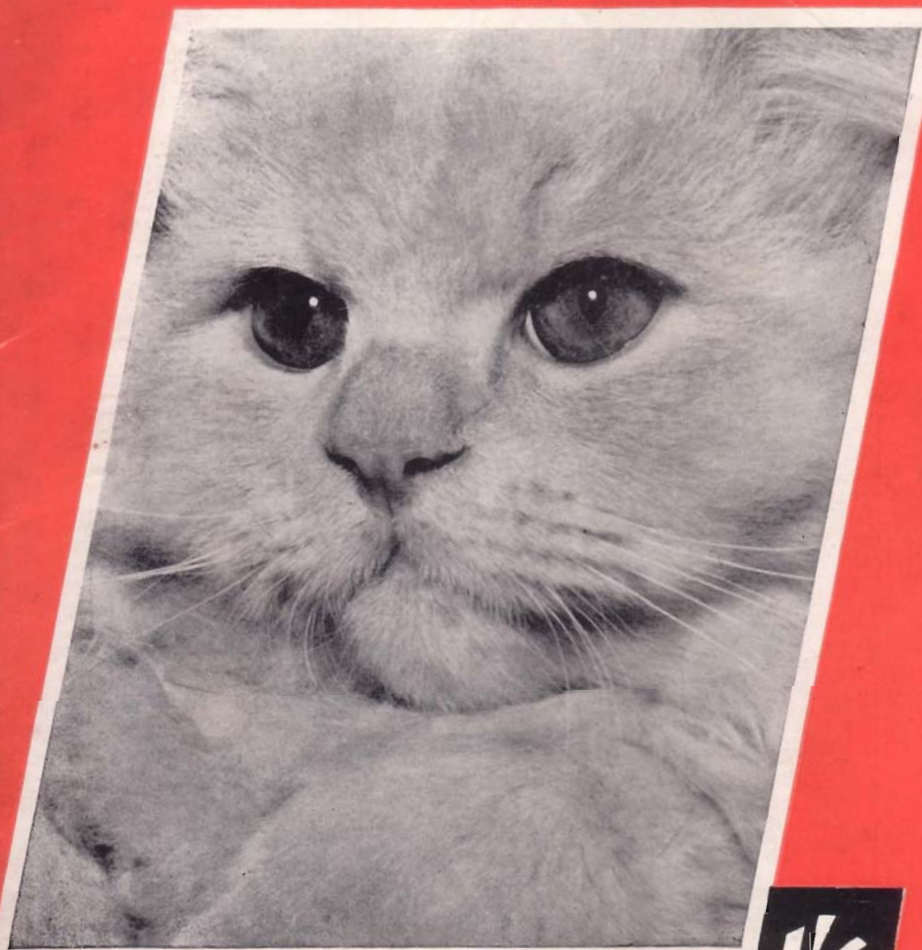


# *Our Cats*

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



MAY 1951

1/6

**THE CAT'S PLACE IN HISTORY**  
(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. 5

MAY 1951

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW

4 CARLTON MANSIONS

CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

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## BUSY TIMES AHEAD

THE reappearance of our Show Calendar in this month's issue is a sharp reminder of the relentless march of the bewhiskered old gentleman with the scythe. The fixtures for another season are due to commence next month and from all appearances fanciers are due for an unusually busy time.

Thirteen Championship shows are scheduled to take place during the 1951/52 Season and seven of these will be held in London. We are to have a special Festival of Britain Cat Show. This is an excellent idea that merits whole-hearted support. A number of smaller shows will be taking place in different parts of the country and the gallant little band of exhibitors who strive heroically to give their support on every possible occasion are surely going to find their energies and resources heavily taxed during the coming season. Unfortunately, the past winter has been a treacherous one for stock and I have had reports of sad losses among stock, both young and old.

A glance through the fixture list prompts the query: Are we getting too many shows and is the best possible use being made of the calendar? Perhaps some readers would like to send me their views on this subject.

And here are two requests for help from our readers. Our contributor, Mr. A. C. Jude, asks for a sample lock of "rusty" hair taken from a Longhair Black or Blue. It is needed for experimental work. If you can help Mr. Jude in this matter, will you please send the hair direct to him at 3 Hill View Road, Mapperley, Notts.

The second request concerns an ambition of mine to publish some of the Louis Wain cat drawings. If any reader possesses any number of these in handy page or book form, will he or she be kind enough to get in touch with me? Any drawings loaned would be carefully preserved and returned after their visit to the engravers.

Finally, a warning to all readers! On no account have any dealings with a firm of Maltese livestock importers, M. C. Bore Cardona, of Christopher Street, Valetta, Malta. These people are asking for non-pedigree kittens. I am told by Miss Kit Wilson that enquiries are afoot.

EDITOR

*This month's front cover is devoted to the lovely head of FANIFOLD IPECACUANHA, Cream Longhair shown successfully by Mrs. F. C. Mayne, of Calstock, Cornwall. Photo by Planet News.*

 **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macauley 1462).

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## Let's go to a Show

We urge readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers. Brief details of the show programme for the 1951-52 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. The list may be extended and revised from time to time as fresh information becomes available.

1951	Promoted by	Venue
6 June ... ..	Chester Agricultural Show ... ..	Chester
21 July ... ..	Barnsley Agricultural Society ... ..	Barnsley
25 July ... ..	*Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club ... ..	London
30 August ... ..	*Sandy and District Show ... ..	Sandy, Beds
15 September ... ..	*Herts and Middlesex Cat Club ... ..	London
11 October ... ..	*Siamese Cat Club ... ..	London
16 October ... ..	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... ..	London
24 October ... ..	*Midland Counties Cat Club ... ..	Birmingham
14 November ... ..	*Croydon Cat Club ... ..	London
17 November ... ..	*Scottish Cat Club ... ..	Glasgow
24 November ... ..	Yorkshire County Cat Club ... ..	Not yet notified
28 November ... ..	*South Western Counties Cat Club ... ..	Taunton
4 December ... ..	*National Cat Club ... ..	London
1952		
7 January ... ..	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club ... ..	Nottingham
28 January ... ..	*Southern Counties Cat Club ... ..	London
— February ... ..	*Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club ... ..	Manchester

\* Denotes Show with Championship status.

# The Cat<sup>\*</sup>

By PROFESSOR F. E. ZEUNER, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., F.Z.S.

**A**MONG the domestic pets kept in the towns of England, the cat probably tops the list so far as numbers go. But unlike other domesticated animals its association with man has been relatively short and, in spite of the mouse-catching propensities of some breeds, domestication was in this case only in part guided by economic considerations.

The domestic cat belongs to the genus *felis* in the narrowest sense, which has its chief representative in the wild cat (*felis silvestris* Schreber), a species that has become extinct in many parts of Europe, though it is still found in some parts of Scotland. It belongs to a group of wild cats, often classified as distinct species, with a wide distribution and somewhat different habits. The first of these is the European wild cat, the northern forest cat. This form is found from Europe to the Caucasus and Asia Minor and is decidedly adapted to dense vegetation and the climbing of trees. The second member of the group is the manul (*felis manul* Pall.), the steppe cat of Central Asia. The third is the yellow cat (*felis constantina* Forst. = *ochreata* Gmel.) which occurs throughout Africa, and extends to Syria and Arabia. A race of this extends into India, where I

have seen it roaming about in the dry scrub of Gujarat. In the Himalayas, however, other races occur which rather resemble the European wild cat, being adapted to forest conditions. These three "species" replace one another geographically. Although each may be divided into a number of geographical races, they are hardly more than geographical and ecological subspecies themselves. This is confirmed by the fact that the domestic cat interbreeds with the European wild cat. Moreover, Dorothea Bate has shown (*Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1905) that forms transitional between the yellow cat and the European wild cat exist on Mediterranean islands.

Fossil remains of wild cats are known from a fair number of localities of Pleistocene age (the Ice Age). . . . Some of these fossil remains have been referred to the European wild cat, and others, though without serious justification, to the African yellow cat or to the manul.

Whilst the living races of cats are easily distinguished by the colour and length of their hair, it has been found by Stehlin, Pocock, and other workers that one cannot distinguish them with certainty on characters of the skeleton. Extreme individuals may be identifiable, but there is so great an overlap in measurements and the relative proportions of the skull, the

\* Our thanks are due to the Author for permission to reproduce extracts from his survey and also to the Editor of "Oryx," the Journal of the Fauna Preservation Society, in which publication it first appeared.

teeth, and the bones of the extremities that the majority of specimens cannot be placed with certainty. All the fossil specimens known from Europe are likely to belong to the stock of the European wild cat, which perhaps produced various ecological types according to the environmental conditions prevailing at certain times in certain areas.

The wild cats never played a part in the economy of man of the old and middle stone ages. Finds made in the lake dwellings of Switzerland (new stone age and bronze age) and even in the iron age lake dwellings of Glastonbury, in Somerset, are now also regarded as belonging to the wild form. In Glastonbury, for instance, where animal remains were identified by Dr. Wilfred Jackson, bones belonging to five cats were found associated with other small wild carnivores like fox, otter, marten, weasel, and pole cat. There is thus no reason to suspect that the cats were domesticated.

### Cats on Tiles

Unfortunately it is as difficult to recognise a domesticated cat from its skeletal remains as it is to distinguish the wild races from each other. Domestication is therefore often more easily established by the archaeological circumstances of a find than by its osteological investigation. In the Roman town of Silchester, the remains of several cats were found. The investigator, H. Jones, did not rely on skeletal characters when he pronounced these as domesticated. He was merely able to make a negative statement, namely that they showed no characters which suggested them to belong to the wild form. On the positive side, he refers to the footprints of cats observed on tiles from Silchester. "It is certainly more likely that domestic cats should walk across tiles laid out to dry at their place of manufacture, than that wild cats should do so."

Nevertheless, it is possible in certain cases to make fairly definite pronouncements as to the wild or domesticated condition of cats. Although there is a great overlap in all characters, certain extremes are confined to either the wild or the domesticated forms. Externally, tame cats with a colour and pattern of coat resembling the wild form are distinguished by their slightly smaller average size and shorter hair. In fact, it is the long fur and bushy tail which make the wild cat appear so much stouter than the tame one; there are no corresponding differences in the skeleton.

### Roman Remains

The cat was not domesticated in Egypt in prehistoric times. A fragment of a jaw found in Abydos belongs probably to the wild form. No records appear to be known from the old kingdom, whilst from middle kingdom times only wild representatives are known with certainty. In the new kingdom (sixteenth century B.C. onwards), however, the cat appears as a domesticated animal helping to hunt birds and sacred to Bastet or Bubastis, a goddess of the Delta.

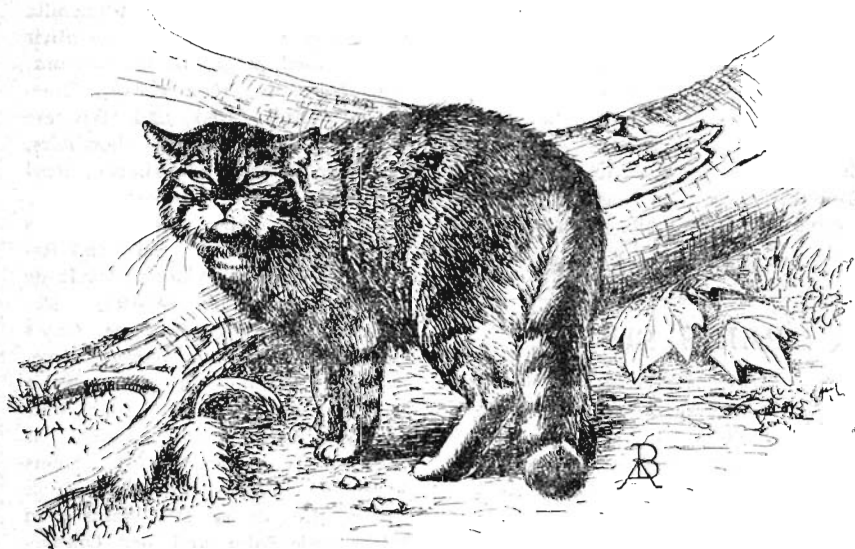
It is strange that the cat should have been domesticated at so late a period, since the ancient Egyptians used to tame all manner of animals from old kingdom times onwards. It is hard to believe that a people who kept hyenas and monkeys and used the mongoose should have neglected the cat so long. Some archaeologists indeed hold that the cat was domesticated in Egypt from the first dynasties onwards (c. 3000 B.C.) but the evidence is ambiguous. . . .

From this time onwards domestic cats appear to have reached Europe, though not in large numbers. By the beginning of the Christian era it was well known to the Romans and it appears to have been kept fairly frequently. With the Romans it spread

to the outer parts of the Empire, including Britain. Remains of Roman cats were found in Silchester as mentioned earlier on, in the Villa at Dursley, and recently at Lullingstone, Kent. The Lullingstone cat perished in a fire during the second century A.D. in a basement room of the house of a wealthy man. Most of its skeleton is preserved and shows characters of domestication both in size of the body and the structure of the skull, jaw, and teeth.

breeds agree on the whole with the African, but Pocock found that the character is invalidated by the study of large series. The cause is probably to be sought in interbreeding.

In the early Middle Ages the domesticated cat appears to have had a thin time. It emerges with the reputation of being the indispensable pet of all genuine witches, and the black cat became one of the symbols of Satan. Whether this was due to the nightly, silent, expeditions of feral



Later in his article, Dr. Zeuner makes a plea for the preservation of the Scottish wild cat, pictured above. "It is most desirable," he says, "to preserve this interesting species as a memorial to our sadly reduced wild fauna."

It is virtually certain that whenever the domestic cat was spreading in Europe, it would interbreed with the local race of the wild cat. In this manner, characters of the European wild cat entered into the domestic stock and the wild population became contaminated with some originally African characters brought in by feral cats. Since the eighties of the last century Nehring's view has been widely accepted that the colour of the soles of the hind feet is black in the African and pale in the European wild cat. In this respect, the domestic

cats, their weird cries and their eyes shining in the dark, we do not know. In any case, another useful creature with similar habits, the owl, suffered the same fate of unpopularity in medieval times. But there were some who pleaded in defence of the cat. In A.D. 936 Howel Dda, a prince of southern central Wales, issued a law for the protection of the domestic cat.

The last three or four centuries have provided us with a sub-modern supply of mummified cats. Unlike the Egyptian mummies of cats, deliberately prepared and entombed because

of 'their sacred associations, these British cats' mummies found in the walls and under the floor boards of old houses are either the results of accidents or of very utilitarian practices. Specimens like the one recently found in a seventeenth century room of the Tower of London may have perished after having ventured too far into the crevices of a medieval building. But others, holding rats or birds in their mouths, like one from Southwark, are likely to be a prepared group, perhaps intended to function as a kind of rat-scare. If so, they must have been manufactured and probably dried before being placed in the building. The latest instance of a mummified cat which has come to my knowledge is from Dublin, where one was found immured in a house built about 1780.

*(To be concluded)*

## PARIS SHOW

**A** VERY attractive Show was staged by the Club des Amis des Chats in Paris recently, and some lovely and interesting cats from various European countries competed. England was represented by five Blues: Mistery and Saphir des Bluets and Pallieter des Flandres (by Baralan Merry Fella), Nachat Nour de Madoura, 11½ years (by Autocrat of the Court ex Moormead Sally), Brazen Head Octavia (by Ch. Astra of Pensford ex Chadhurst Heather), Red Tabby Chadhurst Scamp (by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo ex Chadhurst Roma), and a Siamese, Silken Lucifer (by Afga-Khan ex Proud Philomena). Three absentees were Southway Beau, Chadhurst Happy Girl and Kala Mirella, the last two for family reasons.

The pens were beautifully decorated before judging commenced—flowers, cushions, ornaments and curtains being used most effectively. The exhibits of a breeder were all

penned together, sometimes three or four different varieties being in one big pen. This arrangement does, I think, make the cats feel "more at home," but from the judging point of view I prefer the English system of penning. One pen contained a family of three Burmese Longhairs, one male and two females.

French artists were busy sketching and modelling some of the exhibits and pictures and lovely models of cats were displayed in glass cages.

I judged Blue, White, Chinchilla and Smoke Longhairs, and the other International judge, M. Hirschmann, from Germany, took Cream, Blue-Cream, Black, Red and Burmese Longhairs and various Shorthairs, including Siamese, Abyssinians, Russian Blues and a Tortoiseshell.

My Best in Show was M. Wise's Brazen Head Octavia (Blue) and Reserve Best Mme. Widor's Yscult de Laborde (Blue-eyed White). Mr. Hirschmann's Best was Mme. Gay's Upacha (Cream) and reserve Mme. Rocher's Wartine de la Closeraie (Russian Blue). These four were awarded C.A.C.I.B. as well as C.A.C. My other C.A.C. winners were Mme. Moch's Blue male Rubis Mouni, Mlle. de Bovet's Orange-eyed White male Sabu and her Orange-eyed White female Xilyaue and Mlle. Chamonin's Chinchilla female Yanda de la Chesnaie. Mme. Gay, of Berne, showed seven Longhairs, four of which were classed as excellent and three *très bon*.

I had a band of very willing helpers, including two stewards, an interpreter and a novice judge. Two other International judges were at the Show—Dr. Haase, from Belgium, and M. l'Abbe Chamonin, from Switzerland—and in spite of language difficulties we had some interesting discussions. Time passed all too quickly and to my helpers and to M. and Mme. Peyraud, my most thoughtful hosts, I would like to extend my thanks.

DOROTHY M. COLLINS



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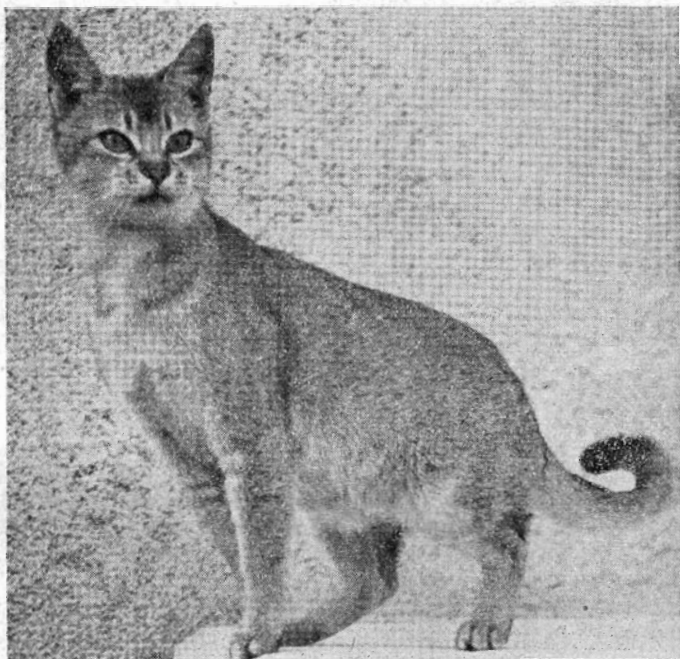
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DOROTHY M. COLLINS



Lovely Abyssinian CROHAM ZANA, bred by the late Mrs. Clare Basnett and owned by Miss V. Basnett, of Walderslade, Kent.

## News about Abyssinians

Contributed by HAROLD W. BASNETT

*(Hon. Secretary of the Abyssinian Cat Club)*

**T**HE past show season has not produced anything outstanding among Abyssinian cats. The winter, which started almost with the show season, was trying to the owners from a health point of view, and many have been down with sickness. I have not heard of any undue epidemic troubles.

Breeders are distributed throughout the island, the cost of travel has increased and many cannot attend the shows. When the weather is bad one can sympathise with breeders not wishing to venture with their cats or

kittens on a long journey. There has been a demand for kittens, but in many cases only the very best have been required. Again U.S.A. has been persistent by correspondence and by personal visits of would-be purchasers, but the supply of cats or kittens has been very limited.

As is well known to those to whom enquiries have been sent, America requires the very best and, moreover, the question of the cost is not of any consequence. Unfortunately, we have not got the very best Abyssinian cats or kittens in England

surplus to our own needs. I have not had the opportunity of visiting America or the Continent, as have some of our more fortunate fanciers, but I gather that the stock in America is not yet up to the standard they require. Consequently, quite apart from the change of blood any importation will give, we must expect to receive enquiries. I have no doubt this matter would operate in the reverse direction but for the quarantine restrictions in this country.

### Keen Breeders

Breeders can be assured that there will be no difficulty in disposing of really good Abyssinian kittens. As I have stated before, I do not visualise there being many in this category during the next few years. I hope my forecast will prove wrong. I know the difficulty of building up any breed of cat from a small post-war nucleus and most certainly with the Abyssinian cat the situation was acute. Nevertheless, I am in no way despondent.

Our Club is fortunate in that the breed is now in the safe hands of enthusiastic breeders and I feel sure ultimately success will be the result. The Club now has 26 members, many are owners and all are admirers of the breed. To all I say with confidence that when the ideal Abyssinian is forthcoming such a cat will compete with every hope of winning the premier honour at any show.

The Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in March and we had an excellent attendance of members to welcome the President, Lady M. Barnard, who presided. Officers were all re-elected and Mrs. H. Denham was appointed as delegate to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Miss D. K. Beckett was added to the list of judges.

An interesting general discussion took place on the Standard of Points laid down by the Club for the guid-

ance of all as to what is required for the perfect Abyssinian. The meeting was very representative for such a discussion, there being present many of the breeders and five of the judges, including Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council.

It was finally decided to delete from the Standard (colour and type) the words "no white markings permissible" and to add to the footnote "White chins to be considered undesirable, other white markings not permissible." It was stressed that if the chin was of a lighter colour than the body, it must be of an ochre colour to tone with the general body colour and not white. Breeders were concerned that this may mean the withholding of a Championship, although an exhibit might have won a first prize.

It was considered that the time has arrived when definite steps must be taken to impress on all concerned that as there was a decided improvement in body colour and bars, the Club should insist on improvement in the colour of the chin and belly. Breeders are therefore asked to do all possible by judicious selection for breeding to eliminate present faults, even though it may mean the loss of Championship awards during the process.

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When the occupants of a house in Long Lane, Finchley, opened their door one morning recently they saw an alarming apparition in the garden—a large grey cat with its head encased in a tin. The cat was crouching in a corner, but on being approached started banging its armour-plated head against the fence in its efforts to free itself. A telephone call brought a P.D.S.A. ambulance to the rescue and Technical Officer Fossey soon succeeded in freeing the cat from its uncomfortable head-dress. Luckily, it was more frightened than hurt.

# *Heredity & Stud Work*

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 seventh 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.

**A**RE acquired characters hereditary?

What a wide field of thought is conjured up by this question! It is far too extensive a field to cover in so small a space. But the answer to the actual question as it stands is a simple one, providing we accept that "acquired" implies only those characteristics which the individual takes possession of during his separate existence. These characteristics are not passed on. But the trouble is that so many so-called "acquired" characteristics are not acquired at all, and while they may stick to an individual through life, they have no hereditary effect on any future progeny, no matter whether the additions be physical or habitual.

There is the case of the docked tail of the dog. No matter how many generations of docked animals are bred, the tail length remains normal and unaffected. This is, of course, as opposed to the Manx cat, where there is physical deformity from the normal of the tribe, and so it becomes hereditary.

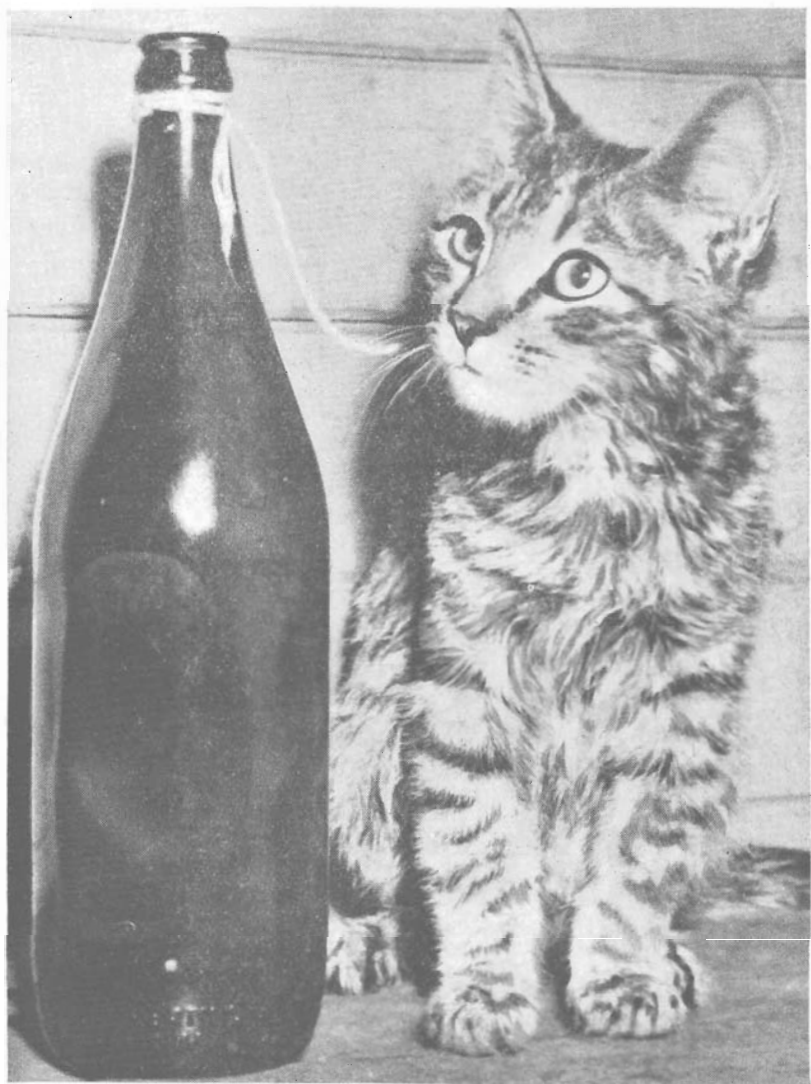
I think it was Dr. Crew who experimented with rats in the matter of acquired characters, and I believe a report was published in the "Jour-

nal of Genetics" some 15 years or so ago. The experiment consisted of training rats to avoid a lighted passage, and in seeing whether the descendants of the trained rats acquired the trick of doing this any quicker than untrained rats. After 20 generations, rats which came from trained ancestors learned the trick no quicker than those which came from untrained ancestors. A quite decisive conclusion was thus reached.

There are the cases where father and son will exhibit a like physical action, such as the shrug of the shoulders, maybe when speaking. In the case of the son this is not an inherited manifestation, but merely an acquired habit through imitation.

As distinct from all this, we have the cases where any form of life will inherit certain characteristics which we pronounce as due to "instinct." An example which comes to mind is the spider and its web. In the dim past, the spider spun a small mass of web in an out-of-the-way place merely as protection for itself. Sometimes portions of the sticky thread would overhang and an unsuspecting insect would be caught up. From that as a beginning, spiders have become capable of enlarging the idea in order to meet their needs, and now we see the

## A page for the proletarian puss No. 14



*Associated Press*

This little fellow was found, mewling faintly, clinging to the ferry jetty steps in the Swan River, Perth, Australia, by a ferry ticket collector. A length of string attached to a beer bottle was tied round the kitten's neck, just as you see it here.

web as a highly skilled effort. A typical spider's web will have 26 radial threads and 24 transverse ones. So the web-making habit has reached its present proportions not as an acquired habit, but one formed through evolution.

With regard to, say, ear size in animals—either larger or smaller than in the earlier breeds—this is, of course, clearly a case of inheritance, and has been tackled by a number of different and competent investigators, notably Professor Castle (U.S.A.). The obvious suggestion in the light of modern research is that we have here to do with characters the inheritance of which depends on a number of different genes, as does size in general.

For those who may be interested in these matters, the whole subject is adequately dealt with in "Heredity and Evolution," by Watkins, published by Murray.

## Stud Management

During the past season my stud has been kept fairly busy at times but gave no indication of over-work. What signs could I look for to indicate that he was being kept too busy? For instance, would litter sizes be affected?

There is a rather widespread belief that excessive coitus on the part of the male affects litter size, but this has been proved to be incorrect. Experiments were carried out some time ago and reported in the "Journal of Agricultural Science." A large number of rabbits were used, involving six bucks. One of these bucks copulated 39 times within eight hours, with 14 different does. The first doe had a litter of six and the last doe he mated had a litter of eight! This was an extreme case. The other bucks mated six or seven does in quick succession and gave varying results, in which sometimes the first litters, sometimes the last, were more

numerous. Over the whole experiment there was no appreciable difference between numbers in first and last matings.

Generally speaking, it might be said that the female has greater effect for small litter size than the male. This is due to greater effect of maternal age and the fact that the female sheds only a small number of eggs at ovulation, whereas a host of sperms are supplied by the male. On top of this there may be depletions during the early stages of the fertilised eggs.

The over-use of the male will have ill effects on his constitution and general condition, and this lack of full health at mating time will likely have ill effect on the robustness of the progeny. Coat condition, including colour, may suffer in the stud, as will eye colour. Neither male nor female should be mated when out of coat. Poor-coated kittens would almost certainly result, and their future progeny would very definitely be affected. *This point of mating only when in perfect coat cannot be over-emphasised.*

Once the male has been used for stud purposes, it can be detrimental to him as a stud if he is not kept in reasonably regular use. After a long period of inactivity from stud work, a male may show signs of infertility at the next mating, but as a rule this will correct itself, so that when next used within reasonable time normal progeny will follow.

While on this matter of stud work, it would be as well to point out that, particularly during the breeding season, the male will need a maximum of nutrition and a course of tonic in some form or other becomes essential. Coupled with this, reasonable exercise must be arranged for. If outdoor exercise is not available, his inside run must be of ample proportions.

One other point of very great importance—and this can apply equally with breeding queens. One of the greatest curses in breeding with animals is the always possible presence of worms. These sap vitality and can be the cause of endless complaints, even infertility itself. But do not use a worm cure unless the preparation is of high repute, or its use may be just as dangerous as even the worms themselves.

Recently I have tested a worm cure which needs no initial starving. It is perfectly harmless in every way to either adults or kittens and has, moreover, an excellent tonic effect. The clearing of worms from cats is vital, and fanciers should always be on the alert.



Two London cats have recently been in trouble. One was Kitzell, a black Persian with amber eyes, who was missing from his home in Marylebone High Street for nine days. His inconsolable owner searched literally by day and night. At last a caretaker reported he had heard a mewing in a neighbouring area. Here poor Kitzell was found trapped by one leg which had stuck in the grating over a drain. He was skin and bone and had dislocated his hip in his efforts to free himself. After treatment by Technical Officer Ross, of the P.D.S.A., he was reported to be "going on well." The same evening Technical Officer Ross was called to Old Burlington Street, where Timmy, a tabby cat owned by Mr. Basil Radford, the actor, had fallen from a top floor window, landed on a roof three storeys below and rolled into the area. He was given first aid and is said to be progressing favourably.

## What is the EYE'S best friend?

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3. Using our advertisement pages as much as possible.
4. Sending us good pictures and news items from local papers.
5. Providing names and addresses of customers and cat-loving friends whom you would like to receive a specimen copy of **OUR CATS**. Such information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

# 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.

## A NEW CLUB

I hope to send you our Club's first Bulletin shortly. We are very young but have already 28 members. We are going to work for a little shelter for homeless, sick and neglected cats in Bulawayo. Our proposed venture has the blessing of the Government Veterinary Department and the local S.P.C.A. There is a great apathy to the cause of animals in this large town and our Club hopes to change this. Everyone admires OUR CATS.

Mrs. E. T. Mehliiss,  
President, Bulawayo Cat Club,  
Southern Rhodesia.

## BOOKS WANTED

I wonder if any of your readers could tell me where I can purchase a book on homeopathic remedies for cat diseases? I have tried without success over here. Also, I am anxious to secure a copy of Phyl Wade's book "The Siamese Cat," published, I believe, in 1934.

Mrs. Annabel Hoyt,  
President, North Texas Cat Club,  
Dallas 2, Texas, U.S.A.

We shall be pleased to pass on any replies to Mrs. Hoyt.—Editor.

## FELINE PSYCHOLOGY

Recently a neutered Siamese male in whose fractured leg I had become interested seemed to lack inclination to use this limb when the proper time arrived for doing so. I recommended the owner to secure a new kitten, which I am happy to say completed the cure. The neuter at once adopted the kitten, played with it, and ran on the injured leg.

The delighted owner, who watches all her pets' reactions, tells me that the ex-invalid has become so utterly maternal, even to suckling this kitten. She is sure he believes that during his recent ordeal and pain, such were due to his personal conception and birth of this kitten! Certainly this diagnosis agrees with the theory that neutering frequently induces a reversal of sex instinct.

Mrs. Felicity Tschudi Broadwood,  
Send, Surrey.

## BAD HABIT CURED

Last September I became the delighted owner of a Siamese kitten, Monymusk Monky, and I have wondered if my experience with him would be of any interest to your readers. He came from Mrs. Forbes, of Chalfont St. Peter, and was house-trained and had never given any trouble. In my home he just wouldn't use the appointed place for his toilet and preferred the corners of the fitted carpets, the wash sink or bath tub. Eventually I trained him by putting Dettol and other harmless disinfectants in his favourite places.



MONYMUSK MONKY



However, twice he had to be moved from home, once for only a day, and on each occasion on returning home he reverted to his bad habits for a little while. He is quite well behaved now and I have come to the conclusion that he was really upset by being removed from his usual surroundings.

May I also add this? I am quite sure that the best way to avoid feline enteritis is to have the kitten injected with the appropriate serum at about four to five months old. I have reached this opinion by a process of trial and error. If after inoculation the kitten develops enteritis, it will be a mild attack and could be dealt with.

Marian Briggs,

Fagley, Bradford, Yorks.

### AN APPRECIATION

I only wish the Magazine were larger! I enjoy every issue and find much entertainment, also help, in your various articles. In my opinion it's far better than anything we have over here and I've heard good patriotic Americans say the same thing.

Mrs. J. H. Protheroe,

Rustburg, Virginia, U.S.A.

About that letter you were going to send us. Why not sit down and write it NOW? Correspondence Corner is YOUR feature. Please help to keep it going.

Congratulations to the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs (Inc.) on their enterprise in booking the Royal Horticultural New Hall at Westminster for their annual show on 25th July. The show will cater for all breeds of cats and kittens and it will be held under G.C.C.F. rules. The fine Hall, with its lighting and spacious accommodation, can house 1,000 exhibits with wide gangways and leave ample room for stalls and side attractions. It is equipped with a modern restaurant and is a conveniently placed venue for members of the public. Further details will be issued shortly and the Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, Mr. Frank B. Williams, 92 Chiltern Road, Sutton, Surrey, will be pleased to hear from readers with the offer of support for this Festival of Britain Cat Show.

One of our readers, Mrs. C. V. Pectol, of St. Louis, U.S.A., kindly sends us two clippings from her local press. They are illustrated items showing the uninhibited maternal instinct of cats. One of them, Mama, has adopted two baby squirrels. The other, described as "a gray alley cat" who lost her kittens, is mothering two tiny rabbits which were dumped with a load of dirt at a garage.

**All fanciers should read**

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## REDWALLS CRINOLINE

**M**ISS L. L. ELLIOT, of 5 Cirencester Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, writes :—

*"I do not know what you put into Kit-zyme but every cat I have so far had has been mad about it. If I did not strictly ration the daily dosage I believe my two would eat the bottleful in one fell swoop.*

*Redwalls Crinoline has her tablets from my fingers (as shown in the photograph) but Merely Rusty races all over the room for his, like a dog.*

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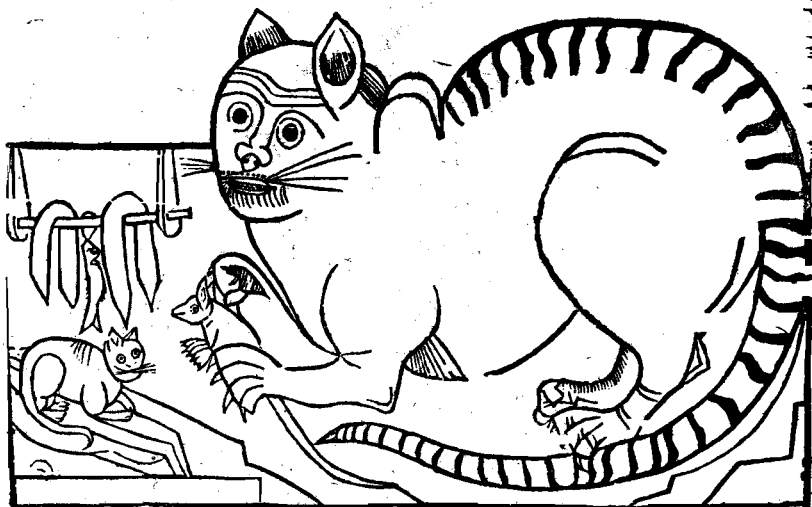
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*cat catcht den katzzen-ov vorurlecken unde binden kranzen*

An amusing 15th century German woodcut of cat and its capture, reproduced by courtesy of the Cooper Union Museum, New York.

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*By courtesy of "Reveille for the Weekend"*

Mrs. Hilda B. Priston, of Worsborough Dale, Barnsley, at home with some of her Siamese family. Mrs. Priston, who is venturing into show promotion this year—see page 25 of this issue—will be remembered by many as the breeder of the famous whiskerless kittens, who became world-wide news after their picture had appeared in OUR CATS last year.



Champion **HILLCROSS SILVER FLUTE** enjoys the reputation of being the only Champion Silver Tabby at stud in this country. Best Shorthair in Show at the Notts and Derbyshire Show, Silver Flute has just sired a fine litter of five Silver Tabbies. He belongs to Miss F. F. Robson, of West Dulwich.



Dignity in pose portrayed by **YADE DE LA CHESNAIE**, lovely Chinchilla belonging to Mrs. Laura Paganini, the Italian fancier, who is a comparative newcomer at Continental shows. This cat was Best Chinchilla Adult at the Lausanne Show in November, 1950.



A get-together at the Boston, U.S.A., television Hobby Hob-Nob programme. The participants, left to right, are Mrs. Vera Nelson, well-known American fancier, with her Champion H.R.H. of Ebon Mask; Mr. Chick Morris with some of Ebon Mask's kittens; and Mrs. Kathleen R. Williams, with Champion Doneraile Drusilla, whom she bred and exported. Mrs. Williams was visiting America on a judging assignment and goodwill tour.



**DUNLOE PAVLOVITCH**, a striking Russian Blue belonging to Miss M. E. German, of Felixstowe. Pavlovitch is a very well known neuter and a winner of the new Premier award—a champion, in fact, among neuters. He has won 23 first prizes and was bred by Miss M. Rochford.



*John Norman*

Here's looking at you! Mrs. B. Hewlett, of Kings Lynn, Norfolk, sends this striking head of her Siamese, **CROXTETH JANINA**.



*P.A.—Reuter Photo*

### BRITISH AND TRUE BLUE !

A pair of cuddlesome British Blue Shorthair babies bred by the Cheam (Surrey) fancier, Mrs. I. P. Hughes. They are being displayed by the breeder's young daughter.

# Over 60 Years Ago

By P. M. SODERBERG

**W**HEN Cyril Yeates died I was very fortunate that he had asked that his cat literature should be given to me because he felt that I should find this material useful for writing articles.

Among this very large quantity of printed matter was a collection of show catalogues which was quite unique, and which he had been at great pains to collect over a period of many years. The collection started in 1888, but was far from complete until the year 1900, and from then on had no gaps to the end of 1949.

Several people have asked that some of these catalogues should be handed over to the clubs who issued them in the first place, but it did not seem right to me that such a unique record of cat shows should be split up, although, on the other hand, it seemed a pity that those who were really interested in the subject should be deprived of the privilege of seeing such valuable documents. Thus it was that I wrote to the Principal Keeper of the Reading Room of the British Museum, who expressed the opinion that such records should be kept in the National Library. So to the British Museum they are to go.

There they may be read by all who are prepared to take the

trouble to obtain permission to enter the Reading Room. If there are any fanciers who have show catalogues dated earlier than 1900, I shall be very glad if they will write to me, as it would be most useful to make this collection really complete. I also hope that show managers in future will provide me with a catalogue of any show that is held so that it will be possible to keep the collection up to date.

At the present time I am running through the early catalogues before handing them over, and I have spent many happy hours learning facts which are not only interesting in themselves but are very different from what I imagined.

In this article I am afraid I can only deal with one catalogue—that for the National Cat Show held at the Crystal Palace on 23rd and 24th October, 1888. This actual catalogue has a particular interest in that it belonged to Miss Frances Simpson, one of the great stalwarts of the Cat Fancy in this country. Miss Simpson died just 25 years ago, on 20th January, 1926. She was the founder and first President of the Blue Persian Cat Society, and throughout her long life as a fancier firmly refused to join any other club.



One of the judges at this National Cat Show in 1888 was Harrison Weir, who was, in fact, the founder of cat shows in this country. It was to him that Miss Simpson dedicated "The Book of the Cat," which she wrote for Cassells and which was published in 1903. In a letter to the author Harrison Weir said: "Miss Frances Simpson has rendered me her debtor and others besides myself will tender her grateful thanks for her work in the cause of the cat and for the welfare of the Fancy." This book is now out of print and has been so for a long time, but it was the first classic on the subject of The Cat written in English.

### Classes for Manx

The point which struck me most on reading this early catalogue was the fact that there were so many cat shows up and down the country in 1888. The statement that this Palace Show was the twentieth in the series was in itself a surprise, but to go on to read that there were shows in 1880 at Pulborough, Alexandra Palace, Bath, Brighton, Bexley, The Albert Palace, Halifax, Crawley, The People's Palace and Maidstone was a revelation. If any of you have catalogues for any of these shows, please send them along.

The classification, according to modern standards, is very limited, and Longhaired cats had only four distinct groups, White,

Black, Brown or Red Tabby, and Blue or Silver Tabby. The Shorthairs, on the other hand, had a much wider classification, and what to me was almost staggering were two classes for Manx, which attracted a total entry of twelve cats.

Naturally I was interested in the Siamese entries. They did not have a class to themselves, but as they had only been in the country for about four years it was noteworthy that they could muster ten different cats in the two classes. I was amused by such notes as "imported direct from the King's Palace," and one little lady by the name of Fatima went one further, for Mr. Nutt, who was the exhibitor, gave the additional information that she had come straight from the harem. Alas! poor Fatima only received a commended card.

### "Thumbed Cats"

Mrs. Herbert Young was showing a female by the name of Lady Siam, and this entry may have added to my knowledge, for there is a note to say that she was a Chocolate Siamese and it was believed that she was the only Chocolate in Europe. I should much like to know whether this meant Chocolate Pointed or merely referred to the colour of coat. I was under the impression that the first Chocolate Point was not known in this country until at least ten years later. Perhaps I am wrong.

What is a "thumbed cat"? There were three cats in this show which were described thus, and of the three, two kittens were not only thumbled but also had six toes. It looks like a case of heredity, but happily such oddities do not now find their way on to the show bench.

Torties and Torties-and-White were well in evidence and at this time seem to have been the most popular among the Shorthairs. Tilly must have been an outstanding specimen in this breed, for she won a first at the Palace for seven successive years, achieving her first win in 1882.

There were one or two cats

which were called Blue Persians, but they were very few and far between, and even as early as this the Abyssinian and Russian Blue were mentioned by name; but perhaps the most surprising fact of all, the name Angora was still in use.

Taken all in all, there is so much of interest in this early catalogue that I can recommend it to any breeder who is really interested in the development of the various breeds in this country.

When these catalogues are in the British Museum you may feel like delving into the past of the Cat Fancy for yourself. I hope so.

---

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Dear Sir,

It is now almost four months since I brought my cat "Kitty Kitty" up to Bow Road on the first stage of her journey to Australia.

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It was a hard decision to make, whether we should bring her or not, but we are all thankful now, especially as it is so obvious that she has been well cared for.

I wish to thank Messrs. Spratt's for consigning her for me; also whoever looked after her aboard the "Port Brisbane" and I trust that my letter will assure any of your future clients that here at least is one very satisfied and grateful customer.

Again my sincere thanks.

Yours faithfully, (Signed) Muriel A. Scrimshaw.

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

**R**EGULARLY 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.

5th April. Mrs. Priston, The Vicarage, Worsboro' Dale, near Barnsley, is organising her first cat show as a section of the Barnsley Agricultural Show on 21st July. She intends to do her utmost to make it a success. Several cat clubs have guaranteed classes for their members or offered special prizes.

There will be a separate marquee for the cats. So far, there are 41 classes and more may be put on if the entry justifies it. Miss Wentworth Fitzwilliam and the Rev. B. Rees will judge Siamese and Shorthairs, Mrs. Brice-Webb and myself Longhairs. Mrs. France is referee judge. Summer shows are usually informal and always most enjoyable, so I hope Mrs. Priston will receive enthusiastic support. She will be pleased to give further particulars on request.

10th April. To the A.G.M. of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club. Members took a lively interest in the rules submitted for approval; they proposed and carried several alterations.

Five names were proposed as delegates to the Council and the ballot

revealed that Mr. F. B. Williams (Hon. Secretary) and Mrs. Chapman had been chosen. Mrs. Elsie Hart resigning from Committee, also Mrs. Sharman, left two vacancies, and a ballot being taken with other names, Mrs. Vize and myself were elected.

The high light of the meeting was the forthcoming "Festival of Britain Show" at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster. This is to include adult cats and subsequently the Governing Council granted Championship status. This is an innovation and we must all work with good will to make it a success at such an ideal venue. Mr. Williams is very keen to make it a success and with our enthusiastic support it should be the finest summer show ever held in London.

12th April. Mr. Whiting kindly sent me a press cutting about the cat section of the Royal Sydney Show, Australia. Fourteen thousand people queued for admission; officials had to hold back the crowd and admit them in relays, and they were asked to walk around the cages as quickly as possible to make room for those waiting outside.

All the major breeds were represented. The judge, Mr. F. W. Pearce, said that Siamese were the best this year and many good Siamese had been imported since the war. Mrs. Corbett's English import, Mais Mor Marmaduke, was awarded two first prizes and a Challenge Certificate, and was Best Male Siamese in Show. His

daughter, Pamir Poo (also owned by Mrs. Corbett) was awarded Best Kitten in Show. Mrs. Donmall, whom many breeders in England knew before she went to live in Australia, owned the winning S.P. female adult, Mystic Magnolia. In the kitten classes I noticed that kittens under six months could also be entered in the under nine months class, unlike our classification, which is three to six months and six to nine months, both classes confined to kittens between those ages.

An extract from Mrs. Corbett's letter is interesting: "When you exhibit cats out here the cages are draped with white calico curtains and they sit on blankets or towels. No sanitary pans are allowed in the cages so one feeds them at 4 p.m. the previous day. Marmaduke hid himself under his curtains. The fame of 'Duke's' brother and sister, Mais Mor Marquis and Marquessa, with all their prizes, has spread to Australia as people here have written to me about them. There has been an epidemic of enteritis in Melbourne and one breeder lost 26 cats and kittens, but they think they have discovered a cure for it—1 gramme of chlrsmycetin first dose, followed every four hours by a  $\frac{1}{2}$  gramme, plus a shot of penicillin. The tablets cost £4 12s. a dozen out here. An English vet. at Melbourne discovered all this but it needs more proof to confirm whether it is an absolute cure."

Mr. Whiting has five kittens bred the same way as the above celebrities and intends to keep the best female for himself. He tells me she is promising and all being well she will be exhibited at this season's shows.

**17th April.** To the Goring Hotel to attend the A.G.M. of the Southern Counties Cat Club. Miss Lelgarde Campbell-Fraser was unanimously elected President in place of her mother, the late Mrs. Campbell-

Fraser. Miss Kathleen Yorke was re-elected Chairman, and the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. K. R. Williams) and myself were re-elected as delegates to the Council. Mrs. Varcoe's appointment as Hon. Treasurer was confirmed in place of Mrs. Luther, who is unable to spare the time.

A satisfactory report was presented by Mrs. Williams and appreciation expressed for all the work she had done on behalf of the Club. The next Ch. Show will be held at the Lime Grove Baths on 28th January, 1952. It was nice to see Mr. Felix Tomlinson and Mr. Jack Martin all the way from Lincolnshire, and Mrs. C. Tomlinson from Eastbourne, to attend the Committee meeting, and Brigadier and Mrs. Rossiter from Shrivenham, Wiltshire. Welcome also to Mr. Dunks as the new member of Committee in place of Mrs. Sharman, whose health does not permit coming to meetings. One of the best Show Managers we have had, it is sad to realise we shall not see Mrs. Sharman again in that capacity.

**19th April.** To visit Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson at Brydes, Willingdon, Eastbourne, and a perfect bevy of robust kittens. Pekeholm Pearl has five Blues by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy and is also nursing a Red Tabby male by Pekeholm Pomona, a lovely Tortoiseshell queen. This kitten would not feed from his own mother but is quite content to contend with the five Blues. Pomona is nursing the rest of her own litter, a Red Tabby male, a Cream and a Tortoiseshell by Danehurst Sultan. Pekeholm Posy has a quintette by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy, two Blue males, two Blue Creams and one Cream male. It was lovely to see kittens being reared under such ideal conditions in light, sunny rooms. What high jinks they will have when they are older with so much space to romp about in! The queens' nursery beds are not en-

closed boxes but have a floor with a surround of wood about seven inches high. Many queens prefer this type of bed when they are in the house and a fairly warm room. If it is put in a shady corner until the kittens' eyes have been open a few days it is adequate protection. Mr. Tomlinson was looking well and always has a bevy of queens with him when he is in the lounge.

**23rd April.** Thirty-four delegates attended the most important meeting of the year of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy at which the election of officers takes place.

Dr. Sheina Watters and Mr. McPhail all the way from Scotland to represent the two Scottish cat clubs. Mrs. Vize, Mrs. Denham and Mr. F. Williams were also attending their first G.C. meeting, to which they were welcomed by the retiring Chairman, Miss Kathleen Yorke, who was subsequently re-elected, with the Rev. Basil Rees as Vice-Chairman. The Finance Committee were re-elected unanimously—Miss Yorke, the Rev. Rees, Miss J. M. Fisher (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. Axon, the latter improving steadily in health, we are glad to note.

The Executive Committee retired and were eligible for re-election. Three other names were proposed, but on being put to the vote the original eight were re-elected, namely, Mrs. Axon, Mrs. Brunton, Mrs. E. Hart, Miss E. Langston, Mrs. Joan Thompson, Mrs. K. R. Williams, Miss Kit Wilson and Mr. Stirling Webb. It has been an agreeable and interesting year and something to look forward to be working together for another year.

Without the doyen of the Cat Fancy, the late Mr. Cyril Yeates, to advise and help her, Miss Kathleen Yorke has had an exacting year, but she has acquitted herself well and endeared herself more than ever to her

personal friends. A pleasant meeting ended for me with a delightful tea for four, among whom was Mr. McPhail. The Cat Fancy is very promising in Scotland and with two Shows again this winter it should gain many adherents.

**24th April.** A vivid contrast to the usual meetings. To Caxton Hall, Westminster, to the Convention of British Animal Protection Societies under the distinguished patronage of the Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

Mr. Keith Robinson, Secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League, spoke on legislation for cats, and I gathered he was strongly in favour of having a licence, which would improve their status. Almost inevitably they would have to wear collars, and although elastic ones are comparatively safe, I am sure Longhair exhibitors would shrink at the thought of "frills" being chafed by a collar. Taxation is a debatable point, but many cat lovers would welcome legislation which would rid many persons of the attitude that a cat is a creature to let out at night and expect to turn up in the morning with the milk.

Prominent people of all denominations gave interesting addresses on every aspect of animal welfare, and here are a few taken at random: Lt.-Col. Sir Thomas Moore, C.B.E., M.P., on "The Place of Animals in an Organised Community." Miss Patricia Hornsby-Smith, M.P., on

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"Mutual Aid on the Roads." Mr. W. Henderson, M.R.C.V.S., on "A Modern Animal Hospital." Rev. Professor E. S. Waterhouse on "Humane Slaughter." Councillor Miss Joan B. Jagger on "The Rural Dog and Cat."

Miss Kit Wilson (representing the Governing Council), Miss Kathleen Yorke and myself spent the whole day absorbed, touched, and sometimes shocked by man's callous treatment of animals, but also deeply moved by the unselfish work so many are doing, so much of which is voluntary.

Dr. Margaret Young's address on "A London Animal Shelter" was particularly interesting as she stressed the care of cats (unlike the majority of speakers on domestic animals, who were obviously much more concerned about dogs). It was pathetic to hear about cats being found with kittens in gardens. How distressed they must be in such circumstances when one knows what devoted mothers they are and how contented when they have a safe, cosy nook for their kittens!

**25th April.** Again at the Convention and listening intently to Brigadier B. U. S. Cripps, C.B.E., M.C., on "Animal Welfare in Italy" and Hyacinth Munday on "British Help for French Animals." One much-travelled speaker stated that Britain leads the world in animal welfare work, but one gathers that abroad it is only a drop in the ocean when one considers the teeming millions of animals which never come in contact with welfare work. However, the R.S.P.C.A., P.D.S.A., and Our Dumb Friends' League, and many devoted animal lovers, are spreading their influence abroad. In many cases their work is hampered by lack of funds. No financial appeals were made at the Convention, but I am sure many of those present vowed to contribute

more in future. Mr. F. H. Grisewood, of B.B.C. fame, was a very able and diplomatic Chairman, and murmurs of appreciation greeted his summing up, "That all speakers had been given a fair hearing and the meeting conducted in a very orderly manner." This was noticeable on such controversial subjects as vivisection and the kosher method of slaughtering animals for food. At 5 p.m. the Convention adjourned, and over tea and cakes Miss Kit Wilson (our representative who had attended the three days with the exception of two hours at the G.C. meeting on the 23rd), Miss Kathleen Yorke and myself agreed that we had learned much about welfare organisation.

**28th April.** If I had been asked the youngest age at which a cat could give birth to kittens, I should have hazarded a guess at eight or nine months. But Miss Robson's Shorthair Silver Tabby, Marguerite of Silverleigh (by Ch. Stardrift of Silverleigh), has supplied an astonishing answer! Born on 27th August last year, she gave birth to five kittens on 4th March, so she must have conceived when she was only four months. It seems incredible but I have carefully checked the facts.

Miss Robson owns the fine Silver Tabby male Ch. Hillcross Silver Fluke and purchased Marguerite from Miss Bracey as a mate for him. He has excellent house manners, so they played together and as she was so young and showed no signs of coming into season no precautions were taken. Miss Robson was very perturbed when she discovered Marguerite to be well advanced in kitten and anticipated complications. She tried unsuccessfully to find a foster mother, so stood by to help feed the kittens from birth; but the queen behaved like a veteran, gave birth easily to the family, reared them well and now has three bouncing Silver

Tabby sons and one Silver and one Brown Tabby daughter.

Miss Robson helped the little mother rear the kittens by feeding them with a proprietary baby food with a little Virol from the age of two weeks, but mother and children have not given any anxiety and three of the kittens will shortly be going to good homes. One will be shown at the Festival of Britain Show in July, all being well. Sire and dam were quite unrelated, which no doubt helped to produce vigorous kittens. Mrs. Towe has Marguerite's litter sister and she has just been mated at seven months, although she called at Christmas, so they are a precocious pair.

30th April. To-day, with other members of the Governing Council, I

accepted the kind invitation of Chappie, Ltd (makers of the Kit-E-Kat food) to visit their factory at Slough. We were shown wonderful hospitality by the firm and the arrangements made by Mr. Lloyd, their Sales Manager, ensured that everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive day. I will not say more on this occasion because I understand the Editor intends to tell the story of his own visit on an earlier occasion to the Slough factory in an early issue of the Magazine.

James Burke, of Chester, writes to a London newspaper: The kittens of a neighbour's cat were drowned. Within an hour the mother stole one of my cat's kittens and reared it, in spite of all efforts to reclaim it.



Watch . . . your . . . cat . . .

**W**ATCH YOUR CAT when the light of mischief gleams in his eye—the little tinker knows he has only to rub himself against your leg and all his pranks are forgiven! He depends so much on your care and kindness. Will you do one little thing to keep him the frisky, friendly companion he

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# TIBS

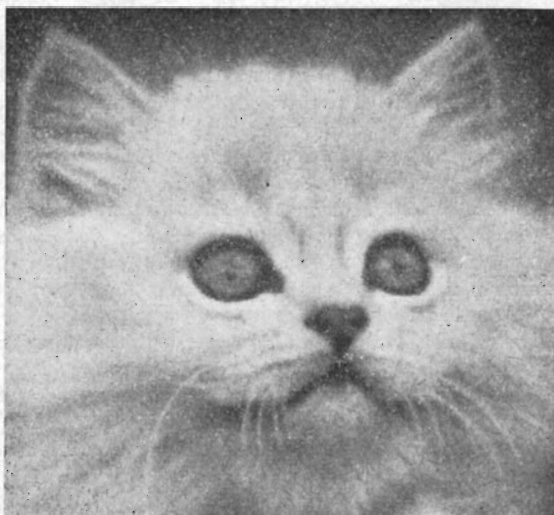
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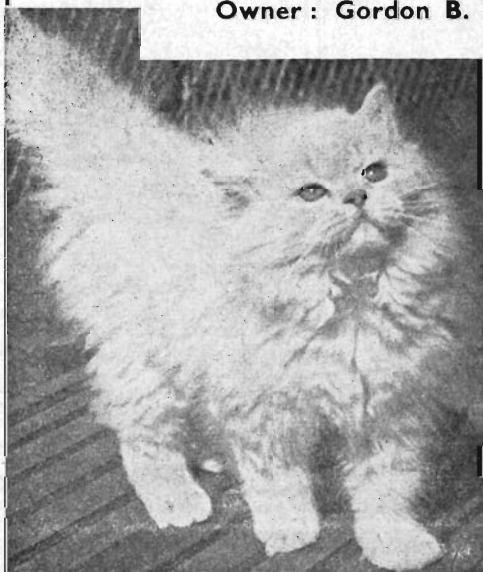
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# Tailpieces

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



**A** TWO-DAY search for a lost cat ended after builders had cut four holes in a chimney—three from outside and one from inside—at the Paddington home of Mrs. Doyle. At the end of their labours the rescuers were rewarded—they “taw a sooty cat!”

Mr. E. Keith Robinson, Secretary of Our Dumb Friends' League, has been elected one of the two Vice-Presidents of the World Council of the Federation for the Protection of Animals at The Hague.

Some interesting facts have recently appeared in print about the well-known quarantine station at Hackbridge, Surrey, where you will find the largest kennels in the world. They have a standing order for 15 cwts. of horsemeat a week and a box of fish a day for the cats. Every ten days two tons of straw for bedding are required and to-day this costs about £7 per ton. The cookhouse is presided over by Jack Wyatt, who has worked at Hackbridge for 32 years. Recent cat inmates include Minnie the Vamp, the black-and-white mascot of the Queen Elizabeth, for whom members of the crew paid quarantine fees of 14s. per week, and a handsome Longhair tabby, Desty, who is reported to have saved his master's life by killing a snake in India.

Mrs. Carpenter, of Wandsworth Road, S.W. London, has received the

Bronze Medal of Our Dumb Friends' League. The inscription reads: “Mrs. Carpenter, who at great personal risk rescued a cat trapped on a snow-covered roof. 15.12.50.”

A stray cat in a miserably distressed condition was the innocent cause of an accident to Supt. C. Harris, of the P.D.S.A. Ambulance Service. Supt. Harris tracked the cat to a bombed building and saw it jump through a hole in a window. He attempted to open the window, when the whole frame fell out, showering him with glass and cutting one arm very badly. After medical attention he was sent on sick leave. Meanwhile, the cat was caught in a cage trap by another P.D.S.A. officer.

“New modern furnished apartments. Pets welcome. No children.” So runs an advertisement in a Reno newspaper.

The best medicine for small animals suffering from constipation, including cats, is liquid medicinal paraffin. Castor oil and other violent purgatives can do more harm than good in some cases and should only be administered on the advice of an expert.

A crisis arose in Colorado Springs, U.S.A., when some thoughtless person tried to send a kitten through the post by gumming a girdle of paper round it. The paper was

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addressed and stamped, but the Postmaster decided that regulations would not allow his department to handle the kitten. It is expected to become an addition to the postal staff.

J. I. Blackshaw, of Watford, writes to "The Sunday Express": Although my cat has an expanse of white fur in front, the birds refuse to heed him.

From South Africa comes interesting news of progress in the feline world. It is contained in Bulletin No. 3 of the South African Cat Union, to which are now affiliated the Natal Club, the Siamese Cat Club of South Africa and the Western Province Cat Club. The Bulletin's 20 pages are admirably presented. They tell of efforts being made to ensure proper registration, show reports, forthcoming events, etc., and Miss F. Pocock, Chairman of the Western Province Cat Club, contributes an informative article on the breeding of Siamese.

The R.S.P.C.A. have issued a warning to rabbit catchers. Two cats, it was alleged at Alnwick magistrates' court, were caught in steel-tooth traps set by one of these gentry, who pleaded guilty. He was fined £1 and ordered to pay £4 4s. costs. The Chairman said the magistrates considered it a serious offence; it was a rabbit catcher's job to know the regulations.

Writing in the current issue of "The Ark," Mrs. Ernest Oldmeadow makes the following interesting observation: "The New York Zoological Society's Bulletin states that if a bird is made to peck a cat's nose it will never again try to catch one. This method was employed in the case of a kitten introduced as a

mouser into the Bird House at the New York Zoological Park. I trained my own cat not to kill the birds in my little bird sanctuary by showing my displeasure! He never touches the birds now even when they feed quite near him."

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard, owners of the well-known Blue Longhair stud Champion Oxleys Peter John, are shortly moving from the Milford Lodge address which has been their home for a long time. From 25th May their new address will be Bracondale, Chase Road, Brocton, Stafford.

The Siamese Cat Club of Australia's Championship Show is fixed to take place in Melbourne Town Hall on 23rd June next. A record event is anticipated. Over 3,000 people attended the first show staged by the Club in June last year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club was held on 22nd March last. The President, Mr. W. R. Anderson, outlined in his speech the Club's activities over the past twelve months. They now have 86 fully paid up members and his recommendation that the annual subscription be raised to 7s. 6d. as from next January was approved by the meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Oswald continue in the capacities of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer and Miss Sheina Watters was unanimously elected to represent the Club on the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

George Heasman, 87-year-old bearded hermit of Ashdown Forest, Sussex, has died and left behind his only companions, three dogs and a cat. Because of a life-long contempt



for "they wimmin," George was known in the district as "Old Grievous." He lived in a caravan and when he died it was discovered that he had accumulated a collection of old shotguns and clothing which dated back to the beginning of last century.

Two important resolutions were passed at the Convention of the British Animal Protection Societies held at Caxton Hall last month. A resolution proposed by Our Dumb Friends' League that "the Convention considers favourably a licence for cats and that the matter be pursued" was passed with some opposition. It was proposed by Our Dumb Friends' League (supported by the National Canine Defence League and the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals of the Poor and carried unanimously) that the Societies present at the Convention should federate, preferably by extending the scope of the quarterly Conference, and that any Society or autonomous branch of a Society might in future join the Federation.

#### MICKEY

kittens and puppies and men with furtive looks trying to sell them. He talked also of the unsatisfactory conditions in a number of pet shops he visited in the London area. He mentioned the case of one owner who had been prosecuted three times for cruelty.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Thomas Moore (Member for Ayr) said he was glad the Bill included a provision that no pet animal of any sort shall be sold to a child under the age of 12.

Sir Jocelyn Lucas (Portsmouth, South), who breeds pedigree dogs, suggested that an approved feeding chart should be given with every kitten or puppy sold.

## PET ANIMALS BILL

**W**É referred briefly in our last issue to the splendid news that the Pet Animals Bill had been given its Second Reading in the House of Commons. It has now been committed to a Standing Committee and animal lovers all over the country will welcome the day when the Bill eventually finds its way to the Statute Book and becomes one of the laws of our land.

This is the second attempt which has been made since the war to persuade Parliament to pass a Bill to regulate the sale of pet animals. The first Bill was introduced two years ago by Brigadier Peto. It passed through the Committee stage without opposition, but unfortunately after that no more time could be found for it, and that was that.

### Street Sales

The new Bill was moved by Mr. Russell, Member for South Wembley, who said that its object briefly is to prevent cruelty or suffering from being caused at all to pet animals rather than merely prosecuting people after an offence has been committed. It lays down that pet shops shall be licensed, including under the heading of pet shops stalls in market places. It seeks also to make reasonable regulations regarding the conditions in which animals are kept. It provides for the regular inspection of the premises, and it forbids the sale of kittens, puppies and chicks by men in the street, which is probably the worst evil concerning the sale of pet animals to-day.

Mr. Russell described his visit to Club Row in the East End on a Sunday morning, in company with the Parliamentary organiser of the R.S.P.C.A. and one of their superintendents. There were shivering

*(Continued in next column)*

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the last day of the month* preceding the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W. 9.

Use of Box, No. costs 1/- extra.

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MORRIS PADISHAH, Best Exhibit K.K.N.C.C. 1950, Best Shorthair Kitten Olympia, 1950, winner of 14 Firsts and many other awards.—Mrs. M. W. Richardson, Grinstead, Ottways Avenue, Ashted, Surrey. Ash 3521.

NOUMENA SIAMESE. At Stud: PIKHA SHAH JEHAN, Sire Mystic Dreamer, dam Crawstone Belinda. Fee 2 gns., plus carriage. approved queens only, excellent trains to Woking.—76 Park Road, Woking. Tel.: 1140.

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### For Sale

THREE fine SIAMESE (S.P.) Male Kittens by Southwood Kuching ex Raard Melba, ready end May.—King, 172 Copse Hill, London, S.W.20 (Wimbledon 7936).

PEDIGREE S.P. SIAMESE, 11 months, male, domesticated and affectionate, needs garden, 6 gns.—Human, 60 Leith Mans., Elgin Avenue, London, W.9.

SWANSDOWN POLKA, born 17th Jan., a very typey gentle female Seal Pointed SIAMESE, suitable for breeding and showing. Prize-winning strain, 6 gns.—Simmons, 39 Milton Road, Eastbourne.

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SIAMESE Kittens for sale, Seal Point females.—Mrs. Foden, Streethay, Nr. Lichfield. Tel.: Lichfield 3050.

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### Miscellaneous

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

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

PEDIGREE FORMS for non-club members can be supplied at the rate of 2s. post free per dozen. Larger supplies at pro rata rates. Send order and remittance to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, S.W.9.

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### Wanted

A FEW COPIES of OUR CATS Magazine for the issue of May, 1949. Offers to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

GLASGOW Lady would like HOLIDAY POST assisting in Cattery (L.H.) approx. 12th July-6th August, in return for board and accommodation, willing and obliging.—Please send particulars to Box No. 23, OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

# PICTURE PAGE



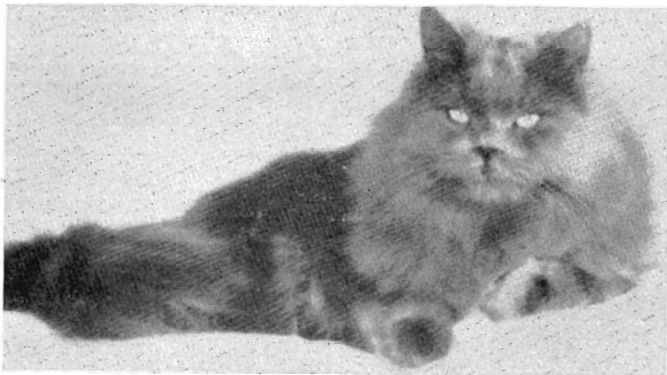
BARWELL CAYENNE, a promising Red Tabby male with excellent markings, was Best Kitten in Show at Felixstowe. Owner and breeder is Mrs. Denys Fawell, of Salhouse, Norwich.



This Siamese queen belongs to Mrs. Gay, of Wibsey, Bradford, Yorks, who confesses to being, with her husband, "breeders of Siamese in a small way." This young mother had to have a Caesarian operation last year.



An attractive action picture of a happy Siamese family taken by flash and submitted by Mrs. Barbara Grant, of Arlington Street, London, S.W.

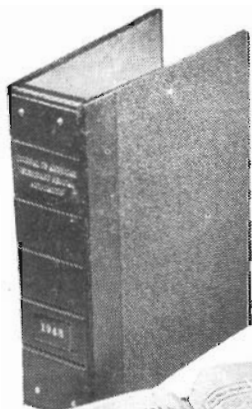


BRUTUS, striking Blue Longhair neutered male, is the pet of Mrs. Joan Rankin, of Wimbledon, London, S.W.



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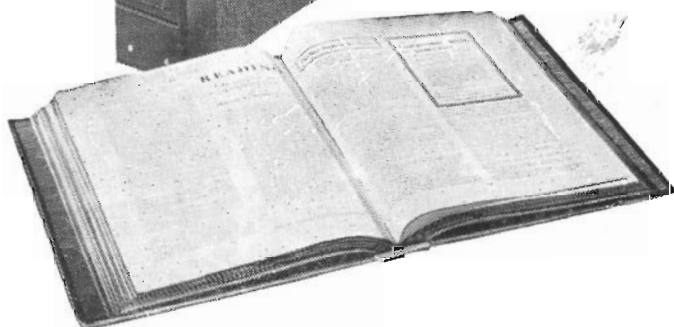
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