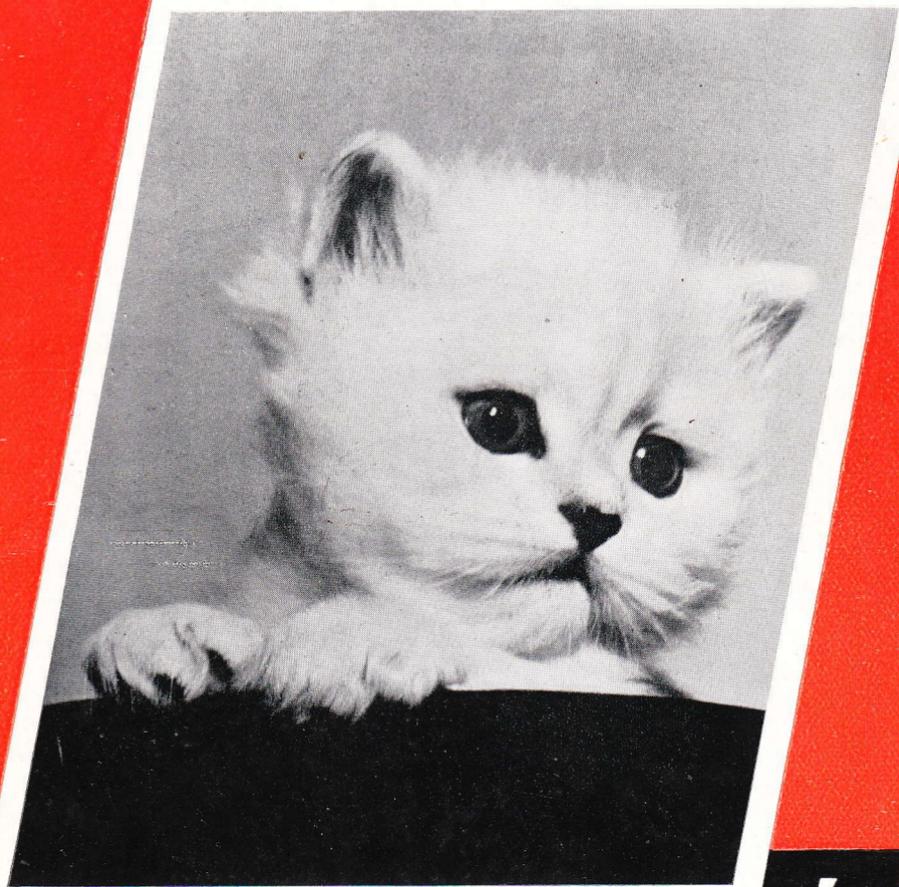


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



JULY 1950

1/6

A PLEA FOR BRITISH CATS (see page 3)

"Look at my lovely kittens-



OF COURSE
WE ALL EAT
KIT-E-KAT"

*New, bandy
tinned food
solves all problems
of cat nutrition*

KIT-E-KIT has *everything* a cat needs for health, liveliness and beauty. It has protein, carbohydrate, vitamins and minerals combined in the tastiest dish a cat ever smelt! Kit-E-Kat never fails to become a cat's favourite food—if it is introduced gradually into the diet.



Cats are conservative creatures but this complete cat food soon wins them. And no wonder. It is made from whole fresh fish, fortified with liver and cooked with wholemeal cereal.

Get a tin today. Cooked, ready to serve, 10½d. Kit-E-Kat is so rich and nourishing that it should be mixed with ordinary house scraps.

KIT-E-KAT will give your cat

Soft, glossy coat

Sparkling eyes

Alertness and energy



BUY IT AT GROCERS, CHEMISTS, CORN CHANDLERS, LARGE STORES

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 2 No. 7

JULY 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

THANKS ARE DUE

MY thanks are due to those readers who during the past few weeks have responded to the appeal for help in our circulation drive. I would like each one to know how much their co-operation is appreciated, and if on occasion due acknowledgment in the post is not forthcoming they may rest assured that necessary action has been taken at this end.

This pin-pointing of cat lovers in various parts of the world is an important factor in circulation building and it is possible only through the collaboration of readers. A publication of our size cannot afford to spend large sums in publicity nor can it by reason of its specialised character hope to win and maintain a prominent place on the display counters of the distributing traders. So the circulation build-up becomes a personal affair.

Please continue with the names and addresses. We have the specimen copies available to send out each month.

EDITOR



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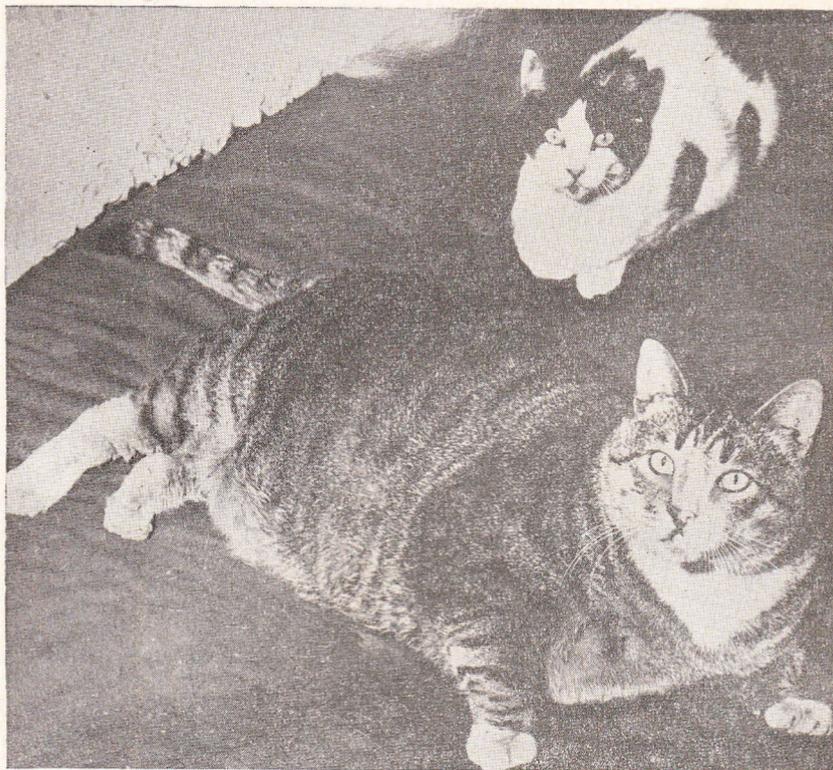
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We are indebted for the lovely kitten study on our front cover to Miss Lucile Laird, who conducts the well-known Purr Mew Cattery at San Bernardino, California, U.S.A.



AMERICA'S SUPER CAT

We present as promised a close-up of CLAUS, America's champion heavyweight, who weighs 40 lbs. and has a girth measurement of 36 ins. The cat in the background is his litter sister. The story of Claus (the children who call to see him call him Santa Claus) was told in our March issue. How much does the British champion weigh? An attempt to find the answer is to be made at the Crystal Cat Show at Olympia in September when substantial prizes will be awarded to the winners in the Heavyweight Competition. We are indebted to Mrs. Alice M. Clark, President of the Pacific Cat Club (who is sponsoring Claus's appearances at American shows) for this excellent picture of an extraordinary cat. Mrs. Clark writes to say that Claus has recently had a thorough overhaul at the hands of the veterinary surgeon.

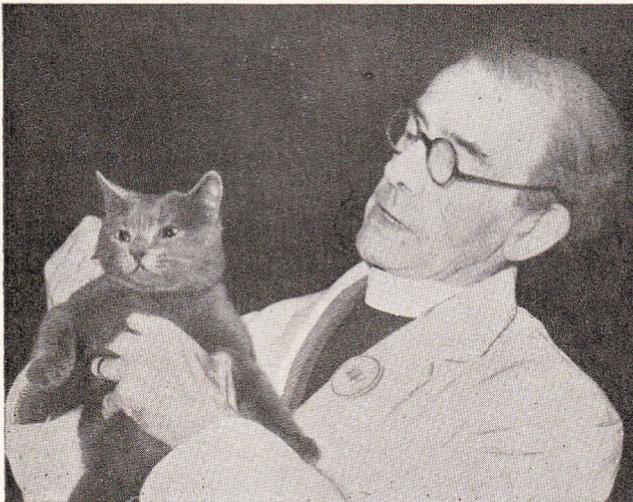
WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

REV. BASIL REES

“THE interest in British Shorthairs is reviving. Rarely a show is held without some enquiries and it is not surprising, for the British cat has much to commend itself, both as an ideal pet and also as a breeding and exhibiting proposition. It is hardy, attractive, very affectionate, placid and easy to handle, yet remarkably alert and intelligent. . . . I believe the British cat offers a wide scope of interest, pleasure and profit to many breeders, and the fact that there are relatively few good British cats, opens out a field for the new breeder, who would be well advised to launch out on to one of the lesser bred varieties rather than start up on a breed of which there are literally hundreds of cats and kittens of well-known and established strains and of even international repute. By so doing not only will a great service be done to the Fancy but pleasure and satisfaction will be experienced in seeing a breed in which interest has been centred gradually but none the less surely coming to the fore.”

We know that this new note in our series will give universal satisfaction to home readers and arouse wide general interest even though it means that for once in a while the fashionable aristocrats have to take a back seat. For some time past we have been seeking material that would serve to focus attention on some of “the forgotten breeds,” believing as we do that over-concentration in any single direction is not a healthy trend for a Fancy. It is far better to have breed interest evenly spread.

Our opening quotation will doubtless be recognised by many Fanciers since it is taken from the interesting little booklet compiled by Mr. Rees, who has no peer in so far as enthusiasm for the British Shorthair cat is



Keystone Agency

The Rev. Rees with Dunloe Kabushin, Miss M. Rochford's Russian Blue male, whom he judged at the Southern Counties Cat Club Show last January.

concerned. It is to him that we are indebted for a little new light on an old subject.

For many years now Mr. Rees has been one of a little band of stalwarts who have worked diligently and unselfishly to whip up interest in the varieties of indigenous Shorthairs. There are ten recognised varieties: four are Sells (Blacks, Whites, Creams and Blues), three are Tabbies (Red, Silver and Brown), and the rest Tortoiseshells, Tortoiseshell and Whites and Manx. An attractive list, you must surely agree?

Not Nondescript

In the days before the war there were several well-known Shorthair catteries, and in America and on the Continent to-day there are many Silver Tabbies, Blue Shorthairs and Manx of superlative quality. And Mr. Rees very rightly points out that as this country is the ancestral home of cat breeding it is a deplorable fact that so much interest in our lovely varieties of Shorthair cats has died out. He is particularly anxious to dispel the erroneous idea which seems to exist in the minds of some people that there are no pedigree British cats.

It would give us considerable pleasure if this month's feature results in the lighting of a spark of responsiveness here and there. Those who venture to seek advice and guidance will find it enthusiastically bestowed by the Rev. Rees, than whom no one is better qualified to give it. His work for the Fancy received special recognition this year when he was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Governing Council. He is also Chairman of the National Cat Club and the Shorthaired Cat

Society and Manx Club, and, of course, he holds qualifications to judge many of the breeds.

In his interview with OUR CATS Mr. Rees kindly revealed that although he had innumerable pets in his boyhood days—they ranged from a tortoise to a donkey—it was always the cat or kitten that occupied the supreme position in his affection and interest. His first home was on the borders of Epping Forest—a fact which later in life suggested to him the prefix of Sylvan—and the garden was frequently a dumping ground for unwanted felines. It was no uncommon sight to see ten or a dozen strays enjoying the hospitality of his father's vicarage. As far as the youngster Basil was concerned, it was a case of "the more the merrier!"

Early Bad Luck

His affection for cats continued without intermission through many changing circumstances until, in 1930, he lost two very dear pets through infectious enteritis. This tragedy was to mark the commencement of his entry into the Cat Fancy and serious breeding activities.

Mr. Rees then purchased a Blue Longhair, a fair specimen with wonderful eye colour. He bred from her and some of her progeny were shown. Although his attempts at showing met with little success, he was encouraged to go on by a kindly judge and he sent some of his queens to various noted studs of those days—Son o' Flick, Townfield Harmony, etc. But in 1935 he had a great urge for a Shorthair Blue and after many enquiries and much advertising, he obtained from that famous breeder Mrs.

Sharman, Champion Elizabeth Ann of Coryton, who had a great show career and had been a reliable breeder,

Elizabeth Ann was mated when she changed ownership but, alas! she missed. A second mating resulted similarly and then a third. She never had another litter—such are the twists of fortune in cat breeding! Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Sharman sent as a gift to Mr. Rees one of her Tortie queens, Champion Chaterlaine, a cat with a fine show record. "I have never seen her equal since nor I think has anyone else," remarked Mr. Rees, "and for that gift and for her help, kindness and advice I owe Mrs. Sharman a great debt of gratitude."

Chaterlaine was mated to a Black stud, Brittas of Coryton, and produced in her litter two Creams, one Black and one Blue. One of the Creams went to Mrs. Sharman and the other three were shown at the National Show where Mr. Rees got what has probably been one of his greatest thrills. The little Black queen, afterwards to become Ch. Sylvan Twinkle, had three red cards on her pen and had won the award for the best British kitten in the Show. Of the remaining kittens, the Cream and Black were retained and the Blue male was sold.

This unexpected success served to stimulate his interest in British Shorthairs as a whole, but the Rev. Rees had not yet got the Blue queen which he was most keen to obtain. In 1937, however, two Blues (a male and a queen) were for sale at the Kensington Kitten Show. The male was quickly snapped up, but not so the lady. In fact, nobody

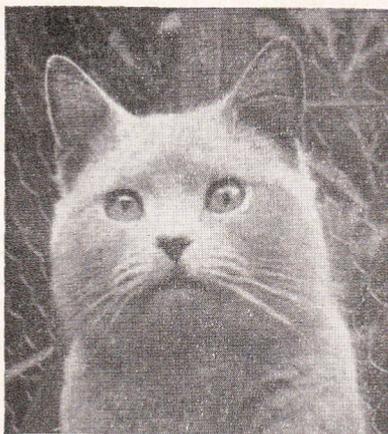
would look at the queen. But Mr. Rees did and so secured the best bargain he has ever had in or out of the Fancy. The kitten was Moonlight, bred by Mrs. Bolton, and the price was a pound!

Moonlight was duly shown at Tunbridge Wells under Mrs. Slingsby, who in her report described her as "the best Blue kitten I have seen for years."



CHAMPION SYLVAN TWINKLE,
one of the earliest of the Sylvan
Shorthairs.

And from that little queen the Rev. Rees has built up his stock of Blues. Moonlight won her first and only Challenge Certificate in 1938 at the Southern Counties Show under Mrs. Wade, but when mated to Ch. Campermudge produced two kittens—Sylvan Birdiecoat and Sylvan Wendy—both of whom became



CHAMPION SYLVAN JOEY.

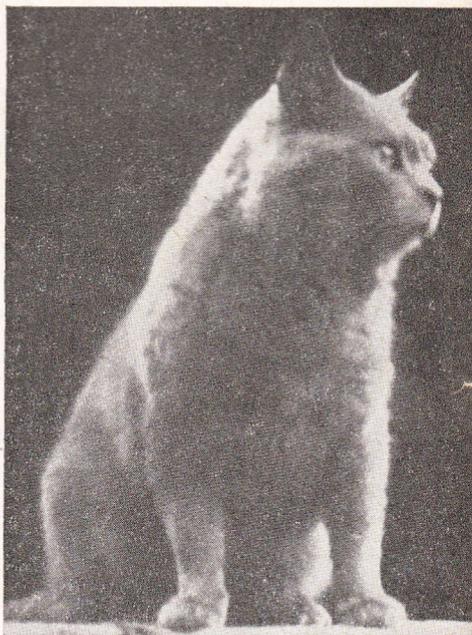
consistent winners. The former, when mated to Sylvan Peter, produced Joey.

The war put a stop to progress. Food became short and to get an outcross was well-nigh impossible. But Mr. Rees managed to hang on to some of his stock and no casualties were suffered through enemy action. His greatest success has, of course, been Ch. Sylvan Joey, a war baby who has had a wonderful show career. Joey has won over 50 prizes, including 30 firsts and five Challenge Certificates.

Mr. Rees has never been a one-breed man. Among the Shorthair varieties he has bred Blacks, Torties, Red Tabbies, and until last year, when the last descendant of his original queen passed on, he has always had a Blue Longhair. And at one period he bred from a Tortie Longhair which was mated to Puck of Cardonald. He has never had Siamese although he confesses that he has always been attracted by them.

Finally, a few words of advice from one who is well qualified to

give it: "I am sometimes asked as to what advice I would give to a novice," he said. "I would say start with the best you can get. Take up a variety which is not extensively bred (this gives you greater scope), show your cats and kittens, but do not expect always to be at the top. When you are beaten, find out where the winner is superior to yours and get to know your breed from every possible angle. Join as many clubs as you can; it will help you and especially so in the case of a club that caters for your particular breed. The knowledge you will gain by meeting other breeders and the hearing of their experiences will be of the utmost value, and, what is more, you will—as I have done—make many and good friends."



SYLVAN QUICKEE, British Blue male.

Tenth Instalment in the series dealing with **Colour Inheritance**

By ALBERT C. JUDE

THE main aim of the breeder is to produce an animal which will conform to the standard for the breed. In actual practice, of course, this is never achieved. Even in the oldest and best bred varieties small differences between individuals are always found. No two animals of a breed are quite alike. In carelessly or ignorantly bred strains wide differences between members of the same litter sometimes occur.

How can a study of the modern science of genetics assist the practical person to get rid of those differences? To those who know nothing of that science, the question may seem a simple one to which a short answer can be given. But really, it is much on a line with asking how a knowledge of anatomy can be of use to a doctor, or, for that matter, how a knowledge of the "three Rs" may be of use to a schoolboy in later life! A complete answer is impossible.

Nevertheless, an attempt will be made in this article to give some information which may be found useful in the hope that those who know little or nothing about genetics in general and cat genetics in particular, may be tempted to pursue their studies further.

Let us begin with what, for the sake of convenience, may be called the small differences, bearing in mind that on the show bench such differences may well be of considerable importance. One of the most important of these consists in different shades of the same colour. In the Blue Persian, for example, there is a tendency to strive for a solid light shade, as opposed to a very dark

one; whereas in some other colours the object is to produce real depth of colour.

How, then, are different shades of the same colour inherited? Well, at present no exact answer can be given, but, broadly speaking, it seems clear that deep shade is dominant to light, whilst "modifying" genes alter this result to produce lighter and darker "lights" and "darks." The practical importance of this is that it is wrong to believe that outcrossing brings the improvement desired in the best possible way. It is really preferable and safer to keep "inside the breed," and select for the desired improvement.

Dominance of "dark" shade over "light" must not be misinterpreted. In effect, it means that if "darks" and "lights" were allowed to breed together freely, the "darks" would eventually be the rule. These "darks," however, would probably not have the depth of colour produced by the Fancier who by selection can force somewhat beyond the natural. In controlled breeding within a breed one has to expect intermediates from the "dark" to "light" matings, with a tendency to the dominant "dark" shade. In other words, it needs hard selection to produce and maintain the very light shade, because the natural pull is to "darks." It should be pointed out that differences of blackness exist in a breed, but which may only be apparent when these blacks are placed side by side for inspection.

Another "small" difference of common occurrence is that of white hairs, which are to be found in practically all self-coloured cats in greater

or less numbers. Such white hairs represent a mild expression of the "silver" character and, like shade of colour, their inheritance depends on a gene which is mainly dominant, but which is susceptible of variation due to "modifiers." In this case, too, the best way of getting rid of the trouble is by way of selection within the breed.

Coat Lengths

"Longhair," as in Persians, behaves as a simple recessive to "shorthair," as expressed in the British Blue. If a pure-bred Longhair is mated to a pure-bred Shorthair the kittens will have the dominant short type of coat. These youngsters crossed back to Shorthair will produce dominant "shorts," recessive "longs" and some intermediates. When interbreeding either "pure" Persians or Shorthairs one gets the same kind of result in coat lengths, as was stated for shades of colour. And here, too, "modifying" genes lead to small coat length differences, so that both long and short "longs" and long and short "shorts" occur. Once more, simple selection inside the breed offers best prospects for big improvements.

We turn now to the big differences between individuals which are sometimes seen in litters. These are nearly always due to the reappearance of a recessive character, and in such a case the most important thing to remember about them is that *both* parents are responsible for them.

Let us take an example. A Blue Pointed Siamese is recessive to Seal Pointed; that is to say, a Seal Pointed Siamese may be a "carrier" of the gene for Blue Pointed and show no outward and visible sign of this whatsoever. Normally, Seal Pointed Siamese will breed true; only a few individuals may be "carriers" of the gene for Blue. Consequently,

when the breeder mates any pair of Seal Pointed together, the chance that *both* of them will be "carriers" is small.

In such a case, he is much more likely to select either two "non-carriers," or a "carrier" and a "non-carrier," than two "carriers." Only rarely will the cats which he selects both be "carriers." And so, only rarely are Blue Pointed likely to occur from two Seal Pointed. Moreover, even if two carriers are selected, the appearance of Blue Pointed kittens is not a certainty, for the chances are that only one kitten in four will be the recessive Blue Pointed, and "one in four" chances do not always come off, even in litters of seven or eight! One in four is only a long-term average. It also follows from the foregoing that if the breeder is lucky, and if he always happens to select for his stud an animal which is a "non-carrier," he will never get any of the recessives at all.

Unwanted Recessives

But now suppose that the breeder is unlucky and that Nature in her perversity lands him with a stud which is in all other respects of surpassing beauty, but which (unsuspected by him) happens to be a carrier of the Blue Pointed recessive, what is likely to happen? Well, inasmuch as we are supposing that most of his visiting queens are non-carriers, nothing untoward is likely to happen for some little time, though when a carrier queen is mated to him an occasional Blue Pointed will appear.

But when we consider his sons and daughters, and when we remember that half of these are likely to be carriers, it is easy to see that in the course of a year or two the number of the recessives which appear is likely to be greatly increased.

This is what constantly happens in the case of all unwanted recessive characters. The case I have quoted as example is not a very serious one

by comparison with the dangers which can be broadcast by some recessives, even to the "carrier" itself. It has got to be remembered that besides outward form and colour we deal with genes for health and reproduction too. And also, that a cat may be carrying far more than just one unwanted recessive!

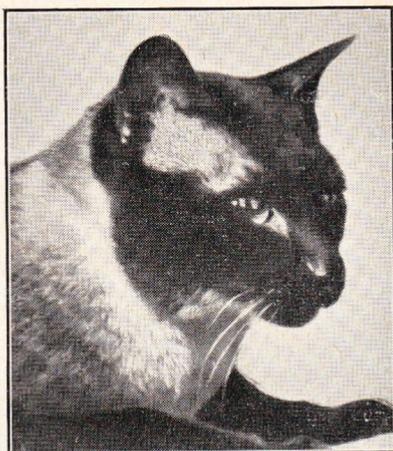
Next month the getting rid of unwanted recessives will be dealt with.



"SIAMESE CATS"

Just as we are about to go to press with this issue we have received a review copy of Phyllis Lauder's new book under the above title. It is to be published on the 26th of this month by Williams & Norgate at 6s., and if we may borrow a phrase from the radio humorist "Stinker" Murdoch it should "fill a long-felt want." Strangely enough, although the Siamese to-day is riding along on the top of a popularity wave, there is very little good literature available about him. Mrs. Lauder's book, which we propose to deal with at greater length in a later issue, will go a long way towards meeting the deficiency. It covers all aspects of the breed from historical notes to genetic inheritance and ends with a whimsical chapter on the Siamese in its role as a pet and companion. It is the kind of book that might with advantage go out with every kitten to its new home.

Mrs. Duncan Hindley contributes the foreword. She stresses the very thing that all who read this valuable contribution on Siamese will readily appreciate. "Phyllis Lauder," she writes, "has the art of describing what other people can only think, and with her keen sense of humour, even the driest details are set forth in a pleasing manner."



WILLOWGRANGE BOOMERANG
who, with Willowgrange Shooting Star, was a prominent prize winner at the Scottish Cat Club Show (Glasgow), November, 1949

Miss J. M. Tomblin of 32 Queen Mary Avenue, Glasgow, owner-breeder of the Willowgrange Siamese, writes—

"I have used Kit-zyme since last November and I find my cats, even though kept indoors all through the winter, are very fit indeed.

I am particularly pleased that one of my cats, who was subject to spells of diarrhoea, has had no further trouble in this respect since I started giving your tablets.

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A page for the proletarian puss No. 4



Associated Press

WHO'LL TAKE US HOME ?

These little ones await adoption at an animal shelter. Who could resist the eager look of the lucky black kitten who has got himself a place "well up the front"? He might well be saying, "Whoever keeps a black cat will prosper and grow fat." And the demure little tabby with the pleading eyes is probably reminding prospective owners that "Tabby cats are grave and stately, and they like to act sedately." Let's hope they were all lucky!

First Steps to Fitness

By CATHERINE MANLEY

SEPTEMBER this year will be a very special month for cat lovers and two days will be red-letter days for the feline world. On the 20th and 21st aristocrats of the cat world will be on show at Olympia and rubbing shoulders with them will be the domestic cats, equally if not more beloved, and each anxious to look its best in such exalted company.

This article is not intended for the breeder who knows all the tricks of the trade and can present a cat in faultless show condition. It is aimed at the owners of the Tibs, the Jimmys, the Smuts and the Gingers who have never before aspired to the show pen. To each of them their pet is the loveliest creature in the world, but few doubtless know how to prepare him for such an important date. Look his best he must, but how to start about it? That's the question I will attempt to answer.

The easiest cat to show is undoubtedly the Shorthair cat. He does keep a reasonably handsome coat throughout the year and misses the worst ravages of the moulting season. Spring and autumn are the chief seasons when the coat is shed—in spring to prepare a lighter coat for summer and in autumn a thicker one for the winter.

For a cat to look his very best in the show pen he needs attention throughout the 365 days of the year. Now it is July, so we must do the best in the time left at our disposal. The first thing to do is to ensure

that his bodily condition is as good as it can be. Unless a cat is 100 per cent. fit it is useless to expect him to have either a nicely rounded figure or a coat with the bloom of health upon it. By "nicely rounded" I do not mean "bloated," I mean a well-covered backbone and an appearance of well-being.

This can only be achieved by regular and sensible feeding and attention to a few things the ordinary owner may overlook. For example, if your cat is fed on soft food and does not get a chop or small unsplinterable bone to help him clean his teeth, then cakes of tartar occur. The food is bolted instead of being torn up as it should be, and indigestion results. Cats do not masticate as we do, and most of the digestive processes take place in the stomach itself. If the teeth are encrusted with tartar the gums become inflamed, a breeding ground for bacteria which are swallowed with the food and saliva, and your cat is not 100 per cent fit, but tends to become thin and scraggy. If the condition is allowed to continue he may even dribble, a fatal happening for a show cat! So if your cat is inclined to be thin, open his mouth and see if all is well. If not, a visit to a veterinary surgeon or a clinic run by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons will quickly put matters right and an improved condition will be apparent in a short while.

Many cats suffer throughout their lives from internal parasites, either the tape or the round worm, without their owners' suspicions being aroused. No cat can show either a good coat or good bodily condition when

affected by these parasites. They upset the digestion, deprive the cat of the full value of its food, they may cause either constipation or diarrhoea, and by the toxins they liberate poison the blood stream and cause eczema spots with resultant irritation and unsightly bare patches. The safest method to combat either kind of worm is garlic. Garlic oil capsules may be obtained from all health food stores, and one given nightly over a long period—even up to a month or two—will effect a very great improvement in coat and general condition. Tablets containing a tonic herb, Fenugreek, with garlic can be obtained from Organic Herbal Products, Ltd., 33, Cornhill, Bridgwater, Somerset, if preferred.

Neglected Ears

Finally, fleas must be removed and ears cleaned before a cat enters the show pen. Again the safest method to remove the former is to comb and comb again with a fine scurf comb. A metal one is better as the teeth will not break so easily. A persistent use of the comb will remove both fleas, their eggs, and the unsightly flea "dirts" which ruin the appearance of the coat. This is a much more satisfactory method of attack than to use a flea powder. Many of these nowadays contain D.D.T., which is poisonous to the cat and unsafe to use.

It is curious how many cat owners neglect their cats' ears. They are most important, as dirty ears cause great irritation and discomfort, and if allowed to become really bad can seriously interfere with the cat's gait by destroying the sense of balance. From a show point of view their neglect is disastrous, as a scratched ear in the attempt to alleviate irritation quickly becomes denuded of hair. Bare ears are to be avoided at all costs, as the blood supply to the

outer ear is by small capillaries and is not sufficient to repair serious damage. Very slight attention is needed weekly to an ear that has been kept clean from kittenhood. It needs wiping slightly with cotton-wool to remove surplus wax that may be there. That is all.

How to Clean

A neglected ear is quite a different proposition. It must be attended to now and daily before Olympia if the cat is to look his best. If there is considerable irritation present, then the best method is to prepare the ears before cleaning by inserting Antipeol ointment and massaging the base of the ear externally so that the ointment spreads over as large a surface as possible. Leave this for 24 hours before commencing the cleaning proper. It will allay irritation and soreness and make the cat more amenable to treatment. After 24 hours, clean the ears thoroughly of any traces of the ointment by swabbing with cottonwool on the finger. Then carefully cover the end of an orange stick with fresh cottonwool, dip the orange stick into a solution of water and witch hazel in equal proportions, and proceed to clean the ears thoroughly, renewing the cottonwool after each operation.

Great care must be taken to perform this task gently, or damage can be caused which may be irreparable if force is used. If the tip of the ear is held gently between the forefinger and thumb of the left hand and drawn upwards, the ear forms a sort of pocket and access of the orange stick is rendered easier. After thoroughly cleansing in this manner, insert a little more Antipeol ointment, massage the base of the ear as before, and leave in until the next day, when the whole operation must be repeated. If the irritation is severe, it may be necessary to solicit

the help of someone to imprison the cat's hind legs, as he will attempt to assist throughout by violent scratching, which is detrimental to the ear and the operator!

All these details must be attended to, preferably before the coat itself is dealt with, but certainly at the same time. Next month I will have something to say about grooming.



Melbourne has Record Shows

NEWS comes to us by air mail that the Melbourne (Australia) Cat Club held its 19th Annual Championship Show at the Royal Show Ground, Ascot Vale, Melbourne. It was one of the biggest that has been held in the city for over 25 years, even bigger than last year's show in Melbourne Town Hall. There were 90 cats on view, making 140 entries in 20 sections.

One of the most interesting exhibits was a Russian Blue female, Mouche-Mokey, imported by Mrs. Chase, which won a first in its class. It is many a long year since a cat of this variety has been seen at a Melbourne show, and it was a centre of attraction all through the day. Entries in the Siamese section numbered 15 and a fine litter of four shown by Mrs. Dale were popular winners. Other winning exhibits in this section were Penelope of Arden, a young female owned by Major and Mrs. S. T. V. Coles, and the same exhibitors' Bambania of Arden.

The Chinchillas were the cause of much discussion for never has there been such keen competition in this section, mainly between locally bred and imported cats. Miss E. A. Beattie with her pair, Craigholme

Kiwi and Sweet Karrie of Ellington, won a first and three seconds. Mrs. Hawkes's imported pair, Sarisbury Lorenzo and Redwalls Fleurette, captured eight firsts. Lorenzo was also Best Exhibit in Show and these two young Chinchillas were also voted Best Pair in Show.

Other well-supported classes were Blue Longhairs, Red Tabby Persians, Creams and Blue-eyed Whites. Miss Gubbins had a strong entry of the last named, winning five firsts and a second.

Much of the success of the Show was due to the fine work of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. L. Buzacott, who was assisted by Mr. M. J. Bortnoski, the Hon. Treasurer, and members of the Committee. It furnished proof of a growing interest in pedigree cats in Australia and the Club is now looking forward with justifiable optimism to its Kitten Parade in November next.

A later message received reports that the Siamese Cat Show which followed in Melbourne broke all previous attendance records. Over 3,000 people paid for admission and we are hoping to receive fuller details in time for publication in our next issue. Well done, Australia!

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

AID TO PLANNED BREEDING

There is evidently a keen interest in genetics arising in the Cat Fancy. The material for study to improve our understanding of this subject is breeding records. Once one has a clue to the mechanism of the transmission of inherited characteristics from parents to offspring, pedigrees are the source of all further enlightenment and make a fascinating study.

Might I suggest a column in *OUR CATS* where breeders could record very briefly the details of their cross-matings and the resulting litters. The chief points of interest, as I see it, would be colour and its distribution in the coat, length of fur, eye colour and body type. The last characteristic is the most difficult to assess and describe briefly and yet accurately, and would therefore give the least valuable information. The important practical point is that "failures" may be even more informative than "successes," so that dead kittens, still more whole litters that fail to survive, should be recorded just as carefully as thriving litters.

If some of your readers like my suggestion and care to contribute records, I can visualise a very interesting correspondence emerging on the interpretation of litter results, with an increasing appreciation of the scope of carefully planned breeding in the Cat Fancy.

To start the ball rolling (if indeed you are going to encourage us to play), I enclose the record of a cross-

mating amongst my own cats this season:—

CROSS-MATING.—A Seal Point Siamese queen was mated to a Red Point Siamese male. This cat has the typical Siamese restriction of colour to the points, which are ginger or yellow; the tail is slightly ringed; body colour is white, fur short, eye colour blue. The body and limbs are of the Siamese or foreign structural type.

LITTER.—All were born white and developing points colour; all have short fur and blue eyes. Two males are Seal Points; four females are all developing mottled points of seal, yellow and white; the body colour is white. One male has the short, broad British-type head. Two females are of very definitely Siamese type, the other two show characteristics of both types.

Dr. Nora Archer,
Oldfield Lane, Greenford, Middx.

Dr. Archer's suggestion is a valuable one and I am quite prepared to allocate the necessary space if Fanciers will send along records of their cross-matings and the resulting litters.—Editor.

GETTING READY FOR WINTER ?

A few evenings ago I was idly looking out of a window into the garden at that time of evening when it is half dark and saw, as a gleam of her coat, my little Siamese Larnée.

I wasn't taking much notice of her, but grew startled as she progressed up the path to see that she had something in her mouth. I went dashing into the garden in case it was a bird. It was something oblong and red! I had visions of irate neighbours

searching for their missing meat ration of steak.

When Larnee came up to me she dropped the object at my feet and when I stooped to pick it up she jumped on my shoulder and peered into my face, purring madly and asking if I didn't think she was a clever girl. Then I saw it was—a red flannel hot water bottle cover!

Can any of your readers suggest where she found it and how I can dispose of it, or what was in her mind to bring such an object home?

Mrs. Hylda Almond,
Hither Green, Catford, S.E.6.

SANS WHISKERS

Re whisker-chewing mothers. I had a litter of seven Siamese and put two out to a Tortie foster-mother. Their whiskers were bitten off when they came back at six weeks and they looked very funny against the others with whiskers. When we used the same foster-mother a second time we kept watch and actually caught her in the act of whisker biting. She allowed her own kitten to keep its whiskers and we then decided that the whiskers of the Siamese tickled the little mother too much. I thought these facts might interest your readers.

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

I think the following quotation from Dr. Hagedoorn's book, "Animal Breeding," may interest your readers, especially the owners of Fixby Fuchsia:—

"It sometimes happens that a striking character is due, not to the genotype of the individual showing it, but to that of some other individual.

"In a recent case we found in one family some mice without whiskers. It could be shown that the absence of whiskers was due to an inherited

tendency of some mice to eat their companions' whiskers (they could not eat their own).

"The mice with the inherited aberration looked normal; their barefaced companions were simply victims, and not genotypically aberrant."

It would be interesting to know if this habit of whisker-eating is also an inherited tendency in some cats? Does anyone know whether any near relation of Fixby Fuchsia has followed her example?

Mrs. A. Hargreaves, F.Z.S.,
Woldingham, Surrey.

I, too, was interested in Fixby Fuchsia's whisker biting habit. This is the first time I have heard of cats doing it, but it does happen with mice and rats. For the Fanciers it is a most annoying thing to find on opening a box of exhibition stock that all the occupants except one are minus whiskers.

Various reasons have been put forward to explain whisker biting. One is that the whiskers contain something which is deficient in the normal diet. But this can hardly be the cause, for when the biting occurs it is usually an isolated case in hundreds of animals which have all been fed alike. Maybe these long, stiffish hairs have irritated the whisker biter into action and then having tasted the natural oil, which is to his liking, he will make a clean sweep of all the whiskers and right down to the skin. There is support for this theory, for I have never been able to cure a whisker biter of his barbering activities.

Mr. A. C. Jude,
Mapperley, Notts.

BLUE SEAGULL HASN'T FLOWN !

I shall be most grateful for a few lines in your Correspondence Corner to correct any wrong impression that

may have been formed by readers who saw a paragraph in a recent issue of the London "Star." Unfortunately, the news item appeared with a paragraph missed out so that it appeared that I had exported the Blue Pointed Siamese stud Blue Seagull. The fact is that I sent to U.S.A. a Blue Pointed kitten, Belhaven Hyacinth, by Blue Seagull ex my Salween Fairmaid. Blue Seagull, I am glad to say, is still at stud in this country at Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Prestwick cattery. And the Editor of the "Star" did all he could to put things right by publishing a photograph of Seagull in a later issue.

Mrs. Phyllis Lauder,
Reading, Berks.

ADVICE ON NURSING

With reference to aneuromycin (referred to in the April issue of OUR CATS), my husband, who is a doctor, says it sterilises the blood stream of all bacteria and viruses and so should be extremely useful when obtainable, especially in conditions like f.i.e., when complications like pneumonia are liable to occur.

I disagree strongly with your contributor Forceps when he suggests no forcible feeding of sick cats. The reason why cats with f.i.e. shrink to nothing in twelve hours or so is dehydration and the fluid must be replaced. I have nursed several cats with f.i.e. successfully and it is my experience that they became far too weak to take fluids by lapping. I recommend a teaspoonful or two of milk and water and a drop or two of brandy every other hour; also injections of penicillin. One of my queens had f.i.e. at ten weeks and was just sinking into a coma. She had had penicillin and *laissez faire* treatment of feeding, and feeling desperate I gave her a small teaspoonful of brandy followed by hourly feeding.

Next day she was able to lap. She had one injection and feed in the night.

Mrs. Barbara Hewlett,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.

AN INVITATION TO WRITE

If you know of any Blue Point Siamese who would like to write to my Apollo or Belladonna, please give them our address. A. and B. are very good correspondents and love getting letters. They wouldn't mind writing to a Seal Point Siamese, but feel that their mews and purrs would be understood better by one of their own kind.

Mrs. M. M. Verjat,
Rosmini 1a, Milan, Italy.

Which is just a nice way of saying that our correspondent would be delighted to hear from owners of Blue Points in any part of the world and to have their news. Mrs. Verjat's Apollo and Belladonna (imported from England) are the first of their kind to be exhibited in Italy.

Letters on the subject of keeping a stud cat will appear next month.—Editor.

Johnny, a young black cat, has had an alarming experience up a tower in Harlech Castle, North Wales. He started the trouble chasing jackdaws, and in his excitement he suddenly found himself cornered on a window ledge 50 ft. up. There he was attacked by over a dozen jackdaws which frequently dive-bombed him. A rescue was effected after Johnny had been on the ledge two days by Fireman Thomas Jones, who reported that the birds had done quite a lot of damage with their beaks.

Ferne Animal Sanctuary

Nina, Duchess of Hamilton and Brandon, its Founder and Director, contributes this interesting account of the splendid work carried on at her estate at Shaftesbury, Dorset. The Duchess, who is Chairman of the Animal Defence Society and well known for her active interest in animal welfare work, explains that the whole object of Ferne Animal Sanctuary is to give a fresh start to any homeless animal.

FERNE Animal Sanctuary was started during the war to receive the pets of people joining the Forces and of those who had lost their homes through bombing. Many cats and dogs were returned to their owners when peace came, others were found good homes. Pets of all sorts and sizes spent many happy days in our care and it was always most interesting to see how quickly the cats and dogs made friends with each other.

A few weeks ago an important extension was made to the Sanctuary in the form of a cat shelter, which was opened by the Rev. Lionel S.

Lewis, Vicar of Glastonbury. The cost of this has been met by a bequest in the will of Mrs. Margaret Whittard, a great animal lover. As no permit could be obtained for a completely new building, we converted a cricket pavilion into a really fine shelter, in which each cat has its own lime-green bed complete with a coloured cushion. There is a stove for winter heating.

All the cats at Ferne are stray or unwanted. Males are neutered, and should the arrivals include any queens with or about to have kittens, there is a special range of houses ready to receive them, each with a grass run.



Feeding time at the Sanctuary with Miss Mollie Atherton (Superintendent) and her assistant sharing out the good things.

No cat at Ferne is kept confined except, of course, in the case of mothers, who are kept indoors for the period of their confinement. I believe in complete freedom for cats, and so at Ferne the door is always open and they can come and go as they choose. They are fed on goats' milk and cooked meat, fish and vegetables.

Once, a mother and two beautiful ginger kittens were found drowning in a river at Shaftesbury. They were revived by the man who rescued them and brought to Ferne. Later we were able to find suitable homes for them and to-day they are greatly loved pets. I could tell many stories of suffering attached to these poor unfortunate creatures. But one would not think them unfortunate now, to see them basking in the sunshine at their Sanctuary.

THREE-DAY SWEDISH SHOW

THE Svenska Kattklubben held their fourth show in Göteborg, Sweden, last month. It was—writes Miss Kathleen Yorke, who flew over from England to judge—a most successful promotion and great credit is due to Fru Ulla Magnusson, a newcomer to show management. The show ran for three days with a smoothness and cheerful atmosphere that augurs well for future events in Sweden. The pens were of good size and some of those used for special exhibits and litters were 9 feet in length with corresponding depth and height. I should like to see these big pens used at all shows.

Fru Maina Hjelde-Andersen did excellent work as Vice-Secretary and the attendance of many well-known breeders from the Scandinavian countries was an encouraging feature. Fru Juul-Hansen judged Siamese Seal Points and European Shorthair

classes and I took all Longhair exhibits, Blue Pointed Siamese and Russian Blues.

Best in Show was a Blue-eyed White, Champion Tensa, a female of great quality shown by Fru Hjelde-Andersen. Best Kitten was a lovely typed and coated Cream female, Benita Klemang, belonging to Fru Tingvall, who also owns Baralan Challenger, Blue male bred by our Mrs. Henn. Challenger was the second best Blue male to Dandy of Pensford (recently exported by Mrs. Davies), who looked in great form.

Fru Langberg's Russian Blues were excellent and in this variety F. K. Olsson's Anila of Finlandia was a Champion Grand Prix winner.

I was particularly struck by a lovely Siamese male kitten and found he was bred in England by Mrs. Keene—Kildown Romeo, by Oriental Silky Boy ex Sealsleeve Shah Danseur. Another English-bred Siamese bred by Major Murrell was Proud Minnie, by Champion Slades Cross Shahid ex The Tschudi Nun, who looked very fine with her kittens around her.

During the month of May the R.S.P.C.A. investigated 2,759 complaints of cruelty and secured fines or imprisonment in 79 cases. In six instances convictions were obtained against persons who were guilty of cruelty to cats.

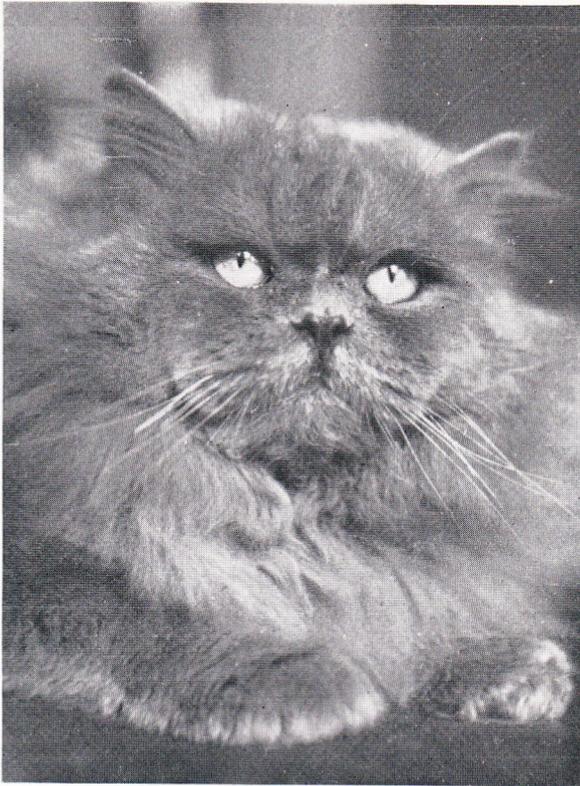
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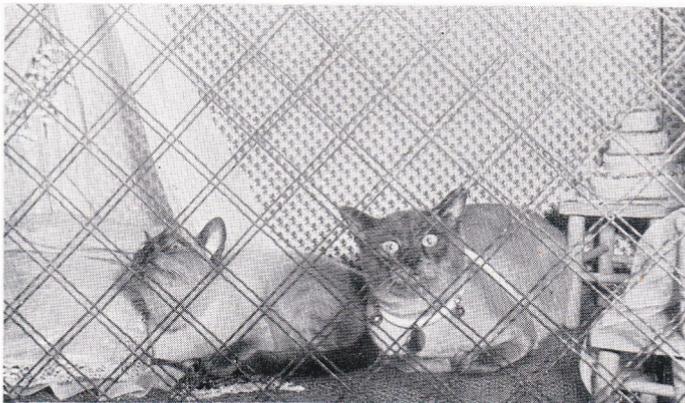
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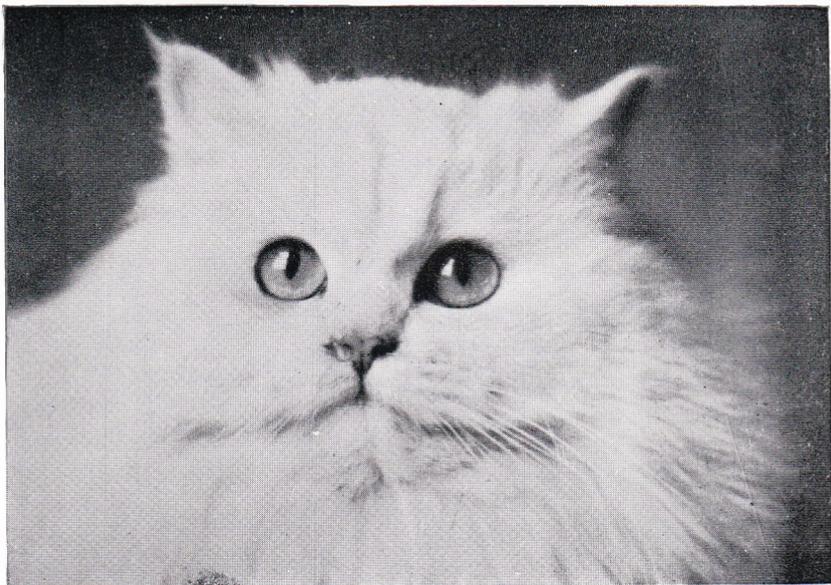
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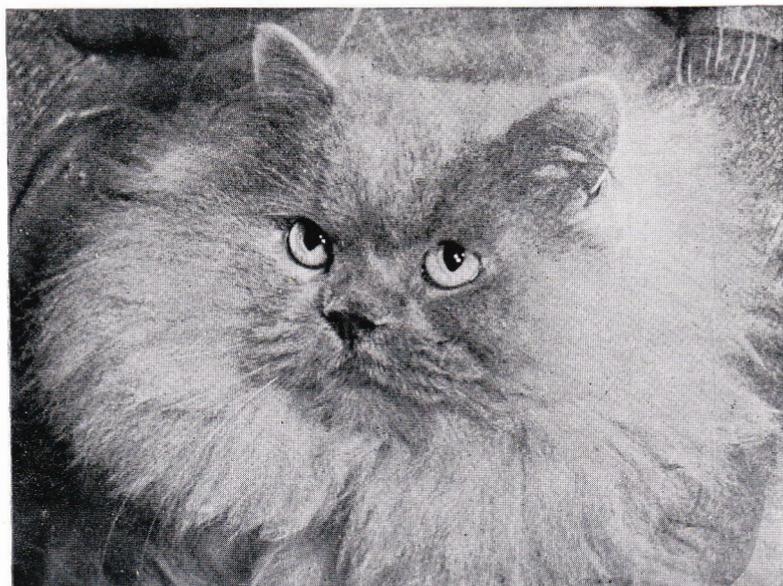
SOUTHWAY RASCAL, a grand Blue Longhair bred by Mr. J. H. Martin, was shown successfully (including many Firsts and Best in Show at Nottingham, 1949) by Mrs. M. Brunton. Rascal is now in France, having been purchased by Mme. Sarrazin, well-known Paris Fancier.



This amusing example of a decorated pen comes from the Milan Show—see report on another page. The honeymooning couple—note the canopied bed and wedding cake—are **SOUTHWOOD APOLLO** and **SOUTHWOOD BELLADONNA**, two fine Blue Point Siamese exported by Mrs. L. K. Sayers. Miss C. Verjat, of Milan, was the exhibitor.



FOXBURROW FLAME, well known to Chinchilla enthusiasts. She is the dam of Ch. Flambeau of Allington and is herself the winner of three Challenge Certificates. Flame was bred by Miss Burgess and is now owned by Miss Evelyn Langston, of Maidenhead.



NEUBURIE BAMBI, belonging to Mrs. E. Marlow, of West London, is one of our most prolific Blue Longhair studs. A son of Blessed Mischief of Henley, he has passed on to many of his progeny his lovely pale and even coat. Now seven years old, he has sired over 300 kittens.



Farewell to an International Champion. Many pre-war Fanciers will remember this distinguished Blue Longhair male International Champion of Champions **THE AUTOCRAT OF THE COURT**. The Autocrat, bred by Mrs. E. Oglethorpe and owned by Mme. Ravel, was the winner of International Championships in 1934-5 and his honours included four CAG French and five CAG International. News of his recent death in France has reached us and we are able, thanks to the courtesy of Mme. Ravel, to pay this photographic tribute to the passing of an outstanding cat.



Fay Photo Service Inc.

This picture takes you inside the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital which is conducted at Boston by the American Humane Education Society. Here you see one of the finely-equipped rooms where animals suffering from distemper are isolated and treated. A visit to this popular institution was described by Mrs. Joan Thompson in our March issue.



These beautiful White Persian quintuplets were bred by the Danish Fancier Fru Lisbeth Lind, of Copenhagen.
For the loan of this illustration we are indebted to "Racekatten," the popular Danish feline magazine.

All the up-to-the-minute news of the
CRYSTAL CAT SHOW
OLYMPIA—20th & 21st September next

A quickening tempo is perceptible in the affairs of the Crystal Cat Show with only eight weeks remaining before the opening date. These weeks are going to be extremely busy ones for those concerned with the hundred-and-one details of planning and organisation. Since our previous issue there has been an interesting and welcome development. The Show promoters, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Macdonald, were invited to attend a special meeting of the Delegates of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Arising out of this "get-together" the Council has given its blessing to the Show and if all goes well and according to plan, the way ahead is clear for a Championship event next year. In addition, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council, has kindly consented to judge at Olympia. This is indeed progress in the right and sensible direction and all concerned are to be congratulated on the decisions taken. It now remains for Fanciers everywhere to make the maximum effort to ensure that the September fixture is outstandingly successful in every respect.

PATRONS.—The panel of patrons has been completed with the addition of the names of Lady Arkell and Mr. Kirkland Bridge.

JUDGES.—Best in Show will be judged by the following three International judges—Miss Kathleen Yorke, Miss E. Langston and Mrs. Joan Thompson. Duties for the twenty judges whose names were announced in last month's issue have been provisionally allocated but plans cannot be finalised until the strength of the entries for the various breeds is known.

SCHEDULES.—Schedules and Entry Forms are now available and readers who have not yet received copies should apply without delay to the Show Manager, Crystal Cat Show, Woodgate, London Road, Ewell, Surrey. Closing date is 14th August.

PRIZE LIST.—Two additional cups have been presented by the well-known Fancier Miss F. A. Dixon. More offers of special prizes are also coming in and the prize list will be an exceptional one by the time it is completed. And—intending exhibitors, please note!—all trophies are to be won outright. Trophy for Best in Show is particularly fine.

CATALOGUE.—The Official Catalogue will not be available until the first day of the Show. Breeders and others who wish to book advertisement space must place their applications by not later than 4th August with Mr. A. E. Cowlshaw, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, S.W.9. Well over 20 pages have been reserved to date.

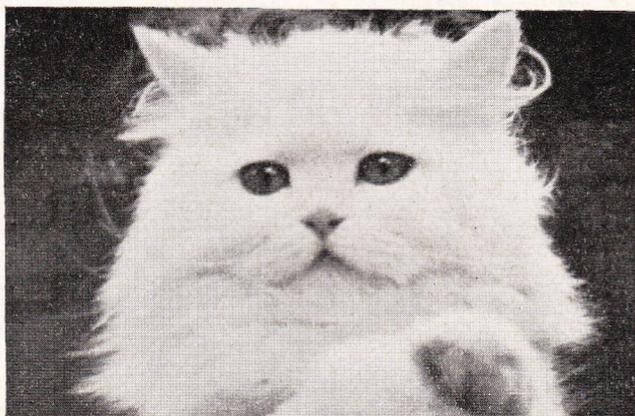
WINNERS IN ITALY

THE 12th International Cat Show organised by the Società Felina Italiana, under the capable guidance of Mr. F. Jaja, General Secretary of the Società, was held in Milan last month. Mme. Ravel judged Longhairs and Mme. Bridgett was responsible for the Shorthairs.

Mme. Remande's lovely Cream female Ch. Widdington Wallaby carried off the cup presented by the Società for the best cat bred out of Italy. A charming Seal Point Siamese

Prizes were awarded for the best decorated cages and the first prize went to Signora Manini, whose Seal Point Siamese looked very much at home in an Abyssinian tucul. Miss Verjat was awarded second prize for her Blue Points' cage, which represented a bridal chamber, complete with miniature wedding cake and other amenities. A photograph of this novel exhibit appears elsewhere.

The well-known Italian breeder



VALLY DU BOSQUET

lady, Ma-Ba-Tu, belonging to Mrs. Savoia, was awarded the trophy offered by the Fédération Feline Française for the best cat bred in Italy.

Abyssinians and Blue Point Siamese were shown for the first time in this country. Mme. Destrem's Ch. Xaited Xizinha was awarded a cup and the two Blue Point Siamese, Southwood Apollo and Southwood Belladonna were given their first champion certificates. Their owner, Miss C. Verjat, received Belladonna by air from England only a short time previously.

Signorina Cacciavillani showed her beautiful self-bred White female Vally du Bosquet. Vally was awarded a championship certificate. Miss Cacciavillani specialises in Blues and Chinchillas. Another prominent breeder, Miss Eva Rota, secured a well-merited success with Ten Ten, a lovely Black female, who was the winner of a trophy.

The show was a great success and the gardens were crowded with visitors. It is hoped that more shows will be organised during the next few months.

Care & Management by P. M. SODERBERG

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

Shall I Show?

BY far the most numerous section of cat owners are those who keep a cat merely because they want one about the house. For them the problem of whether to show or not does not enter into their consciousness. Thus this article is not really intended for those millions of genuine cat lovers who cherish their pet merely because it is a cat.

Of course, there are a number of shows during the year at which there are classes for domestic pets and such classes are usually well filled, but the animals shown are but a trivial proportion of the animals which could be shown.

One thing is certain. If there were no shows there would be very few pedigree cats. Cats are not like cows and from the point of utility they have little to recommend them except as mousers, and even here the ordinary house cat is usually the more useful. Well, there it is; your pedigree cat has very little utilitarian value, but no one can deny that it is a thing of beauty, and to assess this is the object of showing.

In an earlier article I referred to the improvement in type which had taken place over the past forty years, and for this improvement most of the credit is due to the shows and those keen Fanciers who ran them. There must be

cat shows or there will be little progress.

Each of the breeds has its standard of perfection, and up to the present no cat has ever possessed all those qualities which make up the perfect cat, yet as the years pass we do approach nearer to that ideal.

You may ask how it is that shows bring about these improvements. The answer is not difficult. If you show a cat you take good care to look at all the other animals of the same breed, and if your cat has not won, you are anxious to find out what the winners have which your cat lacks. The chances are that you will go to the successful breeders for help, either in providing you with fresh stock or by allowing you to send one of your queens to their outstanding stud. This means that you have realised that your cat falls short of the standard, and that you believe that the introduction of blood from some other strain will bring about an improvement.

Here, then, we have the main value of the shows. They demonstrate where our own stock fails and they also give clues to the intelligent Fancier, showing him where he can find those qualities he wants to put into his stock.

I can very well imagine that some of you reading this article

have already said, "It is all very well this fellow writing about the value of shows, but I cannot remember ever having seen a cat which he has shown." That is perfectly true, for I have never shown a cat in my life and it is more than probable that I never shall. This fact, however, must not be taken as a criticism of shows, for it really proves only one thing, and that is that I am a cat lover but not a Fancier in the true sense of the word. I hope that I am none the worse for that, for it takes all sorts of people to make a world, even if it is a cat world.

Value of Shows

I do honestly believe that cat shows are of great value, and it is a good thing that the majority of cat owners follow my precept and not my example. Shows, of course, have their disadvantages and also their dangers, but the risks which must be involved when a number of animals are brought in close proximity can be minimised if due precautions are taken.

One point I should like to stress at once, and that is that there are cats which should never be subjected to the strains and stresses of the show pen. At most of the shows there are one or two cats which are obviously terrified by the whole business. I do not mind how good your cat is; if it is distressed at a show it should be left at home. There can be no excuse for trying to win prizes at the expense of an animal's peace of mind. We soon learn to know the temperament of our cats, and the animal which is easily frightened must not be harassed by journeys and the essential noises of the show room.

I am also opposed to the showing of young kittens, and if it were anything to do with me I should see that there were no classes for litters of young kittens, some of which at times even appear with their mothers. An unweaned kitten should never be shown.

I think that everyone will admit that the breeder runs the greatest risks of introducing disease into his cattery by two things. In the first place, by receiving queens to his stud or by sending his own queens away to stud. Rarely is it the stud owner who is at fault, but there are without doubt many owners of queens who, through ignorance or carelessness, send away a cat which is not fit.

Safety Measures

Another source of danger is the Shows. Despite what has been said on many occasions, however, the risk at shows to adult cats is very small indeed. Every cat that is shown has to pass the vet., and I believe that if young kittens were not shown, there would be very little risk at all. When there are deaths it is invariably the kittens which are the victims. This is not surprising, is it, for kittens have little reserves of stamina.

Most of you who own a good cat will want to show it, which is only natural and proper, but I would suggest to you that you take every precaution to avoid risk to your own stock and also to that of other exhibitors. Prepare your cat for its experience in the show pen, which is something you can do very easily at home in the weeks before the show. Never take any cat to a show if

you know that it will be unhappy, and always leave it at home on the morning of the show unless it is 100 per cent. fit.

After the show see that your exhibits are kept by themselves for a few days, and at the same time remember that a little disinfection of yourself may help to avoid trouble.

Now go ahead, and perhaps during the coming show season you will have at least one Best in Show.

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Beckenham 6904

DO'S AND DON'TS (Cont.)

By Eunice A. Welsford

DON'T forget your cat is a carnivorous animal, therefore flesh should be the principal item in his diet.

DON'T rear female kittens unless you intend having them spayed or kept for breeding purposes.

DON'T drown unwanted baby kittens. This is a horrible death. Take them to a veterinary surgeon or clinic, who will destroy them for a very small fee.

DON'T expect your cat to have clean habits when shut indoors unless you provide a sanitary tray.

For the safe transport of Cats to any part of the world — consult **SPRATT'S**

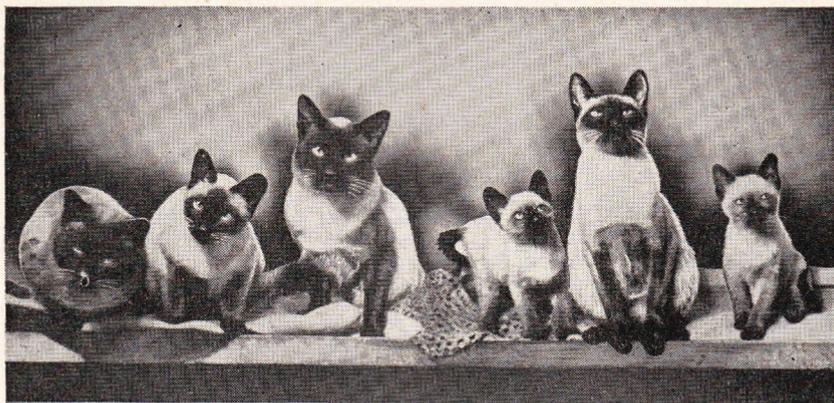
All details, Transport, Shipping, Feeding, Insurance can be left in our hands. This section of Spratt's world wide organization has over 50 years experience in the shipment of cats, dogs, birds and other domestic pets to all parts of the globe.

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A GROUP OF TENTESMUIR SIAMESE

Captain Norman H. Wood of South Norwood, S.E.25, owner-breeder of the well-known Tentesmuir Siamese Cats and Vice-President of the Surrey and Sussex Cat Association, writes—

"By a strange coincidence, the same evening as I got my first supply of Kit-zyme, a Siamese kitten was brought to me in the last stages of exhaustion and almost passing out. It was clear to see that gastritis was the trouble with acute inflammation of the intestines. It was in great pain, far too weak to eat and had to be hand fed.

At once, after reading your leaflet, I gave it a Kit-zyme broken into four pieces and managed to pass them through the throat. Its little body was so cold I put it into a deep box with an electric blanket whereby it was kept just above blood heat for four days and nights. One Kit-zyme tablet was given to it every four hours mixed into a little warm milk and, at the end of two days, the kitten was so improved that it was able to eat beef jelly of its own accord. Fifteen days later it was back to normal health and, except for rickets in the back legs, able to run about and play.

I am convinced that, without your product, it would have proved a casualty. At least, in all my forty years' experience in cat breeding, I have never known a kitten in such a terrible state to survive.

I have a number of Siamese cats, including two studs, and one of them, Tentesmuir Massah, went clean off colour and could not be used as his kittens would have been too weak. So I Kit-zyme'd him and the results have been all that one could wish for. His eyes are very bright, fur glossy and he has recovered his good personal "type." As soon as the Queens start to call again, he can be used.

All my cats are having their daily Kit-zyme and are feeling the benefit."

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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.

9th June. To Eastbourne to meet Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson and to see her cats, which were all well and in the pink of condition as usual. The *pièce de résistance* was a very lovely litter of three males and three females by Mrs. Davies's Gem of Pensford. These kittens excel in type and have lovely wide-awake eyes with plenty of width between them and short broad noses. Pekeholm Pearl, the mother, is a very nice copper-eyed daughter of the late Gathorne Grem-lin.

It is not often that one sees nowadays a litter of six Blues. Queens occasionally have them but usually one or more die at birth or soon after. Mrs. Tomlinson's concern is to get them the right sort of home. They will have to go where they have liberty and plenty of individual attention.

Mrs. Lomax, of Cannock, has a large Blue litter of seven by the late Dickon of Allington. Sympathies of all Fanciers will be extended to Miss E. Langston in the loss of Dickon at eleven years of age from natural causes, also of her younger male

Moonraker of Allington. Both sired some lovely stock and Dickon will always go down to posterity as the sire of the famous trio of Champions, Southway Nicholas, Crusader and Wizard. Sympathy will also go to Mrs. K. R. Williams in the loss of her Siamese male Afga Khan, Challenge Certificate winner at Sandy. It is always sad to hear of the death of comparatively young males who have proved their worth at stud.

11th June. To visit Mrs. Vize at Banstead. Her home is a delightful place for breeding cats. It is surprisingly secluded considering it is near a main road to London. An avenue of trees leads to her bungalow, which has wide fields on both sides. All the queens have liberty. Ch. Astra of Pensford was looking very well after a busy season at stud. He is better than ever now he is fully matured and will be shown again at some of this season's shows. He has proved a prolific sire, as I imagined he would with his robust physique and good health from birth. Trenton Verity, by Ch. Oxleys Peter John, is a lovely pale queen of excellent type, and I expect she will give a good account of herself if she gets into show condition after nursing her family by Ch. Astra. The Cream male Danehurst Sultan (bred by Mr. Allt) is a nice cat, with lovely eyes, and should be an asset to the Creams with his good breeding.

I was amused to see Mrs. Vize's Black Alsatian, Madge, sitting on the

grass longing to enter the house but completely subdued by a Blue queen guarding her four kittens playing about on the verandah. When the queen was picked up, Madge rushed in. She is very good with all the cats and they with her, but queens with young kittens are often on the defensive although at all other times friendly and happy with dogs belonging to the house.

Miss von Ullman, now living with Mrs. Vize, is happy with her surroundings and has the pleasure of being made welcome with her own cats. She has a Siamese queen and an attractive kitten, and a black female, Maximilia Unterkatze, was nursing two sturdy Black Shorthairs.

20th June. Journeyed to visit Mrs. Davies at Chalfont St. Peter where I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard, who had motored down from Stafford. They purchased Priory Quick-silver, a very pale daughter of Gem of Pensford and Priory Blue Dream, the latter dam of Mme. Gibbons's famous International Champion Priory Blue Wish and her winning sister, Priory Blue Miracle. A few days later Lady Eardley Wilmot purchased another pale kitten we saw by Gem and Priory Pansy. Gem was looking well and in perfect condition. He is one of the palest Blue males I have ever seen, and full marks for this must go to Lady Eardley Wilmot and Mrs. Oglethorpe. His pedigree is full of cats bred and owned by them and I know of few Fanciers who bred with such determination to obtain Blue adults with pale coats. A quality which goes with paleness is often fine silky texture. Mrs. Oglethorpe said in her report on Gem when awarding him first in Novice Class, B.P.C.S. Ch. Show, 1947: "Long, flowing, pale, sound coat of lovely quality."

A large percentage of pale kittens are bred and exhibited, but how

rarely do they grow into pale adults. Pale colouration is observed in the young of many animals but they darken with age. In breeding for pale coats, however, one must not forget that pale eyes more often occur, and to lose copper eyes in Blues would be a tragedy as they are so essential and so beautiful to complement the blue-grey of the coat.

Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard are determined to breed from pale Blues only and will try to avoid loss of eye colour. It is possible, we know, as we saw both qualities in Ch. Deebank Michael and in his sire. In pre-war males Barry Prince Blue and Flick-a-Maroo were outstanding examples. Mrs. Davies's Cream queen Tollerton Babette had just been mated to Mrs. Saunders's Netheridge Pim. Her cats are house pets, except Gem, and he has a new, spacious house and liberty in the wired-in garden, and comes upstairs to a sun parlour Mrs. Davies had built for the cats.

In the evening we visited Mrs. Taylor at Boreham Wood to see her very nice Blues and Creams. I hope to give more details later as I made no notes at the time. A very nice trio of one Blue-Cream and two Cream males were most attractive and were later purchased by Mrs. Davies, who hopes to exhibit one of the Creams.

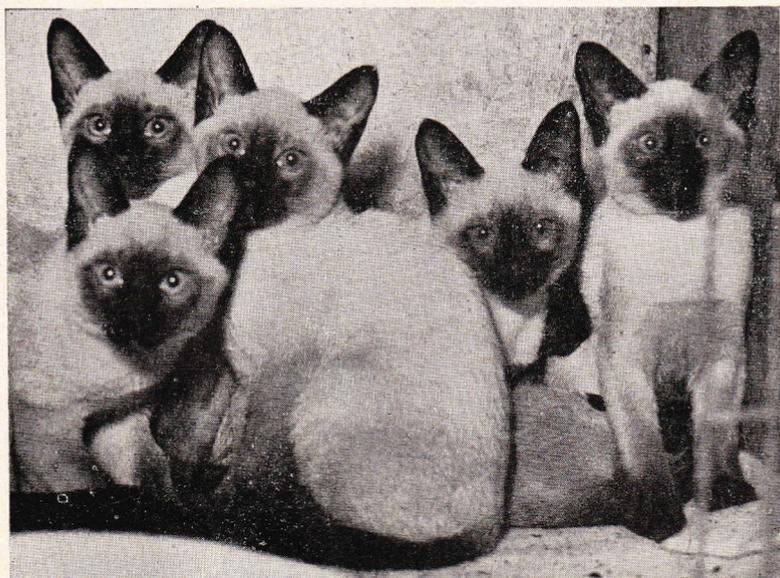
25th June. At the Purley home of Mr. and Mrs. Carman I met Major Dugdale, Miss Webster and the Carmans' trio of queens and seven kittens. Mr. Carman has bred Alsations, cage birds and bantams for exhibition, and all this is invaluable experience when it comes to catering for the well-being of cats.

Mr. Carman evidently believes in inner cleanliness also, as part of their diet is All-Bran cereal. The three queens are all very well bred. Romany Romista (by Ch. Southway

Nicholas) was nursing what appeared to be the pick of the kittens. They were a lovely pair of females by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy. I expect we shall see these at some of the forthcoming shows; the male was also good.

Mr. Carman had recently visited Mrs. Clarke, of Burton-on-Trent, and he was very enthusiastic about her three Blue males, especially Glenroy Michael, son of Ch. Deebank Michael. He tells me he is gorgeous, with ex-

other breeders have experienced. I find that even with the same victim the effect can be very different. Quite often, apart from a slight irritation, there is no visible effect; other times there is a most alarming balloon-like swelling (last week one of the kittens looked like a pelican) which fortunately soon disappeared on bathing with T.C.P. At the end of last season one of my queens was stung at the side of her mouth and



Sport and General

Mrs. Varcoe's prize-winning litter by Ch. Slades Cross Shahid.

ceptional type, pale coat and glorious copper eyes. May we see him at the shows, Mrs. Clarke? He sounds exactly what we are looking for.

29th June. Mrs. Varcoe, breeder of the Sukianga Siamese, raises an interesting point in her welcome letter: "We are now at the beginning of the 'stinging' season and already two kittens have been too venturesome with a bee. Writing of stings, I wonder what effects you and

the result was a hard swelling which burst like an abscess. I wonder if the poison is accumulative and a sting in September therefore more potent than one in June? We have recently moved here from Wilmington. The cats settled down immediately and are enjoying the larger house and garden. It is very nice living near to another Siamese breeder, Mrs. Burgess (breeder of Clonlost Yo-Yo, Best Exhibit in Show, S.C.C. Show, 1949). Her

house is less than 10 minutes' walk away and already we have had many catty chats and admired each other's kittens. Like all other breeders, I think my own kittens, besides being the most adorable, are also the most mischievous."

Regarding the stings, I have only experienced a slight swelling when cats have been stung and applied the same remedy, T.C.P. Usually it is towards the end of the summer and early autumn when bees and wasps are getting drowsy that stings occur. Kittens especially cannot resist them when they see insects crawling about on the ground.

30th June. To Bridgnorth to visit Mrs. Henn and the Baralan cats. Samson, the Black Longhair by Ch. Deebank Michael, was looking very well, and now he is fully mature his coat is a denser black than last season. His eyes are exceptionally good

and I expect we shall be congratulating his owner on his becoming a Champion this season. Boy Blue (another son of Deebank Michael) was in fine fettle. A cat with lovely eyes and winner of a Challenge Certificate at Notts and Derby Show in January, he is being groomed for stardom this coming season.

Mrs. Henn has several lovely Blue queens and some of them excel in eye colour. Fireball of Takeley, the Tortoiseshell, was nursing a Blue, a Cream and a Red Tabby by Blue Boy. The day before Stella of Takeley (a lovely Black bred by Mrs. Askew) had five kittens by him, three Blues and two Blacks. Mrs. Henn was delighted with the latter as Stella has never had any Blacks during the three years she has owned her and only one or two kittens at a time. It was therefore a welcome surprise when she had five as she is now ten years of age. All the queens have

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complete liberty and the males have a wired-in paddock which they use alternately. The surroundings are perfect for them as Severn House is in a cul-de-sac, and with hills and dales around and all varieties of nice cubby-holes in which to play hide and seek.

1st July. To the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, with Mrs. Henn to a tea-party organised by Mrs. Lamb on behalf of the Midland Counties Cat Club. Everyone was delighted to see our gracious G.C.C.F. Chairman, Miss Kathleen Yorke, who came all the way from St. Albans for two hours to meet the members and to give an interesting address on judging abroad and general procedure. This terminated in an intriguing question-and-answer affair and some original suggestions for British shows. One particularly revolutionary idea put forward was to prepare the penning and preliminary work from early morn until 2 p.m. Judging to take place from then until the public were admitted about 5 p.m., the show to close about 8 p.m. and to open the next day until teatime. The advantages of this would be to enable nearly all exhibitors from the provinces to travel on the day of the show and for the cats to be on view far longer than they are now. The public could attend from teatime to 8 p.m. on the first day, when the maximum number of visitors could be anticipated if shows abroad are any criterion. The other suggestion concerned Saturday shows, especially in the provinces, when the large towns are thronged with amusement seekers. Nowadays, when show expenses are so heavy, the gate is an all-important item.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard came from Stafford and Mr. and Mrs. Herod from Lichfield. The results of the last-named breeding Creams to Whites, hoping to get pale Creams, is

interesting. They have had 35 kittens from this cross and all have been White (males predominating) with the exception of two Creams and their present litter, which consists of two Whites, one Red Self, two with blue and white coats intermingled and Silver Tabby faces. Mrs. Herod said they are very pretty kittens and she hopes to place them with a breeder who is prepared to carry on with the cross-breeding experiments. Miss Yorke now owns Ch. Carreg Comfort, the blue-eyed White male.

It was a very pleasant meeting and so nice to meet fellow Fanciers when they were free from the cares of exhibiting and show work.

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc., of U.S.A. has recently decided to drop the title of "Domestic Shorthairs." The name of this breed division will in future be American Shorthair. Steps have also been taken by C.F.A. to strengthen and protect the Russian Blue variety in America. Only recently has the Russian Blue been accepted as being a competitive breed.

The Bexhill Cat Club is run under the auspices of the Cats' Protection League, Slough. Its aims are to encourage interest in cats and all matters pertaining to them by means of lectures, social teas with talks by well-known cat breeders, veterinary surgeons, etc., and by the promotion of a Cat Picture Show. It is hoped to start a library of cat books for the use of members. The Club's second Cat Picture Show is scheduled to take place in the autumn and there will be special classes for members only. Membership fees are 1s. per year for C.P.L. members and 2s. per year for non-C.P.L. members. Enrolment forms may be had from the Hon. Secretary, 63 Dorset Road, Bexhill.

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A GOOD deal of comment centred round the tragic case of Fireman Collin Hill, who lost his life in an attempt to rescue a cat from a tall tree at Sheffield. Various points of view were aired in the press and I felt myself siding with the commentator who pointed out that while the loss of a brave man's life was to be greatly deplored, he at least had the apparatus which made the rescue of the animal a possibility. Had Fireman Hill not made the attempt the chances are that some other cat lover would have tried without the proper equipment. The P.D.S.A. are sending the bereaved wife the posthumous award of their highest decoration, the White Cross of St. Giles. The Fire Service in London can now only be called to rescue animals through the P.D.S.A. or the R.S.P.C.A., and the men have been told they are not to take undue risks.

I have been given some expert first-aid advice concerning the treatment of flesh wounds on cats which are more prevalent during the summer months when puss is able to get out and about. The flesh of cats rapidly turns septic and abscesses are likely to form. Prompt treatment will usually prevent this. The hair around the wound should be clipped away and the spot bathed frequently with warm salt water (one teaspoon to one pint). Should the wound be deep, endeavour to keep it open at its lowest point for drainage. Should an abscess form—indicated by swelling,

heat and pain—expert advice should be sought without delay.

An American report says that people of St. Louis now think twice when they see cats trapped on the tops of high telephone poles. Twice within a few days a rescuer has shinned up the pole only to see the cat leap away to safety when he got to within a few feet of the top.

Chigwell (Essex) Council have decided to ban dogs and cats from their flats with common balconies, staircases and landings.

I have received a cheerful news item concerning the Feline Section of the Animal Health Trust. It is receiving growing support and great results are hoped for during the coming show season. Free stall space has been offered by the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs and by the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club and more help of a similar nature is being canvassed. A collection at the annual general meeting of the Blue Persian Cat Society realised 25s. and the Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club has donated two guineas from their funds. The Animal Health Trust, in order to reach individual owners of pets, is starting an Army of Trusty Animals. They have already a Brigade of Dogs and the help of cat lovers everywhere is now being enlisted in the formation of a Brigade of Cats. Enrolment forms are to be printed and special certificates for cat members will be engraved with

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Mrs. F. T. Broadwood, of Send, has been elected to represent the Feline Section to the Committee of the Animal Health Trust.

Judges at the open show of the Scottish Cat Club—to be held in

Glasgow on 18th November—will be Mrs. K. Williams and Mrs. Speirs. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. F. M. Richardson, 21 Herriet Street, Glasgow, S.1, hopes to have English Fanciers as guests and looks forward to support from exhibitors from the other side of the Border.

I have to pass on editorial regrets for an error that crept into the caption of Spero's Ragamuffin's picture on the inside back cover of our May issue. This lovely Tortoiseshell—I wish we had a few as good in England—not only belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Johnson, of Atlanta; she was bred by these well-known American Fanciers.

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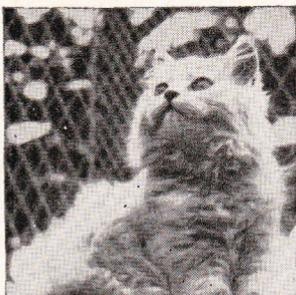
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MOLESEY ALI BABA (Cream Persian), sire Tweedledum of Dunesk, dam Molesey Mischief. Fee for each stud £2 2s. and carriage to registered queens only.—Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., Danehurst Cattery, Old Lane, St. Johns, Crewborough. Tel.: Crowborough 407.

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 visivectors and also by the fur trade. In both cases they are liable to suffer revolting cruelty. For further information apply:—National Anti-Visivsection 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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To the Children



From Uncle Peter



Boys and Girls

Hot Weather

The hot weather we have been having lately has made me think about my cats and dogs. I wonder if it has made you think about *your* pets?

When summer comes we take off our winter clothes and put on others which will be more comfortable on the hot days. Unfortunately, our pets cannot do this so we have to try to make things more comfortable for them.

In the first place, I expect that you will find your cat or dog is beginning to moult. You can help to get rid of this dead hair by brushing and combing every day. They will then feel a little cooler.

Exercise

Have you noticed how your dog pants with his tongue hanging out when he is very hot? Do you know why he does this? You see, a dog cannot sweat except through his tongue and that is why he hangs it out.

One thing you must remember, then, is that you should not make him do a lot of running about in the heat of the day.

Shade

If you take him with you when you go on a picnic, find a nice shady spot for him. Provided that he can see you he will be happy to lie in the shade while you have your sunbathe.

Cats also like shade, but they seem to be less unhappy in the sun than dogs usually are. You watch your cat and you will see that she basks in the sun for a few minutes and then goes to sleep under a large, shady bush. Cats know that the best way to keep cool is to keep still.

Food

The best time to feed your pets is in the evening, because few living things have much appetite when they are hot. A light breakfast first thing in the morning and then the big meal of the day at night.

It is quite a good idea in the summer to cut down the quantity of food a little for both cats and dogs. Usually they take less exercise during very hot weather and thus their need for food is less. Never leave any uneaten food about as it will quickly go bad and and it is then dangerous.

Water

Make sure that there is always plenty of fresh water for your pets. In hot weather they need to drink a lot, but, like you, they like this water cold. Tepid water is most unpleasant to drink, so refill your bowl several times a day.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

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



Mark Twain



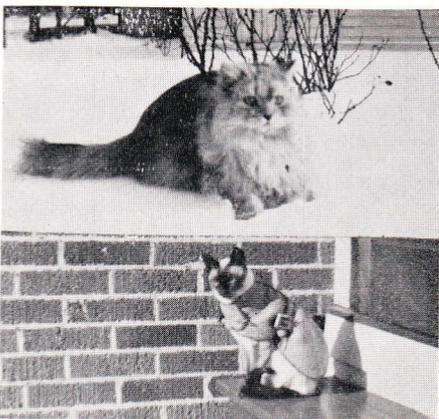
CHINNIE, handsome Silver Tabby, is a lucky lady. She belongs to Miss Hetty Gray Baker, of New York, a sincere lover of cats who is ceaseless in her good deeds on their behalf.



Bruce Shy displays his mother's lovely SHY CASTLE KING COTTON. Mrs. Willard Shy, of St. Louis, is a keen Fancier who has done particularly well at the shows with her Cream stock.



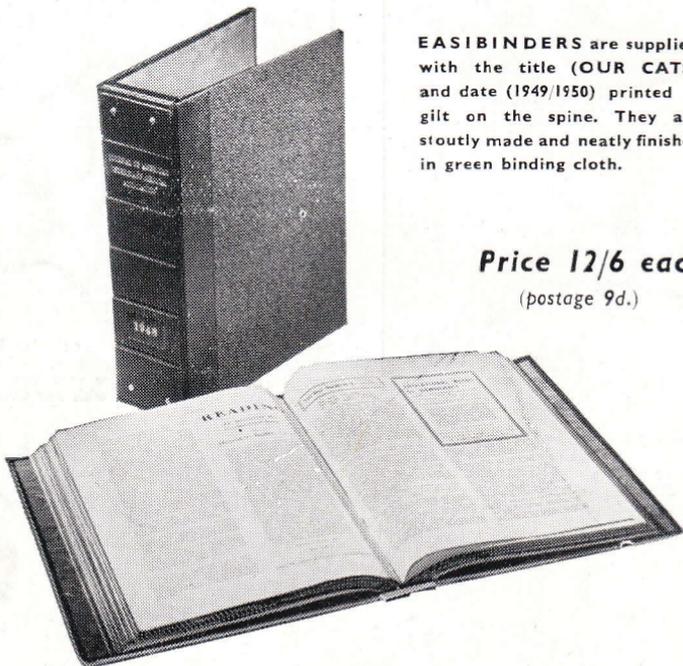
Mother is much concerned that her baby should go 4-wandering! Mother is AVIARY CREAM BELLE, a show winner belonging to Mrs. H. M. Todd, of Alton, Hants. Baby AVIARY PRINCESS did eventually travel far away—to Trinidad!



An interesting picture of contrasts. MAPLE LEAF'S SHADOW (top) is a Silver male who enjoys a romp in the snow, but SILKY SUE (below) insists on dressing up before he faces the cold outdoors. Both are pets of Mrs. Harold Lee, of Hamilton, Ontario.

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