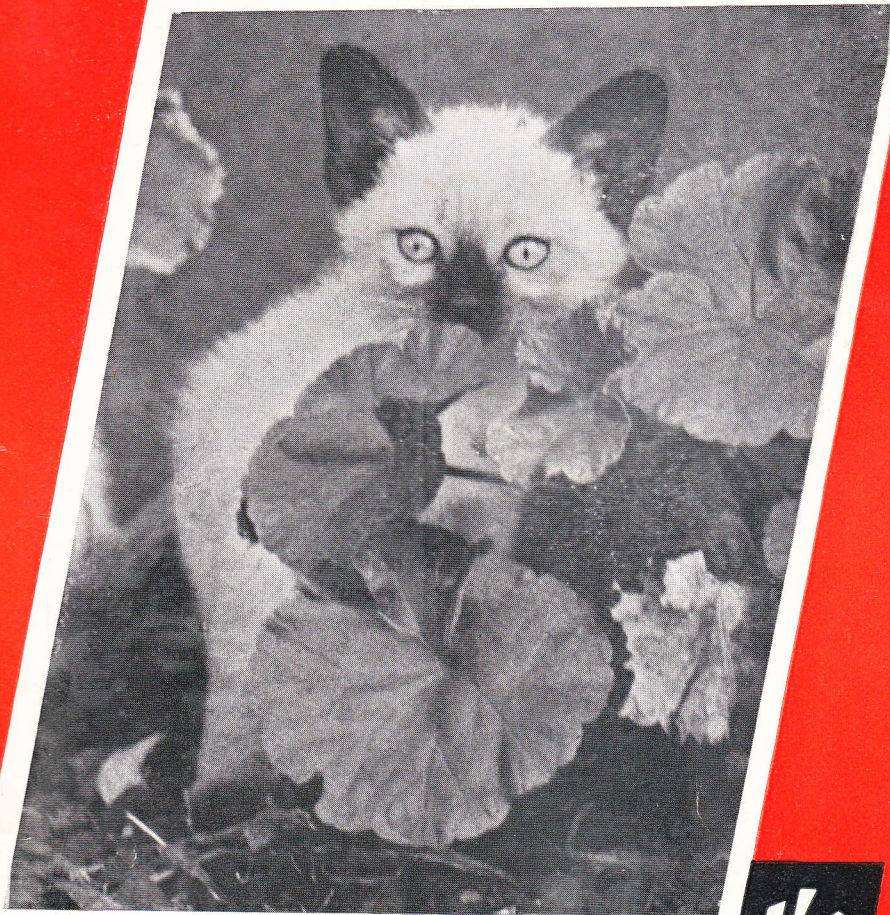


# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



JUNE 1951

1/6

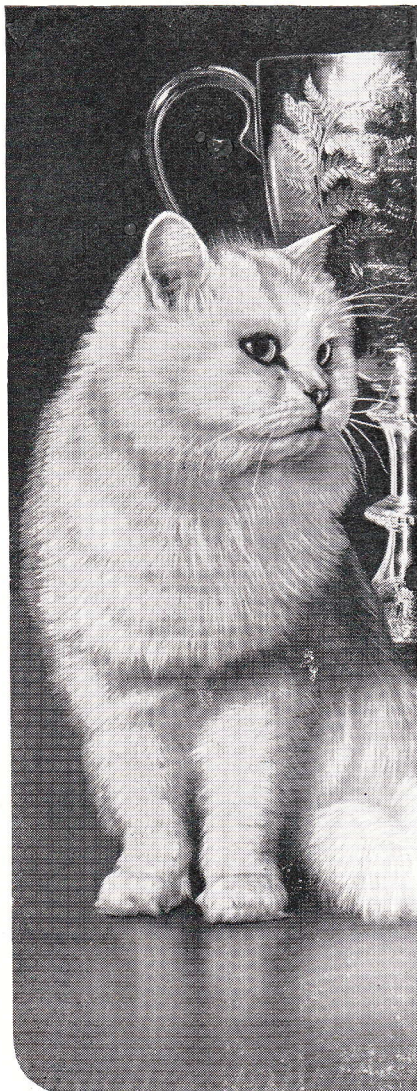
**PAWS ACROSS "THE POND"**  
(see page 5)



# *Another lovely cat who loves* **KIT-E-KAT**

Champion of  
Champions thrives on

**'the complete  
cat food'**



Most admired cat in the country is 12½ year old *Langherne Winsome*, the beautiful pale chinchilla which won the 50 guinea cup for best cat at Olympia. Miss Steer of Maidenhead who owns Winsome says, 'I mix her Kit-E-Kat with vegetables and corn flakes and she loves it. Lots of cats don't like tinned foods, but Kit-E-Kat seems to get them all'.

Yes, and Kit-E-Kat is not only delicious but wonderfully nourishing. It is a high protein food enriched with liver.

Your cat may not be a champion, but Kit-E-Kat will give her 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. 6

JUNE 1951

Managing Editor :

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

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

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## MISCELLANY

I WISH to pass on a word of thanks to those readers who responded so promptly and generously to my appeal for the loan of some of the famous Louis Wain cat drawings. Enough picture post cards were offered to fill an album, and had I accepted all the offers of books and annuals I would have been hard put to it to find the spare room for their storage. Which all goes to prove how greatly the Louis Wain sketches have been treasured and preserved through the years by cat lovers all over the country. I hope it will be possible to reproduce some of these sketches in later issues of the Magazine.

And now for a few words of explanation on the subject of photographs. It must surely be appreciated that over the year we receive a great number of prints from readers who look forward to their reproduction in OUR CATS. We certainly receive many more than we can possibly hope to use.

We endeavour to return the unsuitable prints without delay, especially if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for the purpose! It is not our custom to acknowledge receipt of prints unless we are specially asked so to do. The prints selected for possible use are put aside and frequently there is a long waiting period between their arrival and their appearance in the Magazine. The queue, unfortunately, is not growing smaller and in the circumstances and until we are able to devote more space to photographs, I would ask readers to be as patient and tolerant as possible. We cannot please everyone, I know, but we will do our best to avoid disappointment.




Welcome this month to Billie Bancroft, who is to officiate as our American Associate Editor. Her monthly newsletter will not be long in establishing itself as one of the most popular features of the Magazine.

I have encouraging news concerning the Festival of Britain Championship Cat Show next month. The Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall at Westminster should be packed for the event. It is a show with ideas.

EDITOR

*Our front cover photograph this month comes from Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. The Siamese kitten playing among the geraniums belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williamson. Its sire was Muffin of Bangkok who, as a kitten, was presented to Lord Mountbatten when he was commanding S.E.A.C. at Bangkok. The dam is Cordella, bred and exported by Mrs. Dunks, of Chelsea.*

 **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
21 July ... ..	Barnsley Agricultural Society ... (See advertisement in this issue)	Barnsley
25 July ... ..	*Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club ... (See advertisement in this issue)	London
30 August ... ..	*Sandy and District Show ... ..	Sandy, Beds
15 September ... ..	*Herts and Middlesex Cat Club ... ..	London
26 September ... ..	*South Western Counties Cat Club ... ..	Taunton
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
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\* (Concluding Instalment)

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

LITTLE need be said about the outcome of the domestication of the cat. The divergence from the wild type has been very slight, except in characters of the skin. Colour, pattern, and length of the hair are thus the chief features used in the distinction of modern breeds. Of these, the "tabby" is closest to the wild form.

Curiously enough, two types of tabbies exist, the striped and the blotched. In the striped tabby, the vertical striation is often dissolved into rows of spots and its pattern is virtually that of the wild cat. The blotched tabby, however, has contorted bands of black arranged on the sides in a spiral or circle. This pattern does not occur in any wild race, nor in any other member of the cat family, and is therefore now believed to have arisen as an ordinary gene mutation. It was this type of cat that was named *felis catus* by Linnaeus. Hence this name applies to the domestic cat only, and the correct Latin name to be used for the European wild cat is *felis silvestris* Schreber.

The other major breeds are known by geographical connotations, but their homelands are not known with certainty. The Abyssinian cat which lacks the pattern and has pronouncedly multi-coloured hair like the wild rabbit, does not come from Abyssinia. It may well have arisen from a wild form resembling the Sardinian cat, in which the markings are disappearing. The Persians and Angoras, both long-haired, have been regarded as coming from the moun-

tainous districts of the Middle East and as being descended from the manul, without any scientific evidence being available. The length of the hair in these breeds is a product of selective breeding, and comparable with the similar condition in the Pekinese dog, the Angora goat, the Angora rabbit, and the Angora guinea pig.

In India, cats have been domesticated for at least two thousand years, and feral Indian cats mingle frequently with the wild form, *felis constantina ornata* Gray. The custom of keeping domestic cats may have reached India from Egypt by way of Babylonia, where it was known in the second century B.C.

## Siamese Origin

The Siamese cat, with its peculiar colour change from white in the young, to smoky shading in the adult, first appeared in Britain in 1884. It is seriously believed by many to have originated in Siam, but some zoologists regard this as unproven and suggest that it is a comparatively recent mutation of the Indian cat. Some workers believe that it sprang from the golden cat (*Profelis temmincki* Vig.), but this is not possible, the latter being a different genus and not at all related to the domestic cat. The skull of a Siamese which I measured with care is in no way different from the skulls of African and European cats. There are two arguments in favour of an Eastern origin. One is that the so-called Himalayan rabbit has the same colouration, the other that the tails of Siamese cats

\* 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.



are often abnormal, kinked or shortened. This feature is common among the domestic cats of Burma, Siam, and Malaya.

Finally, the Manx cat deserves to be mentioned. It is ideally completely devoid of a tail, a simple mutation apparently linked with high-leggedness. The Manx thus looks like a lynx in outline. Whether it originated in the Isle of Man is highly doubtful. Short tails are frequently encountered elsewhere, especially in the Far East, and one author has even gone so far as to say that Manx cats are common there and that the European Manx was imported.

### Structural Changes

Thus, the history of the cat is not satisfactorily known. It is an instructive example, however, of a species which is only in the first stage of domestication, perfectly capable still of becoming feral, and comparatively little altered. Changes are most conspicuous in hair length and colour, also in body size which on the whole is reduced. In the skeleton, domestic feeding has resulted in changes in the lower jaw and the dentition which, however, are still very plastic, so that the characters are not at all constant. The skull is beginning to be broader, with a shorter face in a number of individuals. This is a character favoured by fanciers. It is deliberately selected and will therefore become pronounced in the comparatively near future. Shortening of the face is a common feature of domesticated animals, well known in the bulldog and the pig, for instance. With the change of food many domestic cats are undergoing at present, from their original diet of live rodents and birds to cooked meals including fish, and to milk and biscuits, the rate of morphological change is likely to increase in the future.

It is common knowledge that, when animals are reduced to the state of domestication, their wild ancestors disappear in a short time. This is illustrated by cattle, goat, horse, camel, and others. The cat is an example of one of the ways in which this process works: constant hybridisation contaminates the wild stock the existence of which is, at the same time, regarded as undesirable by man.

In this way our European cat has already lost most of her territory and the Scottish refuge has become its main stronghold. As it is most desirable to preserve this interesting species as a memorial to our sadly reduced wild fauna, it seems to me necessary to consider not merely the protection of a few surviving specimens but also the prevention, so far as this is possible, of interbreeding with domesticated cats.



### NEW CLUB IS FORMED

A meeting of enthusiasts was held recently to consider the formation of a specialist club for Russian Blue cats. Despite the inclement weather, Mr. F. B. Williams presided over a gathering of about 40 people. Thanks were expressed to Miss Rochford and Mrs. de Clifford for their interest and initiative in calling the meeting. It was eventually decided to form the club, to be styled the Russian Blue Cat Club. Its object will be to "promote the interests and pure breeding of Russian Blue cats." President is Miss Kit Wilson and the Hon. Secretary Mrs. de Clifford, 46A Holland Park, London, W.11, who will be delighted to hear from any interested readers.



Introducing a Grand New Monthly Feature

## ***Paws across "the Pond"***

By BILLIE BANCROFT

Readers, here is a pleasant surprise for you! Meet Billie Bancroft, our new American Associate Editor and ace writer on feline topics. Mrs. Bancroft "gets around" to meet all the interesting people and their cats. She has a way with her and a journalese that is all her own. We are confident that the newsletter she is sending us each month from her home at Rockaway, New Jersey, will be eagerly read by cat lovers all over the world.

**W**E in America have a very personal niche in our hearts for OUR CATS . . . the magazine fills a decided want and personally it is a joy to leaf through the bright, cheery pages.

The English judges who were ambassadors of good will to the States during the last show season indeed made a favourable impression on those in the Fancy and the main topic of several clubs these days . . . it has long passed the rumour stage . . . are the English judges. There are two clubs in California, two here in the East and one in the South West, who are seriously considering this phase. The next step will be up to the membership vote. Most of the Clubs are turning the meeting each month into a gala garden party and there do not seem to be enough summer months to cover the requests of the various hostesses.

Last Show season at Garden State, a very tired lady sat down in a chair next to me. I leaned over and said, sotto voce, "You look just like I feel." . . . "My word," she replied, "how do you ever stand it," From there on we drifted into an interesting conversation. She told me she was a Siamese breeder and a judge and that she was on her way to the Norfolk



**Billie Bancroft**

Virginia Show to do the Siamese. "You are not an All-Breed?" I asked. "No," she admitted, "but I suppose some day I will be, if my friends push me into it."

A few days later I called, hoping to meet English judge Kathleen Williams, at the home of Miss Hydon (where she was a house guest) and found that instead of her being thirty miles away . . . she was three or four hundred miles distant . . . and I missed having her on my radio program.

It rather looks as if the Black Per-



sians will be staging quite a comeback this coming show season. Mrs. Naomi Garrett, Cragmore, New York State, will be entering some very promising young prospects. Mrs. Garrett is the owner of Sultan of Gray Haven, many times Best Black and known throughout the Eastern section of the States as a prolific, typy sire. Sultan is an old gentleman now and a breeder is indeed fortunate to secure one of his kittens. What a furore Sultan has created in his day . . . he may have had an equal . . . but I personally never saw one . . . and I cover most of the shows.

Mrs. Mabel Erdman, Lebanon, Pennsylvania (judge in C.F.F.), has gone in for Black Persians . . . heretofore she has devoted herself to Red Tabbies. I predict this of Judge Erdman . . . if she does as much for the Blacks as she has for the Red Tabbies . . . she will make history in the Fancy.

### Typy Blacks

There is another Black breeder in the novice class right now. However, she will not be so classed after this coming show season. I refer to Mrs. Donna Wendel, Elizabeth, New Jersey, who has just purchased a lovely little queen from Wisconsin's top-bracket breeder, Mrs. Coreen Petta, and for a consort to "Doll" Mrs. Wendel turned around and bought a very typy Black boy, a double champion (C.F.A.-A.C.A.), who also has five points toward his Grand Championship. There will be many "ohs" . . . and "ahs" . . . when these two go to the judges' bench.

Not to be forgotten and certainly a very strong contender for top honours in the Black class is Amber, a very gorgeous queen belonging to Mrs. Ralph Wilkinson, President of the Atlantic Cat Club and part of the high brass in C.F.F. Queen Amber has produced some very outstanding kits. One is even now

on his way to a Grand Championship. (How much I'd like to see Amber and Black Sultan mated . . . what a combination they are!) There is an old saying here from breeders of long experience—"breed the best to the best . . . to get the best."

At last the cast of "Rhubarb" has been decided . . . I have followed this very closely and have been kept informed as events developed. That remarkable actress, Mrs. Paul Douglass (stage name Jan Sterling), will do the lead. The Douglasses live very quietly in their Bel-Air home, a suburb of Los Angeles. They are very home loving and entertain very little. Among their close friends are the James Masons, who gave Jan a cat . . . and that, my friend, was the beginning. So, of course, when Jan was offered the leading rôle in "Rhubarb," a comedy, she expressed gratification at the chance. "Rhubarb" will not be released until next winter. Jan will be seen as a beautifully dressed, happy young woman. This characterisation is Jan . . . playing herself.

### Pioneer in Siamese

Down in San Antonio, Texas, there is a Siamese breeder who really is waking people up . . . I refer to Mrs. Joseph Marshall, 117 E. Locust Street. Her Mission City Cattery is really doing a pioneer job in breeding Siamese. Quite a few breeders have been made aware of the excellent points her Siamese are showing. Mrs. Marshall is not only a consultant of authority but is also President of the Alamo City Cat Club.

Last week-end I drove up to Gillette Castle, Hadlyme, Conn. This truly is a fascinating place. There are 24 rooms, fortress like in Rhenish medieval design. This ivy-covered castle was the "dream home" of the late William Gillette, noted stage portrayer of Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Gillette was a draughtsman of advanced ability. He designed all the



rooms to suit his fastidious taste. He instructed the workers that no nail or metal object be exposed throughout the great house. Craftsmen spent months just carving intricate decorations on the 47 massive doors, the largest weighing 300 pounds. To show his appreciation for his three cats, he had a panel cut at the bottom of the living-room doors so that his cat-babies could go in and out while the door was closed. There are still several statues and miniatures of cats in the large living-rooms. The caretaker, a very historical character, informed me Mr. Gillette's cats were all of the alley variety and that he was deeply attached to them.

Last week I had a birthday. My friends were most kind. From Australia came a record of "I Taut I Taw a 'Puddy Tat" . . . and from three more here at home . . . came the same kind of record. I am taking quite a ragging from my friends all because one of my hobbies is being a disc jockey.

THE KENSINGTON KITTEN  
AND NEUTER CAT CLUB

## FESTIVAL for CATS

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on  
Wednesday, July 25, 1951

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A FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN  
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Inclusive admission ... 3s. 6d.

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# Smith and Biddy

By RUBY M. AYRES

That loose expression "A cat and dog life" is tightened up well and truly by Miss Ayres, world-famous author and animal lover. Story and illustration first appeared in *The Tail-Wagger Magazine*. Thank you, Miss Ayres and Mr. Editor, for providing our readers with the opportunity to enjoy such a charming combination of prose and picture!

WHEN I was a child (no, never mind how many centuries ago!) there was a married couple who lived opposite to my home, who were obviously not on the best of terms.

I was always interested in my neighbours — "People, not Places," being my idea of happiness even in those early days! — and so it used to vastly intrigue me when I sometimes heard the door of the house opposite being slammed up with terrific force, and rushing to the window I would see the husband striding violently away down the road as if he could not quickly enough escape from his wife's company, and would also catch a glimpse of her, standing at the window staring after her (so-called) better half with furious eyes, and even, on one occasion, shaking her first at his retreating form.

"More trouble!" my father would remark. "What a cat and dog life!"

And when one day—having been a lover of all animals ever since I could toddle—I asked with great disapproval *why* he called it "A cat and dog life," he replied, "Because cats and dogs were never good friends, and would invariably growl and spit at one another!"

Well, in a way I suppose he was right, and although since that day I have come across a number of exceptions to the rule, I have never met one to equal the profound affection which exists be-

tween Smith the Cat and Tail-Wagger Biddy, of whom you will see a portrait in this number of OUR CATS Magazine.

No, they are not my pets—I wish they were!—they belong to friends of mine who live quite near to me. But Biddy, when sometimes her master or mistress brings her to my house, scampers in as soon as the door is opened as if the place belonged to her, generally making headlong for the kitchen where I have a talking parrot named Benjamin, who generally greets her with a courteous "Good-morning," though occasionally he commits an error of judgment by following it up with a seductive "Puss! Puss!" at which Biddy wags her tail more furiously than ever, because nothing ever offends her, and even when her master, who is devoted to her, calls her a "pig" in pretended wrath, she merely wriggles with delight and licks his hand rapturously.

But I think I am right in saying that the love of Biddy's life is Smith, the cat, and the photograph you see was entirely their own happy pose, without the slightest undue influence either from their master or the photographer.

At home they curl up together in the same armchair (which is incidentally their master's favourite, although he is never allowed to make use of it if they are already in possession) and  
(continued at foot of next page)





*Photo (by P. Hargrave, Weybridge) by courtesy "The Tail-Wagger magazine"*

**SMITH AND BIDDY.**

there they snuggle together in complete happiness, Smith (who is a he-cat!) usually embracing Biddy's neck or one of her legs with his tail as a proof of his unchallenged possess on as lord and master.

Theirs is a case of real love and complete understanding, and I

can only say that if all married couples followed their example and led such a perfect cat and dog life, there would be no more scowling faces at the window or angry slamming of front doors!

Dear Smith and Biddy! . . . May your happiness together be long lived!



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## BLUE STAR GEORGE

at five months

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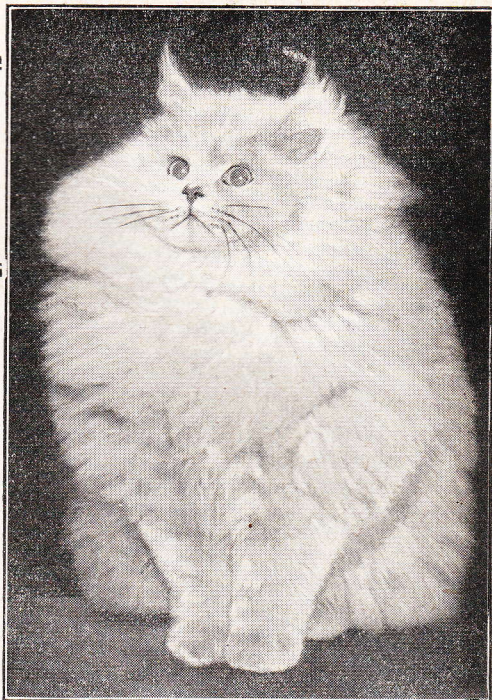
**M**RS. G. POND, South Lodge, Buchan Hill, Nr. Crawley, Sussex, owner-breeder of the Blue Star Blue Persians, writes:—

"I am sending you a photograph of Blue Star George, my five months old Blue Persian Kitten, who won nine firsts and was Best Long-haired Kitten at the Southern Counties Cat Show in January, 1951.

Blue Star George also appeared in Picture Page on Television and everyone exclaimed at his beautiful pale blue coat, with its perfect silky texture.

I feel credit for this must go to Kit-zyme, as I started giving the queens Kit-zyme last year and, although I have shown kittens before, I have never taken so many prizes, so I feel that the tablets really do keep the cats in tip-top condition.

George's half-sister (who flew to New York last autumn) was the best long-haired female kitten in the New York Cat Show — she too is a Kit-zyme baby — as will be all my kittens from now on."



**KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .**  
It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner — NOT a purgative

# Kit-zyme

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# 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.

## TOO MANY SHOWS?

In the May issue of *OUR CATS* you ask: Are we having too many shows? The fact that clubs are complaining about the loss on the club shows is proof in itself to me that there are too many cat shows these days.

I feel we should not lose sight of the fact that pedigree cats are a luxury and showing them is an expensive business. I personally find it quite a strain to feed my cats properly and that a couple of shows a year are my maximum to support.

I think the time has come for some joint action by the clubs. The hire of halls is such an expensive item. So why not two shows for the price of one hall? They say that one half the world doesn't know how the other half lives. This holds good for cat breeders. Some breeders and show promoters think it is just laziness that shows are not supported. The plain truth is that many are placed like myself and just can't afford more than, say, a couple of shows a year.

Leslie Owen Jones,  
Jacob's Well, Guildford, Surrey.

## THAT TAX QUESTION

I am horrified to read in Mrs. Thompson's *Diary* that the animal protection societies are definitely pressing for a tax on cats. I have given my views and the—to my mind—unanswerable arguments against such a tax in a previous letter to you and I am convinced that it could only work (if it worked at all) to the detriment of our cat population.

How many of the people who now turn hundreds of thousands of dogs on to the street on 1st January would

own up to, let alone pay tax, for a cat which probably spends most of its time in the next-door garden or up the street? The stuff about "improving the status of cats" makes me see red, since the folks who are doing most in that line are the ones who would suffer most from a tax (apart from the cats), as they would have to destroy many of the beautiful strays and unwanted pets to whom they are now giving good homes.

Come off it, Mr. Keith Robinson and face realities! Apart entirely from any other considerations, how can any cat be made to wear a distinguishing mark without cruelty and/or disfigurement?

"Almost inevitably," says Mrs. Thompson, "they would have to wear collars." Experience with N.A.R.P.A.C. has shown that a cat may keep on an elastic collar for five minutes, five days, or, if a careful cat, for five months. But I should say the average would be five hours! There are men who like choker collars and there are women who like wearing necklaces, and there are some of both who cannot bear anything tight round the neck. Cats are the same.

The first day I put an elastic collar and disc on our old ginger Persian he came home dragging a large branch which he had somehow inserted between his neck and the collar. Other cats have had collar and disc (price 1s. 3d.) removed by kindly neighbours who considered they caused suffering to the cat. I have only had one cat who agreed to wear the disc until the elastic stretched and wore out, as if he knew that the silver locket was becoming to his dark beauty! How many people are going



to buy constant renewals of elastic and disc?

I daresay Mr. Keith Robinson would be one of the first to inveigh against the police state and to invoke our traditional liberties—liberties very hardly won at times against other well-meaning but misguided legislators who thought it would be nice to tidy up the place and regulate our lives more exactly. Yet, if the duty is to be left to the police, as it is in the case of dogs, to round up defaulters of licences and put all animals not paid for away, what else is this but another and bigger step in the direction of general police control? And how many healthy and happy cats are to be forcibly removed and destroyed because they have mislaid or never had a collar and are either not claimed by their real owners or are sharing several? A certain number of cats are "universal friends" and a large number of people will make friends with and feed a cat which attaches itself to them without taking full responsibility for it. "Life is sweet, brother," even to an unadopted cat who ekes out an independent living with mice and rats!

Miss G. M. Camfield,

Worthing, Sussex.

### POLYDACTYLISM IN CATS

Miss E. von Ullman's letter about polydactylism in cats, which was published in the April issue of OUR CATS, was interesting. So few fanciers report this kind of thing.

My friend, Dr. T. C. Carter, has made an extensive study of this subject as it affects mice. When visiting me some years ago he brought with him a number of test tubes containing prepared specimens of polydactylism in mice. At that time very little had been done concerning the abnormality in cats, but there was an anatomical study by F. Regnault and L. Lépinay

in 1911 (Bell, Mem. Soc. Anat. de Paris, 86, 276-278, "Squelette de chat polydactyle"). For far more extensive investigation we have to wait till 1947, when Professor C. H. Danforth published two papers, one in J. Hered. entitled "Heredity of Polydactyly in the Cat," and the other in Amer. J. Anat. entitled "Morphology of the Feet in Polydactyl Cats." The first paper was concerned chiefly with the mode of inheritance. He concluded that there was a single gene, fully dominant, with a viable homozygote, and full penetrance. The second paper dealt not only with the morphology but with the embryology as well.

Dr. Carter has recently had published in the "Journal of Genetics" a lengthy paper on the genetics of the abnormalities in mice and only a few weeks ago sent me a reprint. This I have offered to send Miss von Ullman, but the genetics in cats differ from that of luxate mice in several aspects: (1) There is full penetrance, so that all heterozygotes show the polydactyly. (2) Full dominance, so that homozygotes, like heterozygotes, show nothing worse than polydactyly. (3) Forefeet affected more often and more strongly than hindfeet. In mild cases the pollex, i.e. "thumb" of the forefoot, is longer than usual, having a third joint. In more severe cases there are one or two extra forefoot digits and only when the forefeet are more strongly affected do the hindfoot abnormalities appear.

Mr. Albert C. Jude,

Mapperley, Notts.

### AUREOMYCIN TREATMENT

I was so very interested in Mr. Soderberg's article "Please Don't" in the March issue of OUR CATS on infectious enteritis and distemper, for during the last four years I have had so much of it among my Siamese cats. When I first kept them I was



living in Cape Town and during the war years there I had two outbreaks of what the vet. diagnosed as distemper, with loss of appetite, sneezing, cough, etc., but we treated them with the sulpha drugs and all recovered.

Then four years ago I came to live here, bringing with me 12 cats, mostly Siamese, and two Siamese kittens only a day old, a distance of 300 miles. They all stood the journey well and the babes grew and flourished in this warm, dry, sunny Karroo climate. But their lovely garden must have been previously infected, for directly they went from the enclosed yard to the open garden our troubles started.

The first two kittens became ill and soon others followed with (1) loss of appetite, (2) frothy white vomit, (3) brown discharge from ears, (4) anæmia—white gums and membranes, and (5) if alive for long enough, severe sore throat and later a thick membrane which covered the whole throat. The cat or kitten hung over water but could not drink, and choked and died in my hands if I attempted to give a little glucose water with a pipette.

I rang the vet. in Cape Town, who suggested it was probably either gastro-enteritis or the gastric form of distemper, and he ordered injections of penicillin and on different occasions various forms of the sulpha drugs; but though this prolonged their lives they all ultimately died

after a long or short illness. Our local doctor suggested diphtheria antitoxin for the throat, but though the membrane disappeared in an hour and the throats cleared up, the ones so treated all died with serum reaction.

The epidemic by this time was not confined to kittens or this district only and people all over South Africa were losing their cats. One very favourite cat of mine I treated with injections of streptomycin. I think she would have responded to this if we could have given enough, but it is very toxic and we had to stop it after giving her only a limited quantity. The majority of the adult cats, though, recovered with the use of the sulpha drugs.

Finally, I hear of Enterofagos and tried that, and it reduced the mortality among the kittens considerably if given in large enough quantities and in the very early stages. At the first sign of loss of appetite I give three ampoules with bicarbonate of soda all in one dose; two hours later I give another two and then one every two hours up to 10 ampoules. In most cases this seems to arrest it at the vomiting stage. I always isolate the sick kitten and treat the well ones with Enterofagos, and they rarely develop it then.

But Enterofagos appeared ineffective once the anæmia, ear complications or throats commence. In this case, or if the kitten has not recovered its appetite and spirits after

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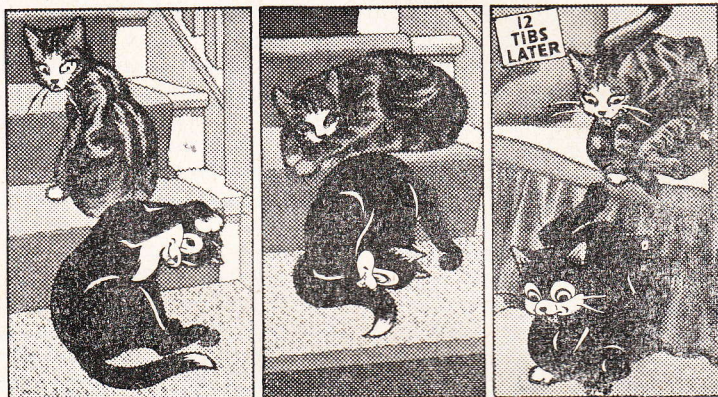
10 ampoules of Enterofagos, I now give Aureomycin, and I can assure other breeders it is a 99 per cent. cure. A 250 milligram capsule of Aureomycin *each day* will treat four kittens and they must have it for at least five days, even though apparently recovered, or there will be a relapse. Take the powder out of the capsule and divide into four parts, one for each kitten. Each kitten's share again divide into three parts and give one of these at regular eight-hourly intervals dissolved in a spoonful of hot tea or milk. It is very difficult to dissolve. If the kitten is very ill, up to double this can be given, but it is expensive, more so in England than here, I believe, and the larger dose is only necessary in dealing with a very sick animal. After eight weeks a larger dose must be given, approximately a  $\frac{1}{4}$  capsule,

50 to 60 milligrams, per day for every 2 lbs. of body weight in the cat, and always divided into three or even four doses per day. Before I used it I lost 99 per cent. of my kittens once they got sick; now 99 per cent. of them recover in less than a week.

I am an ex-nurse and naturally very interested in all the new discoveries for human sickness, and when I read of the uses to which Aureomycin is being put in human sicknesses I determined to try it on my cats.

Mrs. Florence Bradford,  
Lauriston Cattery, Beaufort West,  
South Africa.

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# More Questions & Answers

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 eighth 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. He deals this month with sticky eyes in kittens, pale coats in Siamese and Siamese hybrids.

I have a young queen whose eyes tend to water. When a kitten, she was troubled with "sticky" eyes. Can you suggest a cause for the weakness, and what is best to do about it?

Watering or discharging eyes, and "sticky" ones, are the most common signs of eye weakness in cats. At the same time, these things may only be the visible signs of some other bodily ill-health. In either case the weakness may come from an inherited cause; it may be as a result of a temporary ill-health; or it may be caused by accident or some form of eye deformity, either inherited or otherwise.

So it is difficult to locate a cause for these troubles except by a personal examination. And as the eye is extremely sensitive, so that even a very simple wrong treatment may cause further injury, it is always most advisable that the patient be taken to a qualified vet. for examination and treatment.

As an example of how the attention can save much pain and unhappiness for the cat, and lots of worry and anxiety for the owner, I am quoting from a letter received:—

"Dear Mr. Jude,—Do you remember us visiting you last summer to consult you in regard to our Blue Persian? He was having bad eye trouble. We took your advice and then, as suggested, we took him to our local veterinary surgeon. He treated the eyes with various drops,

etc., in order to give them strength and remove the inflammation. Having done this, it became apparent, as you had suggested, that the lids were incurving. An operation was decided on. The vet. has done a marvellous job, having taken a tiny piece out of all the lids, and it is quite a success. There is at present a very slight curling at the outside corners, which in due course we expect will quite disappear, but otherwise no one would know that anything had been wrong. The awful discharge has, of course, quite cleared, and our pet is again normal in every way."

That is just one example of what can be done, and how well worth it a visit to the vet. can be in any case of so-called "eye weakness."

Two years ago I bought two Siamese female kittens out of one litter, and passed one on to a friend. Both kittens had equally good pale body colour. At present, my friend's queen is quite dark, but mine remains beautifully pale. Can you suggest any reason for this happening, and are there any precautions one could take to prevent any speedy darkening of Siamese coats?

Selection of mates is the only way to produce pale coats and coats that will normally remain pale or relatively pale for any length of time. But having produced such kittens there is a very definite precaution which should be taken if the paleness is to persist.



There is definitely a close relationship between body colour and temperature, lower temperature giving darker coats. Every care should be taken at birth to guard against kittens being chilled, for if they are the flying start for paleness will be lost. Particular care is necessary in cold weather. Adults are, of course, affected in the same way, but in their case body heat is not lost so quickly. I have seen pale coats turn to almost a dark oak colour inside 12 months where the cat has been kept under anything like cold conditions.

In times of moult, the cat should be kept in warm quarters with a fairly level temperature. It should be remembered that during a moult a cat is out of condition, often with a slightly raised temperature, and any chilling will be reflected in the new coat. All this does not mean that the moulting cat need be coddled, but just that reasonable care should be taken.

### Siamese Points

The Siamese—and similarly the Himalayan rabbit—has a low capacity for developing pigment. Both are born unpigmented in the first coat. The Himalayan rabbit should remain white coated, but if young are chilled while hair is developing the first coat may be slightly pigmented a sooty white all over. The “points” develop the pigment because these are naturally the coolest parts of the skin, and thus they overcome the restriction factor at those parts only. The “points” are the coolest by reason of loss of body heat radiation.

If a patch of hair is removed from the body of the Siamese by shaving or plucking the hair, and the animal is then kept in a cold place while new hair grows on the patch, the hair comes in pigmented more strongly than the surrounding hair. But in

any case it will be darker owing to the loss of body heat at that place.

The three recessives to full colour in cats are Chinchilla, Burmese, Siamese, in that order. Siamese is the lowest, and has reddish eyes, seen through the pigment, which is blue. The amount of pigment is not large, thus allowing the red blood-vessels to be seen. It is its “thermolabile” pigmentation which allows the general pigmentation of Siamese to be increased by cold.

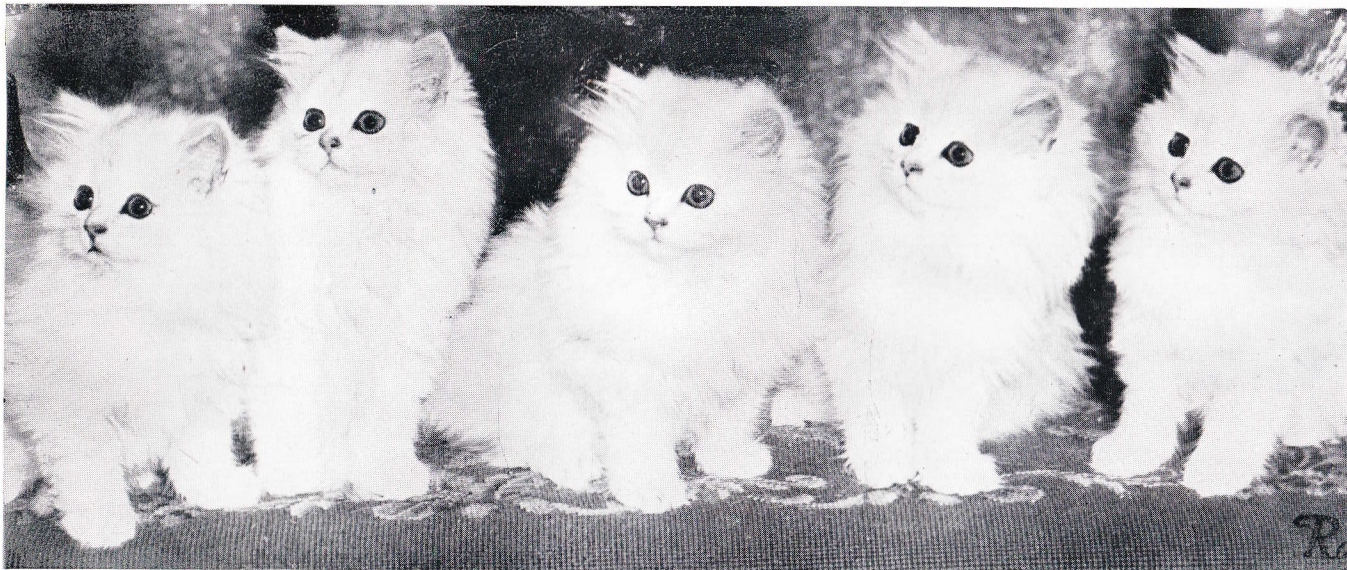
I once had a litter of black kittens produced by one of my Siamese queens who had mated in the garden. I noticed how really black their coats became when they grew up, with not even a trace of tabby pattern as is so often seen on the coats of ordinary black cats or kittens. Will you please say why this is so?

The original coat pattern of wild cats was known as “agouti,” in line with that displayed by a number of wild animal coats. This characteristic “agouti” or tabby marking is present in most breeds of cats, and is seen especially in the kitten coats. But it is lost by a non-agouti (or non-tabby) mutation in ordinary black cats. The Siamese, however, produces in a cross a dominant mutation of the colour extension factor—a black which hides the tabby markings. This black crossed with ordinary black will produce three dominant blacks to one ordinary black.

---

Our contributor Mr. Jude is anxious to obtain information from breeders relating to the colour of the mothers of Tortoiseshell and Tortoiseshell-and-White males, past or present. Details should be sent to him at 3 Hill View Road, Mapperley, Notts. Mr. Jude wishes me to express thanks on his behalf to those readers who recently responded to his appeal for samples of rusty hair from Longhairs.—Editor.

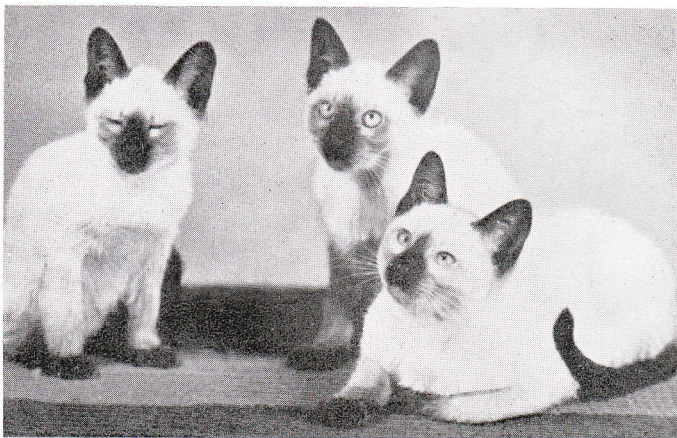




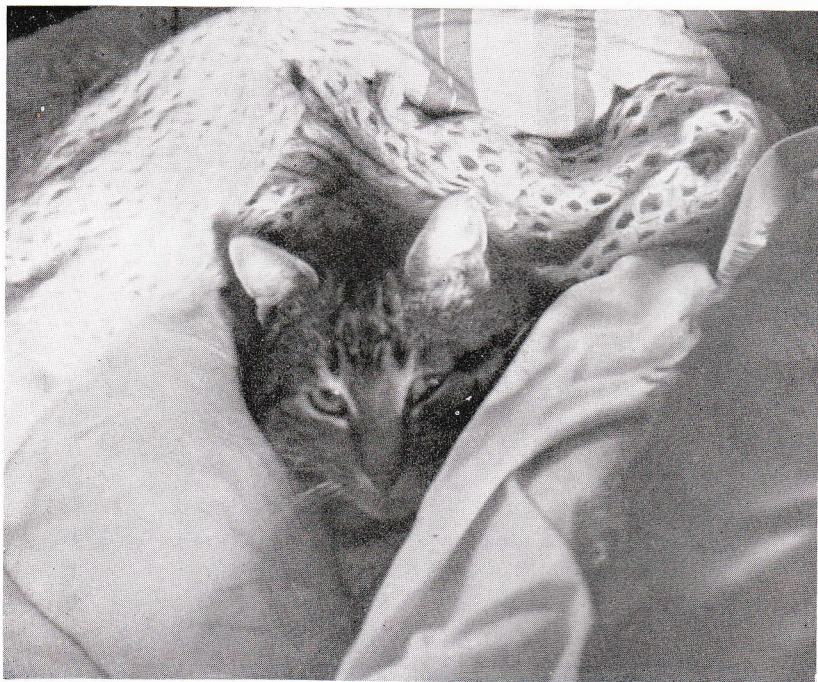
#### THE BELLES OF CASA CONTENTA

A delightful all-female litter of Chinchillas bred by Mrs. V. Van Zele, of Lemon Grove, California, U.S.A., who has some interesting and amusing observations to make about life generally as a cat lover in her letter we reproduce on pages 28-30.



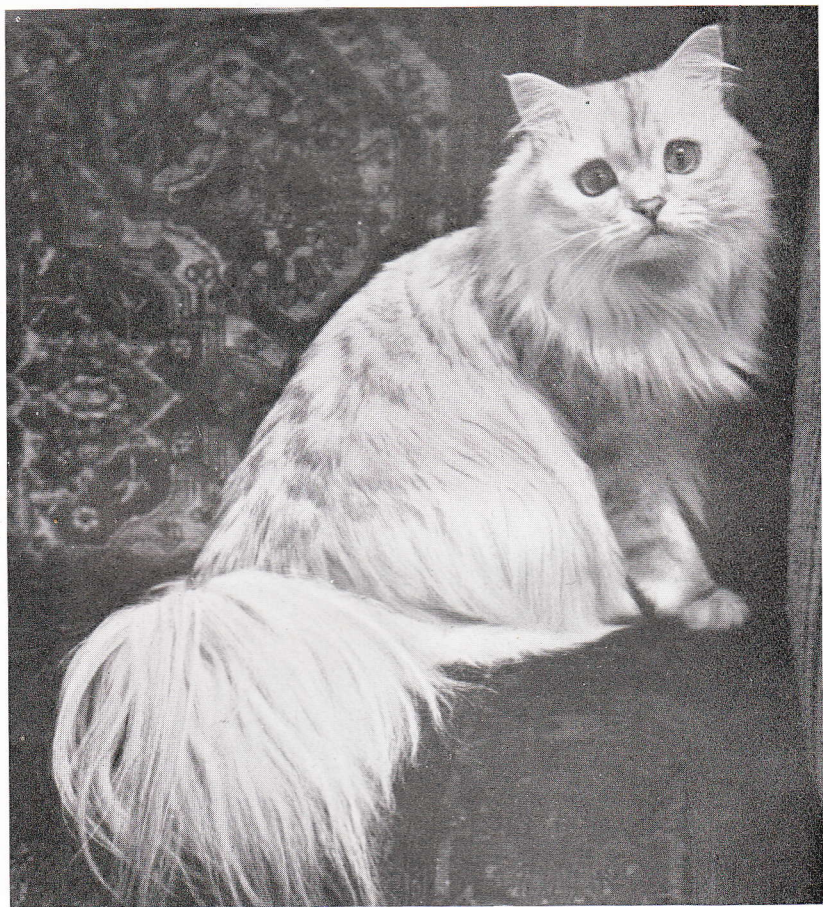


Siamese trio bred by Mrs. F. M. Richardson, who conducts the affairs of the Scottish Cat Club.



What's all this fuss about power cuts? The idea of cat comfort has been cleverly caught in this photograph submitted by Mr. Brian R. Ingram, of Cuffley, Potters Bar, Middlesex.





We are indebted for this charming study of BONNIE ANKARA to the owner-breeder, Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth, the prominent Copenhagen fancier.





A lovely study of a Blue Point Siamese male, **MIRZA TAKLIF**. He is the neutered pet of Brigadier and Mrs. Rossiter, of Shrivenham, Wiltshire.



## ***Death can be Deferred***

**N**OT a very cheering title, is it? But we all know from personal experience that he who keeps a cat must sooner or later face the inevitable.

All of us have a real affection for our cats, though we must admit that some of us at times display a sentimentality which is almost embarrassing. Yet despite this we must remember that a cat needs affection; it must be respected and yet must remain a cat both for the sake of its own self-respect and the dignity of its owner.

Unpleasant experience has taught us that the span of a cat's life is far less than that of human-kind, and we who keep cats because we really like them are compelled several times during our lives to stand by and watch as they pass on merely because that is the way of things in this ordered universe of ours.

But now I come to the point I really want to make. How many of our cats live their full span of life, and how many of them die before they need merely as a result of our neglect or, what is much more likely, our ignorance?

It is quite impossible to present facts and figures to prove this case, but I am personally convinced that the majority of cats and kittens which die could have lived considerably longer had their owners possessed more knowledge of feline needs and of the ultimate issue of those remedies which, even if desperate, are

the only cure for certain serious diseases.

### **Kitten Mortality**

If you are a breeder you will know only too well what a large proportion of your kittens never reach the stage of maturity. Numbers of kittens die each year before they have even experienced one moment of separate existence; many more die long before the age of weaning, and frequently you who are the breeder hear from a purchaser to whom you have sold a healthy kitten that for some reason or other it has died before it was twelve months old.

I'm not implying that the majority of kittens die before they become adult, but if the statistics existed I think you would be appalled at the high rate of mortality which does occur.

### **Killing Diseases**

In the adult cat the most lethal of all diseases is infectious enteritis with a mortality rate which often approaches 80 per cent. At the present time it is true to say that there is no certain cure for this disease, although serums do exist in some countries which will lower the mortality rate very considerably. From the onset of the disease to death takes such a pathetically short time.

Distemper is also a common disease in the cat and that, too, when it occurs, usually removes



one quarter of the animals which fall victim to it.

Now can you think of any epidemic disease which occurs among human beings which produces fatal results so frequently?

I suppose the most deadly of human diseases to reach epidemic proportions in this country is infantile paralysis, and even that does not produce death in one out of four cases ; in fact, to-day the percentage of deaths is very low.

### **The Remedy**

There is one remedy for this unfortunate state of affairs in the cat world. It is feline research. The most knowledgeable and certainly the most conscientious of veterinary surgeons will tell you quite frankly that the root of the whole trouble is that the necessary scientific knowledge does not exist and that there is only one way in which such knowledge can be obtained. It is by having in this country far more workers than at present in this research field so that they can combine their knowledge with that of the workers in other countries.

The problems to be considered are many, and the first of these is the prevention of disease. This does not necessarily mean the prevention of any specific disease, for the first essential is the building up of sound condition in our cats—condition which in the course of a few generations becomes constitutional.

It is an unfortunate fact that if you master one germ there is usually another to come along to take its place, and thus ultimately it is the constitution of the person or the animal which generally decides the issue.

It is vitally important that there should be full understanding of the nutritional needs of the

cat, for just in the same way that greater knowledge of the needs of the child in this respect has led to a marked improvement in health and physique, so similar advantages could be achieved in the feline world. It is encouraging to know that this work is actually going on at the present time with results that are more than promising.

Next must be tackled the problem of those specific conditions and diseases which kill cats and kittens, and it is in this field that those of us who are really interested in cats have to face the greatest difficulty. It is the problem of finance.

### **Research Means Money**

To maintain one qualified research worker on a full-time basis in an institution where sound facilities exist would cost about a thousand a year. One such worker would be valuable, but what could he expect to achieve in the course of a lifetime unless the most unforeseen good fortune attended his labours and led him to a discovery which could save the lives of thousands of cats each year?

It would indeed be a start to have one such worker in this country, 'tis true, but many more are necessary and the expense cannot be borne by those colleges and associations which do such splendid research work in the cause of animal welfare.

Thus there is only one ultimate solution. It is that the money should be provided by cat owners themselves. At the moment I must confess that I have no perfect scheme, although many facts and ideas occur to me from time to time. Public opinion and good will are the crux of the matter



when that is turned to actual deeds.

Have you any idea how many cats there are in this country? You would be surprised if you knew the total, and so should I; but from the best information available it appears that if each cat owner were prepared to pay one penny for each cat annually towards such research work, the total income would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of £30,000.

Such figures are useless unless the owner of the ordinary cat is interested in such a project, for breeders and owners of pedigree cats represent only a small fraction of one per cent. of all cat owners in this country. The fanciers, however, are organised and they have great influence.

You are one of them. What are you going to do about it?

## WILL YOU PLEASE HELP

BY

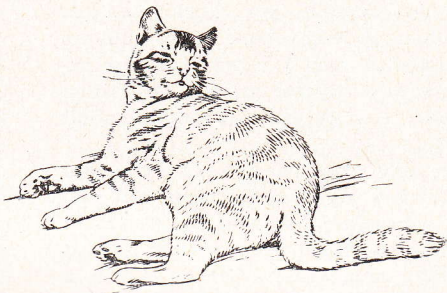
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A true story of a plucky Siamese mother

## ***Dusky Pearl***

By E. T. MEHLISS

THE story begins when, many months ago, I went to a station near Johannesburg to meet my first Siamese kitten. The journey from the cattery took a full eighteen hours. I took over from a surly guard the box with its precious contents, and on arriving home set it carefully in a quiet room and, raising the lid, beheld by long-expected pet.

Such a poor frightened mite, too terrified at first to eat or drink! For months afterwards the sound of a train whistle would send it scampering for shelter and it could not endure car rides. Personally, I do not think Siamese cats should be sent alone on long journeys; they are too sensitive, and I blame that first experience for the fact that my kitten was timid and nervous even into adult life.

After a few days a horrid doubt assailed me. I had ordered and paid for a male kitten, *but* . . . the doubt was justified by a letter from the cattery saying that a female had been sent by mistake and if I returned her the gentleman would follow in exchange. I did not want a lady cat because of the inevitable families and the difficulty of finding homes for them in this part of the world. But could I send that timid mite back on that terrifying journey? I just could not; I decided she must stay and adopted her into the family under the romantic name of Dusky Pearl.

She grew into a beautiful cat, the most faithful of companions. She was great friends with my Dachshund and even learnt to growl like a dog on the approach of strangers. Time

went on. The inevitable call for a mate began and all the alley cats in the neighbourhood arrived hopefully. I had not intended to breed Siamese, but was advised to experiment as Pearl was a fine specimen.

In due course what my native cook-boy called "the gentleman from Johannesburg" arrived by car in his basket. Alas! the prospective bride and groom hated each other on sight and when after three days the gentleman returned home, I was not certain that they had mated. Sure enough, those first kittens were dreadful little nondescripts!

After a year or so we had to remove from the Transvaal to Rhodesia and we decided to go by car—a distance of 800 miles. Pearl was in kitten—a bad time for her to travel—so I carried her on my knee in a light open basket. She stood the first two days fairly well, but hated the strange hotels, though I never left her. On the third day she was so ill that we took her to a vet. in a township near the Border.

### **Pearl is Missing !**

The vet. said she was exhausted by the journey and the intense heat. Her kittens would be born in a few days, but given rest and quiet when we reached our destination all should go well. That afternoon we reached Beitbridge, the point of entry into Rhodesia. Pearl seemed so exhausted that we hired a lock-up garage, thinking she would be happier in our car than in yet another strange bedroom.



During the night we visited her. She lay in a stupor, refusing even a drink. On a dawn visit we discovered with horror that she had escaped, how, we never knew. You who are cat lovers can imagine our distress. We hunted high and low, we offered rewards, we enlisted the hotel staff and the entire native population of the village, even the police were called in. But it was all in vain.

My son's appointment just had to be kept, so we had to depart. That drive of 200 miles to Bulawayo was the most miserable experience of my life. I fully believed that Pearl, knowing her time had come, had escaped in some inexplicable way to die.

### Fight to the Death

A few days later, in dashed my son with the wonderful news that the Customs officer at Beitbridge had telephoned to say that Pearl had been found alive. She had four kittens and "everything was all right"! Bit by bit we pieced the story together. It seems that poor Pearl had somehow managed to crawl away into the bush and after a period of starvation and despair had crept to the official's yard. Finding an outside bedroom open, she gave birth to her family. Then, almost with her last gasp, Pearl dragged herself to the kitchen door and begged mutely for help. She had fallen among friends. It was some time before the official connected the strange visitor with the reward notice he saw in the local hotel.

The bedroom was kindly given up to Pearl and we were sent for. But more adventure befell the little mother before we arrived. One evening, through a crack in the floor, there glided a long slim green mamba, one of the deadliest of all Rhodesian snakes. Four plump little kittens offered a tasty supper!

Pearl hastily dragged her babies on to the bed and then turned to do battle. She had never seen a snake before but she at once carried the fight to the intruder. The official, hearing strange threshing noises coming from the bedroom, rushed up with the key. The fight was over. The snake, its back broken in three places and its head crushed in, was still writhing on the floor. Pearl was stalking round her prey, and four little frightened faces were looking on from the safety zone of the bed.

Pearl became the heroine of the hour and people flocked to see her. Homes were eagerly offered for her mongrel kittens. It is not unusual for cats to tackle small snakes, but this one measured four feet in length, a terrible opponent for a cat weakened as Pearl was by her earlier experiences.

Pearl is sitting on the desk as I write her story. It took weeks of care at home ere she recovered from her experiences. Even now she starts nervously at the slightest unusual sound and I doubt if she will ever regain her former confidence in the creatures that make up her small universe. To see her fright when she came across a tartan tie stretched across my son's bed would have been amusing had it not also been pathetic.

---

We are delighted to hear that the Marauding Cat Bill which threatened to make life unpleasant for the cats in the State of California has been tabled by the State Assembly for a period of two years. The measure aimed to restrict the liberty of cats and was introduced by a Miss Charney, who claimed that cats are a complete failure as mousers, that they kill enormous numbers of birds and are transmitters of disease. That the Bill has been killed temporarily is due to the bitter fight waged by prominent American cat lovers led by Mr. Ralph Morris, Dr. Guy Bogart, Mrs. Alice M. Clark, Mrs. Della Campbell and Mr. Robert Wilson.





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.

3rd May. To Miss Campbell-Fraser's at Godalming and her well-known Blues and Red Longhairs. The young Blue male Hendon Robin Hood, sired by Hendon Blue Robin ex Gippeswyk Fatima (a daughter of Ch. Southway Crusader), is developing well and should give a good account of himself if exhibited this season. The Red Tabby, Hendon Major Maroon, bred from her American imported Reds Ch. Eastmoor Major Maroon and Ch. Eastmoor Doll Dance, is a lovely male, excelling in type, and a splendid outcross for British Reds and Tortoiseshells. Ch. Hendon Lysander was looking well and his sire, Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic, outshone every cat in richness and depth of colour.

Doll Dance and Hendon Marigold were each nursing a trio of well-marked, sturdy Red Tabbies by Hendon Sir Roderic, and several Red and Blue queens were enjoying life in the sunny garden. The bungalow is beautifully secluded; a narrow uphill path leads to it and a large plot of ground separates it from the road. The males each have about two hours' liberty twice a day these long, light days. Miss Campbell-Fraser finds

they never go far and usually come when called. The exercise is so good for them, especially when it can be enjoyed in such safe surroundings.

It was my first visit to Godalming since Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's death and I missed her very much.

9th May. To dear Miss Helen Hill Shaw's 90th birthday party at the Kenilworth Hotel. The invitation said: "A very Social Tea Party," and so it proved to be, everyone so pleased to pay homage to this wonderful veteran of the Cat Fancy and former Hon. Secretary of the Croydon Cat Club.

Mr. Allit and Mr. Towe were the stalwarts who blew out the 90 candles on the birthday cake. There was a special surround to the cake to accommodate these. Encouraging smiles greeted her remark that "I am now looking forward to my 100th birthday party."

I was so pleased to see Lady Eardley-Wilmot and Mrs. Oglethorpe, personalities which mean so much to pre-war Blue breeders. Lady Eardley-Wilmot considers the average post-war Blue to be darker and not so blue as its ancestors and asked my opinion. I am inclined to agree with her. Numerically, the Blues exhibited have decreased, and when this happens there is a tendency for small faults to be condoned. At pre-war London Ch. Shows over 40 adult Blue males and females was not unusual, so we expected the Challenge Certificate winners to be super cats in every respect.

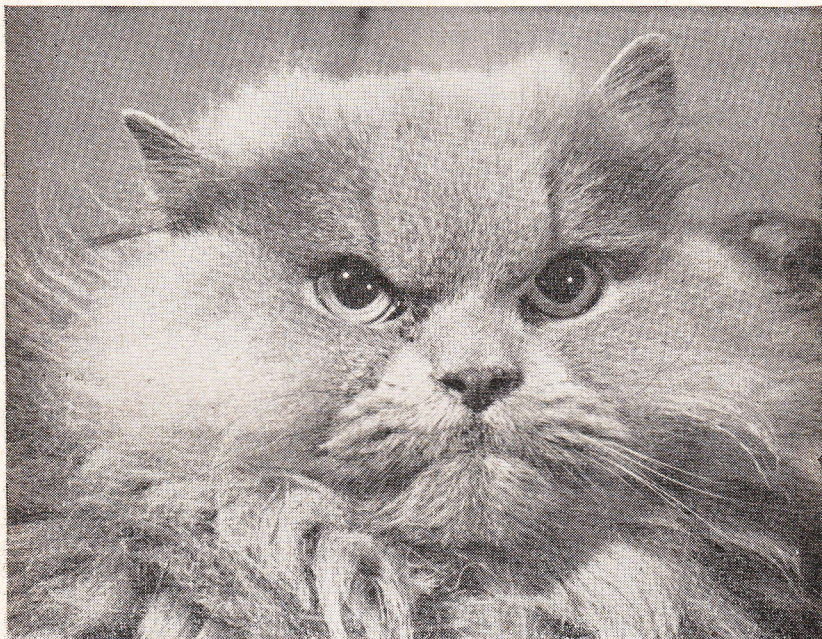


Happily, we have lovely head, type and a good percentage of cats with coats of excellent colour and texture. And as our Blues win splendidly abroad, we can give ourselves a pat on the back. There are well-known breeders who are not satisfied with colour and are striving to improve it. Knowing them, I shall anticipate results.

**22nd May.** To meet Mrs. Rosell, who lives at Shortlands, within walk-

find a 'mate for her, Mrs. Rosell appealed to the Cats' Protection League, who recommended the late Mrs. Campbell-Fraser's Reds. This Tortie-and-White dam was fond of poultry food and would sometimes jump on the truck which brought it to the farm. She did this one day and was not noticed until she was seen to jump off seven miles from the farm. She was gone in a flash and took two days to arrive home.

A Tortoiseshell, Bruton Pease



**HENDON ROBIN HOOD** (see reference on opposite page).

ing distance of my home. Greeted by a charming litter of four White Longhairs, which once again demonstrated the dominance of white. The sire is Mrs. Cattermole's White male Magyar Feher Ordog, but the dam is a Tortoiseshell daughter of Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic and a Tortie-and-White female of unknown pedigree, who was the foundation of Mrs. Rosell's stock. She was given to her by a poultry farmer, and not knowing where to

Blossom, was nursing four nice kittens by Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond, two Blacks, one Tortoiseshell and one pale Red which was almost a self. The pick of the litter was the Black female, which was of very nice type. This is the first litter I have seen born on the 58th day of gestation which survived. Kittens seldom live when born on the 61st and 62nd day, so I regarded these as unique. Mrs. Rosell fed them with a



fountain pen filler on milk and glucose and after two days the mother was able to feed them herself. There were six in the litter but two died. The premature birth was caused by the dam being frightened by a dog. The four Whites had a nice "nest" made from part of an orange box covered by silver cloth. All the queens have liberty.

**24th May.** A delightful start to the day smiling over Mrs. Carpenter's surprise gift from Virginia, U.S.A., of the latest cat publication, "Cat-nips at Love and Marriage—A Cock-eyed Photo Commentary on Cats, Kittens and People." It contains some delightful photographs by Walter Chandoha, America's ace cat photographer, and will be a joy to all cat lovers. The captions are very witty and so appropriate to the expressions on the faces of the cats. They are mostly of the ordinary garden variety and have co-operated well.

The author advises that best results are obtained by using panchromatic film, that flash bulbs are the most satisfactory source of illumination and that cats are more co-operative during their less-active periods. Mr. Chandoha also reminds us that, unlike photographs of people, the finished print does not have to please the subject. Nearly all have a dark background and I should like to point out that when taking Blues a dense black, preferably velvet, is advisable. Light backgrounds make Blues look dark and the reverse effect is noticeable with dark shades.

Miss Kathleen Yorke and Mrs. Speirs came to tea to see Bluebell's three male kittens, "The Three Musketeers," by Thiepval Beau Ideal. Then on to Kensington Air Station to see Mrs. Aitken and Mrs. Cook Radmore on the first stage of their journey by air to Paris, where they are to judge at the three-day Cat Club de Paris Show. They went

off showered with our good wishes for a lovely trip.

**27th May.** Among other letters to-day are two very interesting ones from U.S.A.

Mrs. Coreen Petta, of Wisconsin, owner of Southway Billie, writes:—

"I was pleased to see him mentioned in your Just Fancy column. You described his expression very aptly; it really is most appealing. We had rather a difficult time taking pictures of him as he kept rolling over to have his tummy tickled. He is so handsome, no one can resist him. He was one year on 5th May and is already whispering sweet nothings to the ladies. I am at present a novice breeder, but I believe in starting with the very best and I am a firm believer in the fact 'you get what you pay for.' I read every available cat book, magazine, and study pedigrees, and have had much help from some well-known American breeders. Otherwise, I am afraid I should have made many mistakes. The articles by Mr. Jude and Mr. Soderberg are such a help and I do enjoy *Our Cats* and 'The Cat Fancy' so much. I am importing Miss Langston's new little Chinchilla queen Melanie of Allington, the first daughter of the young Champion Flambeau of Allington. I am having Melanie for my own pleasure as I think Chinchillas one of the loveliest varieties. I am specialising in colour-bred Blues, Creams and Blacks. I hope to obtain a pair of Creams from Miss Posthuma, of Holland, as it will be bringing a new bloodline over. The demand for Creams here exceeds the supply as they are rapidly growing in popularity. I find cat breeding intensely interesting and want to make a success of it."

Mrs. Van Zele, of California, sends the lovely photo (reproduced elsewhere in this issue) of Chinchillas, "The Belles of Casa Contenta" and an absorbing account of why she commenced breeding cats.

"It all began in Hollywood," she writes. "My husband and I were passing through and upon seeing a huge sign flung across a large building, 'Championship Cat Show,' we thought it would be fun to see it. When I saw the cats I was speech-



less with wonder and surprise. I never dreamed such cats existed! Great black cats with shining fur and glowing copper eyes. Whites with heavenly blue eyes. Tawny creatures with orange highlights dozed on golden pillows. Then I saw *Her!* So small and such green eyes! She rode home in my lap. A beautiful Chinchilla, descendant of the renowned Leo of Allington, she now takes as her right the best chair and has her cat naps on the lace spread in the guest room.

"Then 'Time Marches On,' and along came romance in the shape of a big black-and-white chap with handsome whiskers who sat under a large cactus tirelessly serenading her. She would rush to the window with excited chirps, almost saying, 'He's for me.' I had different plans and in due time I was running errands for five instead of one! Because kittens are so fascinating we couldn't bear to part with one. Our family has increased rapidly and new houses are constantly being built and we are shoved farther into corners. My husband complains mildly that all he has left he can really call his own is his balcony, which contains his bed, his radio, and his shelf of books. Blues have been added to our Silvers and two beautiful Abyssinians. A homeless stray is brought home now and then by our son, who prefers them to the 'blue bloods,' and my husband big-heartedly offers bed and board to pets of his friends on vacation.

"Just now I have bade a thankful good-bye to Jeoffry, a handsome orange fellow, whose family brought him two long weeks ago. 'You won't have any trouble at all with Jeff,' they assured me. 'He just eats sardines.' Things started out most propitiously. Jeff accepted his cabaña graciously, looked out over the mountains through the screen door, and broke into loud and pleasant purring. Came dinner time and I brought him his sardines. He would have none of them. I consulted the label on the can. It stated most clearly that the contents were swimming in the very best soya bean oil. That was certainly the kind that Jeff's owner (Ha! I give a hollow laugh at that. Anyone who has ever had a cat will know exactly what I mean) said he preferred, but apparently his ideas on diet had changed during the ten-mile trip from his home.

"I rushed for some of the diced horse meat that our cats eat with so much relish, but that, too, met with the same indifferent response. He regarded me with a bright and expectant look which said plainly that he knew I could produce something wonderful—if I only would! Next I offered a canned cat food that our cats consider a special treat, but after the first sniff it, too, was treated with delicate disdain. When my patience was worn quite thin, Jeff settled down to business on ground steak with mashed avocado, flavoured with a sprinkling of brewers' yeast. Twice a day he ate that with a tenacity of purpose which would have been admirable if it had not been so expensive!

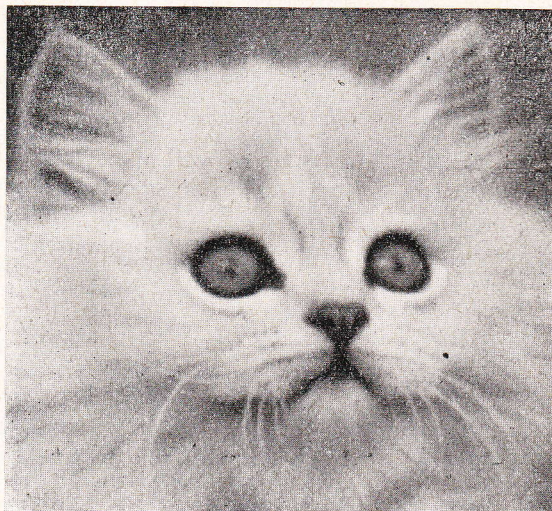
"Well, he's gone, and in the happy reunion Jeff's mistress repeated her masterpiece of understatement, 'I knew Jeff wouldn't be a bit of trouble. You just open a can.' As they drove away I thought I detected a sly, enigmatic smile on Jeff's face!

"Our cats are all confined at night, but are allowed to seek their own devices during the day. Friends who visit us are astonished to see a dozen or two Persian cats frolicking over the lawns, lunging at imaginary dragons under shrubs, poking experimental arms down gopher holes, or leaping high in the air to bring down an unwary butterfly. There are dangers, of course, but, as my husband says, we have our cats fifty per cent. for our pleasure and fifty per cent. for *theirs*, and cats do love to be free. However, after a day of meeting endless sanitary emergencies, cutting up pounds of horse meat, giving up my electric pad on a chilly night to our little Abyssinian girl who loves to be too warm, combing unco-operative knots from thick coats of fur, I wonder if the percentage isn't a bit more on the cat's balance sheet!

"I have a piece of needlepoint that is crying to be finished, the latest Lockridge detective story lies gathering dust, and I regard with envious eyes the handsome creations my cat-less friends have knit for themselves. I have the yarn, my needles are at hand, but I must have ready a box for the anxious little mother-to-be who has already decided to bear and rear her family in my cherished lilac hat! After that, I must return to the store for the pabulum which I forgot this morning, and so it goes! As I hustle about, I find myself singing to the tune of



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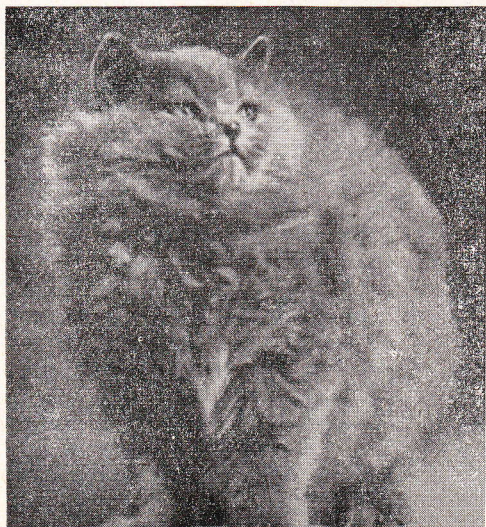
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CROWBOROUGH  
SUSSEX**

Crowborough 407



'The Farmer in the Dell':

'I have too much to do,  
I have too much to do,  
Heigh-ho the merry-o,  
I have too much to do'

—and am perfectly and absolutely happy."

**28th May.** To Mrs. Richardson, at Ashted, to see Morris Una's litter by Mrs. Parker's Lindale Simon Pie, a really lovely sextette and a great credit to both parents, to say nothing of the owner who has reared them so well from the sometimes difficult weaning stage. Two females are outstanding; one is destined for U.S.A. and one for the Festival Show on 25th July. Morris Padishah is a proved sire, I was pleased to hear, and has had two queens. He was not so precocious as many Siamese males, but is very keen now he has been tempted. It means the loss of his complete freedom, but he is a fortunate male, as, in addition to his well-kept house and run, Mr. Richardson takes him walks round the garden on a long lead three or four times a day. So good for his figure, bless him! He has lovely body shape and this is the way to retain it. I think many Siamese males lose their lithe shape through lack of exercise. Nature certainly never intended them to be cooped up in small houses and deprived of any incentive to take exercise. The kittens were trooping all over the house and garden and "playing statues," which appears to be a speciality of Siamese youngsters.

**29th May.** A welcome letter from Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard. They are comfortably settled after their removal and are pleased to have a garden which is a suitable size to entirely wire in. Ch. Oxleys Peter John has a new house with cavity walls to prevent condensation, all modern amenities and a run of his own. He has sired several nice litters, including Mrs. Carbert's three Cream

males and two Blue Creams by Parkwood Posy, and Mrs. McPhail's and Mrs. Rees' queens have litters by him. Miss Dorothy Clark's Gyppeswick May and Areley Belinda are expecting litters, also Trenton Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrington-Harvard's exhibits are always shown immaculately. I have always noted the soft silky touch of their coats whenever I have judged them; such condition means more than grooming. It is the result of suitable housing, feeding and something which farmers call stock sense.

**30th May.** To Siamese Cat Club Committee meeting in the morning, lunch with Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Sayers and then with the latter to the Blue Pointed A.G.M. at the Goring Hotel. The Hon. Secretary (Mrs. Lamb) had a satisfactory report to present. She reminded us that we agreed last year that the Club should retrench on advertising until it had accumulated a more substantial reserve. Some Club secretaries on behalf of their committees had, however, given space in show schedules and catalogues, with the result that a much better balance sheet was presented this year. A vote of thanks was proposed for Mr. and Mrs. Lamb's enthusiastic work on behalf of the Club. A vacancy occurred on the Committee and as a result of the ballot Commander Luard was elected.

Notable absentees at the meeting were Mrs. Duncan Hindley, Major and Mrs. Rendall, all three of whom have done so much for the Blue Points. Brigadier and Mrs. Rossiter kindly donated £5 5s. for a cup, which I suspect is partly in gratitude for all the pleasure their lovely B.P. neuter, Mirza Taklif, gives them.

I was amused to hear of one of his escapades. Mrs. Rossiter had made a particularly light and fluffy jam sponge. She covered it with a cloth and left it on the rack over the oven



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DANEHURST, OLD LANE  
ST. JOHNS, CROWBOROUGH

Crowborough 407

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By Ch. Widdington Warden ex Widdington  
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M.C.C. Show, 1950. 1st & Ch. N.C.C. Show, 1950.

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and went to have a short rest. No M. T. appeared to have it with her and there was an ominous silence, so she went to investigate, and there was his lordship reposing comfortably on the jam sponge, flattening it to a pancake, which no doubt he thought they would prefer. Was she vexed? Of course not! M. T. is much too well loved.

**31st May.** To the A.G.M. at the Kenilworth Hotel of the Blue Persian Cat Society. This is always a placid annual meeting with no fireworks. Miss J. M. Fisher has been a devoted Hon. Secretary for over thirty years and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to her. I remember some of the things she told me when I joined the Society 27 years ago as a young novice. One was: "It is easier to breed a good Blue female kitten than a male." How right she was, as in the many litters I see a female is so often the pick of the litter.

It was decided to raise the subscription from 5s. to 7s. 6d. and Life Membership to £5 5s. This is modest when one considers the handsome trophies offered, support given to many shows and reduced entry fees at the Club Ch. Show in October. Unfortunately, this year the usual central London venue is not available, so it was decided to hold the show at the Anson Hall, Cricklewood, on 16th October. Adult Blue males will be judged by Mrs. Oglethorpe, females by Madame Ravel, of Paris. Blue male kittens will be judged by Mrs. Henn (who will make her début at this Show) and Blue female kittens by Miss Kathleen Yorke.

Although the usual disappointments have occurred with losses among newly born kittens and non-breeding queens, there appears to be plenty of kittens about, so we should see a goodly array at the first shows.

I was pleased to see Mrs. Aitken's marked catalogue of the Cat Club de

Paris Show, and it was interesting to see how closely the placings followed those of other well-known English judges who have officiated on the Continent. Best Exhibit in Show, Southway Rascal, owned by Madame Sarrazin, is a cat excelling in type, head and ears, and he has the deep eye colour so essential to complete a first class Blue. He has taken some time to mature, but if he attains his final Challenge Certificate will be a worthy Champion and another feather in the cap of his breeder, our Mr. Martin. Congratulations also to Mlle. Perrin, of Lausanne, Switzerland, owner and breeder of Best Kitten in Show, Z'amour de Leman, Orange-eyed White female Longhair.

Mrs. Pond was wondering if she would exhibit Blue Star George (Best in Show Kitten, S.C.C.C. Ch. Show, 1951) at the July Festival Show. I do hope she will as nearly all the Longhairs will be out of coat at this Show, and as the famous males will mostly be in retirement owing to a busy season, this is a splendid opportunity for the young males to show their mettle. Remember, although Longhairs should have length and quality of coat, Blues only have 20 points (out of a possible 100) for coat, and naturally some of these are for colour, so the adults which excel in type should win.

Mrs. Brice-Webb was not well enough to attend the meeting, but I

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Croydon 1949. Best S.H. Cat, National 1950.

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was pleased to hear from Mrs. Hancox she is making good progress.

**2nd June.** To Hampstead to Mr. and Mrs. Denham's party given to members of the Abyssinian Cat Club. Mrs. Denham is the A.C.C. Delegate to the Governing Council. The membership is small at present partly owing to the scarcity of this variety, so realising a tea party would be too costly for the Club, they decided to give one in their own home—a charming and generous gesture much appreciated.

Several well-known personalities attended, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Mrs. K. R. Williams, Miss K. Wilson and Mrs. Speirs. Mrs. Denham owns an Abyssinian which had just been mated, a charming Siamese with six nice kittens by Mr. Colin Campbell's Kilcott Julius, and a handsome black Shorthair neuter with lovely eyes. A large dish of fish was placed on a paper cloth for the kittens and they soon showed us they had "party manners."

No paws on dish for them, but a dainty partaking of fish from the edges and then stretches of contentment and a little cat lick before bedtime. Mr. and Mrs. Denham have written a charming book for Abyssinian enthusiasts, "Child of the Gods," which the Editor is reviewing.

Miss K. Yorke and myself went on to nearby Cricklewood to see Mrs. and Miss Statman and Valleyend Vanessa's quintette of Blues by Miss Montague's Robin of Pensford, a lovely and interesting litter with promise of exceptional eye colour. One female is so like Madam Gibbons's International Champion Priory Blue Wish, which is not surprising as she and Robin's sire, Priory Blue John, were full sister and brother, both bred by Mrs. Davies. Although Vanessa's last litter was bred the same way and produced the winners Anson Bouquet and Belinda, these are even better and the female will make her bow at the Festival Show accompanied by Belinda's son.

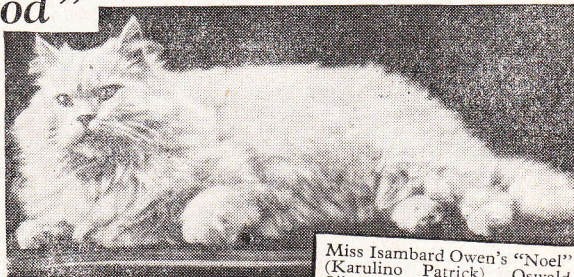
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says

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Miss Isambard Owen's "Noel" (Karulino Patrick). Oswald Silver Cup, Lanes and North West Counties Cat Club. Prize-winner, Kensington Neuter & Kitten Club Show, 1949.

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**REDWALLS JACK FROST** (Chinchilla), sire Ch. Foxburrow Tili-Will, dam Redwalls Snowstorm, prizewinner every time shown 1948/51.

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

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### Miscellaneous

**CAT HOUSE** for Sale, £23 17s. 6d., 6 ft. long, 4 ft. wide, 5-6 ft. high, new, unused, fitted shelves, sleeping box, lined, pophole, two windows, door with inner wire door, bill shown.—Chantry, Nether Wallop, Hants.

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**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.



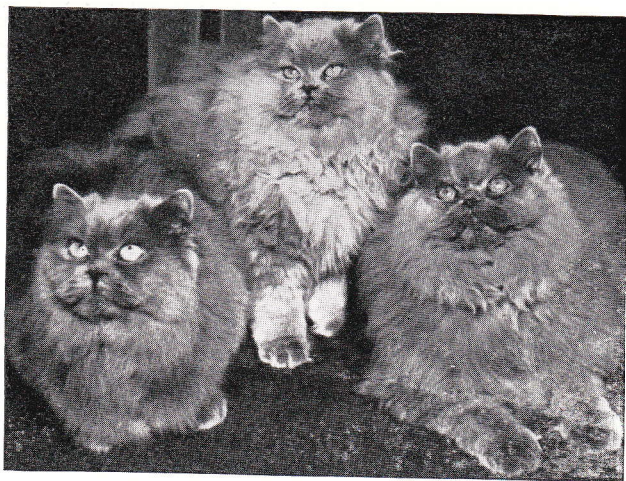
# PICTURE PAGE



From France comes this picture of a perky Russian Blue female. She is VIOLANE, belonging to Mlle. Scrive, and there are many good judges who rate her the best of her variety on the Continent.



BLUE STAR SAPPHIRE, Blue Longhair female, at 7½ months, bred by Mrs. Grace Pond from Idmiston Candytuft and Dolly of Allington. Sapphire is now owned by Mrs. D. Davis, of Hove, Sussex.

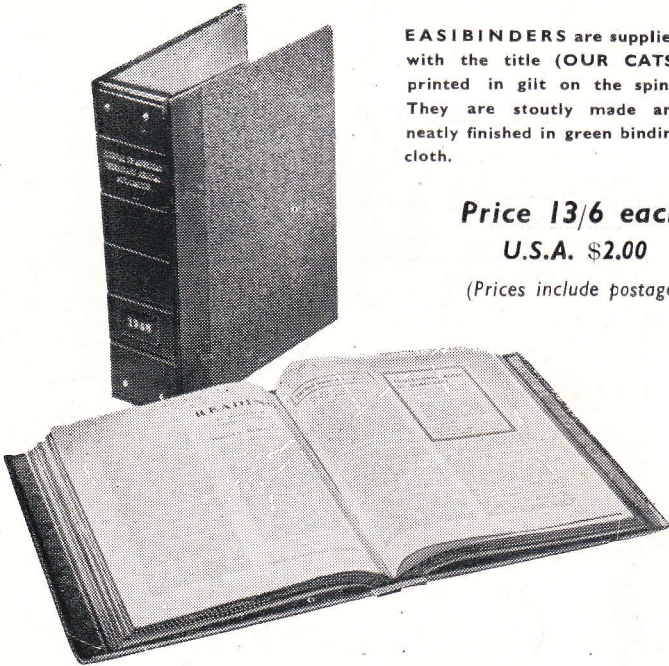


Presenting a nice family of Blue Longhairs belonging to Mrs. E. G. Kroon, well known Dutch fancier of Aerdenhout, Groot Bendveld. The picture shows International Champion FARWAYS DIEDRE (bred by Mrs. Pepper) with her two lovely children by International Champion Southway Wizard, LASKA VAN FRISIA STATE (female) and WAISJ'KA VAN FRISIA STATE (male) at 7 months old. Both youngsters were 1st prize winners at the Ghent, Belgium, Show in December last year.



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