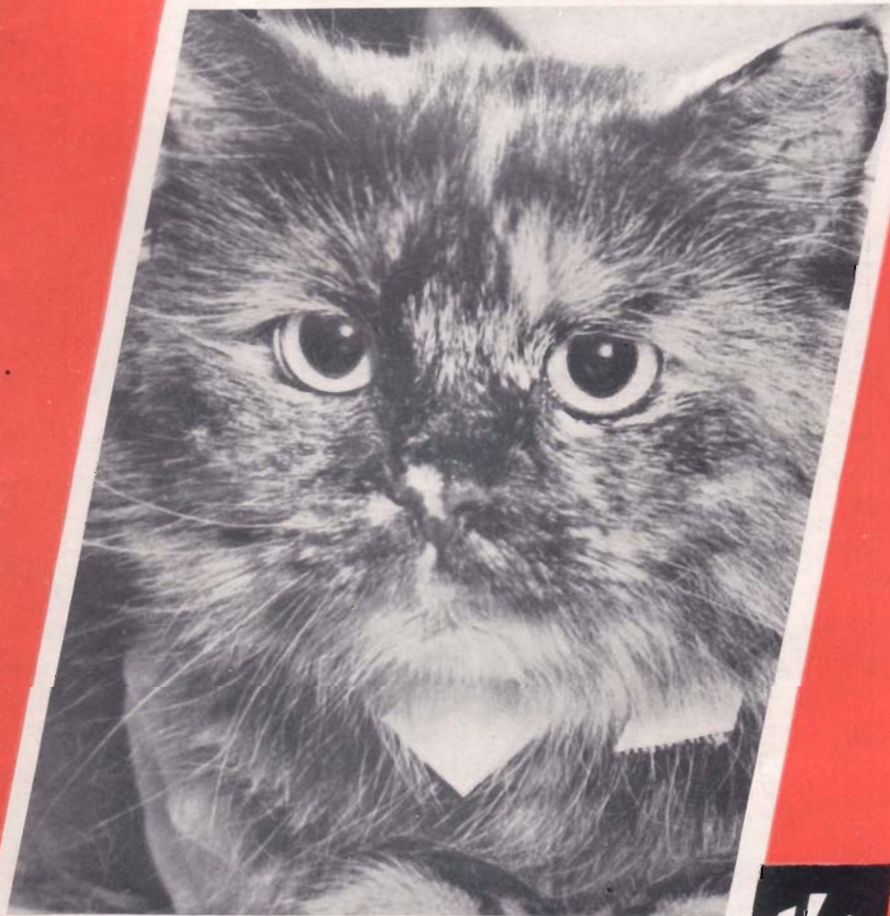


# *Our Cats*

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



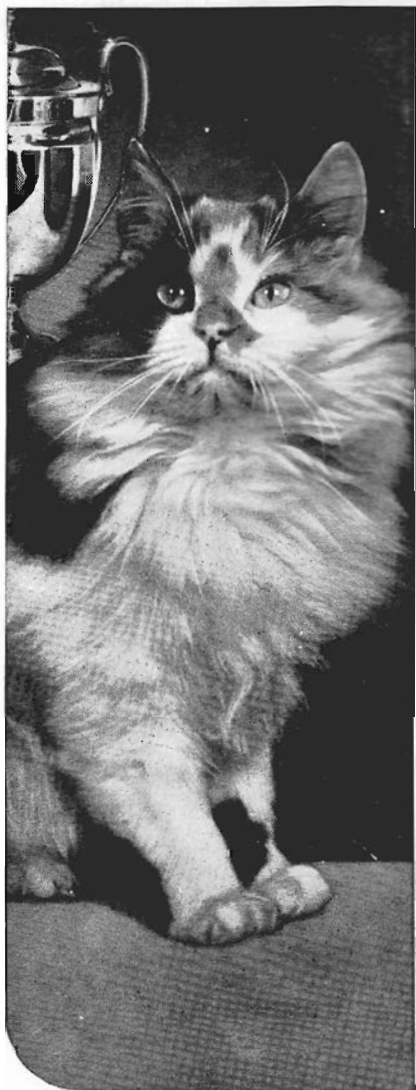
OCTOBER 1951

**1/6**

**BEST VALUE IN CAT MAGAZINES**

*Another lovely cat who loves*

**KIT-E-KAT** 'the complete  
cat food'



Hendon Snow Maiden, winner of 23 First Awards and a Challenge Certificate at 11 months old, has been fed for perfect health on Kit-E-Kat.

Mrs. P. E. Chapman of Bridgeway Cattery, Whitton, Middlesex, who owns "Snowey", says, "Feeding cats to-day is a real problem. The handy tin of Kit-E-Kat makes it easy and economical, and I know my cats are getting a complete food that gives them every scrap of the nourishment they need". Cooked ready to serve, 1/- per tin.



KIT-E-KAT LIMITED  
MELTON MOWBRAY. LEICESTERSHIRE

# 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. 10

OCTOBER 1951

Managing Editor :

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

American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

**A**UTUMNAL tints, heavy coats, foggy mornings, gas fires—these all mean that another show season is well under way. Just immediately ahead lies a very busy period when we are to have five show days within the brief compass of 14 days. And this in an age of planning! Despite the heavy demands on their support fanciers have responded magnificently and the excellent entries reported by show managers would appear to be further proof of the growing interest in pedigree cats. The two-day Crystal Show at Olympia is shaping well and we hear that an added attraction is to be a display of pets belonging to well-known film stars. A record gate is anticipated and visitors this time are going to see cats displayed in the most novel and attractive style.

## 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
11 <sup>th</sup> October ... ..	*Siamese Cat Club ... .. (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	... London
12 and 13 October ... ..	Crystal Cat Show ... .. (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	... Olympia
16 October ... ..	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... .. (See displayed advertisement in this issue)	... London
24 October ... ..	*Midland Counties Cat Club ... ..	... Birmingham
14 November ... ..	*Croydon Cat Club ... ..	... London
17 November ... ..	Scottish Cat Club ... ..	... Glasgow
1 December ... ..	Yorkshire County Cat Club ... ..	... York
4 December ... ..	*National Cat Club ... ..	... London
1952		
11 January ... ..	*Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club ... ..	... Derby
28 January ... ..	*Southern Counties Cat Club ... ..	... London
9 February ... ..	Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club	... Manchester

\* Denotes Show with Championship status.

# ... and now the CAT LOOK



**S**O now, it seems, we are to have the "Cat Look."

Already popular in New York, it is even more theatrical than the Doe-eyed Look which revolutionised day-time make-up two years ago. But most women, especially those with close-set eyes, will probably find it less flattering.

What is the Cat Look? It concerns the eyes, which are dramatised with a small black V outlined from the cornea in towards the bridge of the nose. This line is continued right around the eye at the root of the lashes and should be drawn with an orange stick dipped in waterproof black mascara.

The V may be shaped slightly downwards and filled in with eye shadow. A slight tilt is given with eye shadow—preferably a blend of brown and green—smoothed upwards and outwards from the lids.

\* \* \*

Mascara should be applied evenly to all the upper lashes, even the tiny ones growing at the inner corners.

A Bond Street beauty specialist who has already introduced the Cat Look to many clients continues the effect with "kittenish," sharply defined cupid's bow mouths.

Ears should have a pointed look provided by clips that slant upwards or are fastened on top instead of on the lobe. Hair is drawn smoothly away from the brow and ears.

More than any other make-up, the Cat Look demands bright and sparkling eyes. Women brave enough to experiment with it should bathe their eyes daily in a tumbler of lukewarm water to which has been added a good pinch of coarse salt.

The dubious ones may appreciate this reassurance from one West End beauty specialist: "The Cat Look gives that slight 'squintiness' which many Continental men find definitely intriguing."

*Miaou!*

MAVIS DEARING

*(Reprinted by courtesy of the London "Evening News.")*

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The striking Tortoiseshell on our front cover this month is PEKEHOLM POMONA, bred and owned by Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson, of Willingdon, Sussex. Sire is Ch. Black Beret, dam Ch. Pekeholm Paprika. Pomona was adjudged Best Longhair at the Festival Cat Show last July.

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# ***The Mysterious Manx***

By KIT WILSON

**O**NE of the most fascinating breeds of cats is the Manx. To-day, alas! far too few are seen at our shows. It is hard to say why they have lost their popularity, for popular they were, but like all breeds (with a few exceptions) they have their good and their bad times.

In the early days we read that at the 20th National Cat Club Show at the Crystal Palace in 1886 ten Manx were penned; then again in 1888 the same number appeared, but this time the sexes were divided and six males and four females made their bow. Before World War Two classes for Manx were well filled and catalogues show that such well-known exhibitors as Miss Hill-Shaw (whose 90th birthday has just been celebrated), Lady Alexander and Miss G. K. Sladen, Mrs. Sharman, Miss Cochran and Mr. C. H. Brooke (a well-known naturalist and expert on the breed) competed against each other with unflinching regularity. Of these, only Miss Sladen with her world-famous Stonor Manx is still exhibiting.

Many were the controversies with regard to the breed, chief of them centred round the question: Are Manx British Shorthairs or are they a foreign variety? The late C. H. House, famous judge and journalist, in his book "Our Cats and All About Them," rather evades the question, for we find he says: "Is not the Manx a Britisher? Yes, in a sense it is, but as the inhabitants of the Isle of Man have a constitution somewhat different to ours even as

their cats are different, I give them a chapter to themselves." Personally, I think that if in their origin they were not native to the island from centuries of residence there, they can claim British nationality.

According to Miss Frances Simpson, we hear that at the early shows "stump-tailed cats won comfortably." In her great work "The Book of the Cat," published in 1903, she deplored these wins, and stated that in her estimation Manx cats should be absolutely tail-less. To-day this is the rule. In fact, in the perfect Manx there should be a V-shaped nick at the base of the spine—where in the normal cat the tail should begin—in which one can place one's finger. This may be covered with a tuft of hair but must be absolutely boneless. Colour of coat and eyes are immaterial in Manx unless, of course, one has to judge between two perfect specimens, when the colouring of the breed can be taken into consideration.

The points of the perfect Manx are: Complete taillessness, exaggerated height of the hind quarters, shortness of back, much greater depth of flanks and longer and thicker back legs than in the British Shorthair. The rump should be as round as an orange, but the head should not be as round as that of the British Shorthair. The nose should be longer, but the cheeks should be prominent, which should do away with any suggestion of snipyness, which is a bad fault. The eyes should be large, round and bold,

the ears largish, rather wide at the base, and tapering slightly to a point. A great feature of the perfect Manx is the double coat. The top coat is soft and open and of the texture of rabbit fur, while the undercoat, although of the same texture, is thick and full.

The Manx is sometimes called the Rumpy (suggested by the appearance of the hindquarters), a name in common with the Rumpy fowl, also peculiar to the Isle of Man. Owing to the shortness of the back, and the length and strength of the hind legs, the Manx has a strangely rabbit-like gait; in fact, it may be said that he "lops along."

### **Shown on Leads**

The Manx makes a most delightful pet. He is ultra affectionate and very intelligent, quite fearless, a good hunter, and an excellent mixer with other animals—especially dogs. One of his great attractions is the fact that he is easily trained to go on a collar and lead like a small dog and thus is an easy pet to take everywhere. At the early shows Manx cats were, in fact, shown in a ring on collars and leads in exactly the same manner as dogs.

It would, I think, give an added attraction to our present-day shows if this method were adopted again, not only from the spectators' point of view, but it would also enable the judges to see both gait and stance. With regard to a show ring for cats, in fairness to other breeds at the early shows, Manx were not the only exhibits thus shown, for on page 83 of Miss Simpson's book there is a most amusing picture of a judging ring at the Crystal Palace in which both Long and Shorthaired cats are being shown, and oh, the ladies' dresses!

From where does the Manx come? It is, I think, conclusive that he is not native to the Island but must have been brought there at some time or another, possibly by some early traders, in all probability the Phoenicians, who are known to have travelled throughout the world and no doubt carried with them cats from the Far East. Travellers in these regions, especially in Malay, Burma and Japan, have noticed that it is rare to meet a cat with a long tail, kinks, screw tails (comparable to that of the bulldog), and no tails at all are far and away the most common. Kaempfer, a well-known naturalist of the last century, avers that the tail-less cat originated in Japan, yet there is no known breed of Japanese cats, though there is a saying in Japan: "The nearer to Fugi the shorter the tail."

### **Swam Ashore**

As further proof of his Eastern ancestry it will be noticed that the "call" of a Manx far more resembles that of a jungle cat than that of a domestic pet. In common with practically all cat history, legend plays a large part in that of the Manx. The best known is that of Spanish Rock. This rock, which stands so close to the shore to be of walking distance at low tide, traditionally is supposed to have been the cause of the wreck of one of the ships of the Spanish Armada in 1558. Among the survivors were some tail-less cats which had been brought from the Far East. These made their way to the mainland at low tide after having swum to the rock and interbred with the cats on the Island. These, says the legend, are the forbears of the Manx cat of to-day.

*(To be concluded next month)*

# ***Rusty Coats***

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 eleventh 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.

Blackness in cats and kittens does not seem so intense as in some other animals. Mine are, at times, particularly "rusty," and I have some Blues which tend the same way. What reasons can there be for this, and can you suggest a way to improvement? I believe a number of people feel that dampness may be a cause of "rustiness," especially in kittens when their mothers clean them by over-much licking.

When discussing colour variation of this kind it is as well to bear in mind the following facts. First, the lack of colour may be due to a fault in the "source of supply," and secondly, it may be caused by matters of environment. We must also consider the nature of colouration.

The pigments found in cat hair are protein derivatives. In modern terminology, yellow would be called a pheomelanin; black and brown, eumelanins. There is not a sharp distinction between the black and the brown pigments. It appears that all pigments in cat hair are granular, and the dark eumelanins are very resistant to alkali. The distinction between black and brown pigments is probably a difference of particle size only.

It will probably be found that "rustiness" occurs at the following times. First, in the kitten stage; secondly, at the time of moult; thirdly, at a time of ill-health; and lastly, with extreme age.

There are two "kinds" of black in cats—the dominant black as seen in first-cross Siamese, and recessive black which is present in the other breeds of cats. The dominant is the denser and can usually be identified by complete absence of tabby markings. I have seen a litter of Siamese blacks in the F<sub>2</sub> and noted that some were "rusty" while the others were intense black. The mother cleaned *all* kittens equally by her licking, and the kittens were housed in quite dry conditions. These facts in themselves would seem to disprove any theory about licking and dampness. It was noticed, however, that the "rusty" kittens were the ones showing tabby markings—the recessive blacks. These varied in "rustiness" to some degree, but again, *all* the kittens were of the same litter, *all* were licked by the mother, and *all* were kept in dry quarters.

The above would therefore seem to support that any cause of "rustiness" at this kitten stage would originate at the source. The melanin pigments are derived from the blood and are carried into the hair by the small hair roots, just below the skin. In coloured animals, like black-and-whites, the areas of pigmentation can be seen in the skin before the hair appears. Now, obviously this pigment is present in quantity, according to the stage of development of each individual kitten, and will vary.

Full colour is not reached in very young animals and the state of the colour will vary within a litter. Likewise, if an animal has a period of ill-health, not necessarily a severe illness, the pigmentation is lowered, and this is why bands of shading may sometimes be seen when a cat's coat is blown open. More frequently this is seen in kitten coats, and particularly in Blues, where the shading is more noticeable. At times of illness the pigmentation of eyes is also affected. A new coat in Blacks after moult is usually darker in appearance than the old coat, which may incline to be rusty, and the amount of new coat developed will be seen quite clearly by a border line caused by the meeting of the new coat with the old.

### Sunshine Bleaches

Here, I would thank readers for their kindness in responding to my appeal for samples of "rusty" hair. These have now been experimented with. The experiments have shown that a colour identical with "rusty" can be produced by the action of hydrogen peroxide on normal black hair, oxidising the eumelanin pigment to phaeomelanin, presumably. The only way this might happen naturally would be by the bleaching action of sunlight. This would tally with the fact that "rusty" cats—normally rusty cats—are the ones which have free access to outdoors. This is borne out by the letters I received with the various samples of hair. It may well be, too, that the melanophores themselves are a cause, not functioning efficiently and producing the oxidised pigment instead of the black. In any case, it has been proved that water alone has no effect on the hair colour.

It is interesting to note that in many self-coloured animals the belly shade is lighter than the back. This applies more particularly in the wild state, and is clearly seen in a number

of birds. Quite possibly the difference of shades is due to the self-preservation system in animal colouration, for whereas the dark top makes the animal or bird less conspicuous when on the ground, the light underpart renders it less obvious against a background of sky. Similarly, it is interesting to note that young animals often differ in coat colour from the adult. In the wild, some young animals display a spotted or marked coat, whereas in the adults the coats are self-coloured. This is a link with the past, a case where changed surroundings have made the spotted or marked coat no longer necessary, but it still leaves its mark through heredity. Similarly, the tabby markings in cats persist in the young kittens, helping to establish history of the early markings of the species.

But to return to the "rusty" coat. One can only suggest selection of parent stock, and that in the case of exhibition Blacks or Blues it is not advisable to allow these to be exposed to strong sunlight for any length of time. Selection should be made by virtue of adult coats, and no undue notice need be taken of "rusty" kitten coats, for more often than not these may well prove to be the best coloured adults



Thousands of people lining the front at Brighton recently watched the Shoreham lifeboat go to the aid of the foundering yacht *Rustler*, which rough seas had forced aground within 100 yards of the promenade. Roger Maitland, a plucky 12-year-old boy, of Upnor, near Rochester, was aboard with his pet black cat. He decided there was nothing for it but to take the cat in his arms and swim to the shore. Both landed safely.



# Cats' Paradise

Being an account by our Special Commissioner of a visit to the factory at Slough, Bucks, where a well-known food for cats is manufactured.

LET'S talk about food—but, for a change, let's forget about ourselves and talk about food from the cat's point of view.

Pet feeding since the war has been a real headache, particularly for those who live in the cities and towns. The uncertainty of supplies; the prices demanded for such items as fish and rabbit—need I enlarge upon it all? Even music-hall comedians have been telling us that cats are feeling the pinch. You may not have heard the story about the ration-conscious puss who stole the cheese from a trap, ate it, and later was found breathing down a mouse-hole!

But seriously, the position has

been pretty grim; grim enough to cause a number of breeders to cut down on the number of their cats. In addition, there must be thousands of cats who keep fit and well only because their owners, frequently people of slender means, share their ration books with them.

It is my conviction that the eternal problem of feeding would be much more acute were it not for the enterprise of certain commercial undertakings which manufacture and market cat food in handy and economical form. Prominent in these praiseworthy activities is the Slough firm of Kit-E-Kat, Ltd., whose progress I have always followed with interest because I have been acutely



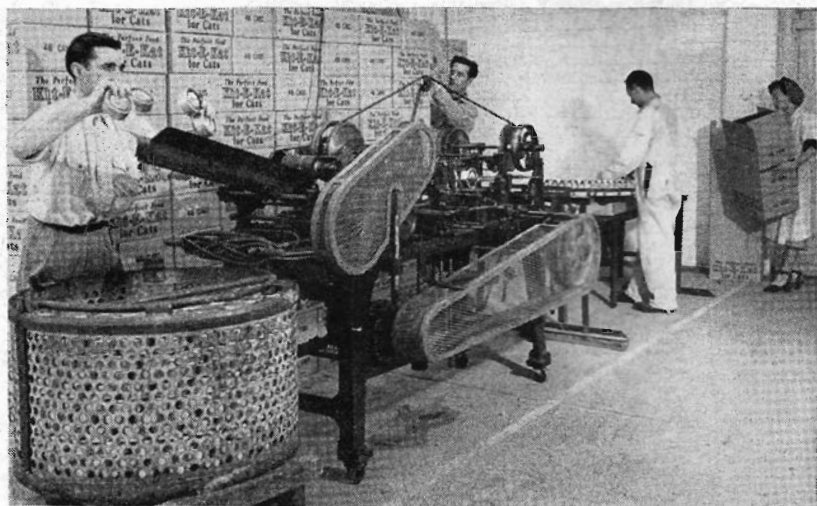
A consignment of fish is unloaded at the Kit-E-Kat factory.

aware of their commendable aims and objects and the good name their parent company has always enjoyed in the canine world. An invitation from Mr. W. J. Lloyd, the General Sales Manager, to see "the wheels going round" at Slough was therefore accepted with alacrity. Here are some of my impressions:—

After donning one of the smart white jackets worn by the factory personnel and in the good company of Mr. D. S. Allen, Produc-

fish, but sea food of a quality well up to human consumption standard.

Nearby, were other assemblies of liver, whalemeat and horsemeat, three more of the ingredients used in the manufacture of Kit-E-Kat, which, of course, has to be blended according to the availability of the raw materials and Government regulations. Yet another item in the Kit-E-Kat recipe was stored aloft in nearby hoppers—cereals and biscuit of



A label fixing machine in operation. This is the final stage before the tins are assembled for packing and despatch.

tion Manager, my tour began at the railway siding which terminates so conveniently at the rear of the factory. Here the special containers from Hull, Grimsby and Aberdeen pull up with their precious freight and are unloaded within a few yards of the processing room. A consignment from Grimsby had been discharged just before we arrived and there it lay—a mountain of fish—a sight to gladden sapphire, copper, yellow, green and all other feline eyes! It wasn't sad-looking, flabby and unappetising

various kinds which not only lend food value to the finished product but also serve a useful purpose as absorbers of moisture.

The first stage of manufacture begins in a huge mixer where all the ingredients are introduced before they pass on to a cooking process by steam injection. Then it was a case of the mixture "going round and round and coming out here." Down through automatically controlled nozzle feeders the hot brown mixture comes oozing through to fill the empty tins as they pass under-



Liver being prepared for processing.

neath at a rate of 120 per minute. The tins are sealed and inspected for faults.

The filled tins are then hoisted high in containers of special design to pass through an interesting process of sterilisation. The food actually receives 50 minutes' processing at a temperature of 250° F., which surely is enough to spell disaster to any lurking germs. After sterilisation, the tins are ready for labelling and despatch.

It all sounds very simple, doesn't it? Raw ingredients go in at one end and in a very short space of time neatly labelled cartons of canned food for your cats pass out to the parcels van at the other. Output capacity is 45,000 cans per shift of eight hours. But only years of pioneering have made it all possible.

The story behind the modern manufacture of Kit-E-Kat is interesting. An American organisation, Chappell Bros., Inc., set up a factory at Pendleton, Manchester, a quarter of a century

ago with plant imported from the States for the manufacture of a dog food known as Ken-L-Ration. In 1935 a new factory was established on the Slough Trading Estate and the organisation eventually assumed the title of Chappie, Ltd., and the brand name of "Chappie" soon became highly esteemed throughout the canine world.

A progressive policy was maintained over the years and even throughout the war, when much experimental work and improvisation of machinery became necessary. A subsidiary was formed for the purpose of developing a cat food; that subsidiary is known to-day as Kit-E-Kat, Ltd.

The success achieved by the Slough organisation is due largely, I am sure, to the thoroughness of its research in the field of small animal nutrition. Dr. K. A. Cottam, B.A., Ph.D., Yorkshire born, burly and genial, is Director of the Research Division. He has at his disposal a

well-equipped laboratory. He works closely with outside research agencies and collates their specialised knowledge.

It is Dr. Cottam's duty as a biochemist to check on incoming raw materials and outgoing products and to pursue the development of new formulae and improvements in existing ones. He is concerned also with nutritional research, observed animal behaviour and consumer research. One well-defined objective is always in Dr. Cottam's view—the manufacture of a food which measures up to the most exacting demands of the cat's nutritional requirements.

### Mousers Preferred

Dr. Cottam's knowledge of the cat population of this country is doubtless unique and I hope one day soon it may be possible for our Editor to devote some space to a detailed account of the fascinating research which he (Dr. Cottam) has undertaken.

Here is a fairly recent example: 22,000 cat owners were interviewed, 108,740 questions pertaining to cat care and management were asked and the investigators travelled over 11,000 miles in the course of their duties. This particular door-to-door quiz (one of several undertaken) disclosed the surprising fact that one cat out of every three is kept for the prime purpose of catching mice. About 20 per cent. of the owners

interviewed said simply: "We have pets because we love them," but only 3 per cent. had adopted strays. Fish came an easy first as an item of diet, meat was a poor second. Cold milk was the favourite drink, some enjoyed a cup of tea. Only two cats in 1,000 prefer mouse on the menu to anything else. One fed largely on pancakes.

It must surely be appreciated that the story of Chappie, Ltd., and its subsidiary—so briefly sketched here—is a story of real progress and achievement. And although the organisation has 25 years of pioneering behind it, one cannot help feeling that so far only the very early chapters have been reached.

### A New Food

Very soon a move is to be made from Slough to a factory much larger at Melton Mowbray. And, as many fanciers already know, a new product with the appealing brand name of Whiskas will be marketed in a big way. Whiskas is a dehydrated food which has been subjected to elaborate tests. So once more difficulties caused by restrictions in supplies of raw materials and obstacles to distribution have been overcome so that more and more cats can be supplied in these difficult days with a complete food that is economical and cooked ready to serve.



# 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.

## RINGWORM CURE WANTED

Many thanks for your Magazine, which is always so entertaining and instructive. With its help I have learned many things about cats and their breeding which, I am sure, will save me many painful experiences. OUR CATS is read regularly by the members of the Club des Amis des Chats in Paris.

could answer this question for me in Correspondence Corner. I bought in Paris a three months old Tortoiseshell Persian without noticing her coat very much. Later, I noticed her scratching a little and saw in her coat some parts of her skin like shilling pieces with dead grey hair on them. On seeing the vet., ~~he~~ news that she had ringworm and that the only remedy is iodised alcohol. He also said that with ordinary cats it is advisable to have them destroyed. ~~It~~ would be a great shame for this to happen to mine. I have tried iodised alcohol without success, and it is getting worse.

Can you advise me what to do? If you have any other medicine in England, I have someone who is able to send it to me. Please answer as fast as possible to avoid infection.

Mr. Michael Guinard,  
Paris.

We have written Mr. Guinard with details of a ringworm treatment which we hope will prove effective. Ringworm is a fungus extremely difficult to kill, particularly on Longhair cats.

One infected hair will spread the complaint through airborne spores. We shall be very pleased to receive from readers details of their experiences with ringworm and its treatment.—  
Editor.

## SIAMESE X TORTIE

We (the wife and myself) were recently staying with cat loving friends and our stud, a Blue Pointed Siamese, mated with our friends' Tortie queen (Heinz origin). The result was four marmalade kittens. The three males were soon placed and we begged the little queen for a further pet.

She is now five months old and we have been informed by our vet. and a few breeders that a half-Siamese marmalade queen is something out of the ordinary. In view of this, are any of your readers interested in an experimental mating with a Siamese stud? Should anyone be interested, will they please contact us. All letters will be definitely answered.

Mr. A. Whitelam,  
107 Welholme Road, Grimsby, Lincs.

Our contributor, Mr. A. C. Jude, comments: The point to remember here is that this is virtually a mating of self Blue to Tortie, and apart from the kittens which will carry or exhibit the Siamese pattern factor, the result will be in line with a mating by a self Blue. The mating will produce alternatives of which "marmalade" will be one. ~~It~~ between B.P. Siamese and Torties are seldom arranged or even made, and so I suppose we could say the results are unusual. Nevertheless, the re-

sults from such a mating are not unusual from the inheritance viewpoint.

To give some idea of how extended some Siamese crosses can be in the F<sub>2</sub> generation, the following will be the result in F<sub>2</sub> from a mating between self Blue and Seal Point Siamese: 24 Dominant Blacks, 12 Recessive Blacks, 8 Dilute Dominant Blacks, 8 Seal Points, 4 Blues, 4 Siamese Recessive Blacks, 3 Dilute Siamese Recessive Blacks and 1 Siamese Blue Point.

This is set out genotypically, but to the fancier, the Blacks will be all just black; and the list can so be boiled down to: 36 Blacks, 12 Blues, 12 Seal Points, 4 Blue Points, or further down to 9:3:3:1 to show the Mendelian three to one ratio.

In passing, it is obvious from the above that there is more than one kind of Black. Some fanciers are under the impression that all Blacks are alike and even look alike. But that is wrong. The Dominant Black shows no faint tabby markings, the Recessive Black does. Similarly, the homozygous Black is normally a better coloured animal than one heterozygous for Blue.

### REMEMBERING PETER

I was very sorry to read in the September issue of OUR CATS that Peter, the fine big cat so well known to voyagers on the liner Andes, had gone ashore at Buenos Aires and failed to

return to his ship. I had the privilege of knowing Peter well during two cruises in his ship in 1948 and 1949. He was kind enough to come and sit in my cabin quite often, rather to the astonishment of the stewards, for he was a cat of lofty and reserved manner, as far as mere tourists were concerned.

His disappearance must indeed have perturbed the ship's company. He was a really remarkable cat of great character. I remember hearing one of the passengers, who was evidently not a cat lover, complain that "we can't get anything out of the stewards in the way of talk except anecdotes about this cat Peter." They were good anecdotes. One I remember told how Peter once went ashore and slew six rats and laid them out in a row on the quay close to the ship. Other tales told of his prowess in chasing invaders from the Andes. A really formidable cat, devoted to his steward friends and quite exceptionally clever. I hope he is waiting at Buenos Aires.

Miss Theodora Bosanquet,  
St. James, London, S.W.1.

### A REVOLTING PRACTICE

Certainly Mrs. Foden and her son deserve congratulations on the rescue and rearing of that poor little kitten, but what concerns me—as it must concern many more of your readers—is the totally callous behaviour of the

**All fanciers should read**

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"THE LOFT" 18 SOUTH END KENSINGTON W 8

other boy with (presumably) the sanction of his relatives.

I should like to know if it is the usual routine at schools for the pupils to take live animals for dissection—possibly vivisection—and if so, what can be done to put a stop to such a revolting practice. Perhaps teachers of these classes can reassure us that this is an isolated case, for if not it is certainly time the animal protection societies stepped in and put a stop to it.

Miss J. F. Cathcart,  
Paignton, Devon.

Miss Cathcart's letter refers to the astonishing story told in our July/August issue by Mrs. J. M. Foden, Whitchurch, Shropshire. A newly born kitten was being taken by a schoolboy to be dissected at school. It was rescued by Mrs. Foden's son and taken to his home, where it was placed in a small box lined with cotton wool and fed through a fountain pen filler. The kitten soon learned to suck from a feeding bottle made of test tubes, a cork and a piece of rubber tubing. It thrived and was named Skippy. At three months he had his photograph taken for this Magazine—see below.—Editor.



Skippy, the foundling.

## BLUE PERSIAN CAT SOCIETY

### A CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

*for Blue Persians*

will be held on

**Tuesday, 16th October, 1951**

at the

**Anson Hall, Chichele Road  
Cricklewood, London, N.W.2**

Open 12.30 to 5.30 p.m. 2/-  
Judging 10 a.m. 1/- extra  
Refreshments all day

All enquiries to:

**MRS. J. M. NEWTON  
MOULSFORD GRANGE  
NR. WALLINGFORD, BERKS.**

Miss Victoria Drummond, M.B.E., is the world's only woman ship's chief engineer. Recently she has been sailing to Russian ports and with her has gone her pet cat Ginger, partner in her travels over the world's oceans.

When the collier Paterson sank off the New South Wales coast, it was reported "All saved except the ship's cat." But the report was later proved incorrect. A watcher on a beach about seven miles from the wreck saw a small form leap ashore from some wreckage floating in the surf. It was the ship's cat.

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.

# PURR MEW PERSIANS



will win all hearts

Home of

**QUAD. CH. MICHAEL OF BEV. SERRANO**

1948/49/50/51 All American (At Stud)

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*Correspondence Invited*



# ***Paws across "The Pond"***

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

**L**AST week, while lunching at the New York Yacht Club, an aviation officer with much gold braid and combat ribbons, came to my table and introduced himself. He stated that he understood I was much interested in cats . . . and that he was, too. He asked to show me a huge poster (seven feet by three feet) which he had the steward bring to my table. It was a grand picture . . . how I would have loved it for one of our shows. The cat had a pleasingly dignified, mischievous look. This officer chuckled at my astonishment; then he began to explain. CAT . . . is the initials of the Civil Air Transport Lines (commercial), operating on the edge of Red China. CAT flies nearly every mile of the non-Communist air lanes immediately surrounding China. The sturdy cargo carriers are painted forest green, a few are silver with scarlet and blue markings . . . all are C-46s and C-47s. All are marked with the word CAT. My friend tells me that he could accurately state they were in a business of adventure. This Company is the creation of two men. The famous "Flying Tiger" from Louisiana, Major-General Claire Lee Chennault (U.S.A . . . retired), and Whiting Willauer, a native of New York City, a Princeton and Harvard Law School graduate. It was one of these originators who gave me the details on CATS.

Have you read "Sophistic-Cats"? I had a glance through the book this week. I must buy a copy . . . it contains some of the very finest poetry I have ever read . . . and so beautifully written. The author is Lynn Hamilton. More information sent on request. This book should be in the hands of every member of the Fancy, it is that good.

\* \* \*

The Garden State Cat Club are holding their next Show on 6th and 7th November. Please come over . . . all of you. Bring some of those wonderful English Blues and Creams . . . you will have a good time . . . and we will have a good time just talking with you and looking at your beautiful entries. The President of the C.F.A., Saxby Mabie, will judge the Solid Color and Mrs. John Revington will do the All-Breed. With two such judges . . . it will make no difference whatsoever or whosoever is Show Manager . . . these two will pull in a gate to be envied by every show held this year. The Revington name alone is strictly high-bracket. I am looking forward to securing some very good pixs to send over. The President of Garden State is Miss Elsie G. Hydon.

\* \* \*

Donna Wendel, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, has been collecting a few new honors for her Black boy, Db. I. Ch. Wycliff's Black Lord of Disston.

\* \* \*

On 24th and 25th November the Cotton States Cat Club, down in Atlanta, Georgia, will hold their thirteenth annual Championship All-Breed

Show. Marguerite Saxby Mabie (President of C.F.A.) will be the All-Breed judge. I would not miss this Show for money . . . all you show-minded English cousins are cordially invited to be with us . . . we will be seeing you, maybe . . . ?

\* \* \*

A young Berkley University man, spending his vacation in Death Valley, California, has written an excellent paper on "The Food Habits of Feral Cats of Sacramento Valley." I have not read this article yet . . . but hope to have it on my desk very soon. A copy can be had from the California Fish and Game Reports . . . April issue. This boy will get his master degree on this thesis.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Florence Kemmer, that much-loved breeder from Florida, is again active. She will be clerking at the Cotton Club at their November Show. Mrs. Kemmer has quite a few imports and is a very well known person in the Fancy. I had the pleasure of taking some pictures of her Red Pekes a couple of years ago. They compared with the best America has ever produced. She also goes in for White Persians . . . many of the novice breeders to-day have started with Kemmer cats.

\* \* \*

In Rochester, New York, the Genesee Cat Fanciers' Club will hold a Triple Show (C.F.A.), 24th and 25th November. Mrs. Carl Keller will do the All Breed. You will remember Mrs. Keller from New York's Empire Cat Club last year. Mrs. F. H. Rowland will do the International Solid Color as well as the Siamese. This Show will also be an outstanding event in the C.F.A. Association. They are really on their toes . . . that Genesee bunch . . . already their announcements are out and entry blanks are in the mail. It has puzzled me no end . . . that the various Clubs pay so little . . . so very little attention to PUBLICITY.

In the end . . . it will either make or break a club. I know. I've seen it happen over and over again.

\* \* \*

A story came in yesterday by wire. I've been chuckling over it. Jon Matthew, Baltimore, Maryland, has a Persian that loves the tick-tock of a clock. This cat is named Figero. The kitchen clock is on the window sill (a Big Ben) . . . and when mother is in, the kitchen Figero sits by this clock. When in the living room, Figero sits by an electric clock, but it is disturbing to him . . . it does not sound right . . . yet he seems to know it is a clock. Lately, Jon has developed a taste for a certain kind of breakfast food that gives premiums for coupons. He will eat it until he can't eat any more. Last week the family found out why. Jon has enough coupons to buy a wrist-watch . . . he will change the leather wrist band for a leather collar . . . so now Figero will have his own timepiece. As for breakfast food . . . no more. Jon has had plenty . . . besides, there is no use eating it now!

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## AMERICAN PERSONALITIES

### Mrs. M. SAXBY MABIE

MARGUERITE SAXBY MABIE, of Sharon, Massachusetts, President of the largest feline association in America, the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc., and President of the Boston Cat Club, has served four two-year terms in this Club. And a championship earned at the Boston Cat Club means that you have met some of the strongest contenders in America.

Judge Saxby Mabie is English; she came to the States when a small child. She is a registered nurse and did volunteer work in the Medical Air Corps during World War Two. For ten months after she did Red Cross work, teaching home nursing and nurses' aids, and is still doing it. She

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## SUNCROFT DOLLY VARDEN

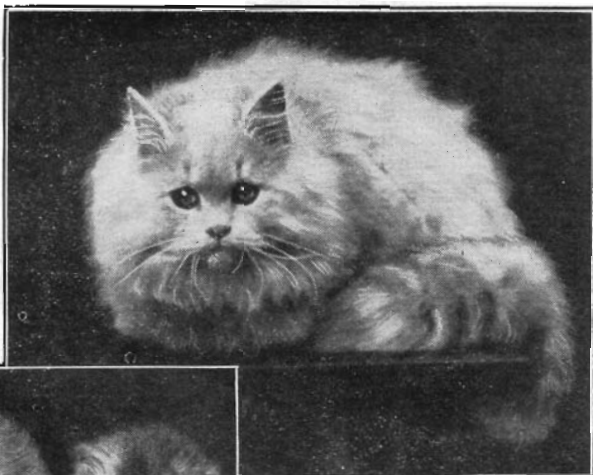
with her 3 weeks old  
family

SUNCROFT CHERUB PRINCE

SUNCROFT NEFERTITI

SUNCROFT MONA LISA

---



**M**RS. M. E. KIRKUS, Acre  
Lane, Heswall Hills,  
Cheshire, owner-breeder of  
the Suncroft Persians, writes:

"I have been using your  
excellent Kit-zyme for over a year

now and find that my cats thrive on it and have wonderful coats, bright eyes and no skin troubles. When in kitten they have six Kit-zymes daily and the same amount while feeding their young.

My adult queen Dolly Varden, when four months old, was very very ill with distemper she had contracted from her mother, but as soon as she was able to eat I gave her daily a half tablet of Kit-zyme, gradually increasing the amount until she was having six a day. She is a very fine and healthy cat now. Her coat is very long for the time of the year and she has a wonderful brush. Her eyes are a very deep amber red and have the clear brightness of perfect health which I consider is due to her daily Kit-zyme."

**KIT - ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .**

**It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative**

# Kit-zyme

## VITAMIN - RICH YEAST



Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES**  
50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/6, 750 for 8/6

**KIT-ZYME** is sold by Chemists, and most Pet Stores  
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is on the Board for the Blood Bank in Boston and is Chairman of the Sharon Red Cross.

Her hobbies seem to be golf and gardening, which she manages to crowd into her busy schedule in the early morning hours. Her garden is worth driving miles to see.



Mrs. Saxby Mabie

Judge Saxby Mabie's interest in the Fancy began back in 1921. Leaving a symphony concert one night, her party stopped into a cat show. She came out of that show with a Silver cat-baby named Patter. Patter had excellent blood line and was later mated to Eric of Auburndale, one of the few famous Silver studs of that day. The result was two fur-babies. One of them went to his first show and was judged Best Kitten. This little fellow was named Saxby's Silver Knight. The next year he was Best Novice and Second Best Cat. So from that day on Marguerite Saxby Mabie has been interested in cats. So, too, have all her family—you will

never find the Mabie home without its Persians—and Silvers have always been the favourites.

The next step was a cattery, which she called the Saxby Kennels. Having had experience of Cow dogs probably aided in her success with Silver Persians. The Saxby Kennels produced many prize winning cats and kittens. Saxby's Silver Knight became a Triple Champion—in those days there were no Grand Champions. He was many times Best Cat or Best Opposite Sex. In the next twelve years the Saxby Kennels produced twenty "Best Kittens" in shows. Triple Champion Saxby's Silver Floss was six times Best Cat and eleven times Best Opposite Sex. In the early 'twenties she had a few Blues.

In 1928, Saxby Mabie did her first judging at a kitten match held in Connecticut. The following year she was asked to judge an All-Breed, but declined with the request that she be permitted to judge only speciality shows at first, and during that year she did three of these events. She considers it was a wise decision because it gave her a chance to learn the groundwork of judging.

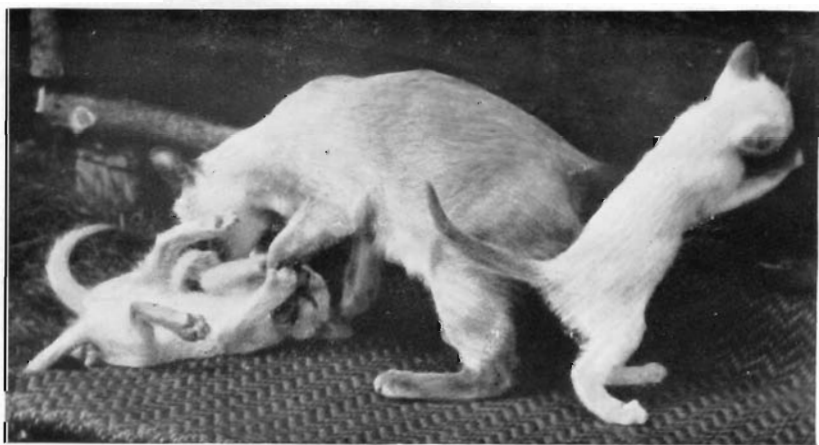
The following year four shows were on her judging list, one in Florida, her first trip to that beautiful State. She must have got Florida sand in her shoes as she now goes back regularly! From Florida to California is just about tops in anybody's language when it comes to judging—and there were a lot of stops in between.

When entries are badly needed, Saxby Mabie is called to judge. There is no better judge in America to-day; a few are as good, not one is better. Last year she judged nine shows and the demand for her services increases yearly. She is unusually popular and very much loved. No problem is too small for her attention; no novice too insignificant for her notice. She rules her various organisations with dignity and justice. No figure-head president is Marguerite Saxby Mabie.



Central Press Photos

Elsewhere in this issue we have published an interesting account of some breeding experiments carried out by Mrs. A. Hargreaves, of Drewsteignton, Devon. The Black, Siamese and Russian Blue pictured above comprise one litter and serve to illustrate an important stage in Mrs. Hargreaves's experimental crossing.



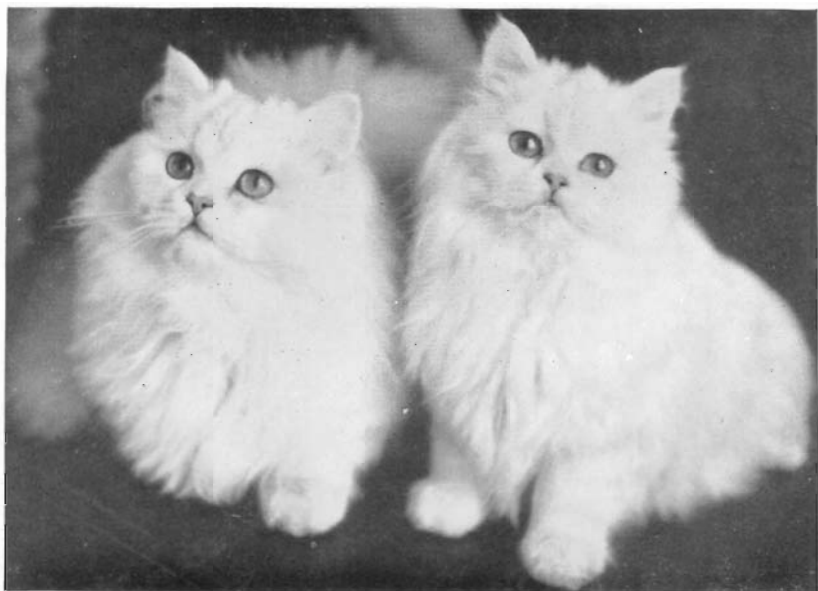
For this happy domestic scene—is it playtime or bathtime?—we are indebted to Blue Point Siamese breeder Mrs. E. Silten, of Mill Hill, London, N.W.



CHAMPION SARISBURY LORENZO (bred by Mrs. Warren, Maidstone, Kent), owned by Mrs. R. Hawkes, the well-known Victoria, Australia, fancier. This handsome Chinchilla is making a big name "down under."



This picture also reaches us from Australia—from Mrs. Eve Smith, of Western Australia. GINGER MEGGS (owned by Mrs. Carter, of Wembley, Western Australia) is one of the offspring of Welwyn Red Beauty, who was purchased by Mrs. Smith from Mrs. Corke, of Welwyn Garden City, Herts.



Two lovely Chinchilla kittens at 8 months bred by Miss Evelyn Langston, of Maidenhead. They are **MELANIE** and **MATTHEW OF ALLINGTON**, by Ch. Flambeau of Allington ex Musidora of Allington.



Puzzle picture of the month ! Having a fine old time high up among the fruit blossom are two Siamese kittens, **CRISTINAS EROICA** and **CRISTINAS ELLETTA**, belonging to the Hon. Wogan Philipps, of Colesborne, Cheltenham, Glos.



*Fox Photos Ltd.*

An attractive litter of British Blue kittens bred by Miss E. von Ullmann, of Hampstead, N.W., from Sylvan Timmy out of Ch. Roofspringer Melisande. Reading from left to right, their names are Roofspringer Hoffman, Olympia, Nicklaus and Giulietta. They made a successful show début at the Festival Cat Show, where they were placed second in the Shorthaired Litter Class.



## ***Cat Shows in 1891***

I HAD hoped to write this month about some of the shows held in 1890. But it was a forlorn hope as a great deal of hard work has revealed nothing beyond the names of some dozen towns in which shows were held. No fancier has been able to provide me with a single catalogue, nor has any local paper of the time given more than a brief announcement without one single detail of interest.

Thus, for the present, the shows of 1890 must remain in oblivion, but I shall not easily abandon a search which has proved so fascinating albeit fruitless for the present. I must now go on to the year 1891.

Surely this must have been a vintage year for cat shows, and I would not have thought it possible for so many shows to be held in any one year sixty years ago. As I continued my search the total gradually increased until I had found forty shows in this one year: from Canterbury in the east to Penzance in the west, from Brighton in the south to Ayr, Dundee and Dalkeith in the north.

Croydon had its show in 1891 and also many another place which to me is nothing more than a name. Such places as Down-end and Dalmellington and even Eggleston put on shows, conclusive proof, if such were needed, that the pioneer work of Harrison Weir to popularise the cat had succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. Perhaps it was his book, "Our Cats" (published in 1889),

which led fanciers to see the attractions of cat shows. As President of the National Cat Club he was still working indefatigably for the domestic pet for which he had such a great affection.

As usual, the outstanding show was the National held at the Crystal Palace, and on this occasion there were over 400 exhibitors and only a few short of 600 cats present. Of this number, only two did not come before the judges, for both Sandy and Tiger, two Longhairs, arrived too late for competition.

Among the Shorthairs, Torties and Tortie-and-White males were only represented by one cat, Mr. Johnson's Tommy. George Billett, who judged the class, decided that Tommy was not worth a first prize. There were, however, eighteen cats in the classes for females.

Tabbies were allotted three classes and in one of these Mrs. Herring's Shorthaired Silver Tabby, Jimmy, added to the many firsts which he had already won. In the previous year he had won his class and also the gold medal for the best cat in show at Brighton. There were only six in the Siamese class and the first prize was won by Mrs. Lee's Meo, who was a cat with a reputation and had already won a N.C.C. gold medal.

As I looked through this Palace catalogue I was glad to notice that Mrs. Wellman's Shorthair White, Minnie, had established herself again, for Minnie's career has always interested me. She

had obtained her first win at the Palace in 1884 and had done the trick again in the following year, although after that she had to be content with seconds and thirds for the next three years. But by 1889 Minnie was again first and she achieved the same distinction each year until she was retired from the show bench in 1892. I'm quite sure that Mrs. Wellman had no intention of selling Minnie, but the price asked for her was only £10. Those were the days when £10 really had a meaning.

### Birth of the Blues

Longhaired cats in 1891 were much more numerous at the shows than Shorthairs, and in this respect fashions have not changed apart from the present overwhelming popularity of Siamese, which has swung the numerical balance the other way. Whites provided two good classes, but only one of the twelve cats on show had blue eyes, and it was perhaps for this reason that Prince Rupert was only given a commended card. I wonder whether Prince Rupert was deaf?

Blues had at last come into their own and in the two classes provided there were thirty-one cats. This was remarkable, for it was only a very short time since the Blue-Persian had been granted separate classes. Apparently white was still liable to appear in coats, for the classification stated quite clearly that these cats must be blue without white.

Apparently Miss Frances Simpson was already becoming interested in the breed which was later to become her favourite, for at the Palace in 1891 she obtained a third with Beauty, which she had bought at the same show the previous year. Beauty was not

at her best on this occasion, for she had won firsts at the Palace and Brighton in 1890 and was later to provide some outstanding kittens.

The cats in the A.O.V. classes at all these early shows always interest me, and at the Palace in 1891 there were several cats I should have liked to see, but most of all the "cheetah cat." I wonder what it was? There were two Blacks "imported from China" and shown by Mrs. Warner. In those days there was no quarantine and I don't suppose the Chinese minded losing them because cats of this colour were unlucky, anyway.

### A Tame Russian!

Mrs. Carew-Cox was showing a so-called Russian cat which did not fit the present-day standard because the coat was both blue and white. On the other hand, Lingpops was also there and was called a Blue Archangel. This was a Russian all right and had been imported from Archangel. The footnote that Lingpops was very tame is amusing. Things seem to have changed in that part of the world!

Mr. Jagel would not have been a friend of mine, for he was showing three kittens under six weeks. I was very pleased to see that he did not win a prize or even a card. Perhaps that taught him a lesson! In this year of grace we have got the age limit up to eight weeks. Even so, I feel that we are still a little too close to Mr. Jagel, but that is another story altogether.

There is only one other show for this year to which I can refer, and then only briefly, for my allotted space is almost filled. It is the show which was held at Brighton on 26th and 27th November. The catalogue is the

first I have seen to bear the inscription "Under the Patronage of the National Cat Club," and inside is a statement of the aims and objects of this Club, which had been founded a few years earlier. The Hon. Secretary at the time was Mr. J. W. Townsend.

The show itself was a great success for a provincial show as there were nearly 150 exhibitors and 250 cats on show.

The point about this show which interested me was that it was here that Miss Frances Simpson judged cats for the first time. The two judges who had been appointed were George Billett and A. A. Clarke, the Treasurer of the N.C.C., but on the day of the show George Billett was ill and Frances Simpson was

asked to take his place. On the front cover of my catalogue Miss Simpson has written "First Judging Engagement." This was the beginning of a career which was to make her name a household word among fanciers of her own time. Even now, sixty years later, the name of Frances Simpson still stands high among those few outstanding fanciers who have left an indelible mark upon the Cat Fancy in this country.

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Dr. W. S. Russell Thomas, a former Member of Parliament for Southampton, doctor and barrister, has been elected to the Chair of the Council of the R.S.P.C.A. He succeeds Sir Robert Gower, who held the position with great distinction for 23 years.

---

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*needs no preparation*

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*Kittens simply love it*



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# The Siamese Cat Club

## SIAMESE CAT CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

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**Thursday, October 11th, 1951**

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Admission (1.30 p.m. till 5.30 p.m.) 2s. 6d.

Refreshments and licensed bar all day

*Details from the Show Manager :*

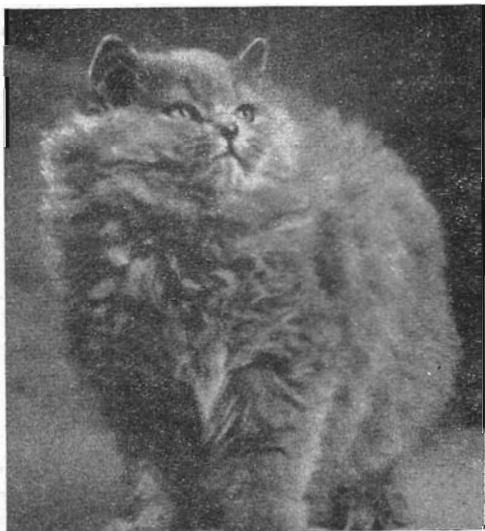
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**OLD LANE, ST. JOHNS  
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SUSSEX**

Crowborough 407



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.

11th August. Mrs. Downey, of Auckland, New Zealand, imported Spotlight Pride (a son of Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo) and Sealsleave C'est Bon (a daughter of Sealsleave Qui Sanfou). Both were awarded Challenge Certificates at the Auckland Cat Club Ch. Show on 30th June. She has also imported Slapton Black Magic (a son of Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond) and Meddlesome Matty of Dunesk (by Cedric of Hadley).

Mrs. Downey writes me: "My cats had quite a field day and won 19 special trophies and 31 first prizes. Sealsleave C'est Bon won the special prize for best eye colour as well as the special for best eye colour in the Siamese classes. I am very pleased with the pair Mrs. Hart selected for me and very grateful to her. Bonnie has two male kittens—a pair of rascals; both are sold, but I am keeping them until the weather gets warmer.

"Spotlight Pride has his father's lovely nature. Meddlesome Matty and Black Magic are also a lovely pair and getting on well. Both went out of coat as they normally would in England in midsummer, but we hope they will gradually adjust themselves

and be in coat during our winter show season. Mr. Marshall, Hon. Secretary-Treasurer of the Auckland Cat Club and Hon. Secretary of the New Zealand G.C.C.F., works very hard for the Cat Fancy. He does not breed cats (Pekes and Skips are his specialities), so we are fortunate to have his kindly interest."

20th August. Mdme. Sandoz flew from Zurich this morning to spend a month in England. I was very pleased to welcome her to lunch. She breeds Creams and two she has were bred in this country—Deebank Powder Puff (bred by Miss Bull) and a male bred by Miss Schofield, of Nottingham. Mdme. Sandoz became friends with Miss Schofield through buying Shaun Mi-Owne, a Cream male kitten which was best Longhair kitten at the M.C.C.C. Show in 1949. Unfortunately, he died shortly after arrival and this started regular correspondence. In 1950 Miss Schofield spent her summer holiday at Mdme. Sandoz's home in Switzerland and this year they are touring Devon together. Whilst there and on their return they will be visiting cat breeders. Mdme. Sandoz terminates her visit after seeing the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show.

23rd August. Mr. Michel Guinard, from Paris, to tea. He has been over here a few days and during his holiday has found time to visit several breeders of Blue Longhairs. He was very interested and much admired several he saw. He took back with

him a male kitten, Donald of Pensford, by Mrs. Crickmore's Thiepval Beau Ideal, who will go to Mr. Guinard's mother as a mate for a daughter of Mr. Chamonin's celebrated Blue male Int. Ch. Talisman de la Chesnaie. I was interested to see her pedigree as she has several of our well-known Blues in it, such as Oxleys Smasher and the Playmate of the Court. She is very pale, which one would expect from this breeding.

**5th September.** The Kentish Cat Society are supporting the Maidstone Fanciers' Show (Cat Section) on 22nd November. Mrs. Aitken will be judging all Longhairs and Mrs. Towe Siamese and other Shorthairs. The President's Cup, presented by the late Miss Adams, will be offered for Best Exhibit. The Society has already over 50 members but we hope to enrol many more. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Larking, 321 Queens Road, Maidstone, Kent, will be pleased to give further particulars on application. We Kentish residents are especially keen on the Society. Under the auspices of Miss Peake and Miss Ridley it functioned very harmoniously and the pre-war shows were delightful friendly affairs. There are many more breeders living in Kent now, so there should be a vigorous revival of the Society.

**28th August.** To Reigate to see Mrs. Polden and her Chinchillas. Poldenhills Silver Prince (Best Kitten in Show on 25th July) has been purchased by Mrs. Campbell, of Otford, Kent, a well-known breeder of Philadelphia Pekingese, and eventually he may be used for breeding. He was looking fit and well. To be on the safe side Mrs. Polden was giving him ample quarantine after his appearance at the Show. His brother, Poldenhills Pearl Prince, had quite a reception when he went to his new home at Miss Olive Cunney's at Kingston-on-Thames. His health was toasted

in wine and coffee and a special cake made to celebrate the occasion. He had a choice of rabbit and rice or mackerel. A ladder has been made so he can easily ascend a pear tree and everyone is prepared to be his willing slave. Mrs. Polden's male, Poldenhills Hyperion, is a very nice cat with a lovely coat, good head and fine limbs. It is a pity she is unable to attend many shows as he would be an asset to the Chinchilla male class. Three nice queens complete the family. Poldenhills Mayflower, dam of the kittens, has a room to herself, and the other two cats live in a well-built house with Hyperion.

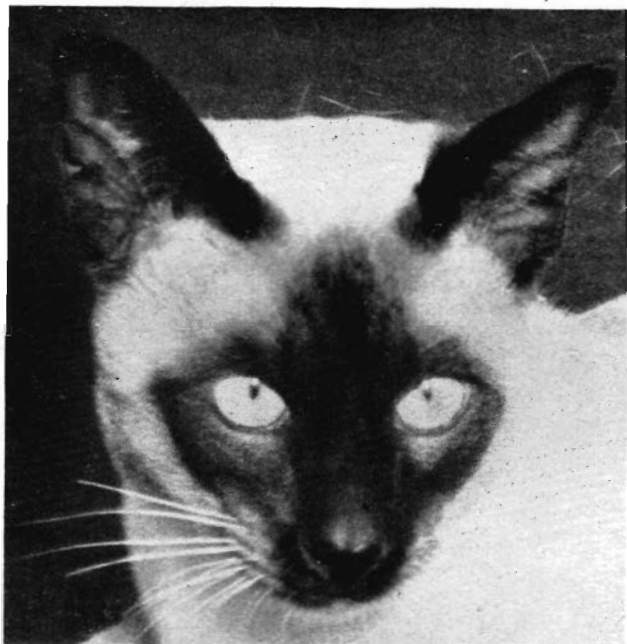
Mrs. Burgess, breeder of the famous Siamese Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo, decided to add another string to her bow, so purchased a Chinchilla female, one of Mrs. Hacking's lovely Redwalls. Mrs. Burgess expressed surprise at her intelligence and did not realise how attractive pedigree Longhairs can be until she possessed one. I have a number of friends among Siamese breeders who appear to have similar ideas, but actually feline intelligence varies with all varieties. Environment and proximity to humans play an important part. Kittens vary in each litter. Breeders have all seen bossy, dynamic, lethargic and good-tempered kittens who are agreeable to take a back seat. Just like humans, only some of them much nicer!

**30th August.** Awakened before dawn at 4.30 a.m., and after a sleepy thought, "Is it really worth getting up so early to attend a show?" downstairs to attend a slumbering family of cats and kittens obviously very surprised to see "mum" on the scene so early. Leaving them to fun and games, a lovely walk just after dawn over the golf course. Met a nice black cat with its breakfast in its mouth, a mouse, and after greetings on to Kings Cross, where I met Mrs. Chapman there and a number of well-known personalities in the cat

world—Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Holroyd, the Rev. Basil Rees and several exhibitors. Arrived at Sandy Ch. Cat Show to find an entry 100 up on 1950. Here are some of the winners: Best Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Nicholas's Siamese female Ryecroft Ranchi; Best Longhair Cat, Mrs. Sharp's Blue Dusty of Dunesk; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Brine's Blue

Jupiter won his third and final Certificate, the winning female being Mrs. Nicholas's Ryecroft Ranchi, by Mystic Dreamer.

Among the cats I judged, Mr. and Mrs. Barker's Chinchilla Sylvandene Solomon was outstanding and so well presented. Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson's lovely Tortoiseshell Pekeholm Pomona won her second Challenge Certificate



**SPOTLIGHT PRIDE** (by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo ex Spotlight Pepita) belongs to Mrs. B. Downey, of Auckland, New Zealand—see reference on page 27.

Avernoll Neone; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. France's Siamese Chinki Ranya.

A popular win among Blue breeders was the third and final Certificate to Mrs. Crickmore's very lovely Blue queen (bred by herself) Thiepval Enchantress, by Ch. Southway Crusader. The dam, Glenshee Powder Puff, is full sister to Glenshee Gloria, dam of the late Ch. Deebank Michael. Only 10 S.P. Siamese adults appeared, a big decrease from the 42 we saw at the Festival Show. Mrs. Sayer's Killdown

and some firsts in well-filled side classes. Miss von Ullman's Black Shorthair, Roofspringer Melisande, is a good cat and her glossy coat an object-lesson in shorthair show preparation. Mrs. Sharp's Cream male Ch. Widdington Whiskers was awarded another Ch. Certificate and Mrs. Mayne's female Fanifold Kittiwink her second. Space does not permit a mention of all the other winners. Although the classes in some cases were small, the average quality was excellent.

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A short time ago, Smoky was in more trouble and got very badly bitten on his middle. He had five punctures on his stomach that turned septic and he was so ill that he wouldn't eat anything except Kit-zyme and the purpose of this letter is to thank you for what the tablets did for him. All the time he was ill he practically lived on Kit-zyme and I am sure that is why he is alive now.

I don't know what you put in Kit-zyme but Smoky adores it and, when we play a game of hide and seek, he searches all over the place for the tablets.

Now, after his serious illness, Smoky is again as perky as a kitten and I feel so grateful I simply had to let you know that Kit-zyme had saved his life.

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**2nd September.** Dr. Kroon to lunch. His wife owns Int. Ch. Farways Diedre (pictured in June issue of OUR CATS) with her two lovely kittens by Miss Posthuma's Int. Ch. Southway Wizard. Two other Blue females complete the family. Diedre mated some months ago so had an injection to prevent her having kittens. It had the desired effect, but unfortunately each time she has been mated since she has shown signs of being in kitten, but after about six weeks the pseudo-pregnancy terminates.

This raises an interesting problem as many breeders are very dubious now about injections against unwanted kittens. Mr. Soderberg in February issue wrote: "When any of my queens mated I used to take them to the vet. for an injection of stilboestral. This usually prevents the development of an unwanted litter; with my queens it was always successful. To-day I should accept and welcome the little mongrels. Why have I changed my mind? Well, that's a long story, but I've come to the conclusion that monkeying about with Nature is unwise. I'll certainly give you my reasons if you ask for them." Yes, please do, Mr. Soderberg. Mrs. Hart, writing in a contemporary publication, also expressed doubts on the same subject.

I certainly agree with Mr. Soderberg about dosing. When I visit a breeder with a medicine chest for cats looking like a miniature chemist's shop I suspect something wrong with the methods, either feeding, hygiene or overcrowding. Many years ago I came to the conclusion that the simple life is best for cats: plenty of exercise, freedom for queens unless one lives in a crowded area, and good, plain food. If a queen is flighty I restrict her liberty after the seventh week of pregnancy.

Pedigree cats and kittens are naturally healthy and strong when

kept under hygienic conditions. I am sure one of the difficulties some breeders experience in rearing kittens is caused by worms in the mother which she passes on to the kittens, and a cause of diarrhoea in kittens is unsuitable feeding.

To return to Fairways Diedre. A long rest might enable her to bear a normal litter. She is a beautiful queen and her youth is in her favour. Dr. Kroon flew back to Haarlem, Holland, in the afternoon after an interesting exchange of views.

**9th September.** To Maidenhead to enjoy Miss Langston's birthday with Miss Yorke, Miss Steer, Captain St. Barbe and Mrs. Chapman. The latter, with Ernie, had made a delicious cake as a surprise.

A lovely trio of Chinchilla kittens by Ch. Flambeau of Allington esconced themselves on my lap and Ch. Scamp of Allington sat on a chair beside me. He kept an inviting eye on the Chinchilla queens, but had perfect party manners and did not disturb himself. He had had a bath the night before and could have gone straight into the show pen. His coat was like a new powder puff. Melanie of Allington came in to tea. She is flying to her new owner, Mrs. Petta, of Wisconsin, shortly. She is a very pretty queen and should win well in U.S.A.

Ch. Mair of Allington, looking lovely herself, was nursing a very nice litter by Ch. Southway Crusader. One little gem, a female, I should like to have brought home with me. Miss Langston brought in Dylan of Allington to see us. He has grown so like his mother, Ch. Mair. I expect we shall soon be congratulating her on breeding yet another Blue Champion. These were only some of a fine family and a tribute to Miss Langston's vast experience to see them all in such fine fettle.

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# Tailpieces

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**M**RS. FLORENCE LEOPOLD, President of the Siamese Cat Breeders' Guild of America, is also Show Manager of the Pennsylvania State Cat Club. She tells me that she will be exhibiting at the Club's fourth annual All Breed Show three of her imported Siamese—Sabukia Spring Song of Tsinghai (bred by Mrs. Dadd), Belhaven Yacinth of Tsinghai (bred by Mrs. Lauder) and Henham Piers Lebleu (bred by Miss Prentis).

A farm cat in the Orkneys is reported to have accepted a rat as an addition to its litter of kittens.

"Just outside Adelaide, Australia," writes Lt.-Col. H. E. Crocker, C.M.G., D.S.O., in the "Sunday Express," "I saw a magnificent black cat sitting on the empty front seat of a van. I approached to make friends with him, but he laid back his ears, arched his back and swore. Never for an instant did he pause. When the driver returned he said: 'I call him my watch-cat. No one, not even a dog, will come near him.' Then he lifted up the cat, which at once began to purr contentedly."

Three thousand two hundred cats and dogs were dealt with during July by the Camden Town Branch, London, of Our Dumb Friends' League.

A vicarage cat which has to suffer the indignity of being mimicked by starlings is described by the Rev. H. W. R. Elsley, of St. Michael's, Tokyngton, in a recent issue of his

church magazine. "She is no favourite with the birds, who scorn her oft-repeated invitations to come and play," he writes. "In fact, the starlings are positively insulting. When she addresses her remarks to them they imitate her exactly. I know that starlings can be trained to imitate the human voice, but I had never heard of them imitating a cat."

Constant Lambert, composer, conductor and critic, whose sudden passing meant a great loss to the world of music, was a lover of cats and friend to many of the Zoo animals.

Terence Murphy, a Welling (Kent) bus conductor, was fined £5, with £3 3s. costs, at Dartford for causing unnecessary suffering to a cat.

Two policemen on duty in Trafalgar Square heard miaowing coming from a car waiting at the traffic lights. They found a kitten wedged between the clutch housing and propellor shaft. The car was jacked up and the kitten released.

Confirmation has been received that the Championship Show of the Notts and Derbyshire Cat Club will be held on Friday, 11th January, at Derby. The new Hon. Secretary of the Club is Mrs. M. E. Bastow, 114 Radcliffe Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

After being trapped for three weeks without food in a narrow space between a brick wall and a wooden building, Tibby, a Tottenham cat, was rescued by R.S.P.C.A. officers. Too weak to stand when released,

Tibby was gradually revived with warm milk and glucose.

Police went to the rescue of a cat and her five kittens when they were being stoned by a gang of young hooligans in Poplar. The queen and her family were sheltering on a bombed site. A woman who saw the stoning called the police and a flying squad car was quickly on the scene. The cat and her kittens were taken to the sanctuary of the R.S.P.C.A. headquarters in Jermyn Street.

Nice fellow Charles Vivian Lovell, a Romford G.P.O. investigator! At Merthyr Tydfil he was fined £15 for cruelly kicking a kitten. A police sergeant testified that the police had difficulty in controlling a crowd after Lovell had been seen to take a tremendous flying kick at a black-and-white kitten, which was sent high up into the air. An R.S.P.C.A. Inspec-

tor described the kitten's terrible injuries; it had to be put to sleep instantly. The Chairman said: "This was a terribly cruel act and you seem to have lost your power of reasoning. We can understand the police having difficulty in preventing people from doing to you what you did to this harmless kitten." Lovell told the court he thought he was kicking a paper football!

Newsletter No. 9 of the Scottish Cat Club reveals that some attractive additions to the prize list have been donated for the Club's Show on 17th November. Judges are Mrs. E. Kent (Mrs. E. Hart) for Siamese, Mrs. Joan Thompson for Longhairs, and Madame Gibbon for Household Pets. Best in Show will be judged by Miss Kathleen Yorke.

Hugh, the black cat pet for 14 years of Miss Margaret Barker, of Earls

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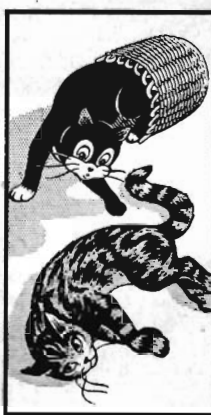
Court, fretted and became listless when his mistress died about four months ago. Out of kindness, Miss Barker's maid decided to have the unhappy Hugh put to sleep. But when Miss Barker's will was published it was disclosed that directions had been made for the cat's welfare. He was to go to her friend and neighbour together with £10 and the shopping basket in which he slept.

The curtain went up late for the opening opera of the autumn season at Sadler's Wells. An important member of the company was missing. Sadler, a black-and-white cat, appears in the first act, but he was nowhere to be found at curtain time. Eventually stage manager Miss Patricia Foy found him sleeping on the stage

beside the window where he was due to make his appearance. "I might have known," said Miss Foy. "He was born at the Old Vic. of an old theatrical cat family. He would never miss a cue."

The National Siamese Cat Club of New York City recently held a successful Kitten Match at the home of its President, Mrs. Claire Y. O'Bryon, in Scarsdale, New York. There was a very fine entry of 36 kittens to meet the judge, Mrs. J. S. Stackhouse. Best Kitten was the S.P. female Millbrook's Mischief, owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Roose, and Best Opposite Sex Sea Puss Satan, owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Thompson. Show Manager was Miss Van Estes.

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# ***A Breeding Experiment***

By A. HARGREAVES, F.Z.S.

**E**ARLY in 1948 I decided to carry out some breeding experiments with my Siamese cats, the principal object being to establish a strain possessing a high degree of stamina, disease resistance and those desirable qualities which go to make up the ideal household pet.

Robustness may be due to heredity, environment, or both. The weak kitten resuscitated at birth, given warmth, the best food, and every possible care, may grow up satisfactorily. When such a kitten is sent to the environment of a new home (perhaps at 8 weeks) it will probably be given strange food (or steal some), sit in draughts, and be homesick and frightened. Will it get ill? Will it die? Feline infectious enteritis takes its toll of all breeds.

There is a prevailing opinion among the public that Siamese kittens are not as strong as others, and certainly many are reported as not reaching maturity. I feel sure there is some truth in this and that a kitten's chance of living depends not only on the care taken in rearing it, but on hereditary factors as well.

As hardiness may be established in animal breeding by using a good outcross, I decided to adopt that method ; but in order to breed Siamese conforming to type I had to choose the outcross very carefully. White or tabby markings, round heads or long hair must not be introduced. A Shorthair Self was the obvious cat ; Whites were, of course, ruled out, so were Blacks as at that time I could not find a Black Shorthair stud, and to use a cat whose pedigree could not be checked might mean incorporating those undesirable factors already mentioned. The stud of my choice was a Russian Blue, and forthwith I sent my Siamese queen, Laurentide Ludo, whose kittens had made good pets, to be mated to Champion Silvershoen Blue Peter.

Ludo gave birth to 8 black Shorthair kittens, and I let her rear six of these, 2 males and 4 females, all strong and healthy and with good digestions. These hybrid Siamese all carry the recessive Siamese restriction factor inherited from their dam, and the Blue recessive factor from their sire. Or, in simple language, both Blue and Siamese colouring. When they are mated back to Siamese the resultant litters on the average should contain half Black and half Siamese, and Black and Blue in the same proportion if backcrossed to a Russian Blue.

I then proceeded with my experiment. One black male, Laurentide Eclipse, was mated in turn to two of his sisters, and three of these were backcrossed to Siamese. The table opposite shows the matings and the number and breed of the kittens born.

Of these a few have been Siamese in colour but not in build. On the other hand, I certainly have not lost type. The photographs of Jade, and the fact that she has several awards, prove this ; while the Russian Blue, Sene, has gained two Firsts in Open Classes and Best in Show (ex Siamese) as a kitten. Later litters now from Siamese parents of my own breeding look very promising.

It is interesting to note that since starting this experiment no kittens have been born with kinks in their tails and there have been only two

cases of eye trouble, both very slight and clearing up after a day or two of treatment. All the Siamese kittens sold last year have been followed up and are reported as hardy, and all but two as excellent pets. The normal voices of the first cross black females are much softer than Siamese, except when they call. The voices of their progeny vary considerably. Most are not as garrulous as ordinary Siamese, and one or two have a much softer timbre.

As yet I do not know whether I have attained my aims: but results so far are promising and I am developing the Seal Pointed, Blue Pointed Siamese, and Russian Blue strains I now possess.

Sires	Dams (Black hybrid Siamese)			
	Ebony	Pitch	Jet	Sable
Laurentide Eclipse (Black hybrid Siamese)			4 Blacks 2 Siamese	2 Blacks 2 Siamese 1 Russian Blue (Sene)
S.P. Siamese 1st litter	3 Blacks 2 Siamese	2 Blacks 4 Siamese	3 Blacks 1 Siamese (Jade)	
2nd litter	2 Blacks 4 Siamese	3 Siamese		
B.P. Siamese			2 Black 1 S.P. Siamese 1 B.P. Siamese 1 Russian Blue	
Russian Blue				2 Russian Blues

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## **GRAND HALL, OLYMPIA**

on

## **Friday & Saturday, October 12th & 13th**

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*All profits from the Show will be devoted to the  
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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



BONCATH GWYNEIRA and BONCATH STAN are two well-bred Siamese kits—sire Typic Pita, dam Oriental Hung Fang. Breeder is Mrs. Dorothy Barnes, of Cardiff.



CLEMENTINE ("Clem"), a Red Longhair of nice type, born 10th October, 1950, and named after Mrs. Churchill, who was visiting Copenhagen on that date. Owner is Mrs. Martha Hansen, of Copenhagen.



ALPHADOR IVORY, Cream Longhair queen, with her three bonny kittens by Molesey Ali Baba. Breeder is Mrs. D. Morris, of Worthing.



REZZA OPHELIA, born March, 1951. Tortie pet of Mr. Michele Guinard, of Paris. Ophelia's sire was a Blue Longhair and a little further back in her pedigree appears the name of the famous Blue Int. Champion Autocrat of the Court.



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