

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



JUNE 1950

1/6

READERS REPLY TO CAT CRITIC



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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 2 No. 6

JUNE 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

PRIZE WINNING LETTERS

THE response of readers to my appeal in last month's issue for contributions to our Correspondence Corner has been really splendid. My sincere thanks are due to those of you who took the trouble to sit down and write. Apparently the art of letter writing among cat lovers is by no means dead.

So many letters were received that there is an overflow into next month's issue. But I hope that this happy state of affairs will not be seized upon as an excuse for any slackening of interest. What can possibly be more generally helpful and interesting than a lively feature made up each month from readers' own problems and experiences? And what a grand subject we all have to write about!

Do please "keep the pot boiling." Write me on any subject that interests you or any problem that perplexes you. But—once again—do write concisely as space in the Magazine is so precious.

The response to the competition announced in our April issue editorial was not so overwhelming. Nevertheless, the experiment was justified and a number of interesting and thoughtful letters were received in reply to the cold vapourings of Mr. Stephen Williams, no doubt an excellent critic and broadcaster, but a gentleman with a jaundiced outlook where cats are concerned.

The first half-guinea prize goes to Miss Alice Jarrett, of Rye, Sussex, who wrote:—

After having read the extracts from Mr. Williams's review, I have come to the conclusion that it is extremely unlikely that he has ever owned a pet of any sort, least of all a cat. Had he ever come to really know and love an animal he could never write such nonsense.

It is absurd to say that cats do not care for human beings; only for the food they get from them. I have eight cats and food in plenty has been left for them in the mornings when the family has gone out for the day. But when we return in the evening we have found not a drop nor a crumb has been touched simply because our company is missed and the cats will not eat when we are not in the house. They run to greet us with purrs and

demonstrations of affection. When the stroking and petting are over they go out and eat the whole of their meals. Don't tell me that a cat's affection for human beings does not come first. I know, because I have experienced it. It does, before everything.

As for independence, of course cats are independent. So are a great many self-respecting human beings. But cats are only independent in the sense that they know how to look after and fend for themselves. That trait in their characters is surely to their credit. . . .

Most humans who have no love or respect for animals have little of these qualities to spare for their fellow humans. So I am afraid Mr. Williams would not be welcome in my home. I expect that would suit him very well, for since he loves neither dogs, cats nor, I suspect, human beings, then a solitary state in his own domain would be his idea of heaven. arrant egotist that I suspect him to be.

The second prize-winning letter was submitted by Mrs. M. H. Johnson, of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., who cheerfully added a postscript that even if her effort was never printed she would feel a hundred per cent. better for having written it! Here it is:

I first felt amusement, then pity, for someone who understands cats so little. I think of my grand male Cappy, who formed such an attachment for my husband. When he left for work in the morning, his cat would stretch up to the door knob with his paws and call loudly to the man who had left him. My husband never feeds the cats; I do. However, you might stretch a point and say Cappy realised my husband earned the money that brought the food and so was playing up to him. But then, Mr. Williams, you would have to credit the cat with more intelligence than is your wont. So you lose either way, don't you?

My little Blue queen, Coquette, goes mad with anxiety when I have a bath. She paces back and forth mewing loudly, trying to coax me out of the tub. I think she thinks I am drowning! The reason for her concern is probably due to the knowledge that if I drown there will be no one to feed her. Silly, isn't it, Mr. Williams?

When I am ill and have to stay in bed, my older queen, Gai, is always a bundle of warm comfort beside me. At the slightest sign of discomfort or pain, an anxious little face with worried copper eyes peers up over the comforter followed by a thorough investigation to make sure I'm all right. A pat of a paw, a nuzzling of my palm, a swipe with a pink tongue, and she settles down again satisfied.

Cats are indeed independent. They will never force their attention on others, but to people who love and understand them they are warm, responsive and affectionate pets. They will never be a bully's pet; they are too intelligent to submit to such degradation. For this and many other qualities I admire them.

When we go on vacation we leave our cats at a friend's cattery where they are fed and cared for in the best possible manner. Yet when we return they are overjoyed. Why this preference for one feeder over another?

I think I have said enough, Mr. Williams. May I suggest that hereafter you should comment on things with which you are familiar? There must be one or two!

I am sorry that there cannot be prizes for everybody. But an additional award of five shillings for a brave try goes to the contribution sent in by Mrs. Eileen Brine, of Wickford, Essex.

EDITOR

WILL YOU HELP ?

Just to remind you that our drive for increased readership is still on. Much progress has been made but many more new subscribers are necessary if this Magazine is to be developed along the lines we have planned. You probably know of cat lovers here and overseas who would be interested to see OUR CATS. Send us their names and addresses—we will be pleased to send specimen copies.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 3



Josef A. Schneider, New York

PALS!

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Cover photograph of a yawning cat is by S.ort and General Agency

MEDITATIONS OF A LITTLE RED CAT
ON HER FIRST BIRTHDAY

Bright stars are shining in the sky,
a lovely night, the moon rides high.
I'm tired of washing my own red dress,
and my ruffle (it's just like Old Queen Bess).
I've a rabbit's paw and lots of strings,
a velvet mouse—and other things.
I'm getting too big to play with toys,
I'll sit by the fire and dream of boys.
My head on the fender, my feet a-sprawl,
my eyes half shut, I count them all.
My whiskers wiggle and waggle and twitch,
I gaze at the fire and wonder—which?
There's the slinky black, two doors away,
he comes round mostly every day.
There's Spotted Dick from across the square
and gaunt old Tabby from Lord knows where.
There's high wire netting around our wall
but out of the window I see them all.
I'm told that a girl can read her Fate
on Hallow'een in a glowing grate.
Oh, hero, my hero, when lights are low,
you are my dream in firelight's glow.
You've a lovely coat of burnished red,
big copper eyes in handsome head.
Bronze tail erect—I'm sure I see,
a chap who is really—just like me.
My eyes are shut and my whiskers still,
I'll sleep and sleep and dream my fill.
(Oh! embers glowing in the fire
I know he is my heart's desire).

What's that? Did you say fish for tea?
Get mine quick—and then whoopee!
I'll fetch that paw and find that mouse
and chase and chase them through the house.
I'll run and get the ping pong ball
and send it round and round the hall.
Dreams? What dreams? I quite forget,
I'm only a little kitten yet.

Heigh-ho! The ball rolled under the sink,
The paw? That's on the stairs I think.
The silly dumb stuffed velvet mouse
is somewhere knocking around the house.
Oh, hero, my hero, when lights are low,
you are my dream in firelight glow.
Bright stars are shining in the sky,
a lovely night and the moon rides high. G.R.D.

Extracts from a radio talk on

Cats and Dogs

By DILYS POWELL, well-known Critic and Broadcaster

FOR years I've been what I suppose I must call—though I shrink from using the phrase—a cat lover. I used to think that you liked either dogs or cats. It was the choice between sweet and savoury; I felt you couldn't want both at once.

Dogs, I thought, were blundering, possessive, sentimental and given to worrying sheep. Give me a cat, who can take it or leave it. Whenever I walked down a street I used to stop to talk to the cats, as you might exchange a "Good morning" with acquaintances in the village. It drove my friends mad. I did good turns to cats; I was quite the Boy Scout. I remember once in the war I went so far as to break into an empty butcher's shop to release an imprisoned Tabby, who embraced me fondly and then went to lodge at the tobacconist's, where he lived to a respected old age. His mistress called him Mr. Johnson.

Of course, I've had a series of cats of my own—a reflective little Tortoiseshell; a Tabby with a cauliflower ear and, as I thought, a very beautiful character; another Tabby who fell from the balcony of a sixth-floor flat and proved, alas! that he at any rate hadn't got nine lives; and at last a Siamese cat.

My Siamese cat was good enough to live with me for thirteen years—through the alarms of the late 1930's with all those week-end speeches by Hitler—through the war—through milk rationing and the shortage of rabbits—right down to last Novem-

ber, when life became a little too much for an old cat. His full name was Periander; a rather academic name perhaps.

We called him Perry, to which he answered when he felt it was to his advantage.

Perry had the qualities which you and I like to think are peculiar to our cats. He was fastidious, he was pleasure-loving and he was immensely self-centred. Over and above these, he had the qualities which you and I like to think are peculiar to our Siamese cats. He was talkative. There were days when he never stopped answering back or complaining that somebody had let the fire go out. And he was affectionate to the point of demonstrativeness, ready at any time to fling his arms round your neck.

In youth he had two tricks of which we were disproportionately proud. He could swing on a door handle (though he never got the door open) and he could drink milk from a jug by dipping his paw into it. But for ordinary cat purposes he was never much use. If he caught a mouse it was at the wrong moment.

I remember being interrupted in a telephone conversation with my editor by raucous cries from Perry, who had brought me a dead mouse and wanted it mended. And he hated the country. He thought Nature was a bore, and the only creatures he ever caught in many long week-ends away from London were a shrew mouse (which he ate with disastrous consequences); a

baby rabbit, which died of fright, poor little thing; and a squirrel which was dead already.

I remember trying to take him for a walk in the great outdoors. He stood it for a bit, leaping mutinously over the thistles, then he sat down and said his feet hurt and he couldn't stir another step. In trains he was a good traveller, but given to hiding in the heating apparatus under the seat just as you approached your destination—and just when you hadn't got an umbrella and had to borrow one to hook him out.

I suppose you might say he lived a cloistered life. But then it was largely by his own choice. He didn't care for cat company, though he did form occasional friendships, one before the war with a Tabby kitten next door. He used to effect an entry, as they say, through our neighbour's larder window, and you'd hear the pair of them rampaging up and down stairs, to the alarm of the kitten's owner, a lady who was expecting a baby and who was in a highly nervous condition.

Caught "A Packet"

We used to try to spare her terrors. We shut our doors and latched our windows, but Perry discovered that there was one room in the house visited sooner or later by everybody, and if he waited long enough he could always slip through that door and out of that window. Once he ran away at night in the snow, but we tracked him down by his delicate little footprints and brought him back purring and combing his whiskers.

Did I say he lived a cloistered life? Yes, but like the rest of us he couldn't escape the war. At first he was sent down to the country, out of harms way. But, like many other evacuees, he came back after a few months and after that, like London, he took it.

High explosives, land-mines, flying bombs, rockets, he knew them all, and in the spring of 1944, when the house next door but one caught what we used to call "a packet," and a good deal of our house fell down too, there he was in the kitchen on the top floor, not actually calling for help, but waiting patiently for the light rescue party in the shape of my husband and myself.

He picked his way through the rubble, rolled in it, and came out with his black face white with dust. Next day he said it had all been a great lark.

Chapter of Accidents

Time's devouring hand doesn't spare even a little cat—or a dog. The other day in a country pub I heard an old man talking about dogs. The sad thing, he said, is that a dog's life is so short; only about ten years, and he's gone. A cat may keep you company a little longer, and Perry's thirteen years wasn't a bad life.

I thought he was a beautiful creature right to the end, but to eyes less fond he must have looked a little battered. He'd lost one of those proudly pointed ears in some mischance or other and his coat—well, his coat was the worse for wear, too. After all, he'd worn it a long time, and he hadn't taken much care of it. He was in the habit of singeing patches off it by lying too near the electric fire. I once found him sitting quite contentedly with little columns of smoke rising from his flanks. And one day, feeling no doubt that the service was getting slow, he sprang on to the gas cooker and upset a saucepan of boiling rabbit over his back.

But to me he was always a most elegant creature, and though latterly he withdrew into himself a little, pre-

A BOOK ABOUT SIMON

ferring to sleep in the kitchen rather than beneath the eiderdown on the bed, his presence always made itself felt. Indeed, I can still feel it.

I still fancy sometimes that I see him sitting on the mat in front of the study stove, with his back expressing intense dissatisfaction with the heating arrangements. I sometimes feel a little guilty when I think that at the very end of his life I introduced into the house a tiny black kitten and a puppy. This is where I come back to what I was saying about cats and dogs.

I used to think that one excluded the other, that you couldn't want both. Then about a year ago we struck up a close friendship with a young Alsatian dog, an irrepressible creature, hopelessly disobedient, a great excavator of rabbit holes, with a face perpetually wreathed in earth and smiles. There, I believe, you have the essential difference between a cat and a dog: a dog smiles, a cat never. . . .

The publishing house of Hutchinson has just issued a splendid little half-crown book dealing with the career of Simon, the V.C. cat, who after his adventures on board H.M.S. Amethyst returned with the ship to England, only to die in quarantine last November. All profits from the sale of the book are to be devoted to the Langford Cross Children's Home of the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.

Vera Cooper, the author, has done a first-class job and the pictures are excellent. The story of Simon's life from the day of his birth on Stonecutters Island, Hong Kong, his many adventures afloat, right down to the discovery of his successor, is told in fascinating detail. Four members of the crew of the Amethyst contributed their own personal recollections and without these, of course, the story could not have been written.

Commander J. S. Kerans, D.S.O., R.N., Simon's great friend, contributes a foreword to the book, which is indeed a worthy tribute to the memory of the famous cat who "might have taken the salute from a King."

Simon the Cat (Hutchinson, 2s. 6d. net).

Let's go to a show !

We urge readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management. Brief details of the show programme for the 1950-51 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. The list may be extended and revised from time to time as fresh information becomes available.

1950			
15 July	Barnsley Agricultural Society	Barnsley, Yorks
		(See advertisement in this issue)	
19 July	Kensington Kitten and Neuter Show	London
		(See advertisement in this issue)	
10 August	Abbey Park, Leicester	Leicester
15 August	Blackpool Show	Blackpool
26 August	*Sandy and District Show	Sandy, Beds
16 September	*Herts and Middlesex Cat Club	Watford
20-21 September	The Crystal Cat Show	Olympia, London
27 September	South Western Counties Cat Club	Torquay
3 October	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
7 October	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
		(See advertisement in this issue)	
12 October	*Siamese Cat Club	London
25 October	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
9 November	*Croydon Cat Club	London
18 November	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
5 December	*National Cat Club	London
1951			
8 January	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club	Nottingham
20 January	Lancs and North Western Counties	Manchester
29 January	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London

* Denotes Show with Championship status.

Colour Inheritance

By ALBERT C. JUDE

IN our previous articles, some of the matters of heredity have been discussed. Our interest can now be turned to the structures of the body of the animal, which are instrumental in the passing on of the various inherited characteristics.

The tissues of animals are built up of small units of living matter called cells. These cells are countless in number and invisible to the naked eye. But within each cell there is a specialised part called the nucleus, which is surrounded by a thin membrane, and which is chemically different from the rest of the cell.

When a tissue is cut into fine sections and stained with certain dyes, it is found that small granules inside the nucleus stain more deeply than the rest of the cell. This deeply staining material is called chromatin. Now all cells arise from the division of pre-existing cells, and during such division the deeply staining material within the nucleus behaves in a peculiar way.

It first becomes concentrated into a definite number of small bodies called chromosomes. These differ in shape and size, but there are usually two of each kind. When a cell divides into two, each chromosome also divides longitudinally, half going to each new daughter cell. Thus, the number is kept constant throughout successive divisions.

When the germ cells are maturing, however, they undergo one division which is different from all other, in that every chromosome remains whole. But one member of each

pair goes to each daughter cell. Thus a germ cell has only one member of each pair of chromosomes. If the chromosomes carry the determiners of Mendelian characters, this separating of the members of each pair of chromosomes during the formation of the germ cell will bring about the very segregation of characters which Mendel propounded.

So much for the chromosomes which carry the factors for the various inherited characteristics. Two of the chromosomes, however, are sex chromosomes. In the female they are similar and are known as "X" chromosomes. But in the male they are different; one is an "X" chromosome, while the other is known as a "Y" chromosome.

It will be realised from this that when the eggs are being formed by the female, only eggs bearing "X" chromosomes are formed. But when the sperms of the male are produced, half of these will contain an "X" chromosome and half will contain a "Y" chromosome. So if an "X" sperm fertilises an egg, two "X" chromosomes come together and a female offspring is the result. On the other hand, should a "Y" sperm fertilise an egg, an "X" and a "Y" chromosome come together, and the offspring will be a male.

As a general rule, the cross between a male and a female results in the production of the two sexes in approximately equal numbers. But there are cases where a different position is operative. Such a case was mentioned in connection with the

tortoises, where it was shown that when a yellow female is mated with a black male, the male kittens are yellow and the female are tortoiseshell.

When these are mated together we expect yellow females, tortoiseshell females, yellow males and black males. In the reciprocal cross, i.e. black female crossed yellow male, we get tortoiseshell females and black males, and when these are crossed we expect black females, tortoiseshell females, black males and yellow males. No tortoiseshell males except in rare instances.

Black-Yellow Crosses

The crosses of black and yellow in cats provide a classic example of sex-limit. In order to bring the chromosomes into relation with the facts of sex-limited inheritance, we have to make the assumption that the factors for sex-limited characters are carried by any "X" chromosome, but not by a "Y" chromosome, nor, of course, by any other of the pairs of chromosomes. In so far as this group of characters is concerned, the "Y" chromosome behaves, as it were, like a dummy.

The cross between black male and yellow female cats may be interpreted on the following lines. Each of the "X" chromosomes of the female carries the factor for yellow, but this factor is lacking in the "X" chromosome of the male, nor can it be carried by the "Y" chromosome.

The F_1 kittens are all heterozygous (one dose) and yellow, because every one of them, whether male or female, received the factor for yellow in the chromosome from its mother. All the eggs produced by the F_1 female contain one "X" chromosome, but half of these "X" chromo-

somes contain the factor for yellow, while the other half do not. Of the sperms from the F_1 male, half contain an "X" chromosome and the factor for yellow, while the other half contain only a "Y" chromosome.

When these two series of gametes unite, the result must be that the F_2 females are of two classes, namely, those containing two yellow "X" chromosomes and those containing one yellow and one black "X" chromosome. In other words, equal numbers of homozygous and heterozygous yellow females. Since the F_2 males received only a "Y" chromosome from their father, their nature expresses directly the composition of their F_1 mother, i.e. half of them contain a yellow chromosome and the other half a black chromosome.

The males of the F_2 generation consist of equal numbers of heterozygous yellows and blacks. The theory is fully in accordance with the fact that in the F_2 generation for the cross between black male and yellow female, the yellows are to the blacks in the ratio of 3:1, and the blacks are all males.

Factor for Yellow

In the reciprocal cross, since the cells of the male contain but one "X" chromosome, and since the "X" chromosome alone can carry the factor for yellow, every yellow male, no matter how bred, must be heterozygous for yellow. Hence, when mated with a black female, all his daughters must be yellows, since every individual receiving an "X" chromosome from the father must be a female. So also all the sons from such a cross must be blacks, for neither the "X" chromosome which they receive from the mother nor the "Y" chromosome from the father carries the yellow factor.

In the F_2 of the reciprocal cross there will be blacks, both male and female, and heterozygous yellows, male and female. All the heterozygous yellow females in both crosses are, of course, tortoiseshells.

(To be continued)



A FEW DO'S AND DON'TS

By Eunice A. Welsford

- DO clean your cat's ears at least once a week. Parasitic infiltration will thus be avoided. If powdered sulphur is applied occasionally from kittenhood, ears will be kept clean and healthy.
- DO clean eyes daily. A separate swab for each eye, please! Soluble sulphacetamide eye drops is a specific for any form of discharging eyes, provided the infection is a local one.
- DO frequently examine mouth and teeth of your pet. When he refuses to eat, this is often the root of the trouble. If teeth are discoloured with tartar, consult your veterinary surgeon regarding having them scaled.
- DO consult your veterinary surgeon early in cases of illness. Cats are said to have nine lives, but when ill seem sometimes only to have half of one.

(To be continued)



BONAVIA SALLY AND BONAVIA SARAH
1st Prize A.C. pairs Southern Counties Cat Show
30th January 1950, also 2nd and 3rd A.C. Novice

**Mrs. Mollie Turney of Forest Green,
Holyport, Berkshire, owner-breeder
of the prize-winning Bonavia Chin-
chillas, writes—**

"I have been breeding and boarding cats for a number of years and have always hoped a product would be available for cats which, as well as being greatly beneficial to them, would also be sufficiently palatable to make easy administration.

Kit-zyme is the complete answer to all feline ailments; not only is it a perfect tonic and conditioner, but my own cats and kittens look forward to their daily dose.

In the course of a year, many hundreds of cats pass through these boarding kennels and I am often asked to recommend a "tonic." I have no hesitation in recommending Kit-zyme to all cat owners."

KIT-ZYME will benefit your cat too

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—
NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

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Promotes resistance to:
**LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT,
LOSS OF APPETITE
SKIN TROUBLES**

50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-.
KIT-ZYME is sold by Boots, and most
Pet Stores.

If any difficulty in obtaining, write to:—
**PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD.,
PARK ROYAL ROAD, LONDON, N.W.10**

Literature free on request

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

A CHILD VISITS DANEHURST

Our feature in the Breeders' series takes an unusual turn this month. It is a spontaneous and unsolicited account of a visit made last summer to the lovely Isle of Wight home of Mr. Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., by 11-year-old Yolanda Gay Baker. Mr. Allt, of course, is one of our most enthusiastic breeders of Longhairs. We have had Yolanda's story in hand for some months awaiting the arrival of another holiday season. It appears in its most effective form—exactly as written—and no further introduction is therefore necessary.

I LOVE cats — I love all animals, but best of all I love cats!

Last summer holidays, whilst staying near Ryde, I happened to see a notice about "Danehurst Cattery"—I learnt it off by heart—and the very next day, when mother said I could go exploring with a friend, I asked people the way to Danehurst, and on the way told my little friend about THE CATTERY.

We were very excited about our adventure; *she* was a little afraid! Danehurst did look a *very* large house. We walked up the long drive and rang the bell. A kind-faced lady opened the door; instead of shooing us away she said that the owner, Mr. Allt, was feeding the animals and would soon be back, and invited us to wait. Hardly had she finished speaking before Mr. Allt came up the garden smiling kindly at me. I knew that this must be the cats' owner; all cat lovers have nice smiling faces. He asked me what I wanted.

"Please can we see the cats?" I said (perhaps he could see by my face that I wanted to *very much*). To my great joy he replied, "Come with me." And



The Author with two of the new friends she made at Danehurst Cattery.

we set off happily with our new friend.

Shall I say what we saw?

Behind the big house all the animals had their houses, such nice roomy houses, too, each with a furnished room and garden run, and all set up in different groups according to their different uses.

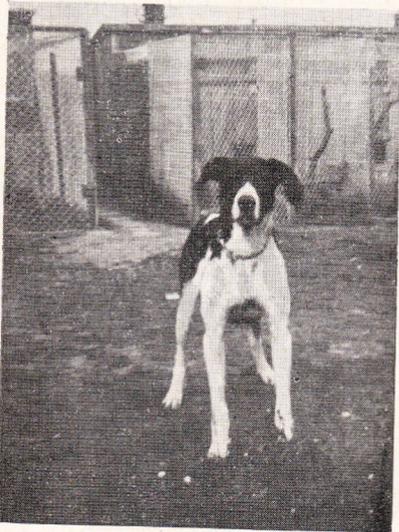
Queenly Quarters

There was one block of wards neatly labelled "Nursery Wards" filled with kittens too big for their mothers.

Next to the Nurseries was the Maternity Ward, also neatly labelled; here the mothers had their babies with them. Next to

these PRIVATE WARDS came the house in which the three queens lived, furnished with heating like the others, also a dining-cum-dressing table and a chair each. For to Mr. Allt each cat was a pet and he found time to give them a lot of attention every day. The Queens each had a plate at table.

Then came the home and run of Mr. Allt's bodyguards, Bill and Sam, his policemen, two Great Danes, very strong and



Bodyguard Bill

full of love so long as no one teased or trespassed.

Next was a big house for the canaries and budgerigars, for Mr. and Mrs. Allt love birds as well as beasts. Then came the males in their private apartments and dotted over the lawns were many rabbit houses and runs and one for hens.

Mrs. Allt's nine Pekinese had a house and large garden all to themselves, and last, but not least important, was the cage of

Alexander—Alex. for short—the almost human parrot who was most at home on Mr. Allt's shoulder and loved his drop of tea and talk with him. Oh! and there was Mrs. Gibbons, very independent and not at all well bred like the pure breeds. But it was Mrs. Gibbons, the 12 years old Tabby who lived in the Big House, who was really Queen of all the Cats.

The Loveliest Holiday

Now I'll tell you about the animals I saw. Fifty-three rabbits, all pure Chinchillas, mostly babies, with coats as soft as silk and twitching noses. Then I was shown one of the best cats, Timmy, a Blue Persian, so lovely I could have stayed with him for hours. I saw such cats as I had never seen before, loveliest creams, blues, big Persians and babies too, like beautiful balls of fluff. And wonderful and rare Abyssinian cats, very smooth haired and pointed faced, a breed Mr. Allt is reviving.

Too soon it was time to go. Mr. Allt said, "Would you like to come again?" I said "Yes, thank you very much." And after lunch that very day I went there again and then for each day of the whole month. I walked the mile and back before breakfast to help him feed "our pets" and again after breakfast to groom them. It was the loveliest holiday I've had in England.

When I am bigger I'm going to have a cattery, too! Now I've only a dear ugly stray called Alice and a big orphan cat that hadn't a home—and my two rabbits. I've my tame mice, too. There were four, but one day the cats got their own dinner. Now there are two.

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.

THANKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you for all the kind things you said about me in the last issue of OUR CATS. I have had so many delightful letters from people everywhere congratulating me on my election as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. I appreciate their kindness so much.

I hope that I can live up to all this faith in me. I shall do all in my power to keep the Fancy together, united as it should be when the paramount idea everywhere is the love and care of all cats of every description.

Miss Kathleen Yorke,
Park Street, near St. Albans.

BRIGHTEN UP THE SHOWS

I was interested to read the articles by Mrs. Joan Thompson and Mr. Brian Stirling Webb on their respective visits to judge American shows.

Would these two judges tell us candidly how our shows compare with American shows? I noted that American judging is done on a raised platform at one end of the hall. This seems an excellent idea as it would enable exhibitors to introduce a little colour to the show pens in the main body of the hall without breaking the rules.

I do not know how many readers will agree with me, but when visiting our shows I am always dismayed at the lack of colour and, in fact, at the lack of presentation generally. The Cat Fancy seems to be quite unaware

that it offers to the uninitiated visitors only two varieties—Longhairs and Shorthairs. We cannot give a window display like the dog world with its amazing range from St. Bernards to Mexican Chihuahuas, but surely we can do something about "hotting up" our showmanship? Surely somebody could organise masses of pink hydrangeas or other exotic settings as a frame for our Blue Longhairs, Siamese and other lovely felines. I think we should find a readier sale for our stock if "the gate" could see it displayed at its warm and delightful best instead of in a cold animal clinic manner. I know extra display costs extra money. This surely could be overcome by increased subscription and entrance fees.

May I say here that I think the enterprise shown in booking Olympia is magnificent. Perhaps this show will be different?

Mrs. Michael Leeston-Smith,
Borough Hill, Daventry.

WHISKER-CHEWING MOTHERS

I was interested to read in your last issue of Fixby Fuchsia's habit of chewing her kittens' whiskers. One of the first Siamese I met over twenty years ago in Austria came from a litter whose mother indulged in the same habit. Her owner told me that she would not allow the whiskers to grow and that she bit them off as near to the skin as possible. She obviously preferred clean-shaven faces! I have kept Siamese females on and off for a number of

**BARNSELY AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL SHOW
JULY 15th, 1950**

We are endeavouring to popularise the Cat Fancy in Yorkshire. Help us to help you by making this a record entry.

14 CLASSES FOR CATS

Judge: Mrs. K. Carbert, York.
Entries close July 1st. Prize money 15/-, 10/-, 5/-. Entry fee 2/6.

Schedules with pleasure

J. R. O'REILLY,
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years, but none of mine ever objected to the kittens growing whiskers.

While writing you, may I make a suggestion? Could you extend your series on the breeders to less popular breeds than Longhairs and Siamese? I am thinking chiefly of Russian Blues and the various British Shorthair breeds. Especially the latter are often regarded with contempt by the public at shows and I have overheard remarks like: "Why has that Tabby such a lot of first prizes?" or "Our grocer has a black kitten just like that one."

I think a lot of good work could be done for the British Shorthair if the knowledge was spread that Cat Fanciers are breeding these cats to a standard and that they compete for supreme honours in the show pen with their glamorous Persian and Siamese cousins.

Miss E. von Ullmann,
Banstead, Surrey.

The suggestion that we should widen the scope of our "Who's Who Among the Breeders" series is an excellent one and we intend to do something about it in the near future.—Editor.

ON KEEPING A STUD

I see you are asking for letters. May I first of all say how good I think your Magazine is and how much I enjoy it.

I should like to answer the letter on keeping a stud or, rather, to give a few comments on it. I have bred Siamese for over 14 years and have kept a stud since 1939, when I kept a male kitten. He lived in the house and slept in the kitchen with three queens. He mated a young queen at just once a year and until then never misbehaved in the house. He, too, had the freedom of the garden and until eighteen months he was very good. But after that, when a queen was in season, he would "leave his card"—and as my bed-

room was the favourite place, he was shut up for part of the day and slept in at nights. But in the end he had to sleep out unless the weather was too cold.

My stud was a perfect gentleman and never ate until the queens had finished. He used to hunt rabbits on the cliff during the war and drag his kill up the garden. He would then call the queens and sit and watch them feed. When they had had all they wanted he would take the rabbit into the house and enjoy his own meal. So I suppose all full males behave like that. My husband says it is "for favours to come"!

I do know that studs love kittens and will wash them. I think really that a stud has to be trained and watched as he gets older, and Miss Gregory may find hers will not behave so well as time goes on.

Mrs. May Jennings,
Mundesley-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Other letters on this subject of keeping a stud have been received and have unfortunately to be held over until our next issue owing to pressure on space.—Editor.

TRAVEL TROUBLE

With reference to Mrs. Joan Thompson's entry for 7th April in your last issue, I have had several unfortunate experiences when sending queens by rail. When I sent one away a few weeks ago, I thought I had planned to meet all eventualities. But I failed and it was not the stud owner's fault this time.

My Ranee was being returned to me by Miss Calvert Jones, who kindly took the cat to Colchester so that she could be put on the next through train to our nearest station. I was on the platform to meet the train and, finding the guard's van, asked for my cat. The following conversation took place. "May I have my cat, please?" "Cat? No cat here." "But there must be. It

was put on the train at Colchester." "Can't help that, there's no cat here." "Were you on the train at Colchester?" "Yes." "Have you any basket in the van?" "No, I haven't." "You are quite sure the cat wasn't put on the train?" "Yes."

The train pulled out and then I asked the booking clerk to telephone to Colchester Station. He did so and was told that the cat had travelled on the train in question. A little later he phoned to the next station down the line where the train was arriving.

My cat, safe in quite a large cat basket, was taken from the van there and collected by me within half an hour. Now why did the guard declare he had no cat and what would have happened to her if I had not enquired at once?

Mrs. C. Coldham,
Tattingstone, near Ipswich.

CUP WINNERS NOT HOLDERS

Have just had a nice wet afternoon's browse with OUR CATS, and noting that you invite contributions to the Correspondence Corner, there's one question I would very much like answered.

Why, when one wins a cup at a cat show, isn't one allowed to hold that cup? If I win a cup with rabbits, pigs, horses, or at tennis, bowls, darts or what you will, I can have that cup for twelve months. But if I win it at a cat show, oh dear me, no! I don't even get a peep at it. Why? Are cat Fanciers so much more dishonest than other people? I ask this, as one of the reasons given me was that it is difficult sometimes to keep track of people.

I can appreciate that it was probably necessary during the war years

for a club to hold the trophies, but surely there is no excuse for it now? What's wrong with insuring them? Names and addresses are sent with entries and there seems to me to be less likelihood of people moving about now than ever there was!

I won two cups with Trenton John Willie last year at Torquay, but when I proudly tell my friends this, I am asked, "Where are the cups?" So after a lengthy explanation they invariably say, "But don't you have *something* to show that you won them?" The answer is, "Not a thing—not even on the cards."

The Secretary of my Club tells me that it is the usual thing throughout the Cat Fancy. It seems very odd and I should like a satisfactory explanation. It really isn't showing much encouragement to exhibitors.

Mrs. C. M. Mitchell,
East Allington, South Devon.

The South Western Counties Cat Club has recently adopted what is described as "a revolutionary procedure" with the Club's trophies by allowing the winners to hold the cups for one year subject to suitable safeguards and insurance. Trophy winners appear to have a real grievance here and other Clubs might do well to see if something can be done about it. An impressive array of special trophies will be awarded to the big winners at the Crystal Cat Show at Olympia in September and in each case the winners will be able to take them home (suitably inscribed)—for keeps.—Editor.



**Kensington Kitten and
Neuter Cat Clubs' (inc.)**

SHOW

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All the up-to-the-minute news of the

CRYSTAL CAT SHOW

OLYMPIA—20th & 21st September next

We present as promised all the latest information about September's biggest-ever event in the cat world. Interest is rising as each week slips by, not only among cat lovers in this country but overseas as well. Prominent Fanciers are planning to secure a worthy representation at the Show and others are coming forward with offers of practical help. What are YOU doing about it?

PATRONS.—The list of distinguished patrons is not yet complete. In addition to Mr. Compton Mackenzie, newcomers are Nina Duchess of Hamilton and Brandon, Lady Aberconway and Mr. Beverley Nichols.

JUDGES.—The following have kindly consented to judge: Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. Cattermole, Mrs. Chappell, Miss Collins, Mrs. Cook-Radmore, Miss Gold, Mrs. Gunn, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Duncan Hindley, Miss E. Manley, Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Sayers, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Vize, Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, Mrs. Yeend and Messrs. Buffard, Norris and Soderberg.

SCHEDULES.—Schedules and entry forms are now at the printers and should be ready by the end of the month. Application for copies should be made to the Show Manager, Crystal Cat Show, Woodgate, London Road, Ewell, Surrey, and all enquiries for information should be similarly addressed.

PRIZE MONEY.—Total value of the prizes offered will be in the region of £750. There are 14 Silver Cups to be won outright. In the classes where the first prize is a trophy, additional cash prizes will be First £2, Second £3, Third £2, Fourth £1. In the other classes prize money will be awarded First £4, Second £3, Third £2, Fourth £1. A number of Consolation Prizes to the value of £1 each will be awarded if sufficient entries are received. A framed illuminated certificate will be given to winners in the non-cup classes.

CELEBRITY CAT.—Visitors will be invited to take part in a ballot to elect the Celebrity Cat of the Show. All exhibits will qualify for inclusion in this competition and the winning owner will receive a silver plated tea service. The public will also be invited to take part in a ballot to select the best four Household Pets. A television set and valuable cash prizes will be given to the winning forecasts in these two competitions which will, of course, be conducted along the usual popular vote lines and will be under professional supervision.

HEAVIEST CAT.—Another interesting Competition will be run to determine Britain's Heaviest Cat. Is there a cat in this country to beat Claus, the American heavyweight who tips the scales at 40 lbs.? If there is and his owner will bring him to Olympia, the prize will be £ per lb. Just to show readers what 40 lbs. of prize cat looks like, we propose to publish a full-page picture of Claus in our next issue. In the absence of a successful challenger to Claus, the prizes in the Heaviest Cat Competition will be £20, £5 and £3.

PENS.—A prototype has been made, tested and approved. Benches, Ltd., are now busy with production. Each pen will have a device to prevent exhibits from being handled by visitors.

OFFICIAL CATALOGUE.—Work of compilation has been commenced, although of course it cannot be completed until all entries are in. An attractive design in two colours on tinted paper has been chosen for the front cover and the print order will be 7,500 copies. Selling price will be 2s. 6d. Provision will be made for the inclusion of a special section on art paper for the advertisements of breeders and the various organisations connected with the Fancy and cat welfare generally. This section will be made attractive with photographs of many of our best cats and there will be included also little editorial pen pictures designed to interest and educate members of the public in the various breeds and their outstanding characteristics and qualities. All enquiries for advertisement space in the Official Catalogue should be addressed to Mr. A. E. Cowlshaw, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Advertisements within the Fancy will qualify for a special rate.

CLOSING DATE.—Closing date for entries is provisionally fixed for 14th August.



FELINE LUXURY IN PARIS

ONE of the most interesting reports of a cat show we have ever read was recently sent to the "Glasgow Herald" from Paris by Phyllis Jenkins on the occasion of the 22nd International Show organised by the newly formed Fédération Féline Française. Here are a few extracts:—

"Ton-heavy chandeliers of 'fin de siècle' exuberance poured down their light indiscriminately on world-famous champions and honest ratters alike (in giving their support to the Federation the municipality of Paris insist that the latter have a place in all shows), in smart white cages recently acquired by the Cat Club de Paris."

"As a frequenter of cat shows at home, where the plain white blanket is the only cage furnishing permitted in competitive exhibitions, I never fail to wonder at the imagination shown over here in the matter of cage decoration. It is a case of 'à qui mieux mieux.' White satin cushions, miniature Louis XVI beds, roses round the door, Leghorn hats turned upside down and ribbon trimmed, bunches of violets, exotic drapes—

there are recurring schemes. And on one occasion a cat I know had his cage done over for him by a well-known and very expensive Paris decorator."

Reporter Phyllis Jenkins observes with pleasure and interest the steady growth of the movement culminating this year in the re-creation of the Fédération, which embraces not only the Cat Club de Paris but a number of appendage clubs. She chatted with Mme. Bridgett, a prominent figure in Continental feline circles and a consistent winner with her famous cats, which include World Champion Southway Nicholas. It appears to be a common point of agreement that the quality of Blue and Cream Longhairs is very high at the French shows. The Chinchillas and Blue-eyed Whites are also good. The Siamese class, on the other hand, though one of the largest, "leaves much to be desired."

The French Federation has in mind to bring about a Continental Federation, bringing into line all the Continental clubs and societies, which will be modelled on our own Governing Council.



Associated Press

ANOTHER FASHION NOTE FROM PARIS

An attractive visitor to the 22nd International Show organised by the Fédération Féline Française is herself attracted to one of the exhibits, an ocelot or South American tiger cat.



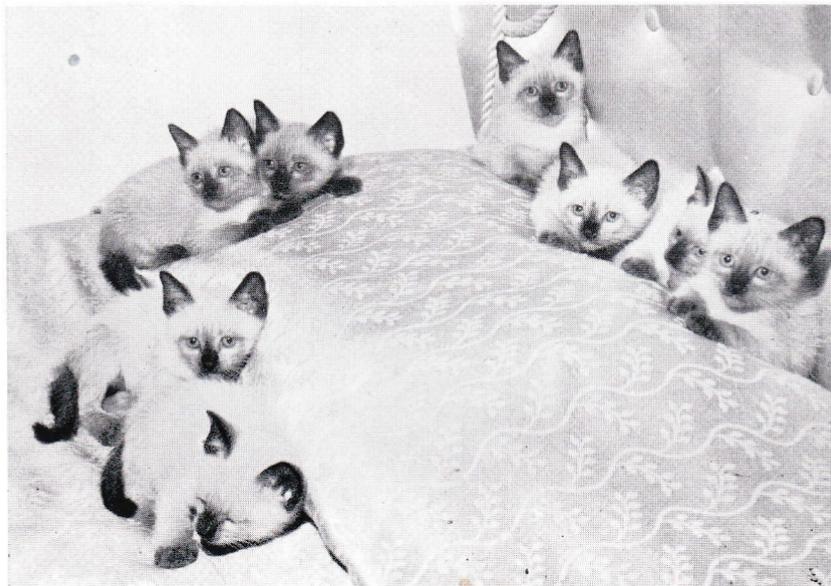
A prize winning litter of Blue Pointed Siamese (by Champion PINCOP AZURE KYM) proudly displayed by their breeder, Mrs. O. M. Lamb, Hon. Secretary of the Midland Counties Cat Club and Chairman of the Blue Pointed Siamese Cat Club.



Devon Express

WHAT'S INSIDE, MA ?

CHAMPION TRELYSTAN AMETHYST inspects the trophy whilst her handsome son TRELYSTAN JASPER looks on enquiringly. You can read more about these fine Brown Tabbies in the "Just Fancy" feature which follows later in this issue.

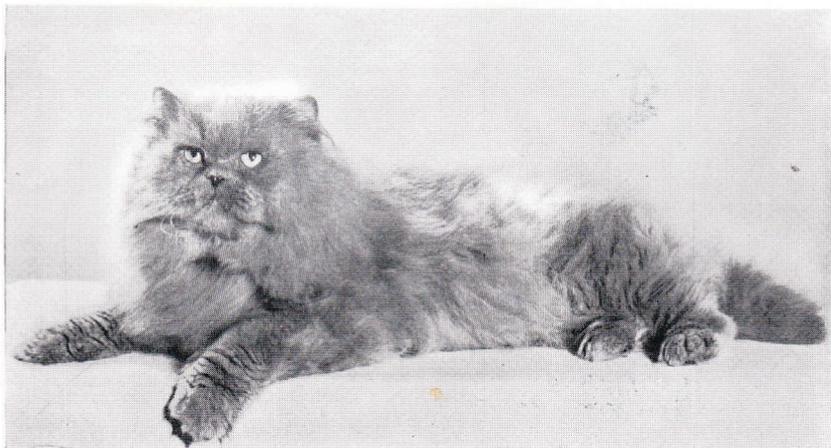


Natal Mercury

EIGHT SOUTH AFRICANS

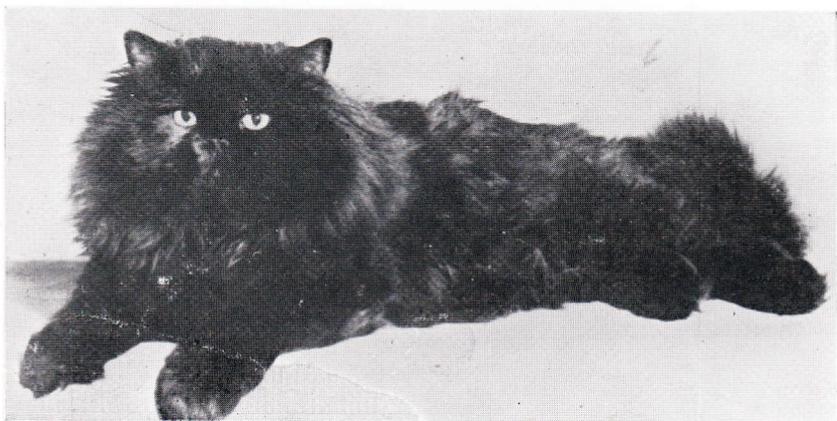
This delightful study of a Siamese litter (believed to be a record number for South Africa) comes to us from Mrs. D. G. Maunsell, Hon. Secretary of the Natal Cat Club. They are by her Rhodesian-bred stud Timsukeith of Forres ex Su San, owned by Mrs. Scott.

A pair of America's best...



Nellys, New York

Double Champion LAVENDER LIBERTY BEAU, a magnificent Blue male excelling in head, type and physique—see reference in this month's "Just Fancy" feature. Beau has been Best in Show on many occasions and is undoubtedly the favourite for the title of All American Cat of 1949.



Famous Black male Double Champion HERMSCREST NATASHA, belonging to Mrs. F. M. Herms, of Tarrytown, New York. Natasha has had the most distinguished show career and in January last English judge Mrs. Joan Thompson made him the Best Black Adult when she officiated at the New York Show of the Atlantic Cat Club.

Care & Management by **P. M. SODERBERG**

Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club
and author of "Cat Breeding and
General Management"

Where shall we Live?

MANY people who keep only one cat never have to give a thought to the question of housing, but when there are several cats the problem of accommodation has to be considered.

When left to themselves, cats are quite capable of providing comfortable quarters; in fact, they show a fine sense of discernment in knowing as of instinct which are the most comfortable chairs not only in themselves but in their situation.

There are disadvantages, however, in allowing a household pet to choose its own bed, for all cats will moults, whatever you may think about it, and it is annoying to have to brush your suit every time you have enjoyed the luxury of an armchair. I know this only too well because I am so often the victim of this piece of bad management. I don't complain, however, for the fault is entirely my own.

Nevertheless, it is a good plan to ensure that every cat has a bed which it knows to be its own and to which it will be quite happy to go on those occasions when it cannot be granted free run of the house. It is also a great advantage to have a bed to which the cat is accustomed, for should the animal ever be ill, nursing will be much more simple. Cats are conservative

creatures and rarely appreciate altered conditions, so it is just as well to be prepared for eventualities.

If the one and only cat is a normal female, some exclusive bed must be provided unless you prefer the lady to have her family underneath the eiderdown, a place which she will find eminently suitable. She may even prefer your hatbox and deposit her children on top of your best hat.

Two points have to be remembered when providing a suitable bed. It must be dry and it must also be draught proof. A wooden box which is only open on part of one side and which has a sill at least three inches deep is eminently suitable. Nor is there any need for such a bed to be an eyesore in the house, as it can be decorated and made attractive in any way which satisfies your individual fancy. It would not be wise, however, to cover this box with material attractive to those ever-active claws.

Where there are a number of cats, the question of housing is not one which can be neglected, and it is essential that careful thought should be given to the right sort of accommodation.

It sometimes happens that there is a spare room in the house which can be set aside for the

use of the cats, but in these days, when there is an acute housing problem for humans, spare rooms are at a premium.

When such a room is available it can be used for several queens and probably their families also, but a good deal of ingenuity is usually necessary to make this accommodation really satisfactory.

An ordinary room in a house, by reason of its dimensions, is not ideally suited to the purpose, but it can be used quite satisfactorily for a queen and her family, particularly at those times of the year when night temperatures are low. Even so, it is far better to get the family out in the fresh air as soon as possible after they are a month old.

Outdoor Catteries

One of the most serious objections to indoor catteries is that normally window space is totally inadequate, and there can be no argument about this fact—cats do like plenty of light and sunshine. Perhaps it is as well to say quite bluntly that no cat should be compelled to spend the greater part of its life in an indoor cattery.

Thus it naturally follows that if you keep a number of cats you must have outside catteries, unless, of course, all your pets are just ordinary cats which are allowed complete freedom both inside and outside the house.

Outside catteries are at the present time very expensive to buy and very difficult to make from the materials available, even if one has the ability. An outside cattery is, however, the only real solution.

It is possible to buy a suitable timber building and to modify it

in such a way that it is really satisfactory as a cat house. The floor space need not be very large, but it must be of sufficient size to allow the cat reasonable exercise on those days when it has to be confined because of bad weather. It is also necessary to give some thought to the comfort of the person who is to look after the cat. Thus the height must be sufficient to allow the average person to stand upright, for nothing can be more inconvenient than trying to work with bent knees or bowed head. A floor space of 6 ft. by 4 ft. with 6 ft. in height may be regarded as a satisfactory minimum.

Just any old wooden building will not do, for a good cat house must be weatherproof. If the house is of wood the boards should be tongued and grooved, otherwise it will be necessary to line the inside to make the building draught proof.

Scope for Artistry

If the house is to be used for breeding, then cages with small runs attached should be fitted to the walls and placed at a suitable height so that the attendant can work without difficulty during the first week or two after the litter is born. A cage and run on a stand is most useful, for when the kittens start to move about they must be at floor level and this can be arranged by removing the stand.

There should be shelves in front of all windows, for cats like to sit in such places to watch the world outside, and it is on these shelves that they will spend most of their time.

A higher shelf which cannot be reached by the cats should be

provided for brush and comb and any other odds and ends likely to be used.

Cat houses, if made of wood, should never be placed directly on the ground, for in this position the floor will usually be damp and sooner or later rats will get underneath and gnaw their way through the wood. It can be raised quite easily by using two bricks at each corner and also half way along each side.

The most important adjunct to this house is the outside run, which within reason can be as long as you like. Stoutly framed in wood, the sides of this run should be covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh wire netting. If a stud is to be kept, it is a good plan to have two thicknesses of netting, one fitted on to each side of the inch thick framework. This will pre-

vent any serious fighting with stray males.

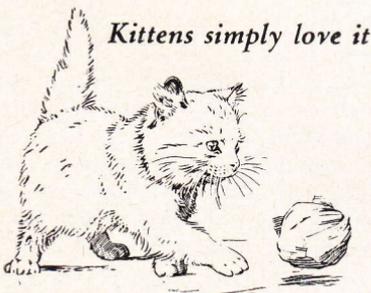
Part of the run should be roofed and also have some covering on the sides so that even in bad weather the cat will be able to get outside.

The arrangement and decoration of a run may be left to the artistic ability of the owner. Grass and crazy paving can produce a most attractive appearance and a growing shrub will add much to the decorative effect. Cats also like a solid log or tree trunk on which to exercise their claws.

If cats such as Blues are housed outside they must be protected from strong sun or coat colour will be ruined, but shade can be easily provided by growing suitable climbing plants outside the netting.

SPRATT'S CAT FOOD *needs no preparation*

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Tailpieces

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



TIPPY, a Black Shorthair pet living in Berlin (America), has mortgaged seven of his nine lives. Let's hope he will take great care of the two remaining. First, he was near death through starvation when found by his present owner. Then he swallowed a big worm and had to be saved from strangulation. Next he took a chance by chewing through an electric light cord. This burnt away some of his jaw. A 25 ft. fall on to a concrete sidewalk was the next adventure, and a little later on he had to have artificial respiration for the second time when he became wedged under the kitchen stove whilst the family were out of the house. Finally, there followed two more occasions when he was nearly strangled, once when his teeth became caught in his collar and once when he tackled too large a piece of veal!

Another report from America tells the remarkable story of three cats who have been living a life of luxury in a 16-roomed mansion in the best residential district of Providence, Rhode Island. Their right to occupy the house was established in the will left by an elderly animal lover, Elizabeth Bernie, who directed that her maid should receive a weekly payment to look after the cats. "Take care of my pets," the will directed. The probate court has now approved a new decision by the executors and heirs to pay the maid

a lump sum of £1,400 to take the cats to her own modest home and care for them for the remainder of their lives. The new occupant of the mansion will be an episcopal prelate.

Heroine of a big blaze at a rubber dump covering seven acres at Standstead Abbots, Herts, was Minnie, a cat who had her kittens in some part of the dump. Several times she was hauled back by firemen and workmen when she tried to get between the blazing stacks of rubber to rescue her kittens. One of the workmen said later that he thought Minnie had managed to take some of her babies to a safe spot.

A Paddington cat got far too interested in a tin of dog food. Its head got jammed and a tin opener and metal cutters had to be used before it could be freed from its embarrassing position.

The span of a cat's whiskers has been the subject of correspondence in a London newspaper. The lady who reported that her pet had a whisker span of 10 ins. was quickly challenged. I do not know the final outcome of the exchange of letters on the subject, but I do know that more than one owner claimed a whisker span of 11 ins. for their pet.

Sleeping boys in a home at Fay Gate, near Horsham, probably owe their lives to the scampering of a cat

about a flat occupied by one of the masters. The master, Mr. Frank Attwood, got out of bed to investigate the noise and found his living room in flames. The alarm was given and the boys sleeping underneath were awakened and ushered to safety.

I have news that Blackpool Show, now one of the largest open shows of the year and which takes place on 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th August, will include a Cat Section. If the experiment is successful the section will be extended next year. Cats will be on show on 15th August and the judge is to be Mrs. D. Brice-Webb. Mr. A. C. Jude has helped with the compilation of the classifications for some of the sections, including cats. Entries close 22nd July and schedules may be had from the Show Officer, Sefton Street, Blackpool.

The loss of a mother cat when her kits are still very young is a sad and trying experience. A Nottingham lady, when faced with this situation, turned foster-mother with happy results. The three motherless kits were 14 days old when their mother died. They were reared successfully by regular feeding every two hours with a mixture of glucose and warm milk.

Chocolate Pointed Siamese have been granted a separate breed number by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Henceforth they will be recognised as Breed No. 24B. The following standard of points has been fixed: Type—same as for Seal Point Siamese. Colour—points to be milk chocolate colour, the ears, paws, mask and tail to be as even in colour as possible. The ears should not be darker than the other points. Eyes—a good china blue (pale or slaty



The fine "tailpiece" in this picture belongs to LULU, Chinchilla female bred by Mrs. Chas. Polden, of Reigate, Surrey.

eyes to be discouraged). Body—ivory colour all over. Shading, if at all, to be the colour of points. Grey or dingy shading to be a fault. Texture and Condition—as for Seal Points.

A cat at a Sydney pet store is always on excellent terms with the other residents, which includes hundreds of birds.

MICKEY

Are you a Cat Lover?

IF SO, JOIN

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES CAT CLUB

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

REGULARLY every month, Mrs. Joan Thompson—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—will turn the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

15th May. A welcome letter from Miss E. Hydon. She has purchased from Mr. Anthony De Santis his very lovely Blue male Double Champion Lavender Liberty Beau, son of her own grand Ch. Lavender Liberty. Beau is a super cat and had the honour of being nine times Best Cat at consecutive shows in U.S.A. Last winter he and his sire had lovely pale coats of finest texture and both excel in head, type and ears.

Miss Hydon's queen by Ch. Deebank Michael is in kitten to him. I called this queen "Bright Eyes" when I stayed with Miss Hydon. She has the exceptional eyes for size and colour of her sire, Ch. Deebank Michael, and her dam, Miss Langston's late queen V.E. Day. Mrs. Cook, who bred some lovely Blacks and Blues in England before the war, which figure in a number of our pedigrees, will be visiting U.S.A. via Canada in September. We still have a male bred by Mrs. Cook at stud, namely Miss Sherlock's Black, Moor-mead Julian.

17th May. To the A.G.M. of the Blue Pointed Siamese Cat Club. The

Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Lamb, presented his report, which marked a year of progress so far as membership was concerned. The Club has wisely advertised to attract new members, but in a comparatively new club with a membership of about 50, this makes inroads into the Club funds. So it was decided to economise in advertising for the present and depend on members to get as much support as possible. Mrs. Phyllis Lauder was elected Club Delegate to the Governing Council.

Mrs. Lamb happened to show me Champion Pincop Azure Kym's photograph (reproduced on page 32). Could anything be sweeter or more appropriate than him soliciting help for the Club? May his appeal be heeded. Winner of six Challenge certificates, he has sired Mrs. Lamb's lovely Blue Point female Ch. Pincop Azure Zelda, who had just been mated to Miss Valerie Prentis's Blue Point Smokey Blue. Zelda has been awarded five Challenge Certificates.

Mrs. Lamb is a very active member of the Fancy, delegate for the Midland Counties Cat Club, of which she is also Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. I cannot remember her missing a Governing Council meeting. The Midland Counties Show at Birmingham is on Wednesday, 25th October, and the following judges have been invited to officiate: Siamese adults—Miss Kathleen Yorke; Siamese kittens—Miss V. Prentis; Blue adults—Mrs. Brunton; Blue kittens—Mr. J. Martin; Blacks, Whites, Creams,

Blue Creams—Mrs. Joan Thompson; Chinchillas, Smokes, etc.—Mr. Felix Tomlinson; Neuters and miscellaneous classes—Miss Kit Wilson. Further particulars of the Show will be willingly given by the Show Manager, Mrs. O. M. Lamb, Twylands, Grange Hill, Ha'lesowen, near Birmingham.

19th May. A flying visit from Mrs. Rose Oswald, Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club. She is very enthusiastic and very keen to have everything in apple-pie order for the Club Show under G.C. rules on 7th October, at which Mrs. Newton and Miss K. Wilson will judge. Mr. Oswald will be Show Manager.

A lending library of cat books and periodicals is being formed which will be very valuable to a club which has so many novice members anxious to learn about care and management. On 7th June a social evening will be held, with a talk by the President, Mrs. Anderson, on "Grooming for Show." If it is well attended there will be other meetings and talks. Mrs. Oswald has two neutered Siamese, one of whom was first at the E. and E. of S. Show in January, and she is now looking forward to the daughter of Ch. Inwood Shadow she has acquired from Mrs. McGregor, and the son of Ch. Prestwood Penglima Pertama from Mrs. Duncan Hindley. In addition, she has purchased a kitten from Mrs. K. R. Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Oswald will be pleased to give any information about the Club and forthcoming Show to anyone requesting it. Address: 20 Howe Street, Edinburgh, Scotland.

22nd May. To the Blue Persian Cat Society A.G.M. at the Goring Hotel, Grosvenor Gardens. Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson was elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee caused by the death of the Chairman, Mr.

Yeates. Mrs. Newton consented to act as Show Manager for the Championship Show on 3rd October, and the following judges were selected: Adult males—Mr. J. M. Martin; Adult females—Mrs. Joan Thompson; Male kittens—Mrs. D. Brice-Webb; Female kittens—Mrs. E. Oglethorpe. A pleasant meeting indeed with tea and cat chats.

24th May. To Euston to meet Mme. Bridgett returning from a visit to her friend Miss Royd Smith, who lives at Bettws-y-Coed. Mme. Bridgett had been judging at the Cat Club de Paris Ch. Show last month, and it was interesting to hear all about it. The Chinchilla Fleury of Allington (owned by Mme. Remande) became a full Champion and the winning Blue male was M. Forment's Talisman of Knott Hall. Miss Kathleen Yorke joined us at the Grosvenor Hotel for tea and Mme. Bridgett and myself had dinner together before she left on the night train to Paris, where she intended to stay a few days before returning to her home at Lausanne. She is judging at Milan in June and possibly at Copenhagen in October.

28th May. To Mrs. Macdonald's at Ewell, and on arrival found her enjoying a cat chat with Miss Manley in Raard Blue Sacchi's run. I wish every stud cat could enjoy such space and delightful surroundings. Several kittens were disporting themselves round us with Sacchi on guard. Raard Rhea had a very nice litter of five by Major Murrell's Ch. Slades Cross Shahid. One female was outstanding, apart from her good type, deep blue nicely set eyes, I admired her points, especially her front paws, which were as dark as her other points. Another queen was nursing two kittens by Ch. Hillcross Song, the male being very promising. Mrs. Towe has purchased him and we may see him later at the shows. The cat

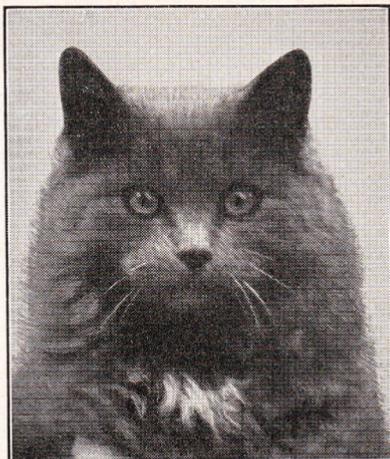
house and run next to Sacchi's was equally nice but a little smaller, and in this a Blue Pointed queen, Holtwood Morning Dew (bred by Mrs. Cordell) was nursing a lovely trio by Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Blue Seagull. Raard Lonelee had attractive Seal Point triplets by Mrs. Richardson's young male Morris Sirdar. I liked their fine, close coats, a quality noticeable in nearly all the Morris Siamese. Morris Sirdar is full brother to Mrs. Lamb's Ch. Morris Tudor and has been a very consistent winner.

When the news first broke about the Olympia Show, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald were somewhat startled to read they had 15 cats (one paper made it 20).

Imaginative reporters must have added in a few kittens as Mrs. Macdonald has only the few cats mentioned plus a buxom Tabby neuter which they befriended in the early days of the war when he was bombed out of his home. Their cats lead a happy home life and all the queens come and go as they please except, of course, when they are in season.

Mr. and Mrs. Towe and Mr. and Mrs. Cowlshaw arrived later and the Olympia Show was the theme of animated discussion. We have had real pleasure over this Show already. Very soon the schedules will be available to present the facts. We have been vastly amused by some of the rumours circulating, especially the story that the Show will be a glorified fun fair. Of course, the fact is it will be the usual dignified affair, but it will be embellished with some original ideas not inimical to the most important point, the comfort and safety of the cats themselves.

I was sorry to hear from Mrs. Towe that Mrs. Druce's fine male Ch. Hillcross Song is going to Cyprus for two years. He has been staying with Mrs. Towe and has sired some very good kittens. Major Druce will be



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stationed abroad so they have decided to take him with them as he is a great pet. Several of his kittens are booked for America, where Major and Mrs. Druce have many friends. Song's going will be a great loss to Siamese breeders, and it is interesting to recall the late Mr. Yeates's report about him when he awarded him his first Ch. certificate at the Siamese Cat Club Ch. Show last October: "Fine head and general type, coat lovely colour and texture, dark points, very good eyes." A female kitten, grand-daughter of Hillcross Fidelia, will accompany Song, and another Siamese bred by Mrs. Towe named Hillcross Ramsi left London Airport in April to be a stud cat in Cyprus.

Hillcross stock is now in Switzer-



Ch. PINCOP AZURE KYM in an appealing pose—see reference on page 29.

land, South Africa, California, and Canada, and two more are booked for U.S.A. Here's wishing them all long life and good fortune if they should be exhibited.

1st June. Croydon Cat Club held a tea party at Fleming's Restaurant, London. Over thirty guests attended—a small number for a Club with nearly 300 members. However, as many Fanciers have been tripping to London to attend A.G.M.s and other meetings nearly every week for the last three months, they may be seeking fresh fields and pastures new for their activities. It was an enjoyable meeting. Mrs. Bazeley gave an interesting talk and demonstration on grooming with a sweet-tempered Blue owned by Mrs. Vize and Miss C. Manley, a dissertation on preventive medicine and vivisection, subjects she has studied for many years. The Rev. Basil Rees, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council, corroborated many of her remarks and the guests were pleased he was able to be present.

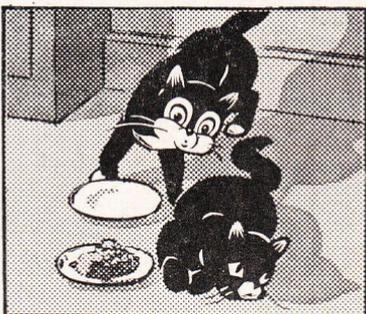
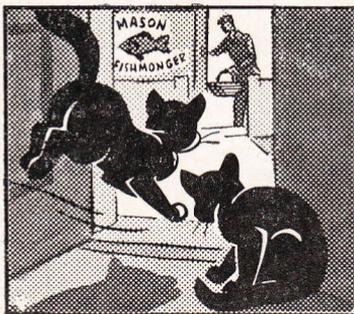
2nd June. A letter from Mr. Paul Hoeller, of Los Angeles, is interesting. He writes: "We had an All Breed Show at Glendale, California, on 18th and 19th February, when 72 Siamese were exhibited. We are hoping to have two, possibly three, Siamese Speciality Shows this coming summer and are looking forward to how many will be entered. We have some beautiful S.P. and B.P. Siamese here. Naturally, a lot of their forbears can be traced back to English stock. All serious breeders are striving for the perfect cat. Naturally, we won't attain perfection but we can improve. So far we have imported five cats from Britain, all lovely and good specimens. These are the Siamese Lemling English Rose (by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama, she won four firsts, Best Shorthair kitten at her first

show); Phillamore Prudence, a Russian Blue by Ch. Silvershoen Blue Peter. A pair of Abyssinians came from the Countess of Liverpool, Markland Takazze and M. Filari. Each took first and Blue ribbon in their class and Takazze Best Opposite Sex Kitten in Show, and last, but not least, Hillcross Piccolo (sired by Hillcross Picot and bred by Mrs. Towe) is a beautiful boy, but we received him too late as the show season has passed. Expect to receive one or two more, and want to use them to improve our lines, so you can see what we think of your English stock."

Thank you, Mr. Hoeller. We are always pleased to hear stock sent by our fellow Fanciers is satisfactory. When I talked with U.S.A. breeders I found they were on the whole very satisfied with stock imported from

England and realised, if occasionally a kitten did not turn out as well as anticipated, that even the most experienced breeders cannot guarantee that a kitten will always fulfil its early promise, especially if they leave at a very early age. They like the method of our judges mentioning faults in exhibits in their official reports, which helps them to steer clear of buying stock with faults which they wish to avoid. As English readers of the American cat journals know, no detailed judges' reports are issued, but only very brief facts such as Best Cat and Best Champion (name), Best Cat Opposite Sex, Best Novice, Best Kitten, etc., etc.

I was pleased to hear Mr. De Santis and others commenting on the friendly disposition of our English stock. I think this is a result of the constant handling most of our kittens



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get. They are accustomed to living *en famille*. Large catteries in England are exceptional and one of the few I know has nearly every room occupied by mothers and kittens, so they are quite used to humans and being picked up. Stud cats, of course, are a different proposition owing to their spraying propensities, but their houses and runs are rarely placed in remote corners and many Fanciers favour human contact.

3rd June. There are many kittens about waiting to make their bow at the summer shows. The season opens with a flourish with the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show on 19th July. Mrs. Newton (Joint Show Manager) has sold her house, Crab Tree, and is residing temporarily in a bungalow in the grounds, so her address is now Resthaven, Hamm Court, Weybridge. The judges for the South Western Counties Cat Club Show at the Trinity Memorial Hall, Torquay, on 27th September, will be Mrs. Newton, who will take all Longhairs except Chinchillas. This variety, Siamese and Shorthairs will be judged by myself and we shall share the side classes. The last show was a triumph for the optimism of the Committee, as the Club nearly went into liquidation in 1949, when they had only a small bank balance after the vicissitudes of the war. After the very successful show last summer the year closed with a balance at the bank of over £70. Miss Cathcart is now Hon. Treasurer as well as Hon. Secretary, and Miss Bate is Assistant Secretary. Mr. Stirling Webb is their Delegate to the G.C., so the future of the Club looks very promising. Miss Cathcart has had the great misfortune to lose her beautiful Brown Tabby stud Ch. Trelystan Garnetson from kidney trouble at 10½ years. He sired Ch. Trelystan Amethyst, who was expecting a family by Miss Fisher's

Ch. Dandy of Hanley. Garnetson also sired Trelystan Jasper. Our sympathies are extended to Miss Cathcart and I hope Jasper will help to take his sire's place as a stud and a show cat.

Another Club which is making good progress is the Lancashire and North-Western Counties. Their three post-war shows have been excellently managed by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. S. S. Culley, with the capable assistance of the Committee and Mrs. Brittlebank, who has given so much clerical help and assistance. The next show will be on 20th January at the Manchester Corn Exchange, and the judges will be Mrs. Newton, Miss Wentworth Fitzwilliam, myself and Miss Kit Wilson if her engagements permit. This is the first time four judges have officiated but Mrs. Culley considers they are needed now the entries have increased so much. Exhibitors like to know their awards as early as possible and judges will be free to talk to them earlier.

The classification will be extended and Blues, Creams, Siamese and some of the other varieties will have classes to themselves. The next show will also be the first held under G.C. rules, although previously the only rule contravened appears to have been the one referring to stewards. A majority of the Committee preferred exhibitors presenting their own cats to the judges. On 20th January rule 10A will be observed, viz.: "An exhibitor is not allowed to take any of his exhibits out of the pen nor to handle any of them during judging."

Mrs. Culley has purchased Thiepvall Wanderer from Mrs. Crickmore. He will be a very good outcross for northern queens, as he excels in type, has a sweet disposition and is very well grown. Sired by Ch. Southway Crusader ex Glenshee Powder Puff, he is brother to very lovely Thiepvall

Enchantress (winner of over 40 firsts) and her well-known sister, Mrs. Brice Webb's Thiepval Elf and my Starlet.

Mrs. Wridgway's Tortoiseshell queen, Salewheel Magog, was mated to a Cream and has produced three females, one a Tortoiseshell and two Creams. The latter are a great asset as Cream females are so scarce. Magog's litter sister Amber, owned by Mrs. Brittlebank, mated to Miss Jury's Red Tabby Sunny Boy of Carne, produced two Blacks, a Red and one Blue. Amber's Blue daughter, Amethyst, by a former mating, is visiting Mrs. Henn's Black male Baralan Samson.

4th June. Lovely summer day and Major Dugdale, Miss Webster and Mr. and Mrs. Marlow came to tea. What a change from the last time when we met in December gloom to search for Ch. Gloria in the purlieus of Paddington! To-day she was happily disporting herself in the garden as though nothing had happened.

I frequently have letters asking me

about her and requests for her kittens. Alas! I am afraid that is a pleasure we shall never have, and in the autumn she will probably be spayed. Briefly, the reason she does not breed is because, when she was 13 months, she went to be mated and about a fortnight later developed metritis. Although she has never had any return of the symptoms this insidious malady can damage the uterus so much at the time that a cat is unable afterwards to bear kittens.

At Olympia there is to be a section devoted to cat celebrities and, all being well, Gloria will appear. This section is to be in charge of that devoted cat lover Mr. Carman. The show career of the cats exhibited will not be taken into consideration, but only if they have been concerned in some unusual exploit.

Major Dugdale's Ch. Harpur Blue Boy is fit and well. I was pleased to hear he has sired a number of kittens and it will be interesting to see his progeny gracing the show pen this season. What a chancy thing it is



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130 WICKHAM WAY, BECKENHAM, KENT
Beckenham 6904

acquiring a Blue Champion! We work out pedigrees which should produce flyers and mate our cats accordingly, and the results are all too frequently not up to expectations. Yet Miss Webster looks into the window of a Brompton Road pet shop, sees two lovely pale blue kittens, buys one as a mate for Major Dugdale's queen Topsy, and just before his third birthday this kitten, Harpur Blue Boy, becomes full Champion at the Southern Counties Show! And in her judge's report Mrs. Oglethorpe stated: "A handsome, massive male of good type, profuse coat sound in comparison with others, medium blue, a good all-round cat."

Congratulations, Major Dugdale. Let us hope his Champion will continue to flourish for many years, especially as Lady Eardley Wilmot has had the misfortune to lose his celebrated sire, Timothy of Knott Hall, owing to a severe chill. Mrs. Marlow has enjoyed a remarkably successful breeding season with her Blues. Possessing six queens, one 11 years of age, she has reared 15 kittens from three of them in the early months, all of which were sold as soon as they were old enough to leave their mother. She now has two more litters of five each from the queens which did not breed early and four of these are sold. This is an exceptionally good breeding record for Blues nowadays. The diet of her cats is similar to several other breeders. Two solid meals a day of rabbit or lightly grilled horseflesh, fish three times a week, a limited amount of cereal in the form of Weetabix or All-bran, and fresh cows' milk or one of the infants' dried milk preparations, the latter, of course, always given as a separate feed two or three hours before or after the solid feeds.

All the kittens were by her own Blue male Neuburie Bambi, son of Blessed Mischief of Henley, who was

bred by Miss Davidson, who also bred Major Dugdale's Champion. With each kitten Mrs. Marlow sends a typed diet sheet giving details of times, quantities, and varieties of food, drinking water (to have lime water in it), material used for sanitary pans, etc. She finds these hints are very much appreciated and, of course, it is most sensible, as all breeders have met prospective owners of pets with the vaguest idea of what kittens require.

Mrs. Marlow is appalled at the number of breeders who send queens to be mated with parasitic ear canker. She is vigilant about her male's ears as this type of canker is very contagious. As a precaution she uses Antipeol, which she finds excellent as a preventive or a cure. I sympathise with her and have not forgotten my own experience of buying my first Blue twenty-six years ago, which had canker, fleas and tape worms. To me they appeared major complaints, and it is nauseating for a novice to have to cope with such maladies.

8th June. Attended a cheerful gathering of members of the newly formed Surrey and Sussex Cat Association, who look forward to their first show at Horsham in January. Vice-Presidents are Captain Wood, Mr. Tucker, and Mr. Macdonald, and a new working committee has been appointed consisting of Mrs. Price Hawkins, Mrs. Morrison, Miss Dolton, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Carman, Mrs. Rossell and Mrs. Black. Chairman is Mrs. Aitken and Mrs. Vize continues to act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer with assistance from Miss von Ullmann. This enthusiastic little company of cat lovers intend to "take the show to the people" in different parts of the two counties—an excellent idea and one calculated to spread a wider understanding and appreciation of cats, both aristocrats and ordinary.

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.

For Sale

THE DUNLOE RUSSIAN BLUES. Lovely Shorthaired Kittens.—Miss Rochford, 25 Rudall Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.3. Tel.: HAM 6498.

MALE AND FEMALE Kittens, Seal Point Siamese, beautiful specimens, born 13.5.50, sire Tschudi Buddha, dam Laurentide Leto.—Vincent. 76 Park Road, Woking.

SIAMESE Kittens for Sale, males £5 5s. each.—Apply Whitehead, Milnthorpe, North Common, Lewes. Tel., Newick 126.

CHOCOLATE POINT SIAMESE. The new variety, male and female kittens. Communicate after 5th July.—Denham, 1/48 Elsworth Road, N.W.3.

LOVELY SIAMESE Kittens, good pedigree, from 3 gns.—The Old Vicarage, Carhampton, Minehead, Somerset.

SIAMESE S.P. Kittens, sire Ch. Slades Cross Shahid, dam Welcot Chula Loo (winner), sire Pagan Emperor, registered, exhibition type.—Miss Moilliet, Well Cottage, St. Mary-in-the-Marsh, near Ashford, Kent.

RUSSIAN BLUES. Two beautiful Male Kittens, aged 8 weeks, strong, healthy, clean and intelligent. Sons of Champion Silvershoen Blue Peter and prize-winning queen.—Janke, 37 Argyll Road, Kensington, W.8. Western 1632.

SINGAN BLUE POINTED SIAMESE. Female Kitten, 4 months old, by Raard Blue Sacchi ex Josephine Anne, good eye colour and type, fine coat, 6 gns.—Mrs. Harrap, Kildare Cottage, Hill Gap Road, Eastbourne.

SUKIANGA SIAMESE. Seal Point Kittens for sale, identical breeding to 1st prize litters at S.C.C.C. Show, Jan., 1949, and National Show, Dec., 1949.—Varcoe, Little Birches, Greenhill Road, Otford, Kent.

S.P. SIAMESE Kittens, sired by Clonlost Yo-Yo, Best Exhibit in Show, Siamese C.C. Show, Oct., 1949. Prices from £5 5s.—Richard Warner, Little Foxes, Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent. Phone: Sevenoaks 4516.

At Stud

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

REDWALLS JACK FROST (Chinchilla), sire Ch. Foxburrow Tilli-Willi, dam Redwalls Snowstorm, prizewinner every time shown 1948/50.

MOLESEY ALI BABA (Cream Persian), sire Tweedledum of Dunesk, dam Molesey Mischief. Fee for each stud £2 2s. and carriage to registered queens only.—Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., Danehurst Cattery, Old Lane, St. Johns, Crowborough. Tel.: Crowborough 407.

BOURNESIDE CATTERY, Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey. Tel., Burgh Heath 2754. **PELHAM PUFFBALL,** Cream L.H., sire Ch. Widdington Warden, dam Pelham Hazel. Siring winning Creams and Blue Creams. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

THORNGRAFTON FOREVER AMBER (S.P. SIAMESE). Sire Holway Tito. Fee £2 2s. Kittens for sale, outstanding, 3 to 6 guineas.—Gregory, Claverton Down, Bath.

MORRIS SIRDAR, virile young Siamese stud, full brother to Ch. Morris Tudor and winner of 39 awards 1949-50 Season, available for few approved queens.—Mrs. M. W. Richardson, Grinstead, Otways Avenue, Ashtead, Surrey. Ashtead 3521.

(Continued on following page)

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Miscellaneous

WARNING TO OWNERS. Never dispose of cats unless you are certain they are going to a good home. There is a big demand for cats by the vivisectors and also by the fur trade. In both cases they are liable to suffer revolting cruelty. For further information apply:—National Anti-Vivisection Society, 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

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

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SMART ALL-ELASTIC CAT COLLARS, non-roping, colourful, washable, any size 2s., overseas orders invited.—Collier, Park House, Dorset Street, Southampton.

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Wanted

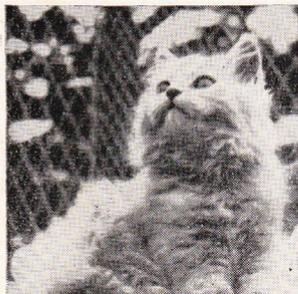
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FREE. Three-bedroomed modernised Country Cottage near Godalming to let, furnished, from 29th July to 26th August to someone experienced who is willing undertake care 3 Siamese cats and perhaps 2 dogs and few hens.—Box 19, "Our Cats" Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, S.W.9.

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Telephone: Crowborough 407

To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

The Children's Zoo

I expect many of you will be going to the London Zoo during the summer and when you are there most of you will go to the Children's Zoo. You will find that some of your old friends have disappeared and new ones have taken their place.

Brumas

I know all of you who do visit the London Zoo will want to see Brumas, the baby Polar bear. Hundreds of children go to see him every day and expect to find this baby white, but usually he looks very dirty. All children get dirty when they play and Brumas is no exception. Do you know if Brumas is a boy or a girl? I asked a number of children the other day and only about half of them knew that Brumas is a boy?

Hamsters

Yesterday I received a letter asking me if several Hamsters could be kept together in one cage. The answer is that only one can be put in each cage when they are grown up. They are very gentle and interesting little pets, but they can be very fierce with each other. We have one here which is usually very tame, but sometimes he takes it into his head to nip a finger. I think this is only his idea of fun.

Broadcast on Ants

I wonder if any of you heard Uncle Peter's broadcast on ants at eleven o'clock on 3rd May? I have had a lot of letters from children who wanted to know more about these little creatures and I wondered if any of you children who read this page were listening then.

Helga and Sheena

Both these cat friends of mine have presented me with families. Helga had seven, but Sheena had only one and that one was a red tabby gentleman. I left Helga with only two babies because I wanted her to have another family later in the year when I had chosen her husband for her. On this occasion she had decided to go off to find a gentleman friend of her own choosing.

When a cat has kittens it is unfair to take them all away, so remember this if your cat has kittens which you do not want. If you keep two little males the mother cat will be quite happy and when they are old enough you will not have much trouble in finding good homes for them.

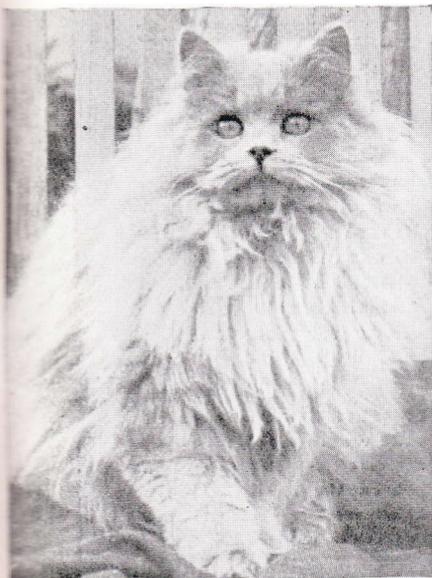
Uncle Peter

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 .*



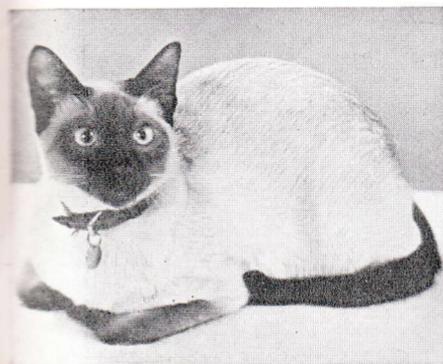
Mark Twain



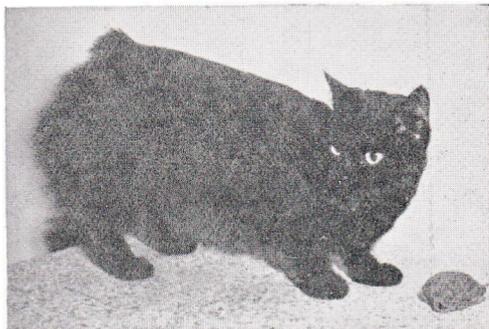
WESTBRIDGE FAY poses prettily. Bred and owned by Mrs. M. E. Bastow, of West Bridgford, Nottingham, Fay is by Southway Echo ex West-bridge Silver Rose.



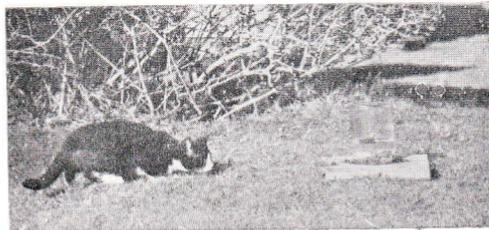
Winner of many show prizes, KARULINO PATRICK (Noel) appears to be talking to the photographer. He belongs to that devoted cat lover Miss I. Isambard-Owen, of Caernarvon, North Wales. Bred by Mrs. Atkins, Noel is by Idmiston Pale Puma ex Parkwood Sunshine.



Dr. M. E. Ledger, of Orpington, Kent, sends this picture of her pet, LADYHOLT GLENLIVET (Peterkins Ledger). Peterkin's nice type is explained by her distinguished parentage—Prestwick Prithie Pal ex Hardwick Panda.



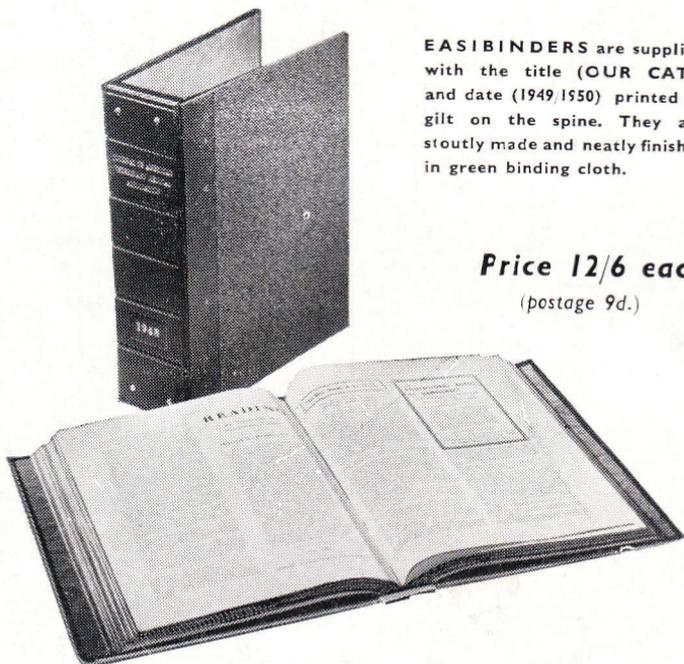
CHAMPION CARLS PRIDE OF GALUS is a sleek lady with a wonderful record. In 1947 she was All American Black Female Manx and she has never been defeated at the shows. Breeder and owner is Mrs. Carl A. Hahn, of St. Louis, U.S.A.



WING, caught in the act of bee stalking—an adventure that resulted in a sting!—is a black-and-white kitten born of a Siamese mother. Owner is Miss Elizabeth Grant, of Auchterless, Aberdeenshire.

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