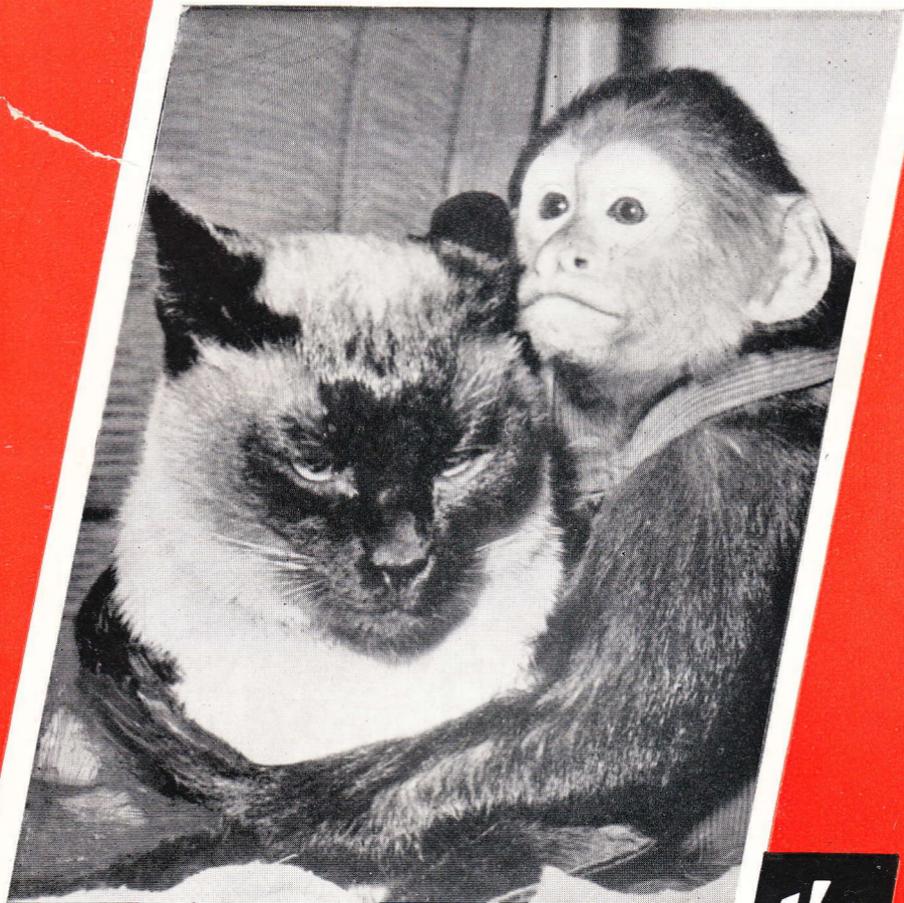


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



APRIL 1951

1/6

INTERESTED IN CREAMS? (see page 3)

Another lovely cat who loves

KIT-E-KAT *Show Winner*
enjoys



**'the complete
cat food'**

No short-haired tabby at Olympia was as beautiful as 'Hillcross Silver Lady', so this pretty puss carried off the 'Lady Aberconway Cup'.

Mrs. Towe of Morden, Surrey, who owns this champion, says, 'I use Kit-E-Kat all the time to vary the diet of my 12 cats. It is a body-building food which they love. And of course, Kit-E-Kat is so convenient as it cuts out cooking'.

Kit-E-Kat has *all* the elements your cat needs for glossy coat, bright eyes and vitamin vitality! Cooked ready to serve, 1/- a tin.



KIT-E-KAT LTD., SLOUGH, BUCKS.

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

VOL. 3 No. 4

APRIL 1951

Managing Editor :

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

MORE ABOUT CRUELTY

I WAS delighted with the reaction of readers to my editorial notes in our February issue on the subject of cruelty to animals. A number of interesting letters have reached me from all over the country and without exception they vindicated our editorial policy of giving prominence to the deplorable cases that come before the magistrates all too frequently. So I shall continue to use the limelight as necessary.

Here are some interesting comments from one reader, Mr. R. Blake, of Bury St. Edmunds, who writes:

While agreeing that cruelty to animals is too cheap, I feel that the cases which appear before the magistrates are only the merest fraction of the total. The publicity afforded to such cases as you mention causes the average Britisher to express his horror at such cruelty. At the same time, these Britishers remain indifferent to, or in ignorance of, the persistent and sustained cruelty practised upon animals in this country under the protection of the law and under the guise of scientific research. . . . Only a hairs-breadth separates the man whose case you quote in your February issue from the men who ran the Belsen and Buchanwald concentration camps! Only a hairs-breadth separates the British vivisectionists from the "scientists" who carried out experiments on the inmates of Hitler's camps. . . .

Miss Kathleen Rumsey, of Twickenham, feels, most earnestly, that our article should be published in all the daily papers. It is her belief—a feeling shared by many others—that the only way to stop cruelty to dumb creatures is by "far more severe punishment." Mrs. C. Coldham, of Tattingstone, near Ipswich, begs us to continue to report cases of cruelty. She puts cruelty to animals under three headings—cruelty for the love of

it, thoughtlessness and indifference—and is in favour of much heavier punishment for offenders.

Another point of view comes from Lady Aberconway, who writes:—

I read your article with interest and agree with all you say. Would not the surest way of suppressing cruelty to cats and of raising the whole standard of their lives be by taxation? Few people who have paid for a licence for a cat would be likely to sell it alive as food for a ferret. . . . Has not the time come when cat lovers should do their utmost to obtain the legislation necessary for the taxation of cats?

This suggestion is, of course, a contentious one on which even the humane organisations are divided. Personally, I feel there is no quick and sure remedy for the disease and that a part solution is to be found in the education of the young. Some admirable schemes are already operating in this country and overseas. More could be done in the schools. Make no mistake about it. Cruelty to animals is *not* on the decrease, and although we have progressed some way since the days when animals were tortured under the execrable name for diversion—baiting—the human beast still retains many claws and fangs. Come with me to some of the country market places, the abattoirs and even the farms—you will see what I mean!

It is grand news that the Pet Animals Bill has been given a Second Reading in the House of Commons. The debate fills over 40 pages in Hansard and makes interesting reading for animal lovers. I hope to say a little more about the Bill in next month's issue.

EDITOR

Front cover photograph this month shows Bootsie, 5-year-old Siamese, and Skipkit, a 13-year-old monkey, who are inseparable companions at the Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., home of Mrs. Billie Shannon. The monkey went off his food for four days when Bootsie was missing on one occasion. Photo by Associated Press.

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Interested in Creams?

By KATHLEEN YORKE

THOSE who breed these Longhaired cats know how very attractive and beautiful they are, with their pure pale sound colouring and large copper coloured eyes. They have a great attraction for many and are such placid creatures and great companions.

If you are thinking of buying a Cream kitten, do get someone to advise you as to its points of beauty or maybe its faults, so that when you start to breed from her you will know what to look for in a future mate. To start right is half the battle. When selecting a mate for your queen, soundness of colour and texture of coat plus freedom from tabby markings are of great importance. The Standard requires an even flowing coat of the softest texture, pale sound to the roots. There should be the same shade of colour from tip to the roots and all over the body, on top and under, stomach should be absolutely sound, as should the flanks and tail. No white should be there at all. This is a serious fault and must be bred out. No variation in shade of cream is permitted.

The brush should be short and full, same width all down and colour as even as the rest of the cat. A very bad fault is a white tip to the tail. A self coloured

cat must be one even colour all over without shading. I am purposely repeating myself as I want to impress this fact on breeders. Our Creams today are suffering from shading, tabby markings and bars. With carefully selected matings the above-mentioned faults can be reduced and finally eradicated. Before the war we had lovely specimens and they will return if breeders will pay more attention to the selection of a stud. Good males are to be found and a little time and thought must be given to their selection.

When the kittens arrive, there must be careful selection of those which are sound and unmarked for further breeding purposes. So in two or three years the breeder should attain the desired goal—coats that are completely sound and free from markings. Let the next breeding season show that you have the interest of this lovely variety at heart and that you intend to work towards its perfection.

We have some grand headed Creams with neat, well set ears, large round wideawake eyes of deep and brilliant copper colour and short broad noses. Noses should not be ultra short as they make the eyes weep and the nose bubble, which is distressing and unpleasant to see. I hope we

shall never see this distortion in our Creams and Blue Creams with their charming open bland faces. Some of them seen at shows and in their own homes are wondrous to look at, their faces and body contour being so well balanced.

lected kitten will have good eye colour.

In the stud cat look for good physique, strong well-balanced body, broad skull, with a good top of head and neat small well set ears. If your queen fails in these particulars a mating should



CHAMPION WIDDINGTON WARDEN, Cream male of outstanding quality.

I have mentioned the lovely copper eyes. It should be borne in mind that they pale with breeding, but will be handed on to the progeny. Always select a kitten that comes from a strain having this attribute. See that the kitten has sound eye colour without a green rim; very seldom does the rim fault disappear. At four to five months you can generally ensure that your se-

tend to put matters right in the progeny. Nose should be broad and short, not narrowing at the end. Look also for a strong muzzle, a weak chin spoils beauty and balance. In particular the male for your queen must have a soft coloured sound unmarked and unshaded coat, free from white coarse hairs, tabby markings on body, legs, chest or tail. Mrs. Bazeley, Mrs. Yeend, Mrs.

Stephenson, Miss Sylvia Langhorne, Mrs. Sampson, Capt. Powell and Capt. St. Barbe produced some of the best Creams before the war. Nor must I forget the late Mrs. Soames and her Ch. Soame Crusader. Miss Matty o' the Combe and Ch. Pickles of Hanley were renowned for passing on their outstanding qualities.

markings return. Should any of these faults be seen in your own queen ever so slightly, do mate back to a good sturdy Blue of the type indicated. This step will save you much disappointment and at the same time further the breeding of good Creams.

Here I must mention some of the loveliest Creams bred from



A pair of Cream kittens bred by Mrs. M. L. Sheppard and sired by Ch. Widdington Warden ex Pelham Thelma.

Should you decide to use a Blue male select the very best, one of a pale uniform colour. I strongly advocate this cross as if Cream to Cream is continued over several generations, type begins to disappear. By type, in this instance, I mean the head and face which tends to narrow and get more pointed. Ears become larger and the fine well balanced head is lost. Colour also tends to darken and get a hotter shade of cream, the soft pale colour goes and worst of all the tabby

Blue males—Champions Buff of Handley, Sherry and Shot of Handley, Biscuit of Handley, Widdington Warden, Autumn, International Ch. Idmiston Champagne, Champions Colneside Sunshine and Colneside Cream Bunne, two outstanding cats, Golden Arrow and Bubbles of Handley. Just these few prove what a good influence the Blue had for them and their descendants. All were the very palest, soundest unmarked cats you could wish to see. When

A page for the proletarian puss No. 13



Photo by courtesy P.D.S.A.

WHERE PATIENCE IS REWARDED

Scenes similar to this are being enacted daily at the treatment centres of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals which are dotted all over the country. That remarkable woman Mrs. M. E. Dickin, C.B.E., Founder and Director of the P.D.S.A., has recently passed away at the age of 81.

they mated to Cream females, the results were exceptionally fine and gave us many of our noted Creams, both male and female. I could mention also some fine specimens and notable winners carried on from Cream to Cream and Cream to Blue Cream crosses.

I have always preferred putting a Blue Cream to a Cream or a Blue Cream to a Blue. You should not lose your type or colour with these matings. I have been most successful in breeding the loveliest Creams possible this way. Recently I have asked French breeders to follow this plan as so many of their Creams are really very hot and marked. I am sorry to say that several of them have been exported from England. Three I have handled in Paris recently and which are pure and unmarked are Braeburton Bambi, sired by Gathorne Gabonne ex

Sweetagirlie (sister to Sweetaboy), Int. Ch. Idmiston Champagne, by Tweedledum of Dunesk, and the Dutch bred Bentveld Muffin (which I believe is now a Champion), sired by Sedan Cocktail, a son of Dickon of Allington, dam Bentveld Lampedusa, she being sired by Int. Ch. Jonathan of Shatterway out of Int. Ch. Theydon Heather. Muffin is owned by Mlle. Posthuma.

Rollo of Sunfield, bred from Pelham Puffball by Miss Gabb and owned by Mme. Bridgett, is absolutely unmarked and a sound palest cream. Miss Langston and Mrs. Thompson told me this after the Amsterdam and Lausanne Show a few months ago.

Finally, I must add that a marked improvement in Creams has been noticeable during the show season which has just ended.

OFFICIAL STANDARD OF POINTS FOR CREAMS

As laid down by the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Blue Cream and Brown Tabby Society.

Colour—To be pure and sound throughout without shading or markings.

Coat—Long, dense and silky, tail short and flowing.

Body—Cobby and solid, short thick legs.

Head—Broad and round, small ears well set and well tufted, short broad nose, full round cheeks.

Eyes—Large and round, deep copper colour.

SCALE OF POINTS

Coat	...	...	...	...	50
Body	...	...	...	...	15
Head	...	...	...	...	20
Eyes	...	...	...	...	15
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	100
					<hr/>

Cheetles

All the prisons in Great Britain have their cats. A motley army, more esteemed for their efficiency than for their looks. They are "on the strength," drawing rations daily from the cookhouse as official mousers to their respective establishments. To become a prison cat is an enviable billet for any ambitious feline (congenial occupation, good quarters, and full board plus "perks") and every staff considers that their cats are the best ever. This is the story of one of them, specially written for OUR CATS by V. B. It is founded on fact and is affectionately dedicated to Cheetles, for twelve years honoured and faithful friend of the Staff, H.M. Prison, Duke Street, Glasgow. May his whiskers never grow less, and long may he flourish!

THE big cat lay luxuriously extended in a flower bed. His massive striped head pillowed among the antirrhinums and his hind feet resting on the now prostrate form of a purple stock. But Cheetles was far too well aware of his privileged position as Chief Cat to the Establishment to be concerned with horticultural niceties. Even the principal officer in charge of the grounds, going homewards some four hours earlier, merely smiled and gave him a kindly word, whereas any other cat would have been summarily driven off to find another resting place.

There had been fish for tea in the women officers' mess, good fish, tasty fish. Cheetles, comfortably replete, required a quiet spot for his evening snooze—secluded—but not too far removed from the world lest some event of importance should occur without his knowledge. Yes, the flower bed was a perfect place. He needed a snooze for he would be going on duty later. Had he not occupied an honoured position of trust for more than a decade in a service proud of its traditions—a service whose work is never done?

Lying there in the evening sunlight, drowsily content between sleep

and wakefulness, thoughts and memories crowded and jostled in his brain. Memories of mice well caught—thoughts of mice still to be reckoned with. He could look back on a fine record and forward to triumphs still to come. . . .

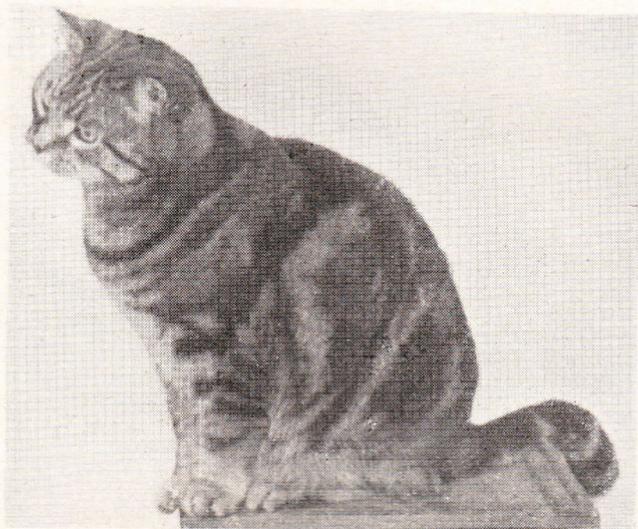
Memories, too, stretching back across the years, of friendly faces and kindly human hands, so many faces, so many hands. They came; they stayed awhile and then they passed out of his life. Transferred, married, retired; some he missed more poignantly, but others came to take their places and the endless cycle of time went on. Milk and fish—fish and milk—these were the unchanging realities—these were always there.

The mess, another focal point in a kaleidoscopic world; the mess, where once an inquisitive youngster discovered how to get a drink out of milk jugs with a long and dexterous paw. He had also learnt to "give a paw" on request (an accomplishment which he early resolved to keep for senior staff and doting friends). His friends taught him that one—but he mastered the milk jug technique for himself. Friends, so many friends, among them the Governor. Daily they greeted each other with the sober deference of colleagues in responsibility.

The Governor on occasion would bring an offering, a token as it were of esteem and respect. A juicy leg of rabbit, perhaps. The merit thus acquired was a trifle offset by the fact that the Governor was possessed by THAT DOG—a stout, middle-aged and effusive person, only to be tolerated at a distance. But the gift was accepted with a dignified and rather throaty purr.

holiday on a farm and when she returned to the city she bore in her arms something in a piece of old blanket, something which whimpered a little in the covering folds. Tales in which dreams melted imperceptibly into realities.

Darkness had almost fallen now. The Officer for Night Duty passed across the gravel sweep, attaché case in hand and coat collar turned up



CHEETLES, for 12 years on the staff of H.M. Prison, Glasgow.

Visitors also—visitors to the establishment usually stopped to admire—social workers, learned magistrates, even judges of the High Court and eminent officials from a distant Olympus called "The Department." They said: "What a handsome fellow—unusual markings, hasn't he?" and passed on their way, having tendered homage, but leaving the object of it unconcerned, and unimpressed.

The evening shadows lengthened and the chattering sparrows settled to rest. Still Cheetles lay on . . . and still he pondered. There was a tale the human friends had told him, a tale about a lady visitor who spent a

about her ears, for the night grew chilly. Her feet scrunched on the gravel path and he heard the tapping of her heels as she hurried down the steps. Then the last of the day staff, going off duty, chatting together as they went. In the distance a bantered jest with the Gate Officer. The big doors slammed and the key turned for the final time that night . . . very far away a church clock struck ten.

The prison settled into stillness like some great unwieldy mammoth into its lair. Beyond the wall the city's life roared on its way. An engine hooted fussily in the goods yard and a late tram went clanging past, flash-

ing white sparks from the overhead cable. Inside the wall it was quiet.

Memories chased through his drowsy brain . . . almost forgotten, so faint were they. Ghosts of memories perhaps come back to wander the earth. Tales his mother used to croon to him long, long ago . . . a little striped scrap of a creature, nestled in the hay in a Highland barn. One tale that always made her purrs grow softer. It was a tale of white moonlight on a honey-scented hillside, a tale of a wild outlaw who came down from the mountains by night and stole—not a chicken or a tender new-born lamb, but the eager heart of a little puss. An old wives tale, perhaps, but old wives tales are apt to tell of war and work and love.

Cheetles yawned and stretched himself. Time to be moving; there was work to be done. There was that mouse to be seen to, the one that got away under the surgery door last night. And young Terry really needed more supervision than he was getting. An upstart braggart of a cat if ever there was one, with his flashy good looks and his cocksure manners . . . supposed to patrol the cookhouse and half the grounds, but

fonder, if rumour spoke truth, of skulking round the supper table in the quarters or sleeping over the sitting-room fire. Terry, the foundling, the stray, urchin of the city streets.

Then there was Lizzie at the gate. Really, the stores were her proper beat. A hard-working, anxious little cat, efficient, too. One must give Lizzie her due, but invariably harassed by family cares and prey to the conflicting interests of work and motherhood, like so many women, pressed into industry and prematurely worn out by the ceaseless pressure of the machine.

Yes, time indeed for him to be moving. The responsibility was on his shoulders. He rose up, yawned and stretched himself again. Still, life held many compensations. Tonight's Night Duty was a true friend. The corridor window would be open and he could trust to her remembering that a drink of warm milk tastes very good in the bleak hours between midnight and dawn.

Cheetle's great green eyes pierced the darkness like the headlights of a high-powered car. Time to be moving—the job must go on.

THE EDINBURGH SHOW

The Second Open Show of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club (held in Edinburgh in February) was well attended. Judges were Miss Kit Wilson, Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Williams and their main awards were as follow: Best Cat in Show, Miss Paton's Amber of Rockvilla; Best Adult Longhair, Mrs. Marsden's Widdington Warcry; Best Longhair Kitten, Miss Paton's Nepeta of Rockvilla; Best Adult Shorthair, Miss Paton's Amber of Rockvilla; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Challoner's

Whitehaugh Yetta.

An interesting feature was the display by Mr. and Mrs. Lamb of their lovely Siamese Champion Morris Tudor and Champion Pincop Azure Zelda. Exhibitors of Siamese were invited to challenge either of the Champions and to have their respective points compared. About a dozen exhibitors took advantage of the offer and interesting discussions ensued. A successful dinner was held after the Show, which was admirably organised by Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Oswald.

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

DEW CLAWS

I should like to put a question to the readers of OUR CATS.

One of my Black Shorthair queens, Maximilia Unterkatze, mismated early this year and in due course produced four black kittens. I put three of them to sleep and kept one male for which I hope to find a home as a pet when he is old enough to leave his mother. When I destroyed the new-born kittens I merely looked at their sex and left her the bigger and stronger male kitten to nurse. Later, when I inspected the kitten more thoroughly, I found that it had dew claws on his hind feet which I had not seen before. The three dead kittens had only four claws on their hind feet.

I should like to know if other breeders have had kittens born with dew claws and how frequently, or infrequently, this occurs. I have seen a number of cats with double thumbs, which is another form of polydactylism. In my opinion this abnormality occurs more frequently in cats than the fifth claw on the hind feet.

I should be very glad to learn what experience your readers have had with polydactyle cats; also if such cats are otherwise normally intelligent and healthy.

Miss E. von Ullmann,
Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

ACROBATICS

A statement reported in a cat publication (not OUR CATS) to have been made by a speaker at a recent social gathering of cat lovers has intrigued me not a little. She was referring to

the ability of the normal cat to land on its feet after a fall and stated that from *as low a height as one foot from the ground* (the italics are mine) it was able to do this. This fact, the report goes on, "surprised many of those present."

I incline to the opinion that rash statements of this kind should not be made. Obviously, no kind of test can be made and I doubt very much the ability of any cat to achieve a complete somersault in the brief drop of twelve inches. It is, of course, an accepted fact that the cat generally manages to fall on its feet from a reasonable height. But its ability to do so depends on the healthy condition of its balancing sense, the sense governed by the fluid-bearing canals in its ears. On the other hand, there are plenty of recorded instances where cats have fallen from window ledges and other places and severely injured themselves. I would be most interested to have your readers' opinions on this interesting topic.

L. B. A.,
Tonbridge, Kent.

MOTHER KNEW BEST!

You may be interested to have this little true story about my two Siamese pets. Sammy, a neutered male, was feeling frisky—the wind was blowing and he was having tremendous fun. In one of his mad rushes he ran up a tree near to the wall, and from there continued on to the roof and up to the top of the house.

Poor Sammy—the wind hushed and so did Sammy's excitement!

He realised he had to get down. The roof slopes are steep and slippery, and Sammy is heavily built. He tried to come down, slipped a few feet, scrambled up again, and wailed!

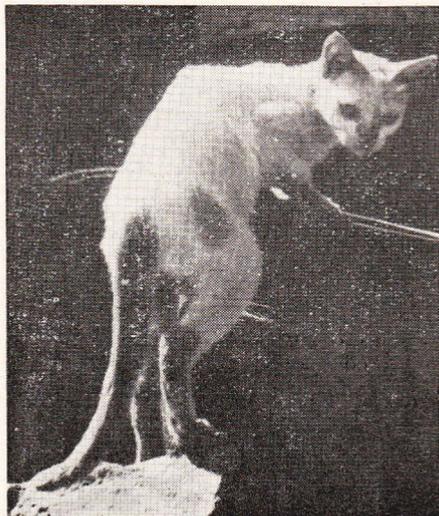
My little Siamese queen, nursing her first litter, which was only two days old, heard his cries of distress and came out to see what was the matter. She took command at once and ran up the tree and on to the roof where Sammy was perched. With a crooning purr of comfort she walked carefully across the roof, gradually descending. Then she went back to Sammy and nudged him to follow her, which he did, keeping close to Susan while she came gently sideways down the slope.

Within two minutes all was peace again. Sammy was fussed and petted and Susan was back with her babies—we were once more a contented family!

Carmen M. Peskett,
Wick, Littlehampton, Sussex.

CHINESE CAT

I am wondering if the enclosed photograph from my collection would interest your readers? It was taken in Hong Kong. As you probably



know, the Chinese eat cats, in which case this poor creature had a long way to go, I imagine, before it was fit for the pot. The main colour is cream (paler than Siamese) with dark speckles and patches.

Eunice A. Welsford,
Brixton, Plymouth.

DIET FOR STUDS

As there seems to be a sharp difference between cat breeders as to the housing of studs, I would like to say a word about it.

There are breeders who find it necessary to keep their studs away from the house and those who do not, and this involves issues which I think are worth exploring. Let us take the case of the poor stud that is turned out because he does not seem to know how to behave himself, and makes the house quite impossible for his human owners to live in. He is shut up in an outhouse, shed, or even cage; quite deprived of his liberty and exposed to the bitterness of winter nights, and the darkening and deterioration of his coat caused by the cold will in due course keep pace with the increasing wildness of his nature caused by his confinement. And no wonder!

Other breeders—and I am happy enough to be among them—treat their studs as civilised members of the family, and have no cause to do otherwise. In fact, mine sleep on my bed every night when they are not more profitably occupied, and I don't think that any further assurance is needed to prove what I say.

Now, why this difference? Is it not a matter of diet? My own belief is that if all red meat be avoided a stud will give no cause for offence. I never feed my cats on meat of that kind, although every cat or dog owner of my acquaintance seems to make horse meat their pets' staple food. Instead of meat, I give plenty of cheese, which they all love, and a limited quantity of boiled fish heads

(always mixed with cod liver oil in the winter months—a most excellent course to adopt), with barley kernels moistened with milk always on tap. Boiled rabbit, of course, when they can get it.

Is the red meat diet the cause of stud trouble? If your readers would tell us their experience it should be possible to arrive at a definite conclusion, and if the result showed that a meatless diet provided happy toms, and a meat diet confined and exasperated wild animals, we should be on the way to introduce an important and humane reform.

P. G. Hurst,

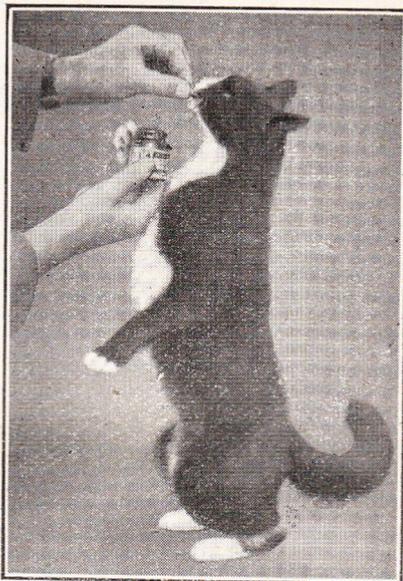
Eaton Thorne, Henfield, Sussex.

SCOTTISH CAT CLUB

Caesar was told, "Beware the Ides of March," but this did not deter the Scottish Cat Club from holding their first evening meeting for Club members on the 15th of last month. About 40 members gathered at the home of the President, the Hon. Victoria Bruce, for what proved to be a highly successful gathering.

Miss M. S. Paton, well known for her "Rockvillia" cats, gave a talk dealing with some of the cats in her life and also a demonstration on grooming. Mr. Peter Connor also answered many and varied questions and delivered a short homily on the ethics of breeding.

The Committee (Mrs. F. M. Richardson writes on their behalf) tenders sincere thanks to the members who provided refreshments and the gift table laden with a wide assortment of goods—Aberdeenshire rabbits, household goods, exquisite needlework, confectionery of professional artistry and baking of *cordons bleu* standard. Especially are they indebted to Miss Bruce, who so willingly opened her house to the delighted Club members. Club funds are enriched as a result by over £12.



"Kit-zyme-time" for Whisky!

Mr. J. Hills, of Cavendish, Marine Drive, Rottingdean, Sussex, writes:

"I feel I must write and congratulate you on your very successful product—KIT-ZYME.

Some weeks ago my little cat, Whisky, was in a very sorry condition, lacking energy and appetite, whilst his coat left much to be desired.

After a course of Kit-zyme, he is now in first class condition and all that a cat should be.

The enclosed snap of Whisky may interest you; it certainly gives a good impression of his keenness for your tablets. He just loves them, and I shall always see that he gets his regular dose."

KIT-ZYME will benefit your cat too
It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—
NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VITAMIN-RICH YEAST

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 Chemists, 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

More Questions and Answers

Mostly about Eyes

By ALBERT C. JUDE

Our popular contributor on the fascinating subject of animal genetics sustains the growing interest in the scientific aspects of cat breeding with this sixth instalment in a fine new series. Readers are invited to submit their simple problems to Mr. Jude who will be pleased to answer them for the general interest in ensuing issues.

What facts are known about the genetics of eye-colour?

As far as I am aware, genetics of eye-colour in cats has not been worked on separately, but the following observations may be of interest.

The colour of the eye depends on the pigment in the iris. In some eyes there is pigment on both sides of the iris, on the side facing the retina and on the side which faces outward. Other eyes have pigment only on the retinal side. In the latter class there are the blues and clear greys; while the eyes with pigment in front of the iris also are browns, hazels or greens in various shades, according to the amount of pigment present. Pigment is entirely absent in the eyes of albino animals, and as the tiny blood vessels are not obscured the iris takes on a pinkish appearance.

The instances in which the pigment is present in front of the iris are dominant to those in which it is absent from the front of the iris. Browns, hazels or greens mated together may, if heterozygous, give the recessive blue, but when blues are mated together no individuals of the brown class appear. Blues, however, may carry factors which will modify browns. For instance, a factor may be carried by blues which will intensify the brown pigment, and an eye

with very little brown pigment mated with certain blues produces progeny of a deep brown, far deeper, maybe, than that in the eye of the brown-eyed parent.

Quite likely there are other factors which modify brown, but not enough is yet known about the inheritance of the shades to make possible any statement except that the heredity of the pigment in front of the iris behaves as though it were due to a Mendelian factor. That, however, is of importance, for it does suggest that present systems of classification of eye-colours are on rather an unsatisfactory basis. Depth of colour and shade is at present the accepted arrangement, starting with the pale greys and ending with the browns.

The lighter greens are placed among the blues. It is known, however, that blues may differ from the deep browns in the absence of only one factor, but the difference between a blue and a green may be a difference due to more than one factor.

My queen recently had four normally healthy kittens and one which was born with both eyes part'y open. Will you please explain this eye condition?

In normal circumstances, the eyelids of kittens are joined up before birth by a bridge of epithelium. The

kittens are born in this condition and are unable to see simply because the lids completely cover the eyes. Normally the eyelids will open at about the seventh to tenth day. In cases where kittens are homozygous for the gene ("open eyes at birth") the eyelids do not get completely bridged before birth, and these kittens are therefore born with open eyes. In some cases the lids may be partly open and in others fully opened. In all cases the eyes are exposed, and without the usual lid movements to protect against injury—including that from early excessive light—damage may be done which could be impossible to repair.

Sometimes during the first twenty-four hours a slight haemorrhage takes place in the lower lid and occasionally in the upper one. Simultaneously, a slight haemorrhagic exudate is formed between the lids, which may quickly dry up, filling the space between the lids. This adheres to the cornea, but, as a rule, disappears when kittens are from seven to fourteen days old. Where it has adhered to the cornea a bulging often remains for some time, but later this often disappears. Quite frequently, however, kittens so affected retain some opacities in the cornea throughout life.

Readers have asked for advice which might help in selecting suitable studs for their queens.

As the queens concerned are not all of one breed, this answer is framed in a way most likely to assist all readers similarly interested.

Undoubtedly, I would be very wrong if I did not suggest that health should be the first consideration when choosing any animal for breeding purposes. Very definitely this must be the case where stock is being selected to form the foundation of a strain. No matter how near to perfection of colour or form these initial animals may be, their value will have

been very little if they possessed weaknesses in the factors for health and reproductive capacity.

The fancier who takes heed this way can be successful. If he ignores the point of "health first," then he will not be successful. The first need, therefore, is to establish the fact that any prospective stud comes from a line of healthy and fully fertile animals. Get to know the performance of his ancestors, especially those on the male side.

The next consideration will be that the colour and type of the stud matches up to the colour and type of the queen to be mated, remembering that all the individual characteristics of outward bodily make-up constitute "type." The aim must be to counteract any failings in the queen by using a male definitely strong in those particular failings. For instance, should the queen have rather poor eye-colour, choose a male with really good eye-colour. Each separate characteristic must be considered in this way, but the greatest failing must always have prior attention. Make certain at mating time that the stud is in tight coat. In the case of longhaired cats the length of coat at the time of mating is not important, provided it is known that when in full coat good length of coat is carried.

Obviously, the most likely place to choose a suitable stud is at a show, where several likely males can be seen and compared. It will not necessarily be the winning male which will be the most suitable for a particular mating. The selection for any mating must be made on the basis of comparison with the queen point by point.

Having selected the likely stud, it is now vital to have proof that he is capable of reproducing himself in his progeny. We often talk of "throwing back," and this is the reason why some males have the ability of breeding youngsters which may be much

better than themselves, while another male, the result, perhaps, of an out-cross or just a lucky chance mating, only produces the most ordinary stock, although he is superior in appearance. Often the most valuable male is not the winning champion, but his sire, for he has proved his worth by his son's success!

A point to remember is that when building up a strain, or in selecting breeding stock from a strain, the male is not merely passing on his own qualities, but all the characteristics which he has inherited from his ancestors.

MY WINNING SNAP

It was in June last year (writes Mrs. V. E. Major) that I went to Holmbury St. Mary to look after the lovely cottage of Dr. and Mrs. G. Loughborough whilst they were away. The cat family consisted of five Chinchillas and Blue Chinchillas, Nisba, Mickey, Ashley Poppet, Ashley Bobbin (the well-known neuter) and Jingles of Thame.

I took my Rolleiflex camera with me for my own amusement as the house and surrounding country are most picturesque. In the garden there was an "island" of flowers and towards sunset the cats would assemble there to play. This prompted me to put up my camera on a tripod and to focus it at a certain point in the hope of a surprise snap.

So it happened. Jingles peeped out from among the flowers and paused just for a second as if to say "What about it?" I captioned the picture "The Trespasser" and entered it for the "Daily Graphic" competition.

The effect of halo lighting is due to the fact that the picture was taken against the sun. I used a Kodak Super XX film with shutter speed at 1/100 sec. at f.8. I also used a lens

hood necessary for protection against direct lighting.

Cat photography needs endless patience and a real affection for the subjects. Jingles certainly brought me wonderful luck—a happy stay in a delectable spot plus £200!

The Southern Cross Siamese Cat Club of Australia's first show is to be a three-day event in conjunction with the Australian Aviation Association, and permission has been granted by the Mayor of Sydney for the use of the Lower Town Hall as a venue. The dates are 24th, 25th and 26th May and visitors will have the unique opportunity of seeing some of Australia's finest cats and birds on show under the same roof.

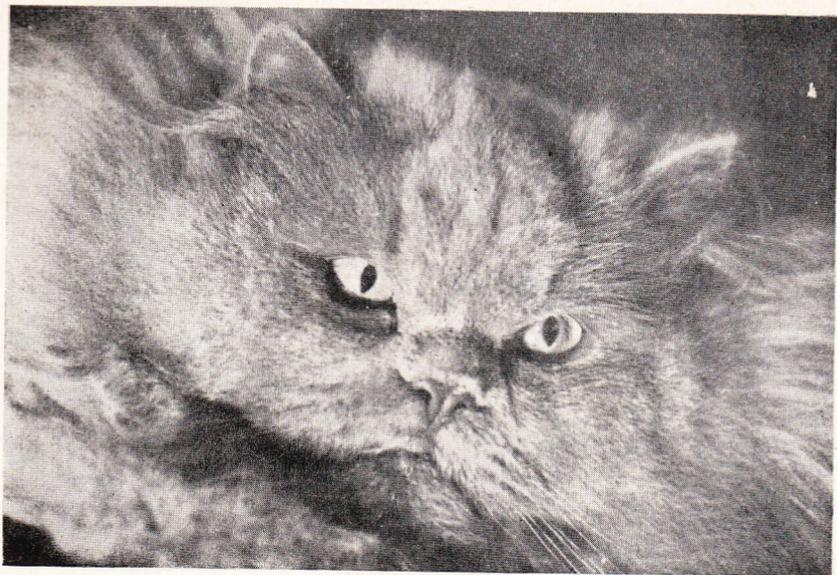
A cat section is to be held in connection with the Agricultural Show to be held at Chester on 6th June. Miss Le Gallais is the Secretary and Show Manager for this section.

What is the EYE'S best friend?

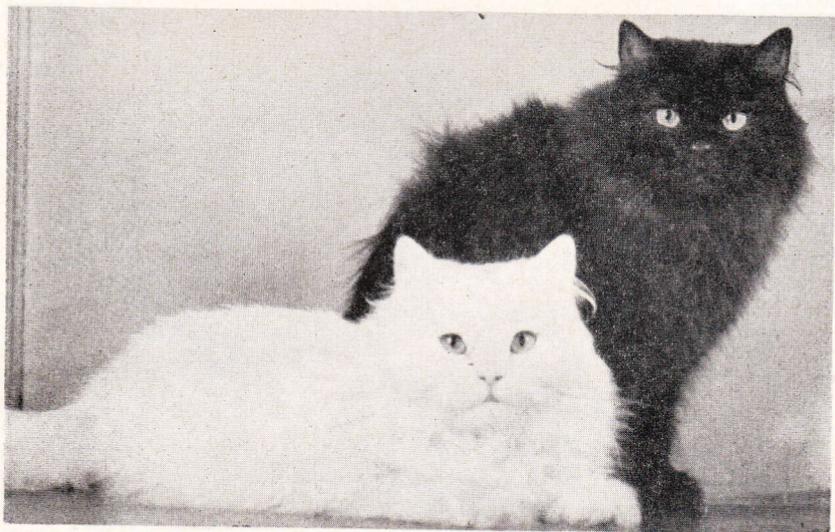
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A well-taken photograph of **GAYDENE CANDY KISSES**, an up-and-coming Blue Longhair Female who has won 7 trophies and 14 Firsts for her owner, Mrs. L. McVady, of Edgware, Middlesex. It is interesting to record that Mrs. McVady owes her introduction to the Cat Fancy to a chance purchase of **OUR CATS** Magazine at a railway station bookstall. She began as a complete novice by purchasing Mary Rose of Dunesk (mother of Candy Kisses) from Mrs. Brunton and had a remarkable run of successes in her first year as an exhibitor.



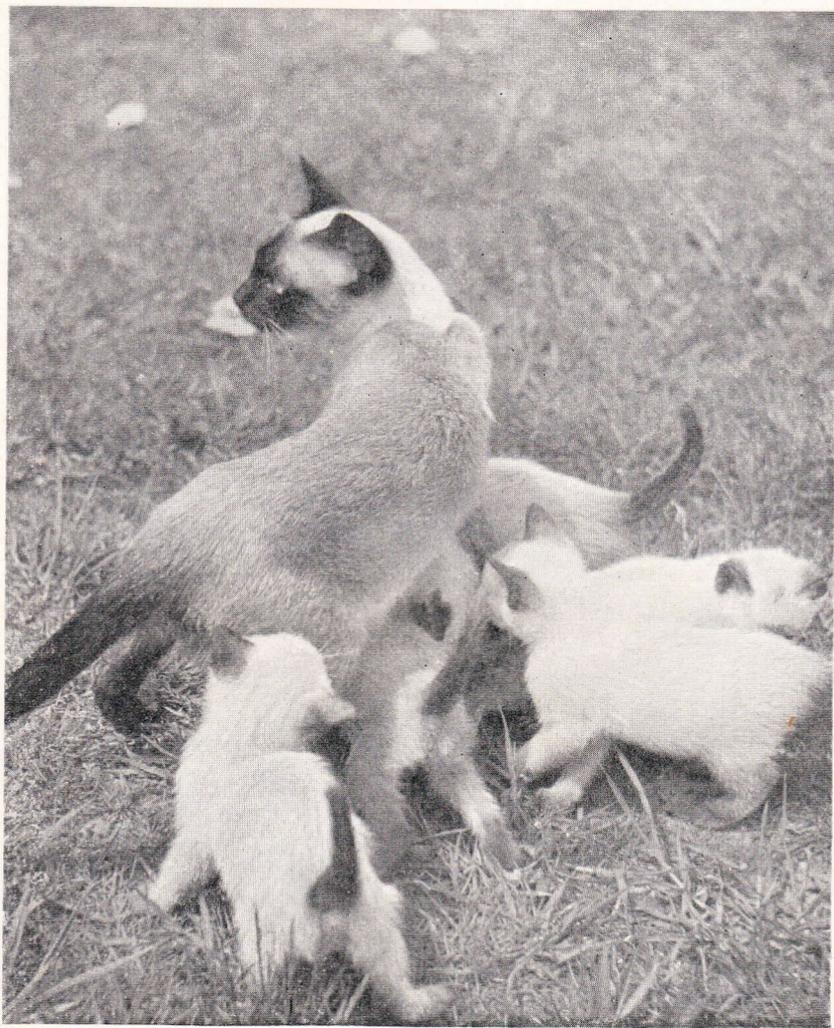
Striking contrast but complete harmony ! International Champion **DJANGHIR XERMINE**, Orange-eyed White Longhair, is seen here with her sister **DJANGHIR WHIRLIGIG**, Black Longhair. Sire is Thornhill Blue Boy and the pair have done well for their owner, Mme. P. Pulby, the French fancier.

... these hint of sun and flowers ...

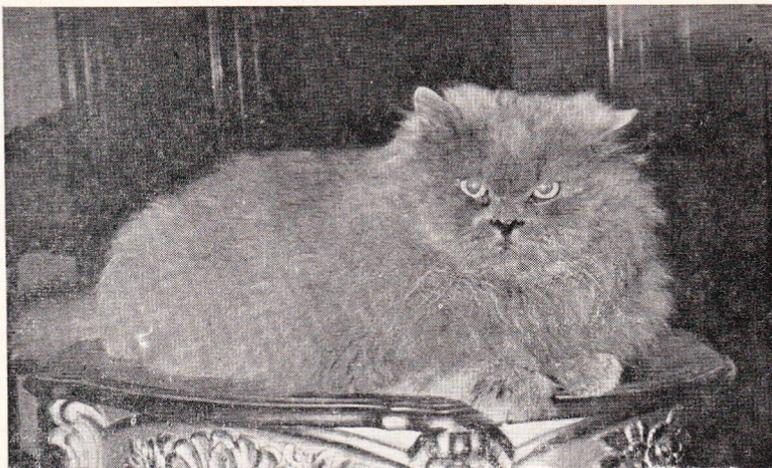


This delightful picture, well-nigh perfect in its composition, won for one of our readers, Mrs. V. E. Major, of Gt. Bookham, Surrey, the second prize of £200 in the 1950 "Daily Graphic" Open Photographic Contest. A brief account of how the picture was obtained is given by Mrs. Major on page 16.

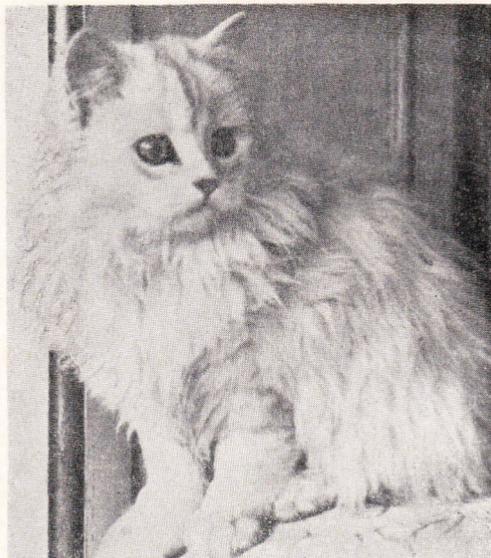
. . . and exciting days to come



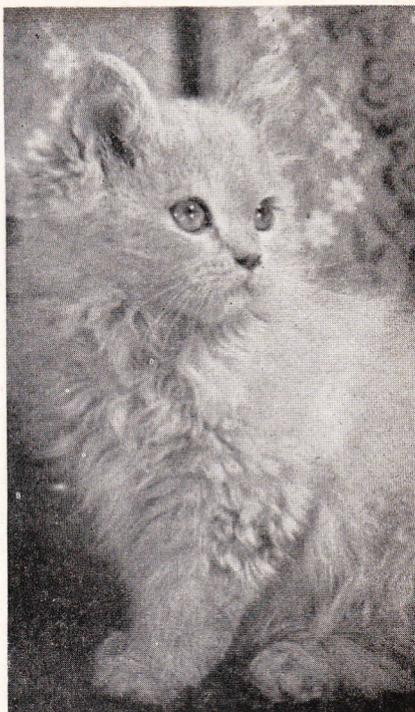
These five kits (or is it six?) are enjoying their first out-of-doors adventure under the watchful eye of their mother, NANKI SOO OF CATTAILS. Breeder is Mrs. D. Brooks, the American fancier who has an exceptionally fine cattery of Seal and Blue Point Siamese.



CHAMPION DANDY OF PENSFORD, Blue Longhair male, won his final Championship Certificate at a Copenhagen show in February. It was the occasion of "Darak's" 20th anniversary exhibition at which the Dansk Racekatten Klub participated. Dandy (exported by Mrs. L. Davies) is litter brother to Ch. Astra of Pensford, bred by Mrs. Joan Thompson.



This picture of 4 months old REDWALLS FAIRY (bred by Mrs. Hacking) is particularly interesting to fanciers because she is a daughter of Foxburrow Wendy, who is the only female Chinchilla born to Ch. Langherne Winsome. Winsome's wonderful life story was related by Mr. P. M. Soderberg in our November and December issues last year. Fairy is owned by Mrs. Blanche Barron, of Hillingdon, Middlesex, who hopes through her to retain the strain of a famous cat.



Pollard, Ipswich
MINGSWYK ROMIO, a winsome Cream kitten photographed at 4 months. Bred by Mrs. I. J. Cattermole, Romio is now owned by Miss Harwood, of Malton, Yorks. Sire is Ch. Harpur Blue Boy, dam Raneé of Sunfield.

It's

Kittening Time Again!

I HAVE received so many letters recently on the subject of cats in kitten and litters which, although always confidently expected, sometimes do not materialise, that perhaps this moment is as good as any other for dealing with this important aspect of breeding.

Judging from the tenor of the remarks of some of my correspondents, novices appear to think that a queen, when she has been mated, should for that very reason receive constant attention of a particular kind. Not a day must be missed without doing this or that, or adding this particular food or that special medicine to the happy lady's daily routine.

It would be a good idea to forget all the fads and fancies, for practically all are just an unnecessary waste of time and sometimes also of money. If the normal routine for your cats is sound, there is no reason to make any drastic alterations for this merely interesting condition.

There are established breeders who swear by this or by that for their mated queens. At times they go so far as to suggest that their successes are due to the fact

that they added some special pill to the mid-day meal. I don't believe more than one word in ten of the whole lot of it.

These breeders are successful sometimes for one reason and sometimes for another, and more often than not for both together. The first reason is general good management, which means that they start off with sound stock, they feed well, and that implies on sound principles and in adequate quantities, and finally they allow their animals the freedom and exercise which promotes sound condition.

The second reason is just good fortune. "The best laid schemes of men gang aft agley," but if Dame Fortune is on your side you can get away with many sins both of omission and commission. So let the lady lead her own life and don't fuss!

Can you be sure that a queen is in kitten? That is a very difficult question to answer, for, as I know from my own experience, even the person who thinks he knows can be fooled up to the end of the sixth week. Normally, however, there are signs and portents which are sufficient to convince one that a family is really

on the way, and false pregnancy is something which is comparatively rare.

The first indication that kittens may be expected is that on inspection the nipples of the queen are found to have adopted a much more lively colour. With some queens this change is apparent on the twenty-first day, and most give clear proof before the end of the fourth week. From this time onwards the contours of the lady will adopt the Hogarth "line of beauty," and when the litter is to be a large one she becomes more ungainly in appearance as the weeks pass.

A Contrary Creature

It is wise for the beginner to rely on these signs alone and to leave more critical inspection to those whose business it is to know. If you must know the answer, then ask your vet. ! When all appears well at the end of the sixth week you can relax and possess your soul in patience.

During the week before the kittens are born, I think there is some reason for exercising a little more than ordinary care. I like to shut my queens up a few days before the kittens are due, not because they are likely to do harm to themselves, but humans are such fools and so careless. A queen carrying a heavy litter is not as nimble as at ordinary times, and if she is in the quarters in which she is to have her

family she will be out of harm's way.

The cat is a contrary creature, but she knows her own business best and will not condescend to produce her family on the sixty-third day just because you happen to think that is the appropriate time.

If statistics were available, I think they would prove that a good average for the period of gestation is sixty-five days, but this is by no means the limit and many a queen has had her family on the sixty-ninth without harm to herself or her kittens. The supreme proof that all is well is that the lady herself shows no signs of uneasiness or distress. Unless and until she displays such unfortunate symptoms, don't worry the vet., because he certainly will not do anything unless he really feels that action on his part is essential.

Don't Just Hope

When labour starts don't go away and just hope for the best! Be on hand and keep a wary eye on the lady, but do not interfere unless you are sure that there is something you ought to do. A normal queen can get on perfectly well without human intervention.

Maiden queens do sometimes get into a state of comparative panic at this entirely new situation, and in their confusion forget to release the kitten from its protective sac or fail to sever the

cord. Should this happen you ought to come into action, for you may otherwise lose a valuable kitten. That is not fussing, but plain common sense.

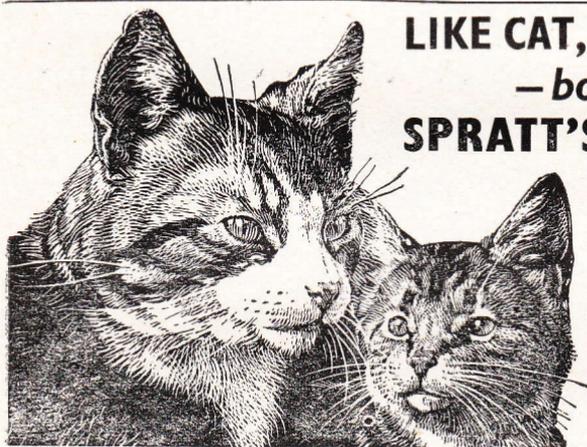
It is impossible to say how long it will take a queen to produce a family of four as so much depends upon the particular female. With most queens, however, the whole business is finished in a few hours. Some queens are so concerned with the kitten which is about to be born that they forget all about any others which have already started an individual life.

It is here that the breeder can often do useful work, for if he knows his queen he can collect the miserable little wet creatures which have been born and arrange

them comfortably on a blanket-covered hot water bottle. To be wet is one thing, but to be wet and cold is no joke. Few queens resent the handling of their kittens by a person they know well.

When kitting is finished it is a good plan to provide the mother and her family with a clean bed and also to leave the hot water bottle in position. After that go away and leave the whole business to a mother who knows more about rearing kittens than you will ever know.

It all sounds so easy, doesn't it? It is easy nine times out of ten, but you must have luck on your side. May that luck be yours this season!



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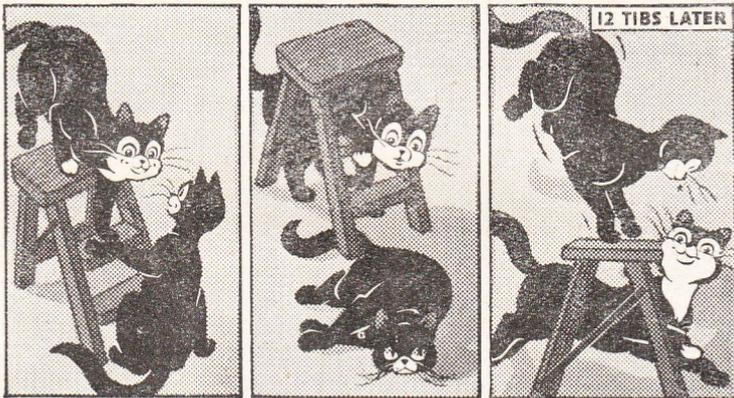
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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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.

14th March. The A.G.M. of the Croydon Cat Club was a very cheery affair, well attended by over 50 members. The membership was announced as 265 (67 new ones since October) and 31 resignations for various reasons. Mr. Gordon Allt was elected to the Committee and the delegates to the Governing Council are Mrs. Towe and Mrs. Axon as before, and Mrs. Vize newly elected. Instead of winners holding the Clubs cups and trophies for a year, it is hoped to exhibit them at the Ch. Show and in many cases give memento spoons.

Members were asked if they were prepared to support the Committee in launching out and engaging the Seymour Hall for the next Ch. Show in November. This proposal was carried. Let us hope the central position will attract an exceptionally big gate. It is within a few minutes of Kings Cross, Euston and Paddington, so excellently placed for the majority of exhibitors. The Crystal Cat Show at Olympia last September, with over 11,000 spectators, made one realise the possibilities of cat shows when held at an attractive venue.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Towe (Show Manager) and Mrs. Towe

(Hon. Secretary) for all their devoted work for the Club during the past year. We were all especially pleased to see our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Axon, making good progress after her recent illness. The meeting closed with a really jolly tea party, and I particularly noticed Mrs. Boulton, Miss Statman and Miss Montague enjoying together their first cat club A.G.M.

25th March. The American journal "All Pets Magazine" arrived with the "Hall of Fame" section depicting many famous and beautiful cats. Ten photographs appeared of Mr. Anthony de Santis's lovely Longhairs, six of whom are Champions and one Grand Champion. Three of these I judged in January, 1950, and awarded them Challenge Certificates.

Ch. Rosedere White Feather is one of the best blue-eyed White males I have ever seen and the Reds pictured excel in type. I had the pleasure of seeing all three in their own home last February. Renown of Dunesk (by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue) looks charming. So far he has not been shown. Southway Billie, now owned by Mrs. Coreen H. Petta, of Wisconsin, looks pensive! Sired by Ch. Southway Crusader, he was Best Kitten in Show at Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show, 1950. Mrs. Charles Denhard's Solomans Seal of Abbas, Orange-eyed White male, is now a full Champion, another superb cat I judged in U.S.A.

Many other lovely cats appear and I wish all British fanciers who intend to offer cats for export could see the

quality of those they may be competing against. I hear from Messrs. Spratts that transit costs are about to rise by 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. This means that travelling costs will be about £25, with insurance at 5 per cent., for each cat sent to U.S.A.

26th March. Mrs. Vize and her daughter, who is over here from Canada spending the winter with her mother, called to see Souvenir Moonbeam (by Ch. Astra of Pensford) before he flies to U.S.A. on the morrow. He has grown into a fine cat, as Miss Kathleen Yorke predicted when she judged him on his *début* at the Kensington Kitten Show last July. He has a short face and nose, but not the "pushed in" accentuated stop which so often accounts for "weepy" eyes. His large, deep copper eyes gaze boldly at one and give him a sweet expression, and having him with me for seven months has made me realise how right the late Mr. Yeates was when he warned Blue breeders against an exaggerated desire for ultra-short noses which so often leads to a tendency to weepy eyes and sometimes snuffly noses. Moonbeam was bred by Miss Cottell and I bought him on the occasion of her marriage on 1st September when she was unable to keep him. He has been purchased now by Miss Verner Clum, of Florida, U.S.A., as a mate for her own queens and possibly a few belonging to acquaintances. All being well, he will be exhibited this season.

Mrs. Vize is leaving England in November on the Edinburgh Castle for Capetown, South Africa, to spend the winter. Mr. Vize retired this Christmas and they want to have one more "adventure" before they finally settle down. The problem is the cats, especially a valuable male like Ch. Astra in the prime of life at $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. His temporary home has to be extra special and Mrs. Vize hopes a friend will have him. Some of her other cats will be sold and a few will

live temporarily with other breeders. Leaving them is a big wrench, but the urge to travel is overwhelming, and this will be the Vizes' first real holiday for years.

27th March. A letter from Miss Adele Rudd telling me of the splendid results of Mortimer's parties. She writes: "So many wanted to come that we had a third one for the overflow. The incredible thing is the amount Mortimer made, as when we started we had just enough for one small stall. But nearly everyone brought him a gift and we had hastily to put up six stalls.

"*We made sixty pounds!* As the money is so desperately needed for good work we are more than grateful to his many wonderful friends. Mortimer is also appearing in the American 'Cats Magazine' with his photo and his title, 'Ambassador of Strays.' As you know, the Cats' Protection League is very well known in Slough, but we are trying to put it on the map in London."

29th March. Committee meeting of the Siamese Cat Club in the morning. After lunch, the A.G.M. at Fleming's Restaurant. No nominations were received for delegates to the Governing Council, so Mrs. E. Hart, Mrs. Duncan Hindley, Mrs. Sayers and Mr. Soderberg were automatically returned. As a result of the postal ballot, Mrs. Sayers and Mrs. Williamson were re-elected on the Committee, and Commander Luard, receiving the next highest number of votes, is the new member.

In a more or less pleasant way a few members had come to criticise, so it was more "lively" than most A.G.M.s, although very ably conducted by our Chairman, Mr. Soderberg. On being put to the vote, members were nearly unanimous in wishing their own Club Show to be held as usual at Lime Grove Baths Hall and not in conjunction with the

Olympia Crystal Cat Show. Mrs. E. Hart is to officiate as Show Manager as before. The date is 11th October.

The Club has the amazing total of over 700 fully paid up members, including life members, and Mrs. Hart has the onerous task of being Hon. Secretary and corresponding at some time or other with the majority of them. The Club owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to her capabilities, and I have vivid recollections of her enthusiasm during the war, when the S.C.C. was the only cat club to have an annual Committee meeting in London.

5th April. A letter from Miss Verner Clum reporting the safe arrival of Moonbeam. She says: "He arrived on Saturday, 1st April, at 11 a.m. I had to go to Tampa Airport to get him released out of bond. If the weather had been good he was scheduled to arrive Thursday, so you can imagine how worried I have been. He has been to Miami and there have been long-distance telephone calls and cables flying about U.S.A. He is really beautiful, such lovely type, eyes and physique; he was in grand shape, so Spratts took very good care of him. . . . Mrs. Laura Graham (Cat 'Fanciers' Association judge) came down to see him and likes him very much indeed.

"They had a notice of his arrival in the local paper and the photographer from the St. Petersburg newspaper is coming shortly to take photos for a feature story which I will send you. It is really exciting having him and how interesting to eventually see his progeny. I see his dam is a grand-daughter of Masterpiece of Allington, so he has blood lines on both sides so valuable here in U.S.A."

Whilst I was in America it was a revelation to me to see the close study made of pedigrees, and I advise all British breeders to tell potential purchasers if the cats and kittens they are offering have ancestors of another

colour in their pedigree. For example, Blues should have at least three generations of pure bred Blues. If there are Creams, Blacks or Blue-Creams in the pedigree, explicit information should be given. In Creams any Red Tabbies or Tortoiseshells for the last three generations are considered a bar sinister by some breeders, and one very well known American judge and breeder of Blacks refused a lovely typed Black kitten because her dam was a Tortoiseshell, although she was a Champion of exceptional merit. This judge considers Tortoiseshells are inclined to give their Black progeny brown shadings. I think Mr. Jude's opinion would be valuable on this matter.

Of course, if a breeder has a cattery of mixed Longhairs she might consider some ancestors of other colours an asset, but, generally speaking, I found U.S.A. breeders like Blue-bred Blues, Blacks bred from Blacks or Blues, Creams bred from Creams, Blue-Creams or one Blue parent.

At St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A., in December, Mrs. Kloos's Baralan Mistress Midnight (bred by our Mrs. Henn) was Best Opposite Sex.

At Aarhus, Denmark, in February, Mr. Erik Remsunen's Chadhurst Linda (bred by Miss Rodda) was 1st in her Open Class and Prix d'Honneur. At the same Show Morris Sable (bred by Mrs. Richardson), by Ch. Hillcross Song, was also first in his Open Class. Splendid news of British exports.

6th April. Meeting Mrs. Price, Chairman of the Hertford and Middlesex Cat Club, at an A.G.M. recently, I asked her why she started breeding Siamese, and was so interested when she reciprocated by sending me this account:—

"The first time my interest in Siamese cats was aroused was when I read Marion Cran's book, 'The Garden of Ignorance.' Her Siamese, Tatty Bogle, seemed to be a most enchanting creature and I felt that I

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simply had to possess one. A year or two later, when on holiday in Cornwall, a very dearly loved dog died rather suddenly of heart failure. My husband bought me a Siamese kitten to comfort me. We had seen a litter in a window in Falmouth and we bought one of them to bring home. This was a male. He became my first Siamese stud, Little Boy Blue.

"A month later we sent to Cornwall again, this time for a wife for

their A.G.M. and the late Mrs. Wade (the Chairman) was most kind. She introduced me to some of the well known breeders, and told me that experienced breeders would always help novices like myself and, I may add, they did. It is more of that spirit we need in the Cat Fancy to-day.

"In due course Little Boy Blue and the queen, whom I registered as Little Miss Muffet, had a family, and I decided that I would register a prefix. My prefix Devoran was selected

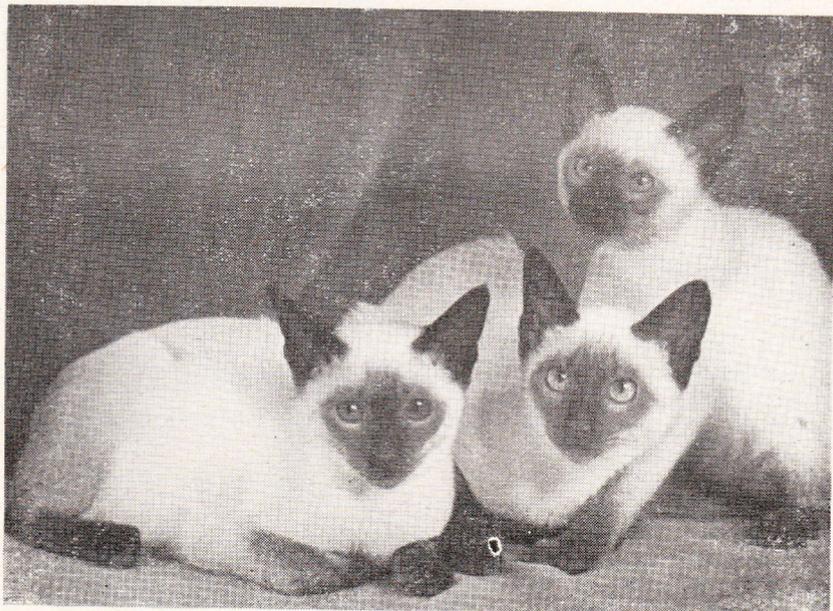


Photo by Fall

A nice trio of Devoran Siamese Seal Point kittens bred by Mrs. Price.

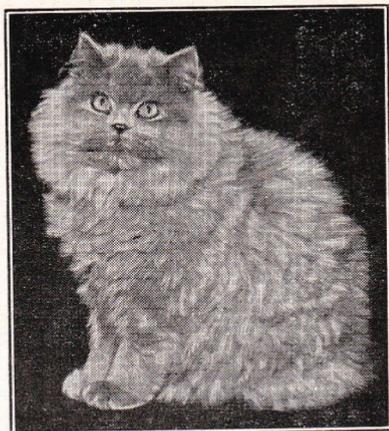
Treggie, as we now called him for domestic purposes. I thought that I would let them have a few litters but did not realise at that time that this would be a hobby which would bring me a great deal of interest and happiness. Little Boy Blue was a very fine cat, excelling in type, strong and most affectionate. I was very lucky to be so fortunate with my first pair. I knew no London breeders, so I bought Sherley's Cat Book and found in it the address of the Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club. I went to

because I was staying in the little village of Devoran, near Falmouth, when I bought my first Siamese kitten. In 1938 I kept a kitten from a litter by my two cats and she is still with me. I named her Devoran Araminta, and there are few Devoran cats without Araminta's name in the pedigree. She is the grandmother of Devoran Donald. In 1939 I had Little Boy Blue neutered. By this time I realised that one queen is not sufficient for a stud, and though he had been placed at public stud was

not used much, as I was unknown and there was no famous prefix to his name. Also, owing to the war, there did not seem to be much point in trying to go on keeping a stud. Unfortunately, he caught cold and died as a result of the operation. I still had two of his daughters and my original queen, and after about a year found it so difficult to send the cats any distance to studs owing to war conditions that I came to the conclusion that it would be wise to get another stud. This time I gave the matter a great deal of thought. I wanted something with a prefix sufficiently famous to bring me visiting queens. There were no shows so I could not get help from them.

“By this time, however, I had come to the conclusion (an opinion I still hold) that the Prestwick cats take a lot of beating, so I wrote to Mrs. Hindley and she kindly picked a male kitten for me, Prestwick Prithie Pal. This was a “buy” which I have never regretted. I now have seven adult Siamese—P.P. Pal, Devoran Donald, D. Araminta, D. Griselda, D. Hermione, Gracedieu Fah-Chee (by Mystic Dreamer) and Morris Petula (litter sister of Morris Padishah). I have only bought five kittens in all the years I have been breeding—my original pair, P.P. Pal, and the two young queens, Gracedieu Fah-Chee and Morris Petula.

“In 1947 I had to spend several weeks in bed as I was not well, and it was then I got the idea of founding a cat club. I felt that those of us who lived in the North London area seemed rather out of things, and thought that it would be a good idea to have a club and possibly run a show. I thought contact with other breeders would be interesting. In January, 1948, after much telephoning and writing, I held a meeting of 15 interested people at my house and the Club was formed. At first I thought that the Club should be called just the Herts Cat Club, but



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my vet. (Mr. Gale) suggested we should include the county of Middlesex, and I think it was a very good suggestion. I cannot express how thrilled I am with the success achieved by the Club in this short time.

"One little detail may amuse you. In 1947, my cats, with the exception of Donald, were beginning to grow middle-aged, and I realised that if I wanted to carry on the time had come to get some younger stock. I decided that I would let the judges at the S.C.C. Show decide for me. I would show Donald, and if he won a prize in his Open Kitten Class I would carry on. I would also found the Club; if not, I would have him neutered and give up breeding. He was awarded several firsts that day and was unbeaten by any other S.P. male kitten. That decided me to carry on and now I am so pleased that I did."

The Club was fortunate to "discover" Mrs. V. Parker, who was agreeable to act as Hon. Secretary, although not a cat breeder, and an enthusiastic patron in Mrs. Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), who has kindly lent her lovely house and garden for the parties held each summer; also Miss Dukes to act as Hon. Treasurer. Miss Kit Wilson (President) and Miss Kathleen Yorke (Vice-President) have also done great work for the Club, especially at its inauguration.

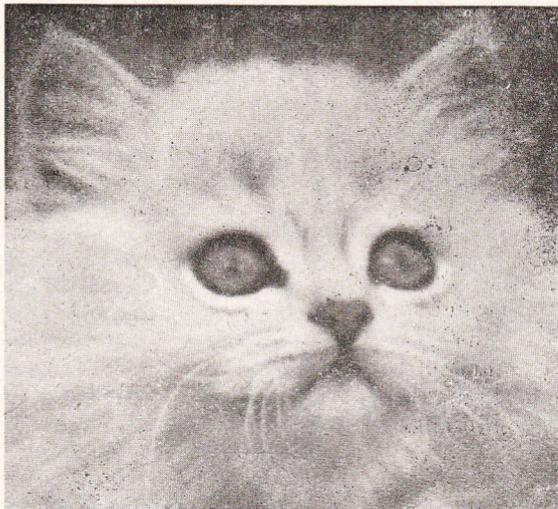
6th April. Tea with Mrs. and Miss Statman at Cricklewood, the latter now an enthusiastic breeder of Blues. She commenced by purchasing Priory Manetta from Mrs. Davies. This queen, unfortunately, had to be spayed, a great loss as a brood queen, as she is a very well bred, handsome person.

Miss Statman's next venture was to purchase a daughter of Valleyend Blue Prince, bred by Miss Phillips. This queen has had some very nice kittens by Miss Montague's male, two of which, Anson Belinda and

Anson Bouquet (the latter now owned by Mrs. Davies), won at this season's shows. Bouquet was the unfortunate kitten who, after being awarded first in her Open Class, was disqualified because her tally was tied on with blue wool instead of white ribbon, the latter being *de rigueur* at all Shows under G.C. rules. However, she has now two male kittens by Mrs. Davies's own male Gem of Pensford—something much more precious than prizes. She is such a devoted mother. She would not leave her babies to use her sanitary pan, and after three days Mrs. Davies called in the vet. to expedite matters and she is now normal.

I have experienced this with queens and have "tempted" them with a large sanitary pan filled with an inch deep layer of dry, finely sifted soil, turning the nursery box to the wall for a short time so the queen cannot get into her kittens' bed. It is most essential that queens with newly born kittens should urinate, as retention may lead to cystitis. Anson Belinda, looking "comfortable," was expecting kittens on 11th April, so when she chose my coat as a bed for afternoon tea we did not turn her off. After tea we walked down Anson Road to Anson Hall, the venue of the next Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show in September. It is a fine place for a cat show, with windows on each side, a raised platform at both ends suitable for spectators and the personnel doing the clerical work. Down a few steps another smaller hall with all the paraphernalia for catering. As a permanent home for the H. and M. Shows it is ideal. No. 16 bus from Victoria passes Anson Road and I noticed a service of Green Line coaches from Watford and several other bus services as we emerged into the main road. It was through a chance introduction of Mrs. Price to Miss Statman at the Croydon Cat Club A.G.M. that the existence of this hall became known.

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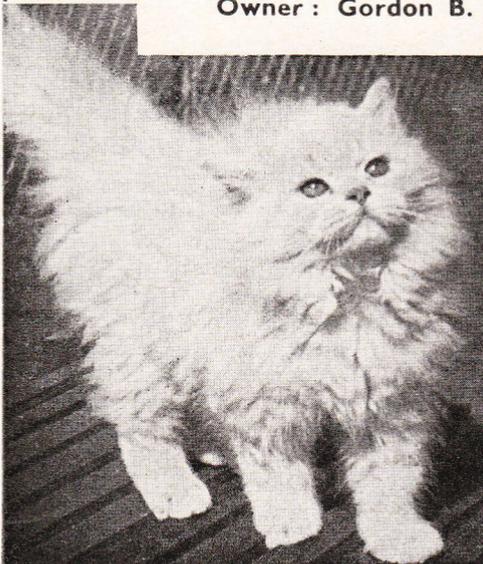
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ACCORDING to Mr. Neil Mathieson, of the National Veterinary Association, cats are suffering from the meat shortage. They are getting skin complaints through over-feeding on fish. The cure, he says, is to remove the cat from its usual environment for two or three weeks and give it horse-flesh and grass. Mr. Mathieson admits that cats are finicky feeders; one he knows will eat only buttered crumpets!

A cat pours his body on the floor like water. It is restless just to see him.—William Lyon Phelps.

A lady on holiday was interested to note that it was a local custom when a cat was lost or found to pin a handwritten notice to the garden gate. This was, she thought, an excellent idea that might with advantage be followed more widely. Some months afterwards her own pet was lost, so she decided to give the idea a trial. The result: a steady stream of people with about 20 stray cats and a few small boys offering birds and a dog in a fit!

Lester Piggott, the 15-year-old jockey who had the misfortune to break his collarbone when his mount fell at Lincoln Races, is a great cat lover. One of his most welcome visitors during convalescence is Black Cat, the stable pet. "Normally," said Lester, "Black Cat never leaves the stables, but she came into the house to visit me when she found I was laid up."

A cat has at last been selected for the title rôle of "Rhubarb," the Paramount picture which is soon to go into production. He is Orangey, an 18-pound stray belonging to Mrs. Agnes Murray, of Sherman Oaks, California. Orangey, selected from nearly 500 applicants, will co-star with Ray Milland and Jan Sterling in the hilarious tale of a cat which inherits thirty million dollars and a baseball team. Many other cats will appear in the film, but Orangey will be the star with a stand-in of his own.

Mice are reported to have been found for the first time in Greenland. They are believed to come from ships.

Local R.S.P.C.A. officers have been called to Northolt Airport for the second time in two years to hunt down a family of semi-wild cats who roam the miles of underground pipes. The cats were found in a water main after some members of the staff reported hearing pattering feet and strange noises below ground at night.

Writing to the "Evening Standard" about the recorded instance of a cat having 100 kittens, a London reader says: "I have a black cat which was given to me in 1941. She became a mascot for the R.A.F. and was christened Spitfire. To date she has had 131 kittens; her birthday was on 3rd March, her age being 10 years. She has a lovely coat, is playful, gentle and faithful, and looks about half her age."

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A Birmingham letter writer in the "Sunday Express" reports that the house cat takes trinkets and hides them.

News of important changes in the constitution of the powerful Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc., of America has just reached me. The new President is Mrs. M. Saxby Mabie, President of the Boston Cat Club and well-known judge, who succeeds Mrs. Myrtle K. Shipe, of Detroit. Mrs. Shipe has been elected Secretary of the Association in succession to Mrs. Claire Y. O'Bryon. Vice-Presidents are Mrs. Bess H. Morse, of Hollywood, and Mrs. Carl F. Rotter, of Minneapolis, and Miss L. M. Goodwin, of Teaneck, New Jersey, was re-elected Treasurer. The Executive Board includes many prominent figures in the American cat world—Miss Elsie G. Hydon, Mrs. Carl A. Spencer, Mrs. John S. Hunter, Mrs. Anthony Avata, the new President and Secretary, and Mrs. O'Bryon.

And here's another quotation which may be new to you. It is by that

great writer and cat lover, Mark Twain: "Of all God's creatures there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat."

According to the late Eleanor Booth Simmons, who conducted a widely read Cat Column in "The New York Times," a cat medicine chest should contain the following items: Cotton wool, orange sticks, cheese-cloth bandage, gelatine capsules, thermometers, vaseline, eucalyptus oil, magnesia, liquid paraffin, aspirin, calcium lactate, bicarbonate of soda, boric acid powder, sweet spirits of ammonia, bismuth sublimate, and 5 per cent. argyrol.

Animals who travel by air are to have their own reception centre and hospital at London Airport. It will be the first of its kind in the world and is expected to cost about £18,000. The R.S.P.C.A. is appealing for funds to meet its cost and upkeep. It is estimated that one in every nine passengers is an animal and that more than 17,000 pass through London every year. Plans for the building have been approved and the speed of construction will depend on Government permits and the availability of funds. The centre will have its own quarantine department and surgery.

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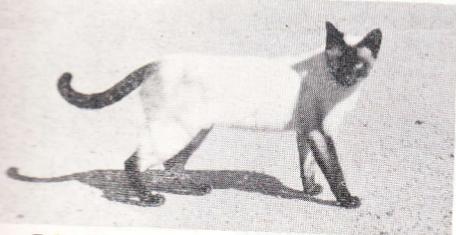
FURNISHED HOUSE offered, 2 gns. weekly if owner's cats accepted and loved, caretaker feeds them.—Box No. 25, **OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.**

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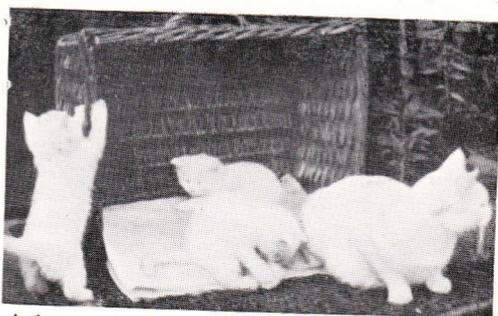
TO RENT. Unfurnished Flat or Bungalow, two bedrooms, one living room, good water supply, electricity not essential, within 50 miles London.—Box No. 24, **OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.**

AM interested in purchasing good blue-eyed **WHITE PERSIAN** cat or kitten, three months or older.—Please write to Mrs. T. R. James, 5115 12th Ave. So., Minneapolis, 17, Minn., U.S.A. (Owner of the Bear Cattery).

PICTURE PAGE

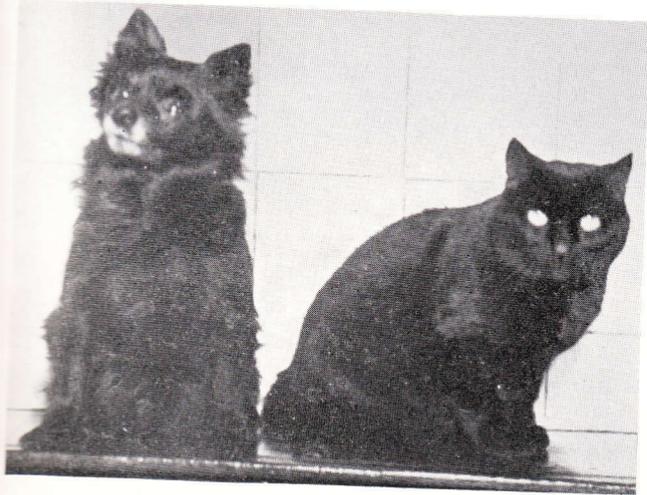
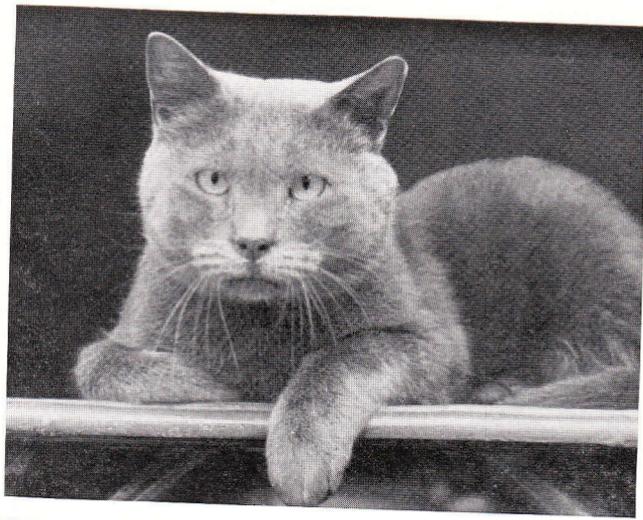


DONERAILE BETTE takes the air. She belongs to Mrs. H. Challoner, of Alford, Aberdeenshire. One of her progeny, Whitehaugh Yetta, was Best Shorthair Kitten at the recent Edinburgh Show.



A happy family snapshot submitted by Miss F. M. T. Dunnill, of Shottery, Stratford-upon-Avon. They are unusual golden-eyed White Shorthairs.

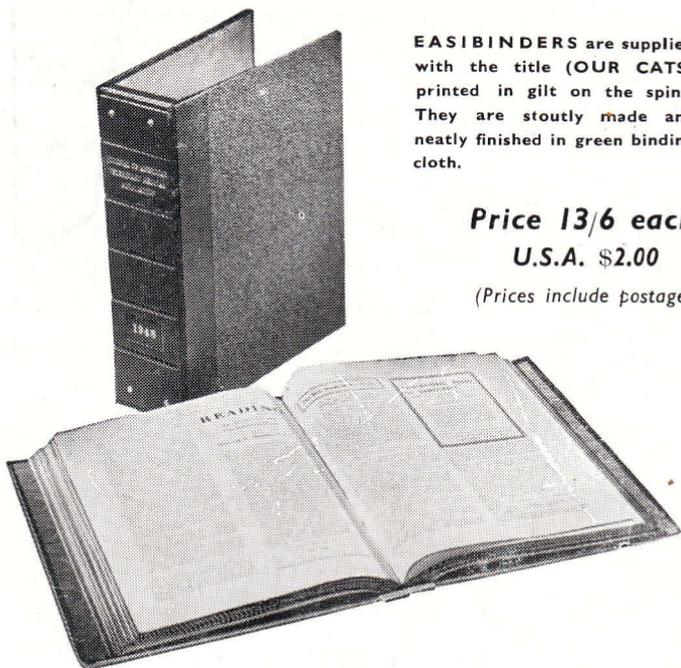
Meet Miss A. O. Victor's pet TIMOTHY, the only smoky cat of his kind in the village of Manschale, near Penzance. He is 6 years old and hates dustmen and noisy talkers.



These two have been pals for 13 years. Susan is a pure-bred black toy Pomeranian and PADDY matches him well for size and colour. They are cared for by Miss F. D. Coote, of Hascombe, near Godalming.

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