the Cat Fanciers' Association. Miss Hydon's resignation as President after holding that office for 16 years has caused wide regret and it will be difficult to fill her place, although her goodwill and that of the Committee will be extended to her successor.

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# English Wins at Dutch Show

THE International Championship Show of the Nederlandse Vereniging van Fokkers en Liefhebbers van Katten was held at The Hague last month. It was a most enjoyable fixture (writes Miss Kathleen Yorke, who flew over with her fellow judges, Miss E. Langston and Mr. Jack Martin). Many Dutch cats entered and cats and kittens also came from Belgium and France. The Swiss entries were unable to come but Mr. Bartholomew brought his cats from the British Zone in Germany.

English breeders will be interested in the results. Best Exhibit was a lovely Chinchilla male belonging to Mlle. Posthuma, Salisbury Simba, sire of Ch. Flambeau of Allington. Simba was bred by Mrs. Warren and sired by Mr. J. Barker's Sylvandene Statesman. Best Blue exhibit was also Mlle. Posthuma's Int. Ch. Southway Wizard, looking in fine condition. Second Blue male was another English-bred cat, Phillimore Moby Dick, seen at two of our shows and bred by Mrs Janke. He has lovely type and colour. Third place was won by Baralan Merry Fella, exported to Belgium by Mrs. Henn. Fanciers will be interested to note that the sires of these winning Blues were Dickon of Allington, Timothy of Knott Hall and Ch. Deebank Michael respectively. Best Blue female was Mrs. Kroon's Farways Deidre, by Deeday of Allington, bred by Mrs. Popper.

The Cream Championships were also won by English-bred cats—M. Jonathan of Shatterway, a picture in purity and soundness of colour, born 1938, owned by Mlle. Posthuma, sired by Ch. Shot of Hanley, and Sedan Cocktail, bred by Mrs. Brady from Dickon of Allington. The female Widdington Wallaby (bred by Mrs. M. Sheppard) won her third Championship. She is owned by Mme. Remande, of France, and won special for best cat from that country. Mlle. Posthuma was the owner of the best Blue-Cream, showing lovely intermingled colouring. We have nothing like it in England at present, which is a great pity. Ours are nearly all Blue Torties. This lovely cat, Bentveld Candy, has as mother Int. Ch. Theydon Heather, born 1933, sired by Ch. Laughton Laurel out of Golden Gleam of Culloden, and is 13 years old.

The winning Siamese male and female were bred in England, the male by Mrs. Whitaker and the female by Mrs. Pearson-Rogers. Both were sired by Larchwood Clover out of different mothers and they were worthy of the Challenge Certificates which I awarded.

A nice Abyssinian came from France and won First and Champion. He was Vox Dei, belonging to Miss Meyer. I also judged an exceptionally good British Blue belonging to M. Marolle, of Paris, and bred from the Int. Ch. Weekey de Champnor, known to all English judges who take the Shorthair classes in Paris.

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Members and friends of the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire recently held a tea-party in London, which was preceded by an interesting talk by Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, M.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., on the work of the Animal Health Trust, of which he is Scientific Director. The Trust wishes to obtain funds to enable it to extend its work to research on feline diseases. Mrs. J. B. Varcoe, of High Road, Wilmington, Kent, has promised to act as liaison officer between the officials of the Fancy and the Trust.

# Tailpieces

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

DURING the Easter period the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, Australia, will hold their Annual Show and, as in former years, a section catering for pedigree cats will be featured. Two days will be allocated for the judging of cats—the opening day of the Show on 1st April and Easter Monday, 10th April. As this famous Easter Show embraces many categories of livestock and the admission fee for each individual section is free, it is expected that many thousands of people will view the cats.

" Victory " a black woolly toy cat with a red ribbon round its neck, proved a lucky mascot for Mr. Richard Adams, Labour candidate for Wandsworth Central Division, who held the seat for his Party on a reduced majority. Mr. Adams took the mascot everywhere with him, and at indoor meetings " Victory " occupied a prominent place on the table.

There was an amusing sidelight on the recent General Election when a woman at Highgate Police Court confessed in her evidence that she had refused to accept a ginger kitten because the neighbours might think it had political significance!

Cats and dogs are to travel free in Paris buses in future provided they are kept under proper control and held on the knees of their owners. A conductor demanded that a girl should pay up for a goldfish she was carrying. This led to trouble and a review of the rules governing payment of fares for animals.

" But the cat does not mind a wintry wind so long as the ground is dry and she can wander where she pleases without fear of soiling her dainty feet. From her point of view it is grand when muddy paths are frozen hard and puddles are iced over. And I don't think cats mind snow, at any rate they do not so long as it is dry and powdery. My cats get quite excited and run off into the garden to play when the soft flakes come floating down. There is an old notion that cats, by their behaviour, foretell a snowfall. They become very skittish as the storm approaches. Whether there is anything in this I cannot say, but I do think that many animals are sensitive to approaching changes of the weather."—Miss Frances Pitt, writing in the London " Evening News."

Brigette Auber, who at 22 is reputed to be outstanding among French actresses, plans soon to visit England and to bring with her her pet cat Moumoune.

The newly formed Natal Cat Club has issued its first Newsletter, for a sight of which I am indebted to Hon. Secretary Mrs. D. G. Maunsell. It is intended to issue this publication quarterly with the hope that one day it will grow into a regular periodical. The Club now numbers 59 members and 30 of them met in Durban to hear their President, Mrs. Somerville, give an interesting talk on the care of cats. The first show is planned to take place this month.

M. Blouet, of Haynes, Bedfordshire, has written a letter to a London

newspaper which we reproduce here because it expresses so well the beliefs shared by many cat lovers. He says: "You are constantly reporting cases of cruelty to animals by schoolboys. Is it not time that the study and care of animals became a regular feature in school curricula? If kindness and understanding of animals were well grounded into children at school it would not only save much suffering but would be a sound foundation for a child's character and attitude to life. This seems to me to be of much more importance than lessons in make-up which were given to Hertfordshire schoolchildren recently." Don't you agree that this is a fine and sensible letter?

When another letter-writer to the newspapers disclosed the fact that her Alsatian dog welcomed everybody except the dustman, several cat lovers replied that there was nothing very remarkable in that as their pets behaved very much the same. A Brighton lady revealed that her friend had a cat who, at the sound of approaching dustmen, rushed upstairs and hid under the eiderdown. A lady from Surrey wrote that her five cats at the back of the house could distinguish between the squeaky brakes of the dustcart and those of other vehicles, and when it arrived they took refuge in corners and cupboards.

Did you see the story about a "flock" of cats that are kept to kill

the rats which are eating huge stocks of corn belonging to the Ministry of Food in Suffolk? The cats live on a former aerodrome and their "keeper" is Mr. Flatbow, a farmer, who says that "the cats come across the 'drome in a flock at teatime. There's over 30 of them—brown, black, grey and tawny cats, big cats and little cats."

When Miss Carrie Morrison was found dead in her Bromboume home, she was covered with scratches which are believed to have been caused by her cats in their efforts to rouse her. Miss Morris, who is believed to have been the first Englishwoman to be appointed a solicitor, lived a secluded life. She kept a family of cats to whom she was devoted.

A kitten awoke Mrs. Crossland when she found her Horsham home on fire. She escaped and gave the alarm. The mother of the kitten lost her life in the fire before the brigade men gained the upper hand.

"Persians Get Their Wings!" No need for alarm—the headline referred to students from Persia who have come to England to train as pilots with the R.A.F.

Mr. Michael Joseph has been on a business trip to Australia and some press cuttings which have just reached us reveal that he was unable to get away from his pet subject—cats. In the course of an interview with Ainslie Baker, staff reporter of "The Australian Women's Weekly," Mr. Joseph found himself involved in the cat v. dog controversy and, of course, he came down heavily on the side of the former. "Dogs are like concubines," he said; "cats are like wives. I find cats the easiest of all things to be faithful to. In John Preece, the Adelaide bookseller, I've found a very good cat friend. In


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fact, when John's cat, Charles, proved to be misnamed and soon after my arrival had two kittens, he paid me the compliment of calling one Michael and one Joseph. Unfortunately, it was found that a slight error had been made and the names had to be changed to Josephine and Napoleon." Mr. Joseph revealed that the cat family he had left at home in England consisted of a Siamese, Jemima Gray (who had had five hybrid kittens), and Binks, an old black-and-white fellow.

Inspectors from the R.S.P.C.A., police and firemen had to remove chimney pots and part of a bedroom ceiling from a Notting Hill house before they could release Blackie, an 11 months old cat who got trapped in the roof. Blackie's owners heard his cries coming from somewhere above the ceiling, where he was imprisoned for two days.

Nearly 300 guests assembled to eat cats at a recent gathering in London. Not real cats, of course, but highly spiced fruit buns of feline shape. The occasion was the reception of the Anglo-Swedish Society to welcome the traditional "St. Lucia" from Gothenburg, who had flown with her six maids of honour to bring the Spirit of Christmas to England. The Chairman of the Society, Lord Sempill, explained that the cats were a tribute to St. Lucia's pet which guided her when she was blind. St. Lucia suffered a martyr's death in A.D. 304 after she had been betrayed by her husband as a Christian.

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## *To the Children*

# From Uncle Peter

*Boys and Girls*

**Rabbits**

The other day a boy told me that one of his rabbits had a litter of young. I was surprised at this because I think the end of March is early enough to have baby rabbits running about. This is the time when green food begins to grow in the fields and hedges. Of course, there are some breeders who can rear young early in the year, but as far as possible it is better to stick to the normal breeding times of Spring and Summer.

When I was a boy I was very fond of Dutch rabbits and even now I think I like them better than any other breed. Only a few weeks ago I went to see some well-marked Dutch youngsters. To get a nice even saddle and good cheek markings is difficult, but the stops on the back legs are the most difficult of all.

**Tortoises**

I wonder whether any of you have been able to buy a tortoise recently. There have been a number of photos in the daily papers showing tortoises which have been arriving from South Africa. They are interesting pets. Lettuce and cabbage are good food for them, but if you let them go where they like in the garden they will also eat other vegetables, so it is a good plan to keep them in an enclosure with a little house attached. The sides of the run need not be very high because tortoises are not climbers.

I have a tortoise here called Goliath. That should not be his name really because Goliath is a lady. She is at least fifty years old. I have not seen Goliath since the end of October because when the weather became cold she decided, like all other tortoises, to hibernate, which means to go to sleep for the whole of the winter. I provide a big heap of leaves and she burrows her way into the middle and goes fast asleep. About the end of March she will come out again with a big appetite and also a thirst.

**Polly**

Polly is the Blue-Cream kitten that I have offered to one of you as a present. That isn't really her name because when she was registered she was given a very high-sounding name. She has developed into a very pretty kitten and will give someone a lot of pleasure when she plays with her table tennis ball. She is very affectionate, but she does not like to be handled roughly. She is a sensible kitten.

**Dogs' Feet**

With all the rain we have been having lately there is plenty of mud about, and both my dogs have to have their feet and legs dried as soon as they come in from their walk. You must remember to dry your dog when he gets wet or before very long he will develop rheumatism and that is a painful complaint.

*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.**

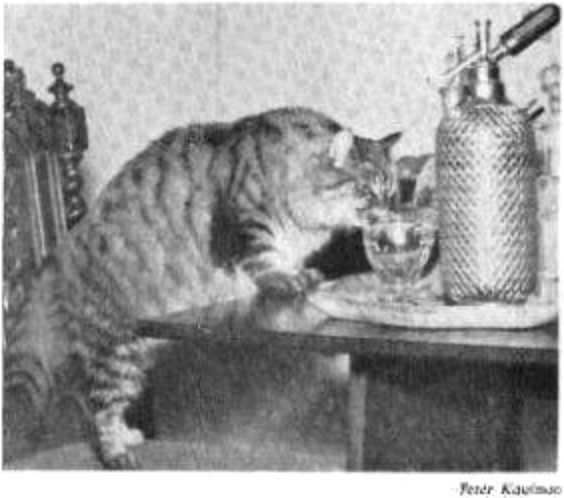
# . . well-fed, well-petted and properly revered .

*Mark Twain*

SANDY OF LITTLE VALLEY, pedigreed male Manx pet of Dr. Guy Bogart, of Beaumont, California, whose work and writings in the cause of felines are known throughout the world.

Wendy Stuart, youngest member of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club, with her favourite Tabby.

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.



*Peter Kaufman*

TIPSY, aptly named Longhair neuter Tabby, " having one " without being asked ! He is 4 years old and belongs to Mrs. C. D'Amato, of West London.