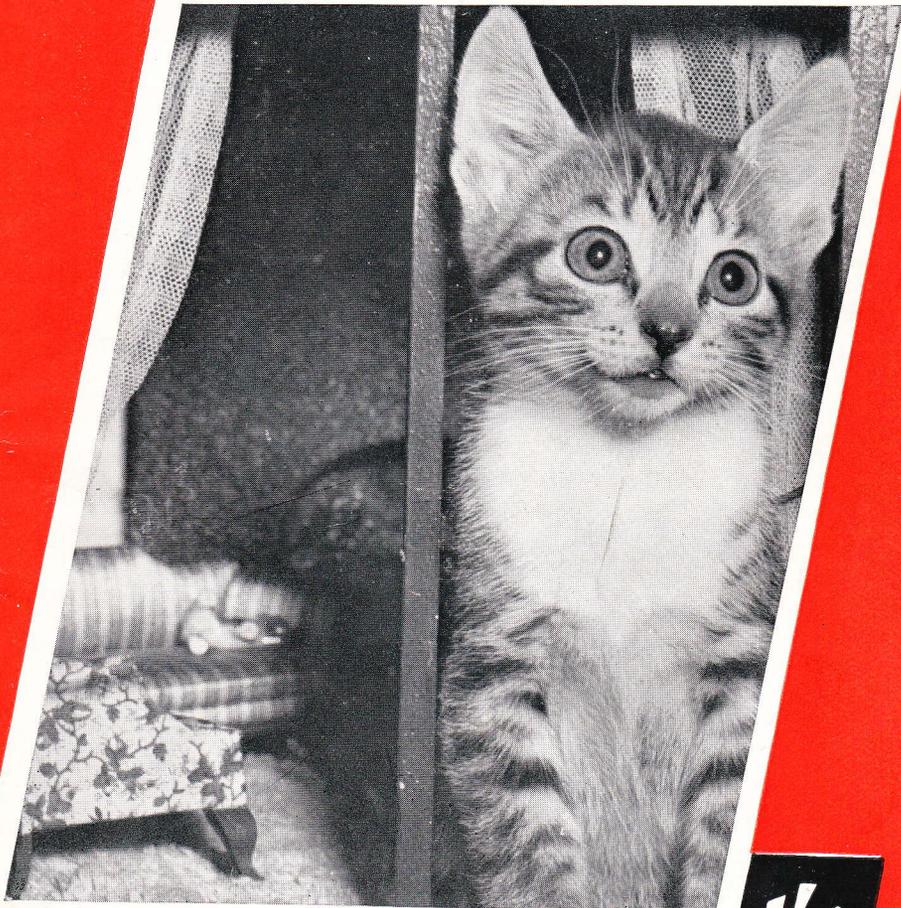


Price 10¢ Page 28

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



JULY / AUGUST 1951

1/6

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE'S CATS
(see page 3)

Another lovely cat who loves
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Champions thrives on

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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'.

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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.

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JULY/AUGUST 1951

Managing Editor :

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

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The attention of our readers is invited to the fact that this issue of the Magazine is dated July/August.

This has been done because it enables us with the minimum of adjustment and upset to bring out the September and ensuing issues round about the 1st day of the month. We feel sure that readers generally will welcome an earlier publication date and those overseas especially will be glad to know that from September onwards the Magazine will be in their hands at least three weeks earlier every month.

No reader will be a loser by this adjustment as the expiration dates of current subscriptions will be advanced by one month. Subscribers will therefore receive twelve issues as usual.

We shall be with you again very soon with the September issue !

EDITOR



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 (Macaulay 1462).

Publication date is the 1st of the month and closing date is the 15th day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

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Cover picture this month (by Associated Press) gives a close-up of one of the little residents at the Greenwich Village Humane Settlement, New York. A 9-room wooden house, complete with miniature furniture, has been donated by a well-wisher for the use of cats and kittens.

Let's go to a Show

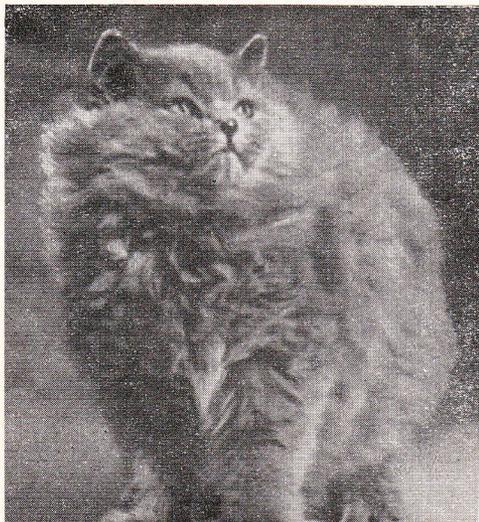
We urge readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers. Brief details of the show programme for the 1951-52 Season are provided 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 August | Urmston Show | Urmston, Lancs |
| 30 August | *Sandy and District Show (See displayed advertisement in this issue) | Sandy, Beds |
| 15 September | *Herts and Middlesex Cat Club (See displayed advertisement in this issue) | London |
| 26 September | *South Western Counties Cat Club | Taunton |
| 11 October | *Siamese Cat Club | London |
| 12 and 13 October | Crystal Cat Show | Olympia |
| 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 |
| 9 February | Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club | Manchester |

* Denotes Show with Championship status.

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Florence Nightingale's Cats

By DOROTHEA ST. HILL BOURNE*

“DUMB beasts observe you so much better than human beings and know so much better what you are thinking of.” So wrote a famous personage of the 19th century, and one might easily jump to the conclusion that the writer was a pioneer in animal welfare. This is not so. It was none other than Florence Nightingale, one of the greatest humanitarians the world has ever known, the whole of whose life was one long struggle to improve conditions for the human race.

Very likely, when she wrote these words, a cat was “tied in a knot round her neck.” The paper may have been smudged and paw-marked, as was often the case, even with her most important documents. Miss Nightingale was rarely without at least one cat. More often than not there were five or six in her room while she worked. Some slept on her pillow at night, and she always delighted in their soft, graceful movements and charming ways.

In “Florence Nightingale,” by Cecil Woodham Smith, we read that she “had a passion for almost any kind of creature.” Horses, dogs, tortoises, a cicada and a baby owl were among her pets. But cats appear to have given the greatest pleasure to this strong and masterful woman, to whose will statesmen, politicians, diplomats and generals bowed. For years she was almost a complete invalid—conducting from

her bedroom her post-Crimean campaigns for public health and hospital reform.

Her one relief from constant and gruelling work was found in the companionship of her cats. Although even relatives and intimate friends were refused admission to her room on the grounds of pressure of work and the need to husband her strength, she found time to watch and record the habits and matrimonial affairs of her cats. She studied their tastes and characters and took trouble to mate them suitably.

To receive one of the Nightingale kittens as a gift was a mark of the highest favour.

In one of the many letters in which she mentions her pets she writes: “These cats are so capricious. The little cat wanted to get married. I’ve presented her to the two greatest *partis* in England. She would have neither of them. Now she wants me to invite a hideous low cat out of the street—I won’t.”

Permission was given to the “capricious” lady to go out and meet her swain—but she was too shy.

A handsome, but unruly, tom cat called Thomas was a source of great anxiety. Miss Nightingale described him as “stupid, ignorant, thievish and dirty,” but she feared if she gave him away other people would not be kind to him.

Thomas’s polygamous habits distressed her and, she said, her servants only tolerated him because they feared that his rightful wife, Pussy,

* Miss St. Hill Bourne, author of “They Also Serve,” has recently left the P.D.S.A. after many years’ efficient service as Press Officer, in which capacity she was the good friend of many a homeless or injured animal. This excellent review from her pen is taken from “The Animals’ Magazine,” the official journal of the P.D.S.A.

would pine for him. After he had murderously assaulted two of his beautiful children a new home was found for the villain, but he was taken back when he disgraced himself there also.

Miss Nightingale, who had a passion for putting people right, seems to have tried it on her cats. She describes how she attempted to teach a kitten to wash itself, and how she could imagine the kitten saying of her "what an awkward great cat that is!"

Poor Mr. Muff!

Even when she travelled at least one cat accompanied her. She wrote to a friend: "I broke up all at once and fled to Malvern with a little cat."

Knowing by experience the joy of animal friends, she emphasised in her famous "Notes on Nursing": "a pet is an excellent companion for the sick."

Like all true animal lovers, Miss Nightingale suffered intensely when she lost her pets. The death of one of her favourite cats, shot by a keeper, left her broken-hearted. "I have no one now to say, like Ruth, 'Entreat me not to leave thee,' " she

wrote. "Poor Mr. Muff said it, if ever Ruth did."

Florence Nightingale provides proof that great love of animals does not exclude love of humanity, or vice versa.

Is it too fantastic to believe that the animals Florence Nightingale cared for so deeply played their part in her great work? By bringing to her love, joy and comfort, they soothed her overstrained nerves and enabled her to find new strength and courage to promote the reforms which were so sorely needed and the benefit of which we reap to-day.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Cat Encyclopedia. By Kit Wilson. (Right Way Books. 6s. net.)

Child of the Gods. By Helen and Sidney Denham, Flat One, 48 Elsworth Road, N.W.3. (3s. 9d. post free).

Ordinary Cats. By Charles Duff. (Williams & Norgate. 7s. 6d. net.)

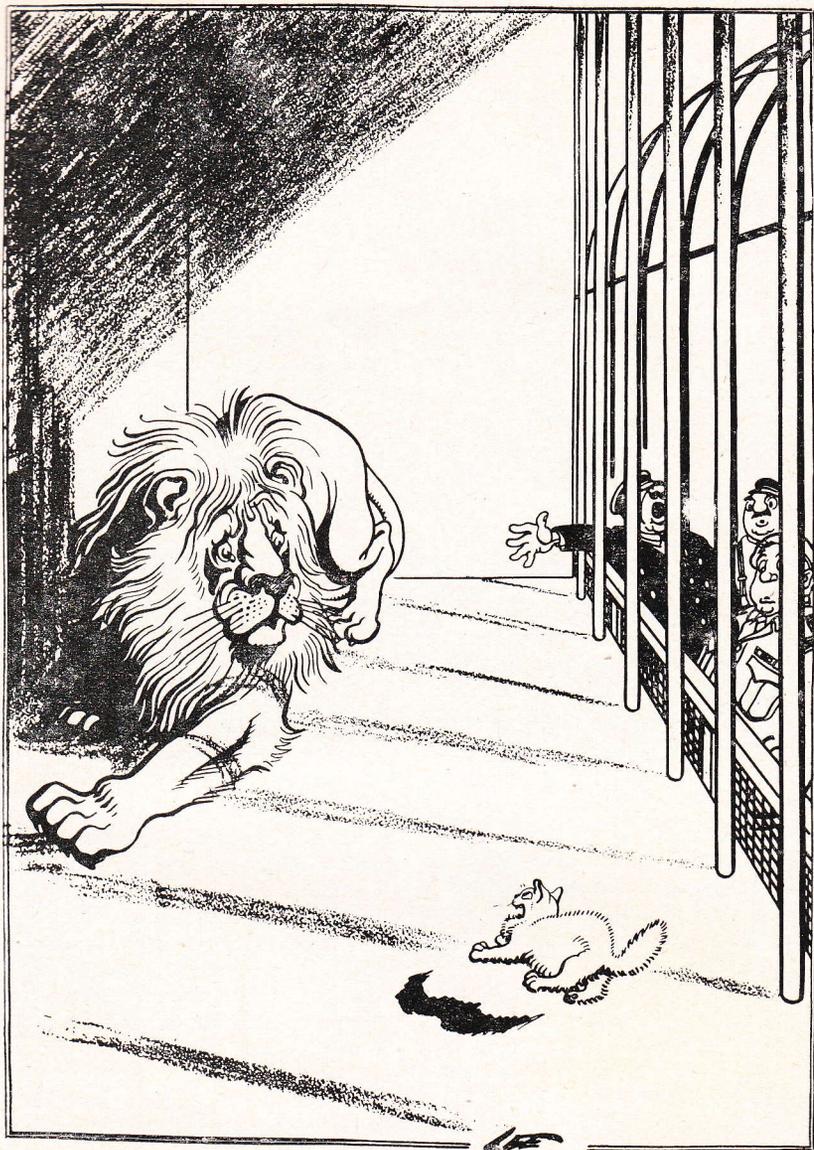
The Book of the Siamese Cat. By Rose Tenent. (Rockliff Publishing Corporation. 18s. net.)

These recent arrivals for the cat lover's library will be dealt with in forthcoming issues of OUR CATS.

"WE ARE RESPONSIBLE"

"We have now reached a time when the animals for which we are responsible speak to us in a different way from that in which animals spoke to the deaf ears of our forefathers. I hope I shall not be accused of mere sentimentalising, although if I am it is a healthy process. We ought to be able to visualise and to feel to a greater extent than we do the sufferings of the animals for which we are responsible. If we cannot do that, we shall never realise the sufferings of the people for whom we are responsible. I believe that the whole humanitarian drive which is at the back of our social legislation to-day will lose in its power and enthusiasm if we show ourselves unwilling to deal with the fate of animals not properly tended and looked after."

Extract from a speech by Mr. James Hudson, M.P. for Ealing North, during the Parliamentary debate on the Pet Animals Bill, to which we referred in our May issue.



“ Get that perishing kitten out o’ the cage . . . it’s a Persian . . . worrying old Leo to death ! ”

This topical and amusing cartoon from the “London Laughs” series by Lee is reproduced by kind permission of the London “Evening News.”

"Someone had to do Something"

Amongst the noblest in the land,
Though he may count himself
the least,

That man I honour and revere
Who without favour, without fear,
In a great city dares to stand

The friend of every friendless
beast.

Longfellow

A REMARKABLE story of a brave man's superhuman efforts to rescue a marooned cat was unfolded recently at the annual meeting of the Birmingham branch of the R.S.P.C.A., when the rescuer was the recipient of a certificate and medal from the Lady Mayoress.

Mr. Charles Frederick Thay, a 41-year-old lorry driver, of Balsall Heath, learned that a frightened cat was up a 35 ft. tree. At the base of the tree the River Cole was in flood and the icy water was racing through at a depth of up to nine feet. It was a January night, bitterly cold, foggy and very dark. Previous attempts to rescue the cat had failed.

Mr. Thay, donning shorts and carrying a torch and bag, first waded into the river. Just visible through the fog was the tree. Soon he was out of his depth and swimming. He reached the tree and climbed it, although the first branch was 12 ft. above water. Then, holding the torch in his teeth, he climbed up to the cat. The frightened animal climbed higher right to the top of the tree, but Mr. Thay followed it and, although badly scratched, he finally caught and "bagged" it.

Lowering himself steadily down the tree, Mr. Thay swam back to the bank, where he handed the cat to his daughter Maureen. Then—of such stuff are heroes made—he dressed again in the garden, refusing to enter

the house because "he didn't want to make a mess." The cat soon recovered from its alarming experience.

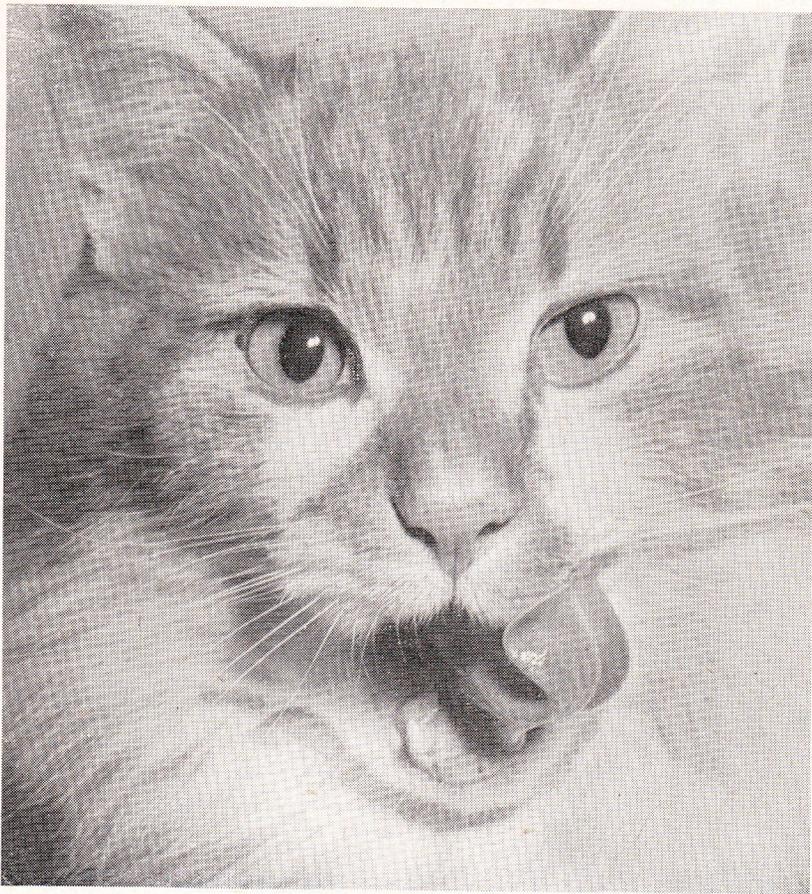
Mr. Thay's achievement is all the more remarkable because, in consequence of service in the Royal Navy, he has only one lung. Inspector Griffiths, of the local R.S.P.C.A., said: "It was a superhuman effort. Mr. Thay braved floods, fog and the icy cold and then dealt with a terrified cat up a 35 ft. tree!"

All Mr. Thay would say was: "I should have had no sleep that night. Someone had to do something to save it. I couldn't let the poor cat stay up that tree another night."

A STRANGE VARIATION

At one of the recent scientific meetings of the Zoological Society (writes C. F.), some dried skins of the common grey squirrel were shown. They were originally taken from animals of both summer and winter seasons and the point of interest lay in the fact that the summer ones contained shades of rich auburn, or chestnut, which has led to the common belief that such specimens must necessarily be hybrids between the common grey and the native red or brown squirrel. This is not so. Careful observations have been made and it has been shown that they were merely seasonal forms of the same animal. So far no explanation has been given as to how these variations occur; perhaps the same mechanism is at work as in the ermine or weasel and the Arctic fox, which, as is known, change their coats from brown to pure white. Is it just possible that the peculiar "rusting" of the coats of some cats may be part of nature's scheme in seasonal protective colouration?

A page for the proletarian puss No. 16



A flick of the tongue is cleverly caught by a click of the trigger. Photographer is Tom Weedon, A.I.B.P., A.R.P.S., of Newdigate, Surrey.

Paris Show

By E. G. AITKEN

PARIS in Spring! A letter arrives—would I judge Longhairs at the Cat Club de Paris Show? Would I! Well, of course I would, and did, but it needed thought and planning to leave the family, animal and human, for practically five days.

However, 24th May found me with Mrs. Cook-Radmore at Kensington Air Station ready and waiting for the coach which was to convey us to Heath Row Airport. Then my first flight—it was wonderful and I enjoyed every moment.

In Paris we were met by Mme. Ravel, who welcomed us most warmly and took us to our hotel. We were taken next day to the Hotel Continental, where the show was held, by Mr. Mariani, and we found him so kind and helpful as we were unable to speak French. We were introduced to Mr. Gunning, from Switzerland, who was to judge the Shorthairs, and then to our stewards and interpreters.

The cats were brought to us from their own beautifully decorated pens to a show ring of plain pens and here we began our judging. My best cat,

and afterwards best in show, was the Blue male Southway Rascal, owned by Mme. Sarrazin and bred by Mr. Martin. This is a grand cat with an excellent head and carrying a wonderful coat for this time of year. The best Blue female was Mme. Mariani's Harpur Periwinkle, bred by Major Dugdale. She is a lovely female with glorious wide open eyes.

I found the Chinchillas disappointing; most of them suffered from nerves and therefore didn't show to advantage. The winning male was Mme. Gibbon's Farquhar Aiglon and the winning female Mme. Deteix's Nylade Balkis. The winning Cream male was Mme. Urruty's Bentveld Muffin and the winning female Mlle. Bonnardot's Xika. The winner in the open Blue Cream class was Mme. Goloubew's Ch. Wish D'Urmia, but she was beaten by Int Ch Vivette de Montazah, owned by Mlle Bonnardot, for she was the winner in the Ch. female class. There were three excellent Black females which were difficult to separate, but the winner was Mme. Mariani's Chadhurst Susette, bred by Miss Rodda.

All fanciers should read

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More Questions and Answers

Colour Ancestry

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 ninth instalment in a fine new series. Readers are invited to submit their problems to Mr. Jude who will be pleased to answer them for the general interest in ensuing issues. Questions may be sent c/o OUR CATS.

It has been suggested that Tortoiseshells may be inclined to give brown shadings to their Black progeny. Is there, in fact, any reason for expecting a loss of colour in Blacks bred through a Tortoiseshell mating?

There is no reason, genetically, why these Blacks should, as a whole, fail in colour. It would be wrong, however, to deny that such Blacks could be inferior in colour to those produced by other matings. This may sound rather like the old lady who said she thought that one of the great wonders of the world was that so many rivers run through large towns! But let's see.

As there is no genetic reason for the fact, how comes there to be a reason at all? The answer is a fairly simple one.

Perhaps the majority of Torties are the result of matings not particularly designed to give outstanding blackness of patches, but rather with the hope that Torties, and perhaps good ones, will result. But in straightforward Black breeding, blackness is of extreme importance and therefore one expects through the process of rigid selection to establish colour of quite superior quality. Also it is more than likely that in the ancestry of the Tortie parent colour breeds will occur

which normally one would not use in the production of solid Black cats, and so a possible inferior blackness.

But if an outstanding Black does result from a Tortie, I see no reason why it should not be used in Black breeding, providing, of course, that obvious faults in other directions are not present.

It might not be out of place here to say that, as a rule, brown shading indicates lack (or some loss) of black pigment in the hair. Put another way, black pigment is granular, and the difference between black and brown is probably a difference only of particle size. But I am hoping to have opportunity to enlarge on the matter of "rustiness" some time in the near future.

While on the subject of Tortoiseshells, I would refer to a question put to me some time ago. The writer asked what the result might be if two Torties were mated together. Well, there are several "ifs" about this, chiefly concerning the male, who is such an elusive fellow. And when he does turn up, more often than not he is sterile. There are, in any case, matters about him which even now remain incompletely answered. The male is freakish, and when he does happen to be fertile he is a freakish

freak! So far there are no records of his breeding performance, which will allow any generalisation. But if I were asked an opinion in the light of what is so far known about Tortie males, I would say that he would probably behave as would a self. He would either be virtually a Black or else virtually a Red ("yellow"). But for the complete answer we will have to "wait and see."

I am sure Mrs. Thompson will not mind my saying that the question dealt with about Tortoiseshell bred Blacks is as a result of her request on page 27 of OUR CATS, April issue. And I was pleased to notice that Mrs. Thompson drew attention to the study of pedigrees by American fanciers, and the need that breed numbers should be placed by the side of all the ancestors in a pedigree. This is a point I have advocated for quite a long time. In the meantime, I am pleased that the G.C.C.F. has suggested that the procedure should be carried out.

Blacks and Blues

I had hoped that a definite ruling could have been made, seeing how terribly important it is to preserve purity in certain stocks available. In any case, a ruling could be no hardship on any honest fancier. It is hoped that in due course the matter may have further attention.

Mrs. Thompson named examples of colour breeds where it is of importance to a purchaser to be acquainted with "colour" ancestry of any cat or kitten he may be acquiring. It may be useful to enlarge on this.

Blues are a pure breed, insomuch as when mated together they can produce only Blues. This applies no matter how the Blues are produced, and neither does it matter whether they are from a first or any other generation. Blacks may be pure black, or they may carry, say, the factor for blue. Both these kinds of

Black look alike—just black. If two of the Blacks which carry blue are mated together, they will produce some Blacks and some Blues, and similarly, if a Black carrying the blue factor is mated to a Blue, again there will be some Blacks and some Blues. I rather doubt, after looking through recent Stud Lists, if there are any "pure" Longhair Blacks in the Fancy to-day, and it can take many generations to out-breed an unwanted recessive.

Blue x Cream

Returning to Blues, Mrs. Thompson quotes Blues with Cream in the pedigree. It still should be understood that Blues, and even Blues bred through any form of Cream or Blue-Cream breeding, are still "pure" in themselves, and therefore will not produce anything but Blues when mated together. Also, if one of these Blues is used in any other form of breeding, it will behave simply as a Blue. But in cats we have the problem that when blue and cream are brought together through mating they will show in the coat of certain progeny as a diffused colour. In some it will appear as a well-balanced diffusion, but in others it may be an almost entirely blue coat, with just a fleck of cream, sometimes so small that it may pass unnoticed. These, of course, are not Blues, but extreme Blue Blue-Creams. Obviously, then, it is only right that the breeding of Blues should be covered on the pedigree form by the colour-breed numbers of the ancestry.

These examples given are quite straightforward ones, but there are others where the colour breeds of the ancestry are even far more important to know. For instance, I have previously said that with the additional "colour" points being introduced in Siamese, this breed may easily suffer in the future if some system such as "colour-breed" numbers being given against the ancestry is not enforced.

BEUMANOR SIMON

A TYPICAL PRIZEWINNER
BRED BY MISS LANT

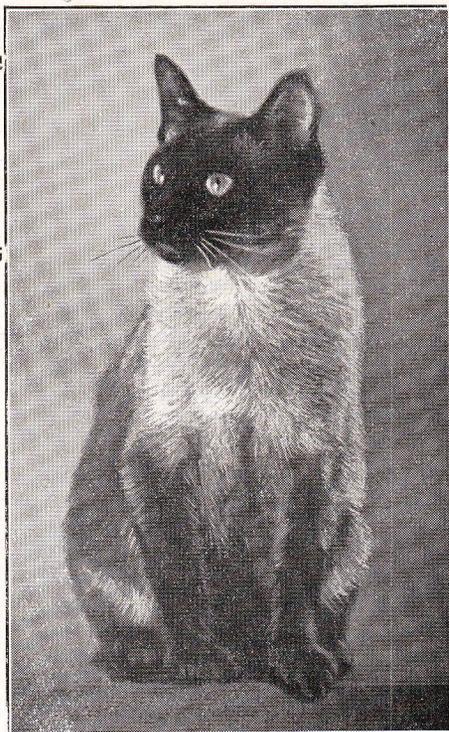
MISS MARJORIE E. LANT
of The Neuk, Frederick
Street, Loughborough, owner-
breeder of the Beaumanor
Siamese, writes:—

*"Kit-zyme is a very wonderful
idea in every way. Cats hate
powders and, most of all, tablets
being pushed down their throats
but as for Kit-zyme . . . my p'ts
just love the tablets and, if I happen
to forget any time, I quickly get
'told off.'*

There's no doubt that Kit-zyme keeps my Siamese in beautiful condition. And whatever may be in the tablets is definitely needed by a cat or he wouldn't be so very ready to eat them . . . cats have much more sense than humans over such things.

I have recommended Kit-zyme to a number of cat-loving friends and they all have said 'thank you'."

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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.

OPPOSED TO TAX

We were very interested to read Miss G. M. Camfield's letter in the Correspondence Corner of the June issue of OUR CATS, since the view expressed about cats being taxed is one very much in conformity with that of the Tail-Waggers' Club.

We are opposed to the proposal to licence cats, principally because we are far from convinced that it might provide any solution to the fearful problem of strays, which is, so we believe, its purpose. It is our considered opinion that if a tax was imposed, many, many more cats would be turned away at licence time, for the sole reason that many owners could not afford the additional expenditure, however small it might be.

We are very concerned, particularly for the vast number of infirm people and old age pensioners who keep a cat—oft-times a sole companion. Is it reasonable to make further inroads on their limited means, or are they to be deprived of the pleasure they get from their pets, merely because of their present-day poverty of purse?

We feel that the proposal has no real value for the alternate happiness and welfare of our cats, and we are sure the readers of your admirable Magazine will share our concern and that of Miss Camfield, that if the proposal goes forward, it may result in a vast increase in the number of wild, stray and uncared-for cats in our cities, towns and villages.

Mr. S. W. Clayden,
Secretary, The Tail-Waggers' Club.

SMOKY OR SMOKE ?

In the April issue of OUR CATS a remarkably good photograph appeared of a Shorthair cat coming, I think, from Devonshire. It was, I should say, unmistakably a British Blue, but it was described as a "smoky" cat. Is this not rather confusing, since Smoke is a recognised breed belonging to the Longhairs?

Mr. C. Farmiloe, F.Z.S.

We are in agreement with our correspondent. The caption in this instance was taken from details supplied by the owner and the relevant part would perhaps have looked better in quotes.—Editor.

INFORMATION SOUGHT

In the May Issue of OUR CATS Mr. Jude referred to "a perfectly harmless worm cure for adults or kittens." It would be interesting to have full particulars of this cure. Also, in the same issue, Marian Briggs, of York, mentions a serum for inoculation on 4/5 months old kittens against feline enteritis. Is this infectious enteritis? Might we have full particulars, please?

Miss D. M. Collins,
Moss End, Warfield, Berks.

QUEEN ACTS AS MIDWIFE

Our two Red Tabby queens were due to kitten within a fortnight of each other. Copper had her kittens first, as arranged, in a box in the bottom of a nice warm cupboard. Rio was supposed to have hers on the next shelf. Each had arranged it to her satisfaction, or so we thought!

When we came down in the morning we looked for Rio in her appointed place, but she was not there. Nor was she in the basket which was the alternative arrangement. To our astonishment, she was sitting in the middle of Copper's box, with Copper leaning over the box cleaning a newly born kitten. Her own unfortunate kittens were deposited in various corners of the box. We hastily

box in the first place. Have other readers any experience of queens acting as midwives before?

Miss Pat Tucker,
Banstead, Surrey.

A TOUGH BABY

A friend has suggested that I write and tell you of a kitten which I have reared on a bottle. The kitten was taken by a schoolboy to school to be



Are you really that anxious to raise kittens?

We reproduce this delightful sketch by Roberta Macdonald in Margaret Cooper Gay's "How to Live with a Cat" because it illustrates so aptly Mrs. Foden's remarkable letter on kitten rearing which opens on this page under the heading "A Tough Baby."

rescued Copper's kittens and put them in the basket, but Copper would not leave Rio until she had finished her midwife duties. Then she settled down happily with her own kittens.

The crazy part of it, to us, is that Copper would not let Rio near her kittens before, and we would like to know how Rio managed to get in the

dissected. My son was most disgusted with the idea and after much persuasion got the boy to give him the kitten. It was in a small cardboard box, in a little straw, and didn't look as if its mother had even been able to clean it after birth. It travelled first by train and then several miles by bicycle. It had no food for about

eight hours, and my son endeavoured to feed it with milk through a fountain pen filler.

When I saw it I never thought for a moment it would live, and as I had no experience of young kittens I had to use my own judgment. I was pretty certain that a cat's milk would be stronger than a cow's, so I took the cream off my bottle of milk and fed it to the kitten through the tube every two hours. The next day my son made up a feeding bottle from two test tubes, a cork and a piece of rubber tubing. The kitten quickly learned to suck. Meanwhile, I had cleaned it to the best of my ability, put it in a nest of cotton wool in a very small box on the hot water tank. Here it remained—except for feeding and cleaning—at an even temperature.

Several people I mentioned it to seemed to think it was marvellous when it survived the first few days. It opened its eyes at six days old and had all its back teeth at three weeks, which seems to me very exceptional. I gave the kitten a drop or two of cod liver oil in the cream and glucose. It had that for three weeks, and then I thought it wasn't as fat as it should be, so I started to feed Lactol. It is now seven weeks old and loves fish, but it won't eat meat, raw or cooked. It is most affectionate and very playful. Do you think it will get to like meat in a week or two?

Mrs. J. M. Foden,

Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Congratulations, Mrs. Foden, on a remarkable achievement.—Editor.

IN STRANGE PLACES

I wonder if I may appeal to your readers to take great care when sending a cat to be mated or to a cattery? From my own experience I know that queens are often housed in dilapidated rabbit hutches in back yards.

Some years ago I phoned the owner of a stud cat and asked her where my cat would be housed as she was a great pet and used to warmth and good food. She assured me that she would be kept indoors and receive every care. My cat was kept in a filthy rabbit hutch and after being put on the wrong train, was returned to me frightened and thin. A friend's cat sent there was lost for a month.

As to catteries, no one should send a cat to a place they haven't seen and seen when not expected. I board cats myself and am shocked at the casual way in which people send their pets to an unknown destination. A phone call and an arrangement to send it by bus or train is all that seems necessary. I tell all these people that they should bring the cat themselves and satisfy themselves that it will be suitably housed and cared for. If they had any imagination they would realise that the cat, feeling strange and lonely, should be warm, comfortable and, if necessary, coaxed to eat.

To put a pet cat in an outdoor cattery often inadequately protected from the weather is a form of cruelty. It requires the little extra, not a lot less.

Mrs. C. Coldham,

Tattingstone, near Ipswich.

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.

PEDIGREE FORMS at 2s. per dozen (post free) are obtainable from "Our Cats" Magazine, 4, Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Larger quantities available at pro rata rates.

Paws across "the Pond"

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

PYEWACKET, the famous Siamese who co-starred with Lilli Palmer and Rex Harrison in Irene Selznick's "Bell, Book and Candle," has not given up her theatrical ambitions now that the show has departed from Broadway. Believe it or not, Pyewacket is in summer stock . . . at Don Dickinson's Hayloft Theater in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

This stage-struck feline originally came from the Ellen Prince Speyer Hospital, the adoption center for pets . . . but, after all, such a famous actress couldn't return to an animal shelter . . . now could she? Pyewacket has builded for herself quite a reputation as well as a good-sized bank account, so large that she is now in the higher income brackets.

Meetings and counter-meetings of the various show groups from all the various Associations . . . each determined to have a better show than the next. Penn. State Cat Club (CFF) will be the first here in the east to present their show of the year. This will be held in the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. It is already attracting wide attention and there are entries promised from hundreds and hundreds of miles away. Many will come in by plane. In connection with the all-breed Show there will be a Specialty Solid Color and perhaps a Silver Specialty. October the 25th and 26th is very early in the season to find the various blue-bloods in good coat, but it has been ex-

plained to the exhibitors that the judges will make allowance for all this.

Next on the agenda is Garden State Cat Club, who will stage a show in Newark, New Jersey. Combined with the All-Breed there will be a Siamese Specialty. The date will be November 6th and 7th. Garden State is The Cat Fanciers' Association. This Club is headed by a group of earnest workers that never fail to draw a big gate.

Empire State follows next by staging their show on the 16th and 17th of November. Combined with the All-Breed, there will be a Siamese Specialty Show. The Empire State Cat Club sets the pace for all the clubs . . . it is tops in CFA. Mrs. John Hunter, Westchester, New York State, has been president for many years.

Brooklyn, Long Island, will hold their show on November 28th and 29th. This particular club is affiliated with the Cat Fanciers' Federation. The regular meetings are held at the Hotel Granada, Brooklyn, New York. This is one of the older cat clubs and a standby from the CFF point of view. The judges for these various shows have not, as yet, been announced. The membership in general are holding their breath in anticipation of this climatic announcement. Judges have been the topic of conversation in every group of the Fancy these many weeks.

An afternoon tea was held last week in one of New York City's most

gracious homes. The hostess brought in her Persians to be admired. One was particularly beautiful. All of us wanted to know her name. "V. I. P.!" replied the hostess, "and the one who guesses what V. I. P. stands for I'll treat to a luncheon at Sardi's next Tuesday." We all tried our hand at guessing and finally I came up with what I thought was a sure-fire win. (I remembered that our Vice-President Barkley was often referred to as a V. I. P.) "Very Important Person," I announced. "No," replied my hostess, "but you are warm. Try some more." I had to give up . . . I was so sure I had the right answer. A little novice breeder, who had been mouse-quiet all afternoon, asked timidly if she might hazard a guess. "Certainly," replied our hostess. "Could it be . . . 'Very Important Puss . . .'?" It certainly could be just that . . . and everyone had a good laugh on me . . . being so near, yet so absolutely wrong.

Hope of the Future

Last week there was a gathering of the Fancy in Baltimore, Maryland. The future of the Fancy was discussed . . . pro and con. One member who has been breeding as many years as I am old, announced in no uncertain terms that "when the older breeders passed away the Fancy would disintegrate, fall to pieces, and that the younger breeders did not have what it takes to hold the various Associations together." This statement was met with violent disapproval . . . which, of course, brought up the subject of novices, which I find is our hope of the future. If more articles, books and talks were slanted toward the novice I feel sure there would be better sportsmanship in the shows. A great deal of the unorthodox actions and talk at the various shows comes from people who actually do not know that they are being rude and igno-

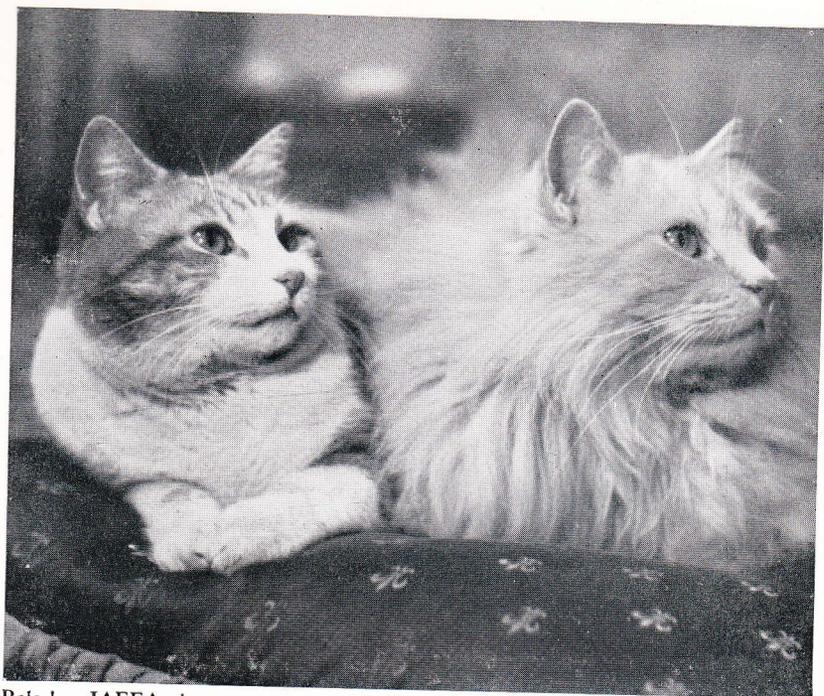
rantly uninformed. But we all know that lack of knowledge does not excuse anyone for such actions. It might be a good idea if the older judges and breeders took more of a personal interest in the novice . . . explain the fundamentals . . . in words that they can understand. I feel the results would pay dividends to the Fancy of the future.

Good Sports

There is an organisation being formed now . . . called The Crusaders. It is an honorary group. No dues. No obligations other than to right wrongs. Inform the uninformed. Protect the persecuted. Stop bickerings, slander. Eliminate power politics in the Fancy. If you are asked to join The Crusaders you are honored. One of the least of its functions is to promote good sportsmanship.

In the April issue of OUR CATS there is an article by Kathleen Yorke titled, "Interested in Creams?" . . . it is one of the most beautifully written articles I have ever read. Clear, comprehensive and very much to the point. No padding of words here. This article was so very good that I typed quite a few copies and gave to some of my novice friends. I have a waiting list to borrow this particular copy of OUR CATS. Goodness knows when it will come home again . . . I mean the April issue. I have been thinking seriously of crossing my books and magazines with homing pigeons . . . hoping that the results will be satisfying.

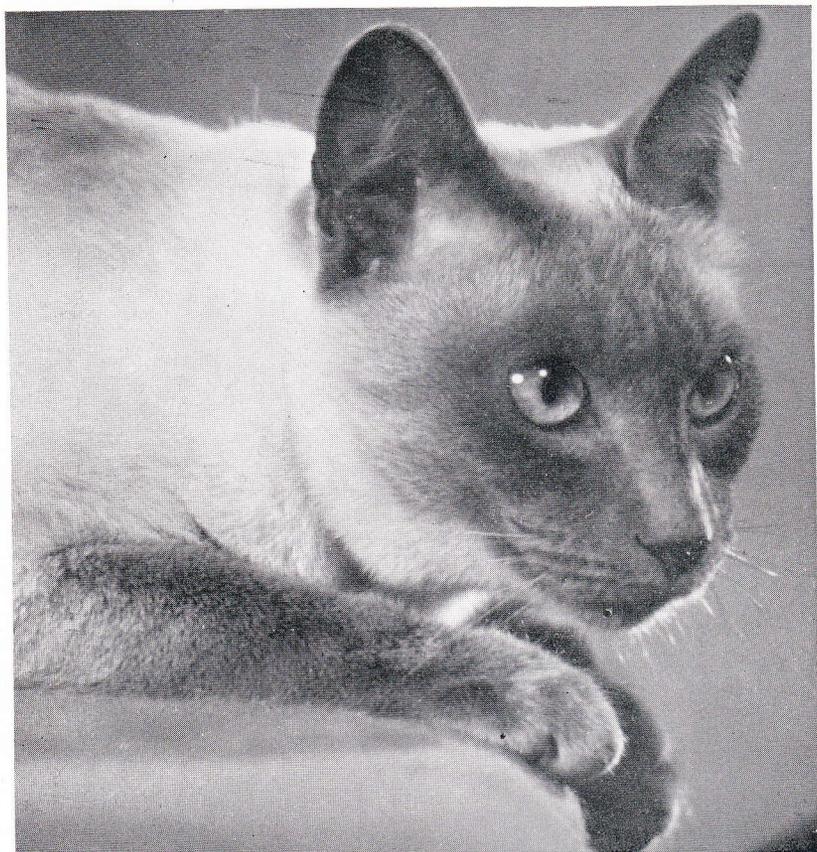




Pals! **JAFFA** is an orange-and white Shorthair without a family tree. **MERLIN** is a Cream Longhair weighing over 16 lbs. bred by Mrs. Dyer, of Birmingham. Both belong to Miss Margaret Gordon, of Hatton, Warwickshire.



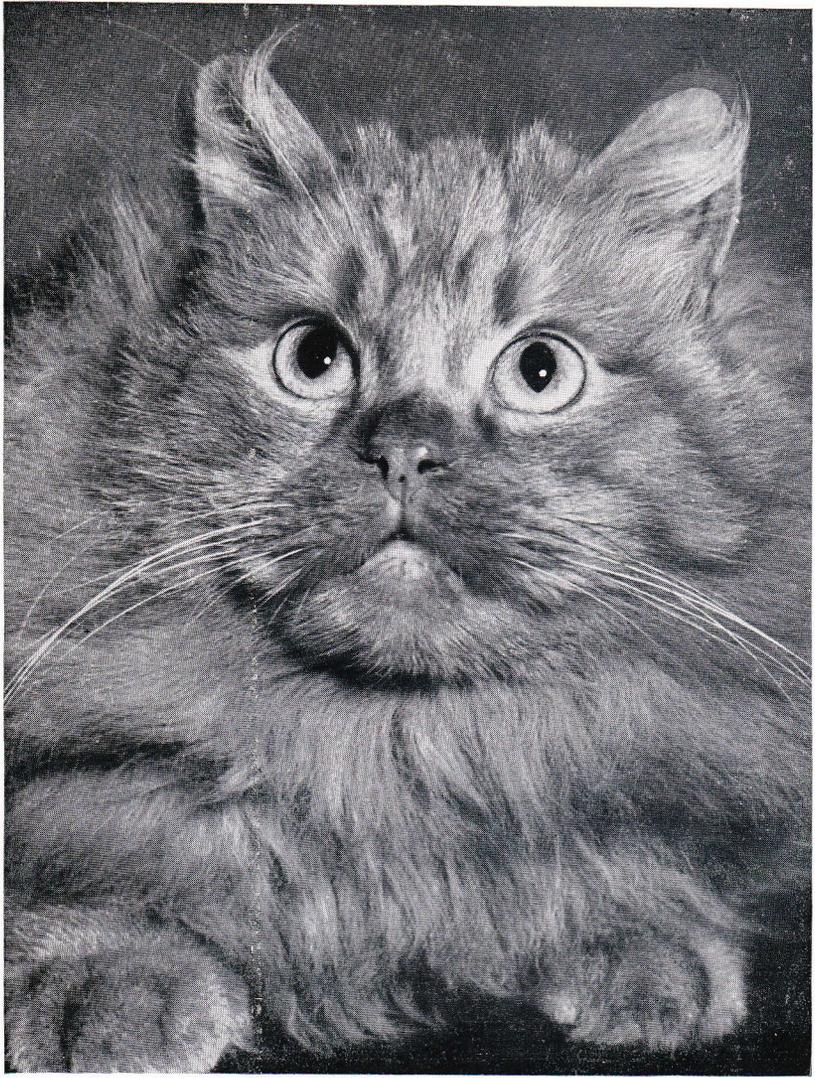
Little **SEALEIGH CELESTE** (Blue Longhair kitten at 2 months old, bred by Mrs. Crimmen from Sco Ruston Blue Chief ex Deebank Annette) peeps out at a strange new world from a safe vantage point. She is owned by Mrs. M. Lang, of West Ealing, W.13.



A lovely study of a Blue Point Siamese male, MIRZA TAKLIF, the neutered pet of those popular enthusiasts Brigadier and Mrs. Rossiter, of Shrivenham, Wiltshire.



Handsome Seal Point Siamese stud, BYNES ROMEO, bred by Mrs. Gill from Oriental Silky John ex Burmont Betty. Romeo, who belongs to Mrs. M. Burgess, of Otford, near Sevenoaks, Kent, has sired a first prize litter and was second in the Open Male Championship Class, Croydon C.C. Show, 1950. We regret that his picture appeared in last month's issue with the wrong caption . . . our printer made a Blue Point of him!



An appealing picture of a handsome Red Tabby female, Champion ROSE GOLD OF NEV'RDUNETEN, bred and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Johnson, of Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. Rose was placed Best Red Tabby at a Washington, D.C., show by the prominent American judge, Mrs. Saxby-Mabie.

“Palace” Cats of 1889

By P. M. SODERBERG

AS several of you who write to me from time to time on cat affairs have suggested that you would like more about the early shows, this month I will deal chiefly with the National Cat Show for 1889.

First of all, however, I want your help on a matter that intrigues me. In what years between 1871 and 1888 were there two shows held at the Crystal Palace and called National Cat Shows?

There is no doubt whatever that the first Palace show was held in 1871, for it was organised by the ever-to-be-remembered Harrison Weir himself, and in his writings he makes several references to this show, which caused him so much anxiety just because it was an entirely new venture. However, the show was held on 16th July, 1871, and before the day was over the Crystal Palace Company had presented Harrison Weir with a pint-size silver tankard “in recognition of his suggestions and services.”

The show held in 1888 was the twentieth, so it follows that there must have been two years during the period 1871-1888 in which two shows were held at the Palace. Any information on this subject

would be most interesting to me. I am also searching hard for early copies of the “Ladies’ Pictorial” which I believe contained descriptions and sketches of the prize winners for the years 1885-1900, or even later.

The Palace Show of 1889 must indeed have been an event of outstanding interest, for there were no fewer than 289 exhibitors with nearly 600 cats and kittens on show. I should have liked to have met the two Mowers who had three cats to show and came from Thornton Heath. What a delightful name for cat fanciers!

I cannot find out who the judges were at this show, for the cover of the catalogue has long since disappeared, but I suspect that Harrison Weir and his brother both officiated and were probably joined by George Billett, who was now one of the rising stars of the Cat Fancy.

Incidentally, 1889 was of real interest to cat lovers, for it was in this year that the first book devoted entirely to cats was written by an Englishman. “Our Cats,” written by Harrison Weir, appeared in 1889 and was printed by Messrs. Charles Dickens & Evans, although they were not the publishers. It was also in this year,

1889, that "Le Chat," written by the remarkable Champfleury, was published in English. Certainly the English had now become cat conscious and their interest embraced the ordinary household pet as well as the show cat. Proper pedigrees had not yet assumed any serious importance, and the only ancestor who seemed worthy of any mention was the sire, and only then if he was a well known winner.

My catalogue for 1889 is not marked, so I don't know who did the winning, although several celebrities of the feline species were up for competition.

Debut of Persians

Tilly, the short-haired Tortie-and-White, was present, and as she had won her class at the Palace for seven years running I hope she brought off her eighth win for Mr. Highton. This was positively her last appearance.

In the A.O.V. (Shorthair) Class there was one "Pure Blue Persian," a lady by the name of Bogey, who had to compete against several Siamese, ticked cats, spotted cats and even a French Tabby, which I presume meant a tabby which had come over from France in the days when quarantine was not the nuisance it is to-day.

By 1889, despite such errors as the misnomer for Bogey, there is much more evidence that the word

"Persian" is beginning to have a meaning apart from being merely the opposite to "short-haired." The idea of pure breeding for type of coat and an attempt to establish distinct colours is now much more obvious.

There were special classes for Longhairs in 1889 called Blue, Self-Colour, Without White, and these must be regarded, I imagine, as the first classes ever put into a schedule for what we now call the Blue Persian. A male class of ten and seven in the females was not a bad beginning, but even Mr. Hunt's Banquo, Miss Simpson's Beauty Tom and Miss Rosa Bray's The Friar displayed only the vaguest signs of the glory of the Blue Persian of the future. Ears and noses were long, tails were very long, but here at last was the Blue Persian in the making.

"Colonel" Shook Hands

Mr. Moss's Tibs is mentioned in this catalogue. Tibs in his day must have been a very remarkable stud, for by 1889 he was already the sire of more than fifty prize winners and he was still to live for several years.

There seems to have been a certain delightful informality about these early shows, for the catalogue contains details which would hardly be considered relevant to-day. It is worth a smile to read that Colonel, a Red Tabby,

“ shakes hands and can be put on chain.” There are also other remarks in this catalogue of 1889 which seem to imply that the show cat was not always reliable, for “ can be handled with safety ” and “ quite affectionate ” certainly showed that there were at least some show cats which did not know how to behave.

Values have Changed

Household pets were well catered for, but the heading to this section, “ Prizes offered for Cats belonging to Working Men,” betokened a class consciousness in the Fancy which has happily disappeared. I had rather hoped that most of these cats would be marked as “ Not for Sale,” or that the prices asked would be so fantastic that the owner obviously had no intention of selling. Unfortunately, the working man’s love of his cat did not have that effect on his attitude, for even cats which were known to be four or five years old were offered for the paltry £1, and who would sell the family favourite for such a sum! These were cats bought just to try to win the very useful prizes offered.

Just think. Had one of these working men turned his first prize into beer he could have had fifteen gallons, which might have kept him happy for a long time ; or if by chance he were teetotal,

he could have five hundred cigarettes instead. Times change!

Emu eggs must have been very common in those days, for all the best cats could win Emu Egg Sugar Basins or Challenge Vases. Shades of my Victorian ancestors!

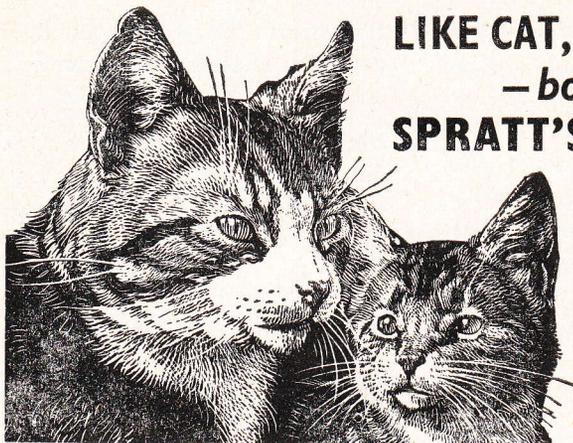
But let me finish on a more serious note. By 1889 Cat Shows were no longer novelties, and at least a dozen were held in various parts of the country each year. Harrison Weir had certainly popularised the cat as an animal worthy of a show all to itself. At the Crystal Palace on 22nd and 23rd October more than 19,000 people went to see—CATS.

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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

8th June. To see Mrs. Hacking's cats at Liphook, living under ideal conditions to breed healthy families. Anchor Petit Beurre, the Cream, distinguished herself by making a love match and producing a very attractive Tortoiseshell and White aptly named Redwalls Fiesta. This youngster should give a good account of herself at the shows. Redwalls Snowstorm was nursing two lovely Chinchillas by Ch. Flambeau of Allington, the female being outstanding. Other Chinchilla queens were nursing promising kittens, nearly all by Miss Langston's Chinchilla studs.

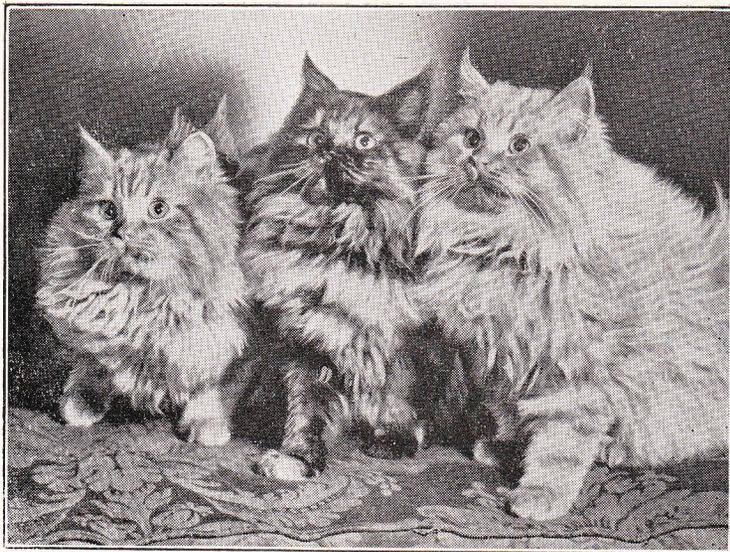
It was delightful to see the mothers lying on blankets near their cat houses and the kittens playing among the heather. Mrs. Hacking is a well-known breeder of Cocker spaniels. She has given up breeding puppies but still has three studs, two Reds and one Black. A pair of these take a trip each day over Liphook Golf Course; as they always return together they evidently like companionship. One Red always stays at home on guard. Later in the day to see Miss Hildyard, owner of the Anchor cats. She bred the litter sisters Anchor Petit Beurre and

Anchor Cream Cracker, mother of the Cream male Redwalls Huntley, who won so well at last season's shows. Cracker came to an untimely death last year whilst nursing a young family. She went off her food, but purred and appeared to be well. Mrs. Hacking was mystified but not unduly anxious. However, she went into her room one morning and found she had passed away. A post-mortem revealed she had swallowed what appeared to be a hedgehog quill, which had pierced her stomach—a very sad accident to a sweet young queen.

At Miss Hildyard's we saw three Cream kittens remaining from another large litter by Miss Gabb's Optimist of Sunfield. These were pale and of good type. Miss Gabb has purchased one female. The winning Tortoiseshell, Anchor Patchwork, was nursing some good Reds by Miss Campbell-Fraser's male. The queens have liberty and, like all Miss Hildyard's cats, were very affectionate.

14th June. My thoughts were with Miss Campbell-Fraser, who so kindly gave a party at the Refectory, Godalming, a lovely old building in an ideal setting. I heard later that fifty-three guests attended and went later to see the cats and kittens at Little Primrose.

I was unable to attend as my Cream queen was expecting a family, and sure enough she had them on the 65th day of gestation, which Longhair breeders have observed is so much more frequent than the 63rd day pub-



Three charming Barwell Kittens Derry, Dazzle and Duncan

MRS. DENYS FAWELL of The Lawns, Salhouse, Norwich, owner of the well-known Barwell Cattery, writes:—

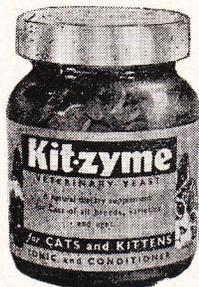
"I have given Kit-zyme to my cats and kittens ever since it was first on the market and I cannot praise it too highly.

One of my queens used to have a form of eczema every spring but, with Kit-zyme, that trouble has entirely disappeared. Another queen invariably started her litters with a dead kitten but since using Kit-zyme all her kittens—over a long period—have been alive and born with the greatest of ease."

(Barwell Red Tabby cats and kittens have won well at many shows including Best S.H. Kitten in the National C.C. Show 1949; Breeder's S.H. Cup at Olympia 1950; Best Kitten in Show and Haste Cup at Felixstowe 1950; First in L.H. Red Tabby and Kitten class at Croydon C.C. Show; Three firsts at Southern Counties, etc.)

"It is so gratifying," continues Mrs. Fawell, "when the judges say 'in excellent condition' as is so often said of my cats and kittens thanks to Kit-zyme."

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lished in all cat books. When Felicity's quintette had all arrived it was too late for me to take the journey. Guests told me later it was most enjoyable and many members of the Red, Cream and Tortie Society living within a reasonable distance attended.

16th June. A very pleasant afternoon with Mrs. Stephenson, of Tunbridge Wells, who has resumed breeding after a long interval due to the war. Her original stock was purchased from Miss George, so well known to pre-war breeders as the owner of Flick-a-Maroo, who was that *rara avis* among Blues, a cat with palest blue coat and deepest copper eyes. Incidentally, her Balbedie affix was attached to many winning kittens. Mrs. Stephenson purchased Hilary of Hadley from Miss Fisher in 1948; she proved an excellent mother to some good Blues, one of which, Ashdown Catkin, was second in the Blue female kitten class at K.K. Show last year.

This summer, Catkin's trio by Mrs. Pond's Idmiston Candytuft are very promising, the female at four weeks being the pick of the litter. The Cream queen Anchor Questy (bred by Miss Hildyard) has three fascinating pale Cream males and a pretty Blue Cream by Mrs. Marlow's Neuburie Bambi.

I liked the substantial cat house, built of blocks cemented over, and the nice windows, doors and run of her new cat house. This type is expensive to build nowadays but well worth it for the adequate protection in inclement weather. The adult queens have liberty in the house and secluded garden, also the shiny black neuter aptly named Inky. A pretty pale kitten with promising eyes bred by Mrs. Pond is intended as a future stud.

Altogether a happy family of well-kept pets giving immense pleasure to Mrs. Stephenson and her daughters.

20th June. Congratulations to the Committee of the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire on holding a meeting for members and their friends at the Kenilworth Hotel, the motive of which was to hear an address by Mrs. Sheppard, M.R.C.V.S., on "Pregnancy and Congenital Diseases of the Cat."

It was more than kind for such a busy veterinarian to spare time for such a helpful discourse. Although most experienced breeders are aware of the birth cycle of cats, she supplied several "missing links." For example, at birth I count the placentas and have been puzzled why a kitten occasionally arrives without it and another kitten is born before the missing membrane arrives. The explanation is that kittens are expelled from each of the two horns of the uterus alternately, and if a placenta becomes detached from a kitten before birth it may not be expelled until another kitten from that horn is born.

Another interesting explanation showed why the last kittens of a large litter may be stillborn. Mrs. Sheppard informed us that when labour commences the close contact between placenta and uterus is gradually lessened as the latter contracts, which means the supply of oxygen declines. So when labour is very protracted the kittens which look perfectly formed may have been literally drowned in the sac of fluid which protects them from pre-natal injury.

We were shown specimens preserved in spirits and these appeared to throw some doubt as to whether kinks in the tails of Longhairs can be caused by the way kittens lie in the uterus. They literally float in fluid which insulates them against injury, except a bad fall or accident to the mother.

It was all most interesting and I was delighted to hear Mrs. Sheppard is giving another talk on Congenital Diseases, which there was not time to touch upon at this meeting. The importance of sufficient nutritious food

was stressed and she pointed out that nature will make up deficiencies from the mother if certain essentials are lacking such as calcium. Another essential is exercise to strengthen abdominal muscles used in bearing and bringing kittens into the world.

My thanks to the Chairman, Mrs. Price, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Beckett, who so kindly invited me as a guest to this most instructive meeting.

22nd June. To Norbury to see Mrs. Price Hawkins and her two Blue Longhair queens. Phillimore Marguerite, expecting a family on 8th July, was looking lovely. She is a good all-round queen with a pale coat of fine texture and very long for the time of year. Her litter sister is Mrs. Brown's Phillimore Pandora, Challenge Certificate winner at the S.C.C.C. last January. Marguerite's daughter, Pymble Blue Posy (also 1st at this Show in the 6-9 months kitten class), has grown into a fine queen with a similar coat to her mother. They both looked most attractive in the garden with their pale coats and deep eye colour accentuated by the sunny day.

I was amused to see the agreeable way they accepted their collars and long leads tied to a stake in the ground. Both the queens are household pets, so get plenty of exercise, but like to go out for an airing. About 20 years ago Mrs. Price-Hawkins had her first pedigree Blue because she liked well-bred animals around her. but as her own children were very young she had no time for breeding cats seriously. So this queen's progeny were just given to friends. Eventually she had a very nice Brown Tabby female from one of her misalliances, and it was decided to mate this youngster to the late Mrs. Soame's Ch. Soame Bronco. She produced a very well marked Brown Tabby which won first two years running at Croydon Ch. Show in the

Household Pets Class judged by Miss Adams.

Mrs. Price-Hawkins was just about to take her advice to mate her cats to pedigree males when war intervened, and it was not until she met Mrs. Janke at a show in 1949 that she bought Phillimore Pandora and gratified her ambition. She certainly has two very well bred, robust queens to recommence with, and she intends to put emphasis on pale, fine coats whilst retaining the deep eye colour she considers so essential.

23rd June. Mrs. Dadd, of Copped Hall, Epping, has received news from New Zealand that Sabukia Stardust had a fine litter of eight just before her first birthday. Her letter continues: "The three females I sent to America were fit and well when I last heard and some kittens should have arrived by now. Sabukia Sweet William, now owned by Mrs. Linda Parker, of Cropston, Leicester (owner also of his famous sire, Lindale Simon Pie), was a proved sire at 13 months; a litter of nine was born to Lindale London Pride and every one has a long, straight tail. Unfortunately, some months ago he was attacked by a queen and got his back scratched. Patches of dark fur have now grown over the scars, so maybe he will be unable to appear at the coming shows.

"I have a beautiful young male going to America this week, Sabukia Sirano. I had ideas about showing him as an adult this year, but at eight months he started calling and spraying in the house, so I could not keep him because I haven't a second stud house. I fondly imagined that if they had complete freedom they would not spray indoors, but how wrong I was!

"Sapphire Sally has a small litter this time; her previous efforts have been 8, 6 and 9. To my great disappointment, the female, which is the best, has the palest eye colour. Sapphire Susan completely fooled us.

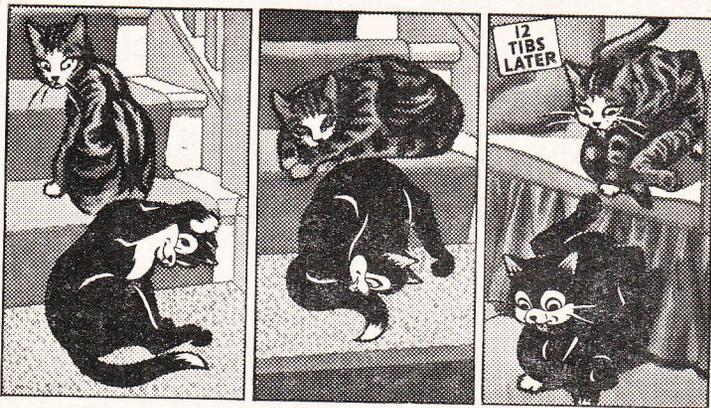
We sent her to Champion Clonlost Yo Yo, and she had mismated before or after her visit, as she produced five black kittens, but she loves them just the same.

"We took this ancient cottage last year and are still busy rebuilding, but we have three-quarters of an acre wired in which will be a garden next year, we hope. It is a great asset for the cats and we have no neighbours to worry us or them. Saphire Sally has just been mated to Ch. Morris Tudor. I like trying my queens with different studs as one gets to know their capabilities."

24th June. What surprising items one reads in the press about cats! Under the caption "Two lovely glass eyes," a well-known Sunday newspaper publishes the story of Mini, a

Siamese belonging to Mrs. Eva Horne, Superintendent of the Dumb Friends' League Clinic at Eastbourne. The cat lost an eye five years ago when she was tied in a sack and thrown away by a former owner. The glass eyes are being made by an ophthalmic specialist, and we are told: "Two are necessary because a Siamese cat's eyes are blue in the daytime but change to pink at night"! Well, well! Anyone seen a Siamese with pink eyes at any time?

26th June. Mrs. McLeod's Chinchilla, Jamie of Thame, son of Ch. Stourbank Silver King, is a proved sire. Mrs. Turney's lovely Sarisbury Aphra has two kittens by him. Mrs. McLeod has bred some lovely Chinchillas and in association with her



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WATCH YOUR CAT as he sits washing himself—what pains he takes! The moistened paw goes over his ears, the busy tongue works tirelessly. Yet for all his pride in himself, he depends so much on you for his health and happiness.

Will you do one little thing to keep him the frisky, friendly

companion he wants to be? Give him one 'Tibs' once a day in his morning saucer of milk. 'Tibs' provide essential vitamins and minerals lacking in his 'civilised' diet. Just one 'Tibs' once a day—and he'll be the liveliest, most lovable cat that ever was, with eyes that shine and a coat like silk!

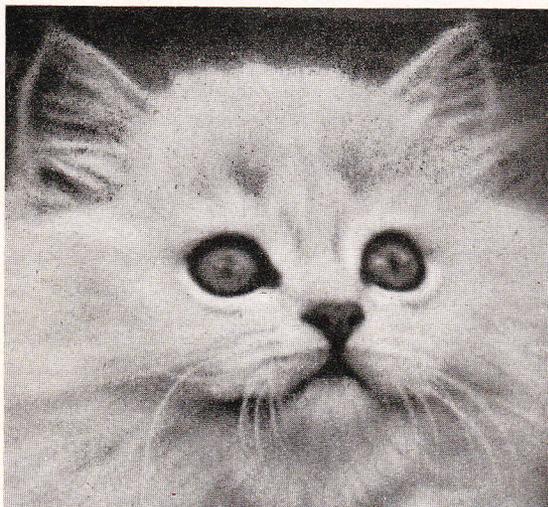
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SANDY SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP

30th AUGUST 1951
76 CLASSES

Judges :

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Miss K. Yorke ... | Best in Show |
| Mrs. J. Thompson ... | Creams, Chinchill'as, Shorthairs other than Siamese |
| Mrs. E. Hart ... | Siamese |
| Miss E. Langston ... | Blues (Adults) |
| Mrs. E. G. Aitken ... | Blacks and Whites |
| Mrs. L. Speirs ... | Blue Kittens |

GENEROUS SPECIALS AND SIDE CLASSES

Schedules from the Secretary :

BRIAN S. PORTER, 1 MARKET SQUARE, BIGGLESWADE

Phone : Biggleswade 2128

friend the late Miss Tunks, also bred some very good Blues before the war.

1st July. After the Festival Ch. Show many of us will be meeting at Sandy Ch. Show, Bedford, on Thursday, 30th August. This is always an enjoyable event with plenty to see—dogs, cats, rabbits, cage birds, pigeons, poultry and flowers, fruit, etc. The judges officiating will be Miss Langston, Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Hart (the latter judging all Siamese exhibits), Mrs. Speirs and myself. If the entry is similar to last year we shall have plenty to do. An innovation will be Best in Show judged by one judge only, Miss Kathleen Yorke. She will receive our nominations and make her award from them, and from Mr. Brian Porter's (the Show Secretary) letter it appears there will be no Best Exhibit in Show but Best Longhair Adult, Best Shorthair Adult, and similarly with kittens. I think few exhibitors would regret Best Exhibit in Show being an award of the past. It has caused a lot of heart-burning, especially among Shorthair breeders. There is much evidence to support their contention that a Longhair cat in full pomp usually gets the preference, and, of course, at winter shows, when they are at their magnificent best, they certainly have an advantage in this respect over Shorthairs.

The classification at Sandy is generous and the Clubs have given excellent support by offering trophies and many special prizes.

4th July. To Herts and Middlesex Cat Club Party held in the lovely garden of Mrs. Mitchell's house at Bushey Heath. Away from the serious business of judging, exhibiting and organising shows, it was good to see prominent members of the Cat Fancy indulging in fun and games.

Trying to name the familiar but unseen contents of small bags suspended on a line by sniffing them was

surprisingly elusive. This competition was won by Mrs. Varcoe and Mrs. Grant-Allen, who tied with 9 correct out of 12. Guessing the number of beans in a jar and trying to locate a 10s. note buried in earth near a tree trunk were other frivolities. Many very acceptable gifts were given to be raffled and auctioned, so the Club will have a nice nest-egg towards the expenses of the Ch. Show on 15th September. Miss Kit Wilson was in her element as auctioneer and kept her audience in merry mood. We went into the house for a very nice tea with delicious home-made cakes and almost swept the board. I heard Committee members provided some of the rationed ingredients and Mrs. Mitchell's staff made them. This Club has gone far in a short time and I think one of the reasons is because there is such a good team spirit among the Committee reminiscent of pre-war days.

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NETHERTON HOUSE, DREWSTEIGHTON
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Telephone: Drewsteighton 232

Claus, the famous American heavy-weight cat, is dead. The sad news comes to us in a letter from Mrs. Alice M. Clark, of San Francisco, who sponsored the appearance of this remarkable tabby cat at American shows. Claus weighed 42 lbs. at death, which took place at the vets. where he was being treated for a poisoned system brought about by a stoppage. A picture of Claus appeared in our July issue last year.

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See displayed and Stud advertisements in this issue

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At Stud: **CH. OXLEYS PETER JOHN**
Sire of Best Kitten National C.C. Show, 1950.
Best Kitten Scottish C.C. Show, 1950. Best L.H.
Kitten Croydon C.C. Show, 1950, and many other
Prizewinners. Strong healthy Kittens usually for
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Both young sons of Ch. DEEBANK MICHAEL
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DUNESK (14 Firsts), CHINABOY OF DUNESK
(Best Blue Male Kitten Nat. Ch. Show)

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DEEBANK STURDY (BLUE)

By The Playmate of the Court ex Idmiston Merle
2nd Open Male Midland Ch. Show, Croydon Ch.
Show, N. & D. Ch. Show 1949-50.

MALMARY TAFETEACE (BLUE)

By Mokoia Tafete ex Skeete Gaye.

WALVERDENE MAJOR (CREAM)

By Mighty of Sunfield ex Walverdene Sandra
Mia. 1st and Ch. Notts. and Derby, Jan. 1950

CH. WIDDINGTON WHYNOT (CREAM)

By Ch. Widdington Warden ex Widdington
Wilful. 1st & Ch., C.C. Show, 1949. 1st & Ch.
M.C.C. Show, 1950. 1st & Ch. N.C.C. Show, 1950.

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Kittens may be booked in advance to
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Noted for type, lovely pale coats
gorgeous eye-colour & stamina
Breeder of the Int. Ch. **PRIORY BLUE WISH**
Beautiful Kittens for sale. Satisfaction guaranteed

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First Prize Winner and Sire of First Prize Winners

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Tailpieces

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



THE staggering rises in the cost of paper and general production costs are hitting the small, specialised periodical very heavily. Increased postal charges have added to the burden. Only the other day I heard how the cost of producing the News Sheet of the Siamese Cat Club had suddenly jumped to an alarming figure. Now comes the news that "The Cat," the popular monthly official organ of the Cats' Protection League, has had to wrestle with the problem of rising costs. It has been decided that the printing of fewer issues is the best answer. Whilst prices remain at their present level, there are to be ten numbers of "The Cat" during the year instead of twelve.

As previously announced in our pages, the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Cat Club has found a new venue at Cricklewood for its Championship Show on Saturday, 15th September. It will be held in association with the Willesden Festival Show and the local Corporation is giving rosettes to the winners in over thirty classes.

A black and white cat was brought by the police to the Chelsea branch of Our Dumb Friends' League one Sunday night. It had been found in a sack in the Thames and only the fact that the tide was receding saved its life. On examination, it was found that the cat was expecting kittens, and it is now being nursed by the branch and will eventually be found a good home.

At a recent sitting of the Watford (Herts) Police Court, it was alleged

that a cat was thrown in front of greyhounds during a race at the local Stadium. Before the Court was a young Irishman who was accused of conspiring with two other men to commit an unlawful act by securing that the fifth greyhound race should not be fairly run. He was further charged with ill-treating the cat. The man was remanded and bail was granted in the defendant's own surety of £50 and another of £50.

A Battersea builder named Alfred James Wilson was sentenced at the South-Western magistrates' court to six weeks' imprisonment for causing unnecessary suffering to a cat. Wilson was stated to have hit the cat with a piece of wood, breaking its back, when he thought it was after his pigeons. The cat had to be destroyed. The sentence was subsequently reduced to a fine of £10 with five guineas costs when Wilson attended the London Sessions Appeals Committee. The Chairman (Mr. Anthony Hawke) expressed the view that although the Committee were not sympathetic to anyone who knocked animals about, the sentence was regarded as excessive.

An unfortunate cat playing in a field got entangled in a mowing machine and suffered terrible injuries. William Ballett, a 65-year-old retired printer, of Highbridge, Somerset, hurried for his gun to put an end to the poor creature's struggles. After he had shot the cat, he collapsed and died.

Rabbits should be exterminated, even though 36,000,000 a year are

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of Seal Point Siamese

MONYMUSK PITA (Winner)

At Stud—Fee £2-2-0

Sires lovely kittens

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Chalfont St. Peters 132

THE MISSEFORE STRAIN OF BLUE POINTS

At Stud to approved Queens:

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Noted for type and brilliant eye colour

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At Stud: MORRIS PADISHAH

Best Exhibit K.K.N.C.C. 1950

Best Shorthair Kitten, Olympia, 1950
Winner of 14 Firsts and many other awards

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Brood queens include TAI-LAND RANAT
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SPREADEAGLES, BURES, SUFFOLK
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Winner of 7 Challenge Certificates and Best
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All prizewinners and siring winners

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Hillcross Stock have won over 200
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Kittens usually for sale

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glorious copper eyes, short coats

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Best Exhibit, Kensington 1949. Best S.H. Kitten,
Croydon 1949. Best S.H. Cat, National 1950.

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eaten as human food. This is one of the recommendations contained in the report of the Government committee appointed two years ago to enquire into allegations of cruelty to British wild animals. Reasons given are the suffering involved in obtaining them for food and the damage they do to crops.

On a weather vane over a house in St. Stephen's Road, Hounslow, a metal cat chases a metal mouse. It is the "trade sign" of Mr. Frank Knell, ex-Metropolitan police officer, who has just celebrated the 60th anniversary of his wedding. For thirty years prior to his retirement in 1915 Mr. Knell played the cat-and-mouse game with some of the cleverest criminals in the country—and the mouse was usually caught!

Readers of the London "Star" newspaper are contributing an interesting series of their sixth sense experiences. One of them, M. Terris, a London reader, submitted the following item: "When I was nine I asked my parents to buy me a kitten. Then one night, lying in bed, I heard a voice say: 'You shall have your kitten but it will have six toes on its paws.' I told my parents about my dream and my mother said: 'All right, you shall have your kitten.' Three days later we heard a kitten crying at the kitchen door. We let it in and found it had six toes on each of its front paws. Neither my parents nor any of our neighbours knew where it came from."

Another reader—R. Black, of Poole, Dorset—submitted the following experience: "I have never taken an interest in telepathy, but when I was in the R.A.F. near Grantham one evening in my billet I had a sudden instinct which I could never explain that convinced me that our family cat, which was only three years old, had died. Next day I was due for a short leave. I travelled home

to Poole and discovered that our cat Mickey had died suddenly and had been buried the previous evening."

A news flash tells of a battle in a Bromley (Kent) garden between a cat and a three-inch-long horned beetle with "a gleaming, horny back and two long pincers protruding from its head." The beetle, it is said, drew blood by sinking its pincers into the cat's neck. Presumably the insect was a stag beetle, which grows to quite a size and can look quite formidable at this time of the year.

Watford (Herts) is said to be suffering from a plague of mice, and rodent officers have been working overtime. One shopkeeper said they gnaw their way through cement to get inside and some of them seem capable of climbing up smooth walls to get at the food stacked on shelves. A nurseryman reports they have eaten all his bedding plants and he expects his geraniums to go next!

Boy Scout John Moir, aged 15, of Wandsworth, who climbed a 60 ft. poplar in a high wind to rescue a cat, has been awarded a certificate by the R.S.P.C.A.

A Cat Show is to be part of the proceedings at the August Bank Holiday Show sponsored by the Urban District Council of Urmston, Lancs. The arrangements are in the capable hands of Mrs. S. S. Culley, Hon. Secretary of the Lancashire and North-Western Counties Cat Club, who tells me that the judges will be Miss Kit Wilson and Mrs. O. M. Lamb.

MICKEY

DONERAILE SIAMESE

At Stud: **DONERAILE DEKHO
SALWHEEL SIMKIN**

(Agha Khan's son)

**Noted for eye colour, type and gentle
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Phone: Vigilant 1389

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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 15th 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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SCO-RUSTON RAVISANT (Blue Persian), sire Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Sco-Ruston Kalisa.

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

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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SIAMESE Kittens, good pedigree, from £3 3s., very healthy.—Hurst, "Eatonthorne," Henfield, Sussex.

SIAMESE Kittens, S.P., pedigree, registered.—Mrs. P. G. Sayers, 154d Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. (T.W. 21114.)

SIAMESE pedigree Male Kittens, S.P., for sale. Four guineas.—Mrs. Bristol, Copelands, Staunton, Nr. Gloucester. Phone Staunton 53.

BLUE PERSIAN Male Kittens, excellent pedigree, sire Champion Astra of Pensford.—Burton, 108 Whytecliffe Road, Purley.

SIAMESE S.P. Kittens for sale, females.—Chippindale, The Chalet, Heads, Keswick, Cumberland.

CREAM PERSIAN Kittens by Molesey Ali Baba. Well reared and healthy. All particulars and pedigree.—Morris, 15 Wallace Avenue, Worthing.

OWNER Going Abroad, BLUE FEMALE PERSIAN, born 28.4.50, Best Blue Female Kitten Manchester, and her 3 Blue Kittens, 2 male, born 29.5.51. Offers?—Simpson, 29 Staff Quarters, Salwick, Preston.

FINE young SIAMESE Queen, S.P., 7 months, Sire Elderton Hasan, Dam Causeway Claire, immunsed Lederle, 8 gns.—Dr. Atwell, 50 East Marshal Road, Sheffield.

FINE pale-coated BLUE PERSIAN Kittens, born 30.5.51, by Malmry Tafeteace ex Snab Silver Mist, and 9.6.51, by Malmry Tafeteace ex Snab Silver Slippers. £5 5s. and £6.—Storey, The Snab, Hornby, Lancaster.

PEDIGREE PERSIANS. BLUE CREAM maiden Queen, 10 months, 3 gns. BLUE Male Kittens, 4 gns.—Rice, Lynderswood Court, Braintree.

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BOARDING for SIAMESE only.—Particulars from Mrs. F. Waterton, The Vicarage, Seer Green, Nr. Beaconsfield, Bucks. Jordans 2201.

Miscellaneous

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

THE TAIL-WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine for dog owners and dog lovers everywhere. Fully illustrated and complete with informative features and instructive articles. Annual subscription 11s. (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.

HORSEFLESH for Human Consumption delivered up to 30 miles radius of London, over this it can be posted or railed to your address. Cheapest and the best meat only supplied.—Write or phone, W. T. Thurkle, 207 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London, S.W.9. Phone BRI 3374.

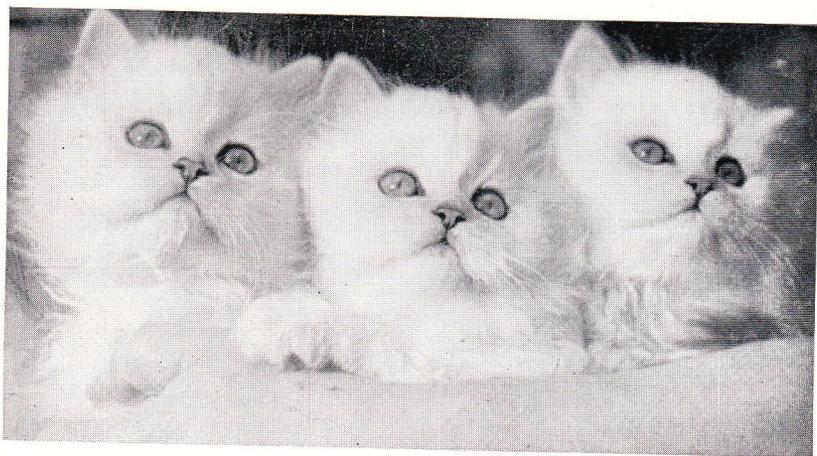
Wanted

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



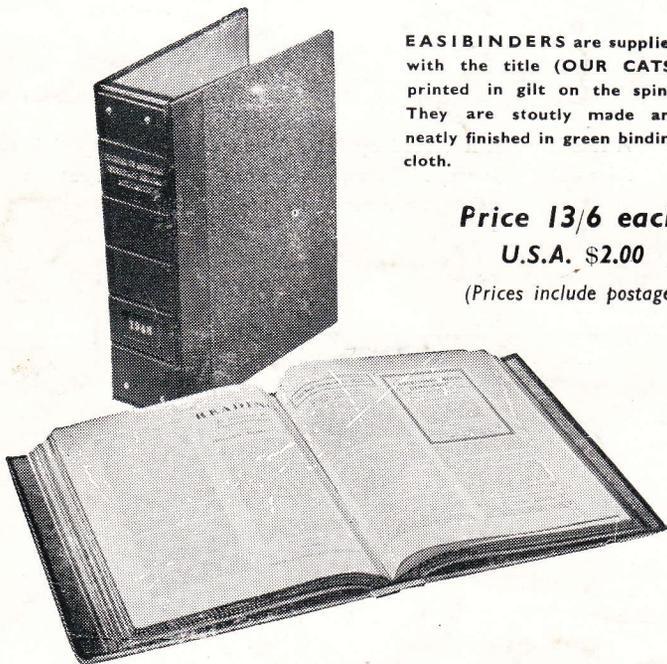
A fine litter of five bred by the well-known Siamese specialist Miss Calvert Jones, of Bures, Suffolk, whose Tai-land cats are consistent winners on the show bench.



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EASIBINDERS are supplied with the title (**OUR CATS**) printed in gilt on the spine. They are stoutly made and neatly finished in green binding cloth.

Price 13/6 each

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