

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



The interesting and unusual career of this lovely Smoke kitten KIVA CHACO is related in this issue—turn to page 30. Photo by Frank Bjerring.

JULY 1952

1/6

Something New in Coats—see page 9

Another lovely cat who loves

KIT-E-KAT

**'the complete
cat food'**



Outstanding cat at last year's Crystal Cat Show at Olympia was beautiful Blue Persian, Champion Harpur Blue Boy, who was judged best cat in the show.

Ch. Harpur Blue Boy's proud owner who lives at Nevern Sq. London says "Persian cats are finicky about food, but Harpur Blue Boy loves Kit-E-Kat and I know he is getting a food that feeds him for perfect health."

Not only champions but all cats love the Kit-E-Kat flavour. They can't resist it, and Kit-E-Kat is so good for them. Every vitamin and mineral a cat must have is packed into every tin. It's economical and cooked ready to serve.



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.

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JULY 1952

Managing Editor :

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
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American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Frank Bjerring

CHAMPION KWA'S KRI KRI, pictured here with some of her show awards, is one of America's best-known Black females. Owned jointly by Mrs. John M. Porter and Mrs. Charles Mercer, of Kansas, she was sired by Grand Champion Pied Piper of Barbe Bleue, the first American Black to win a Grand Championship and the title of "All-American Cat of 1951."

Look out for the Man with a Sack!

HAVE you encountered him yet—the man with a sack? Several of our readers in various parts of London (reports *The Animals' Magazine*, the official journal of the P.D.S.A.) appear to have done so. He is usually lounging at the corner of the street, a sleek young man with padded shoulders and a dangling cigarette. He is a man who has a way with cats and a big sack to put them in. Yes, that's the Cat Spiv and he's very busy just now.

So doubtless, are a number of the less reputable sort of "fur fakers" who buy his wares knowing well how they were obtained. Even the fur trade has its black sheep.

Indeed, without them, the Cat Spiv would find even the comparatively mild exertion of enticing a cat into a sack hardly worth his while.

They form of course, a negligible fraction operating on the fringe of a highly respectable trade but their profits are not inconsiderable.

We are not primarily concerned with the ethics of these ghoulish transactions—or with their profits, but we wonder if these gentry when they survey the results of their skilful faking are ever troubled by the thought of the suffering from which they are making those profits.

Do they ever think of the wretched and terrified cats, stuffed three or four

in a sack and then brutally killed to provide a work-shy degenerate with a few shillings and his clients with material for their faked furs?

But of course they wouldn't know anything about that! They just bought the skins in the ordinary way of business. How could they be expected to know that the skins were those of stolen cats, of cats callously butchered by a degenerate brute for the sake of a few shillings blood-money?

They can get away with it every time but fortunately the Cat Spiv does not always enjoy the same immunity. One of them, at least, will have ample time to reflect on the fact that it is the receiver who makes the profit and the thief who carries the can. For at Stratford Magistrates' Court one of a pair of these wretched cat-snatchers was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and the other to a fine of nine pounds.

Well, keep your eyes open for the man with the sack.

The June issue of Miss Kit Wilson's *The Cat Fancy* also draws attention to the increase in cat stealing. Breeders of white cats are particularly warned to make careful enquiries when asked to supply breeding pairs or kittens. Ermine will be greatly in demand for the Coronation and white cat skins can be easily faked, it is stated.



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Musical Cats

By J. SEDDON

WHILE it is true that most cats are indifferent to music, it cannot be denied that some take a genuine interest in the sounds of a musical instrument. Some years ago I was staying with friends in Yorkshire who told me that they had "a musical cat"—a statement which as a musician, I took with more than a grain of salt. But sure enough, when I began to play the piano the cat jumped up, strolled over to my stool and sat purring with obvious enjoyment. At all future performances I was assured of an audience of one; and if the door of the room was shut and the cat outside when I was playing, it would miaow and scratch until it was let in.

Similar instances are not hard to find. One writer mentions a cat that always leapt on the piano when someone began playing, and attempted to rub noses with the player. Another cat would sit gravely in a chair while her master practised for two hours every day after tea. And a musical Persian not only listened, purring and mewling with pleasure, but made a habit of invading the music room where it could usually be found sitting in the open top of the grand piano gently plucking the strings with its claws!

Another feline pastime is that of running along the pianoforte keyboard. There is a well-known story that the eighteenth century Italian composer, Domenico Scarlatti, was inspired with the angular theme of "The Cat's Fugue" after witnessing such an incident. Piano-playing cats are more in-

frequent, though one was reported in Maine, U.S.A. As a kitten it used to lie in its mistress's lap while she was practising. Later she taught it to depress several keys in succession and hold each key down so that the sound was sustained while she played a suitable accompaniment in the bass.

Does Melody Attract?

It has been suggested that the solution to incidents such as these lies in the cat's natural curiosity about anything that moves—in these cases the piano keys. But the genuinely musical cat always seems more concerned with sound than movement, and even for a non-musical cat a piano has little attraction. My house cat always watches when I begin to play the piano—and invariably turns away after a minute or so, the sound having no charm for it.

In fact, the whole question of what cats like about music is a puzzling one. Does the music appeal to some deep-rooted need which can only find satisfaction in pleasant sounds? Or are cats attracted by the melody—or the rhythm—or do they simply enjoy music as a physical sensation, in the same way that they enjoy being tickled under the chin?

In the first place, it is doubtful whether a cat can experience music in the way the composer intended. Musical appreciation is a complex process. It depends on familiarity with certain melodic curves and harmonic progressions, and especially on the ability



By courtesy "Daily Mirror"

For this delightful composition, which serves so aptly to illustrate the accompanying article on musical cats, we are indebted to Mrs. Felicity Tschudi Broadwood, of Send, Surrey. The "pianist" is her well-known Siamese stud Tschudi Buddha, whose rendering of the "Silv'ry Moon" obviously meets with the approval of his young pupil.

to hear all the notes of a melody as a continuous whole. To pick out the separate notes of a melody would be easy for a cat; but could it link them together so that the tune makes sense?

Nor is it altogether a matter of rhythm appealing to the primitive instincts of a cat. Most animals dislike a pounding rhythm. An animal psychologist, who took a small orchestra round the London

and began growling and snarling with obvious displeasure.

A more satisfactory explanation may be arrived at by considering the music which cats make for themselves. For, as W. H. Hudson has suggested, all those cries which a beast utters for its own satisfaction and pleasure—as opposed to those made when mating or encountering danger, which have a definite purpose—may be looked

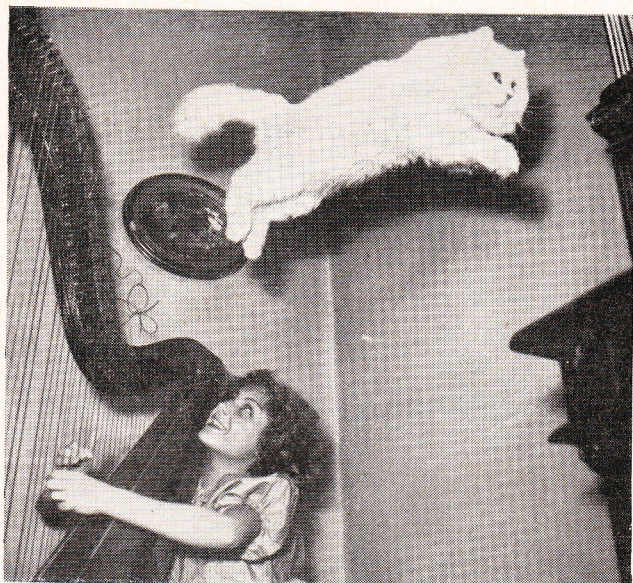


Photo by Giancolombo, Milan

Music makes me feel so frisky!

Zoo some years ago, found that none of the beasts would tolerate jazz. Many animals reacted to the music, notably the large cats, cheetahs and pumas, which luxuriated in the lachrymose strains of "Home Sweet Home," stretching voluptuously against the cage bars with half-closed eyes. One cat even purred. But when the orchestra changed to "I want to be happy" played in jig-time, all the animals rose up in alarm

on as primitive "mammalian music."

The vocal organs of a cat are well-developed for the production of sounds. These range from the familiar miaow, which is generally used when a cat wants a door opening, or feels hungry, to the nightly serenade which can be heard in any neighbourhood where cats abound, and which serves to attract other cats perhaps as an invitation to "come out

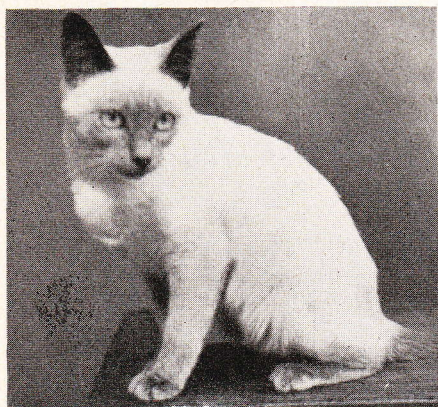
and mix it" as the American scientist, Dr. L. R. Aronson, believes. It is only by purring that a cat consistently expresses delight. And that purring may be a form of monotone singing has already been suggested by one authority, who compares it with the low pedal notes of an organ, or the drone of the bagpipe.

Purring is a low sound ; and it is perhaps not surprising that most musical cats, like other animals with sensitive ears, prefer the lower notes of a musical instrument to the higher ones. Now low musical sounds produce a large number of overtones, or "harmonics" as they are also called, a series of ghostly echoes which ring out faintly but audibly. It is the harmonics which enrich music, and they are more apparent to the ear from a single note or from a number of chords played slowly.

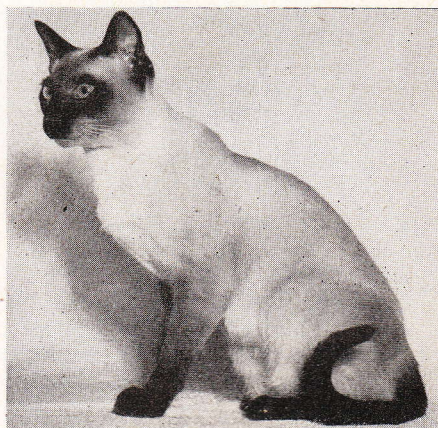
For human ears, harmonics are seldom audible except as a continuous blurred echo accompany-

ing the music. But with ears capable of pin-pointing faint sounds with minute accuracy, and a capacity to hear well into the supersonic range, it is conceivable that a cat can pick out harmonics quite distinctly. For certain "musical cats" this may be a source of great pleasure, and music a rare opportunity for them to have their aural sense titillated in this way. Unconcerned with matters of melody, time and rhythm a cat will tend to concentrate on each note as it is played thus obtaining the maximum amount of enjoyment from each individual sound.

This, of course, is not music in the sense that the composer or the listener understands it. And lacking the ears and mind of a cat, no human being is ever likely to be able to appreciate music in this manner, or prove that harmonics is the true source of pleasure for the cat that likes music. As in many of our encounters with nature, there must always remain an element of mystery.



MONYWA SALLY, prizewinner at several shows, was bred in Yorkshire by Mr. A. Whitelam, of Grimsby. She now lives at Wick, Littlehampton, with Mrs. C. Peskett.



INWOOD CHINKY, English-bred Siamese male, exported by Mrs. A. S. McGregor, of Nettlestead, nr. Maidstone, to Mrs. Walley, of Texas, U.S.A.

Cat Colony in Gardone

By LISA GORDON SMITH

NAOMI JACOB's autobiography "Me—and Mine," in which she tells of her animals, is familiar to most cat lovers. For health reasons she lives in Italy, in a beautiful villa in isolated Gardone, near Lake Garda ; but she is not lonely. Her home is shared by ten cats and two dogs, as well as being used as a restaurant by innumerable wild birds.

All live in perfect harmony. It is true that Stella, a handsome Tabby, will eat the birds' bread (a form of sustenance which she would scorn if served with it at table, although "eating is her life-work") but none of the cats would dream of eating the birds.

The cats are all shapes, sizes and colours. Some Miss Jacob acquired deliberately ; others have heard about Casa Micki—which has at least three stars in the local feline guide-books—and have come to demand accommodation.

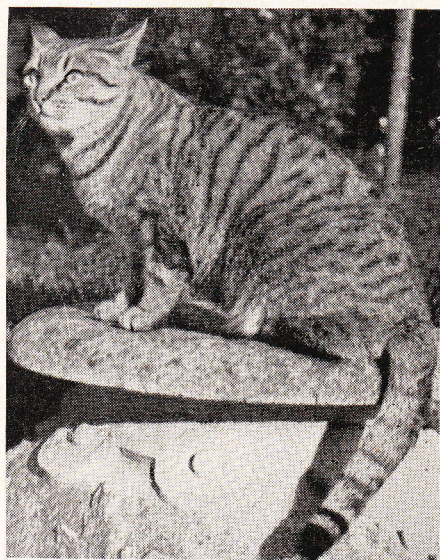
It is really a marvel that there are not more than ten resident cats, but that is because Naomi Jacob has found what she believes to be the perfect answer to cat population problems. All kittens are taken away immediately they are born, and drowned in blood-heat water by Primo, the Italian man-servant. A devoted cat lover himself, he weeps unashamedly while doing it, but agrees with Miss Jacob that the kittens know nothing about it. The mother ? She, losing her kittens almost before she realises she has had

them, has forgotten the whole thing within forty-eight hours, with the aid of a dose of medicine to clear away any traces of milk.

Stella, Incognita, Othello, Figaro (who catches bats in flight and eats them), Lesbia, Spot (who has taught himself to beg), Tiny Tim, Dee and Dum felt themselves to be a snug and complete little family. One day, Primo appeared before Miss Jacob with folded, supplicating hands.

"Please, Signora, can we have another cat ?"

"Certainly not," replied Signora firmly. "We have *quite* enough cats !"



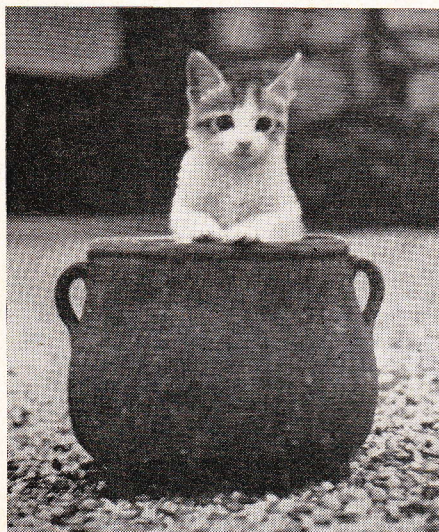
Signora Rossi

STELLA, Miss Jacob's "handsome Tabby."

"Not even a very *little* one?" pleaded Primo, opening his hands and revealing an infinitesimal white-and-tabby kitten with huge dark eyes.

The feline community increased to ten from that moment, and Miss Rose Pretty became a valued member of it.

Asked which is her favourite cat Miss Jacob replies "All of them!" with brave impartiality. But there seems to be a trace of extra tenderness in her references to Miss Pretty, who wakens her every morning with a pat on the cheek and two kisses.



Vicki Taylor

MISS ROSE PRETTY soon established herself as a valued member of the cat family at Gardone.

The cats—"junior school and senior school"—eat their food out of two enormous aluminium dishes; not because Miss Jacob thinks them unworthy of sharing her own plates, but because they like to play football with them after dinner. These post-prandial habits resulted in a threatened

dearth of china in Casa Micki. They adore their food, and especially enjoy thick soup and spaghetti, and, being "good Catholic cats," always eat fish on Fridays. They have a liking for a small, minnow-like fish which abounds in the nearby lake and enjoy the sport of catching large quantities of these for themselves!

Despite the healthy climate, cat flu is by no means unknown in Italy, says Naomi Jacob; but she has cured many of her cats with an exclusive diet of strong black coffee, beaten up with white of egg and a little sugar. This combines the necessary stimulant with easily digested, energy-giving nourishment. A warm bed is, of course, essential.

Just before Miss Jacob left for her recent visit to England, the beloved Miss Rose Pretty was missing. The trip could not be postponed, and she left with a heavy heart. But a cable from Primo met her on arrival: "Miss Pretty found hiding under bridge on mountain."

"Heaven knows what the harvest will be!" says Naomi Jacob, "but Miss Pretty is far too flighty to make a good mother!"



Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the R.S.P.C.A. in London recently, Dr. W. S. Russell Thomas, the Chairman of the Council said: The saddest part of the story of animal suffering is the fact that cruelty among children is increasing. In the case of children we do our best not to prosecute, but several cases during 1952 were so bad that we had no alternative but to bring them before the Juvenile Courts. Eighty-five children, I am sorry to say, were convicted.

A New Coat Type

Described by ALBERT C. JUDE

IN recent issues of "OUR CATS" we have been able to read how some fanciers have worked to produce a new colour for Siamese. There are a further two colours being worked on. All this is possible by the use of colours already established.

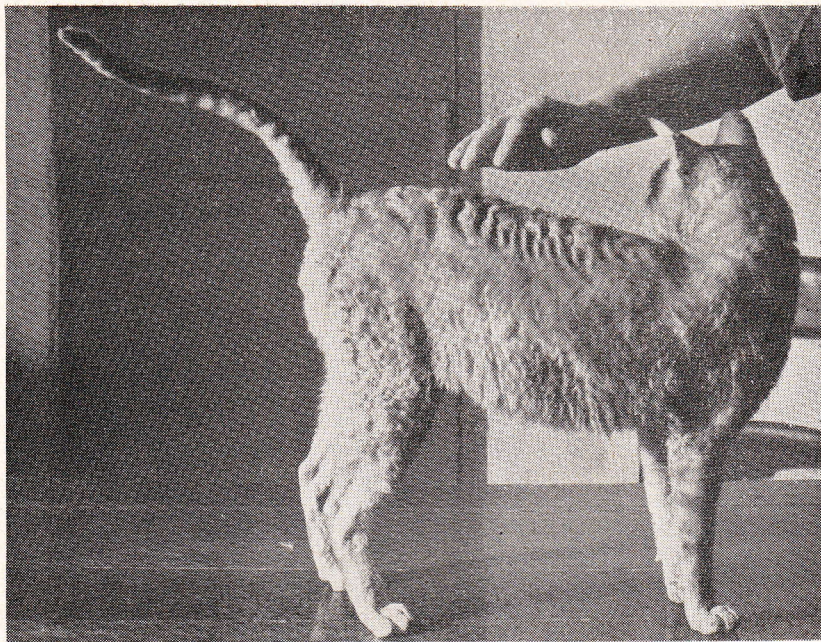
It will be realised that when some particular animal is adopted for fancy use, it is often the case that only one colour pattern is available. The hamster was a case in point. It is some years ago that I was asked to preside at the inaugural meeting of the present hamster fancy, and I then pointed out that before further colours could be produced, a mutation would have to appear. It is only some 18 months ago that a mutation did appear, and now already by its use, some other colours have been produced.

When a fancy has been established for some considerable time, there is a stage reached when it seems that all the possible variations of colour or form have been produced. Then, all at once, something apparently quite new puts in an appearance. It cannot always be certain at the time whether the new gene arose there as a mutation, or whether it had been present in that stock in heterozygous condition for maybe a very long time. Of course these things happen not only with colours, but with type or some characteristic which is a component part of type. And in some instances, the new factor will only appear in conjunction with some other particular factor.

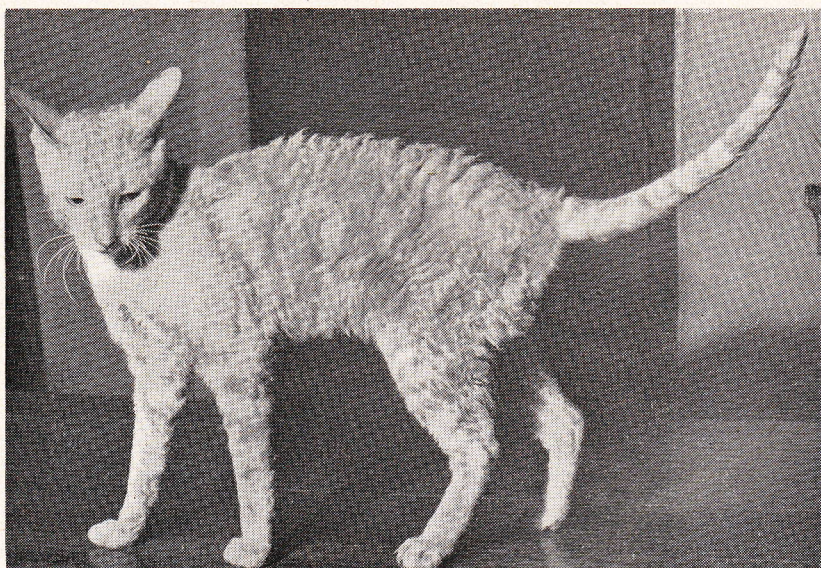
When we think of coat type in cats, we do, as a rule, think of either long hair or short hair. And in either class, we judge only by variation within limits—a good or else an insufficient length of long hair; or a good or else too great a length of short hair. Similarly, the same applies for texture. The hair may be too coarse, or it may be of such a nature that it too easily tangles, as sometimes experienced with long-haired coats. All these things are corrected by selective breeding, the results from which vary round about the medium.

Apart from the above coat differences we have, up to now, experienced no other marked variation, but recently, an entirely new coat variation in cats has come to light. The pictures shown on the next page will indicate clearly the difference of this coat from that carried by other present day cats.

As will be seen, the coat has a distinctly waved appearance. To feel, it is exactly like feeling a rex rabbit. It has what one might describe as an "open" rex coat. It is very short, not more than half inch in length in any place, if that. In colour the coat is rather like a Lynx-Rex rabbit, shaded to cream on the tummy, with white shirt front, and some tabby markings. He was bred by a Tortoiseshell, the father being unknown—one of a litter of four, the others being quite ordinary in their coat qualities. He was born wavy, and has never altered. Like curly-headed people, he is much more



This picture shows the cat with the new-style wavy coat—



and this gives you a better idea of the type.

wavy in wet weather than in dry, but even so, he always has his permanent waves. In type he will be seen as definitely unusual—quite unlike any of his known ancestry. He has a very wild-animal look, and his walk seems to be a very stealthy lope. He is much more fierce than any ordinary type of cat.

This coat type is well known in some other species of animals other than rabbits, and a number of well defined variations occur in mice, but in the latter instance most of the waviness disappears with age. This is the first time to my knowledge that this type of coat has occurred in cats.

The coat displayed by this cat seems nearest to that known as “waved” in mice, in which case it is fully recessive, and manifests itself uniformly in all the homozygotes. Viability is not affected. In the mouse the whiskers are well curled, and it will be seen by the photograph that the cat’s whiskers are similarly curled.

The waviness of the fur is due to the fact that most of the hair follicles are curved, and being curved, they have to form groups owing to shortage of space in the skin, which explains the “perms”. The hairs are somewhat less well keratinized than those of normal animals, and some of them break off. The curvature of the follicles may be explained in two different ways. Either the follicle is primarily curved owing to unequal cell division during its development—a hair that hardens in a curved follicle will necessarily be curved, and it will erupt as a waved hair if the curvature is not too great, or else it will pierce the follicle and grow inside the skin in an irregular fashion.

Alternatively, the follicle may

become secondarily bent by the pressure of a hair which is not properly keratinized and thus has difficulty in piercing the stratum corneum of the hair canal. The latter suggestion is supported by the fact that the waviness of the hairs disappears in later hair generations; the hair canal is now open, and evidently the hair can find its way out without hindrance and without altering the follicle shape.

Attempts are being made to reproduce stock of this nature, and although I have no knowledge of any other cats of this coat type, I would appreciate word from anyone who has experienced it. The fact that the new coat type is produced here in conjunction with a cat whose over-all type is so “different,” is significant.

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on Cats, Kittens and
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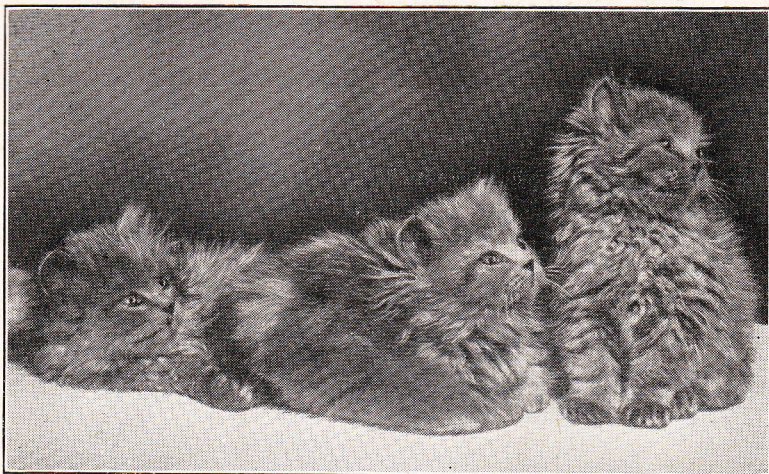
A page for the proletarian puss No. 25



Associated Press Ltd.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL !

Peter, better known as "Ginger" among his many friends, has many amusing tricks to his credit, but the game he likes best is "catch ball" on the top of the garden wall. When the ball is thrown to him he holds it for a moment before dropping it to be thrown again. Peter belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of Eastbourne.



Hullo Festival Blue, Hullo Blue Martin, Hullo Blue Dream
(Festival Blue has not yet been shown, but Blue Martin
and Blue Dream have already appeared on the prize lists
at Glasgow, York and Derby).

MRS. DOROTHY ROBERTSON of 28 Cardwell Road, Gourock,
Scotland, owner-breeder of the **Donnachaidh Long-haired
Cream Persians**, writes :—

*" Please send a large Cattery Pack of Kit-zyme as soon as possible . . .
you can imagine how quickly the tablets disappear with the approaching
breeding season !*

My daughter, Miss H. E. C. S. Robertson, owner-breeder of the ' Hullo '
Blue Persians, and I are never without Kit-zyme. All our cats have their daily
supply and the babies are started on the tablets as soon as they are weaned.
Kit-zyme gives their coats that lovely soft texture so admired by the judges.

*I am sending a photograph of three of my daughter's Kit-zyme-conditioned
' Hullo ' babies taken at two months old."*

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

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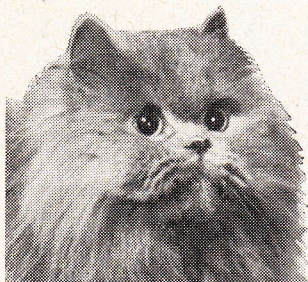
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Fools Step In

By P. M. SODERBERG

EVERY week I receive letters asking for advice or seeking an explanation for some misfortune which has occurred, and, although I am frequently not able to give an answer which is completely adequate, I do my best to provide a reasoned reply. Examples of the sort of thing I mean are given below.

Pet Shops

Twice recently I have heard of kittens having been purchased at a pet shop and then having died within a fortnight. In both cases the purchaser asked what he could do about it. The answer is an unequivocal "Nothing". There can be no proof that the kitten sold was not fit when it was purchased, and no dealer could possibly guarantee to replace kittens which died under such circumstances.

Personally, I would never buy a kitten from a pet shop, nor would I ever sell them to be housed in pens in any sort of shop anywhere. This does not imply that the people who run such places are either dishonest or incompetent, but I should not like kittens of mine to be placed in pens where they could be handled by all and sundry perhaps for several days on end.

The only really safe way to buy a kitten is direct from the breeder, and, if it is at all possible, you should see the kitten before you decide to buy.

After the Show

A month or two back I had a letter from a breeder who had

lost a number of cats from feline enteritis of the virulent kind. None of these cats had been to a show, but the owner had been to a certain show after which it was reported that cases of infectious enteritis had occurred among the stock which had been exhibited. The question asked was whether infection could be carried on the clothes and thus transmitted to healthy cats. That this could happen is certainly well within the bounds of possibility, but cases which could be proved would be rare indeed.

Anyone of sense who goes to a show reduces such risk to an absolute minimum by having a bath and a complete change of clothing before coming into contact with his own stock. This may seem a counsel of perfection, but it is far better to be safe than sorry.

Cats which have been to a show ought to be isolated for a period of ten days if one is anxious to avoid all risks.

A Wayward Lady

Some beliefs are a long time a-dying, and I was sorry that I was not able to prevent the discarding of a female cat that had strayed from the straight and narrow path of virtue.

The lady in question was a Longhaired Blue who, as cats will, went in search of her own husband. The quest was successful. A few days later the owner noticed that this queen was in season and sent her to stud. In due course a family arrived, but

they were all nicely striped tabbies. The stable door had been locked, as it were, after the horse was stolen.

Someone, who ought to have had more sense, informed the owner that this queen, having produced a mongrel litter, would never in future have pure-bred kittens. What utter rubbish this was. When I heard about it, however, there was nothing to be done, for the queen had been given away as a pet.

Telegony certainly does not apply to cats. A second litter would have shown no influence of the first mating.

Simplicity in Feeding

The lot of the novice is hard if he believes all he is told. Yet there are novices who obtain advice from all and sundry only to find that a multiplicity of apparently sound advice can lead to the most unpleasant consequences.

In the matter of feeding cats and kittens the beginner often tries to combine different methods suggested to him by breeders of great experience. The result may be only diarrhoea ; it may be much worse.

If you do not know how to feed your kittens, by all means accept the experience of someone who is successful, but realise that you cannot pick and choose from a variety of methods until you have learned the snags from your own practical experience.

This food and that food may both be good, but there is no guarantee that they will ge good if fed together. All breeders have their fads and fancies which they have found to work when applied to their own kittens, but for the

beginner simplicity in feeding must be the keyword.

On Worms

Perhaps I have a bee in my bonnet on this unsavoury subject, yet these nasty creatures are always cropping up in my correspondence. So may people who write to ask about a breeding queen also ask when this queen should be wormed. In fact, there seems to be a general belief that all queens must of necessity harbour these parasites. This is just not true.

Let me say again what I must have said many times. More kittens are probably killed by unwise worming than by the actual worms themselves. To worm a queen just because you intend to breed from her is the height of folly. If you know that she is a host to these parasites, then it is wise to deal with the matter, but, for my own part, I should call in the vet. to do the job. There are several excellent vermifuges on the market, but they are not safe unless they are administered by someone who knows what he is doing.

Breed for Quality

What a temptation it is to keep more animals than one has time to look after adequately. Enthusiasm for livestock is a dangerous thing unless it is tempered by wisdom.

Some of the beginners who write to me are trying to be successful with more than one breed at the same time. The risk may come off, but the best advice anyone can give is that it is far wiser to gain one's experience with the one breed only.

Some of those who do confine themselves solely to one breed

start off with too many animals. Then, before they have learned the ropes, they find themselves in trouble at a time when they have insufficient knowledge to cope with the situation.

There must be one sole aim in all livestock breeding, and that is quality rather than quantity. One good litter a year from a brood queen is far better than three litters of kittens below standard in either type or stamina or both.

I am no oracle, but I do try to resist the temptations which seem to be common to most animal lovers, and what little success I have achieved has certainly been the result of carrying out the advice I give to others because I believe it to be true. Do at least try to see that "fools step in where angels fear to tread" does not apply to you.

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BARONESS DE SAINT PALAIS (President), Mme Chegaray and Countess de Tibrac (Vice-Presidents) who had the assistance of a keen and energetic Committee, are to be congratulated on the success of their first show at the Salle Wagram, Paris. The event was held in May and extended over three days. English judges were Miss D. M. Collins (Longhairs) and Mrs. E. Towe (Shorthairs).

Miss Collins reports that the pens were cleverly made of large mesh netting on wooden or metal supports gilded all over, which made the lovely satin cushions and draperies look more sumptuous than ever for a Continental show. Her Best Longhair Champion was the 9-year-old White Ch. Retrouchka (dam of some very good cats). Best Longhair was A'zoulouk du Mont Joly, a Blue male only a year old but of lovely type and carrying a wonderful coat for the time of year. He had previously won Best Kitten awards at shows in Paris and Geneva. Mme. Bogard is the owner of this nice cat.

Best Kitten was another Blue male Aziz d'Iran, bred from two English cats Myowne Ferly ex Miss Muffet of Dunesk and it is interesting to record that the Best Brown Tabby Star de Laborde, a fine typey cat, is a daughter of Int. Ch. Llantarnum Boy Bubbles, a pre-war prefix that stood for outstanding Blacks and Blues.

Mrs. Towe's Best and Reserve Best Shorthairs were two of Mlle Meyer's renowned Abyssinians, Int. Ch. Saïtes Xenin and Victoria. Best Shorthair Kitten was Artemise, a Russian Blue exhibited by Mlle. Dain. Siamese entries fell far below English standards but the Longhair Siamese Mousse de Vincelles was an interesting exhibit with the true colouring of the variety, a dark ruffle and bushy tail. Mlle Meyer showed 12 Abbies and all were marked excellent on the cards.

It should be recorded that the organisers of this 3-day show are keenly interested in animal welfare work.



Mme. Bogard's A'zoulouk du Mont-Joly, the young Blue Longhair male who has been winning consistently at Continental shows.

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Cat-Scratch Fever

HAVE you heard about the new disease called cat-scratch fever?

According to *The Lancet*, "la maladie des griffes du chat" (or, in our less elegant language, cat-scratch fever) can now stake a claim for inclusion in the medical textbooks. It was first recognised in 1947 during conversations between a French and an American doctor. During the previous twenty years both these investigators had seen examples of a benign but usually febrile illness which followed the scratch of a cat.

Cases of the fever have been reported in America and France and now (according to *The Lancet*) in London. It shows itself in a glandular inflammation and there may be enlargement to the size of an orange. In a London case a woman was scratched by a kitten above the right ear; three days later she noticed some swelling in the neck; ten days later the glands were enlarged, painful and tender.

Is it New?

The Lancet suggests that like other ailments, cat-scratch fever seems commonest where it is looked for. If it is to be accepted as a new disease two questions must be answered. Is it a feline disease transmitted to man, or is the cat a mere vector? Has it arisen *de novo* during our lifetime, or has its recognition waited on the pertinacious curiosity of the two doctors?

One investigator inclines to the view that since it cannot be transmitted to cats the infection reaches man from some other source, but usually on the claws of a cat. Birds are an obvious surmise.

Cats have probably scratched man since the Fourth Dynasty, and glandular enlargement to the size of an orange cannot have escaped earlier observers. So the conclusion is drawn that cat-scratch fever must be a new disease arising from a change in habit either of the parasite or of one of its hosts.

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Paws across "The Pond"

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

GET a crowd of breeders together and the first topic for conversation is the prospects of the new kitten-crop. We almost missed having a meeting of the Crusaders in Montclair when we became so interested in talking "katz." It was found that one Grand Champion had sired five litters from five different breeders. All will be represented in the shows this fall. I think we are going to have fun.

* * *

A new club has been organised in Staten Island, only a few minutes from New York City. The President is Mrs. Lala R. Wilson, a very charming lady who happens to be a good person to spark a new club. Vice-President is John Mochaka ; Secretary, Miss Mildred Giannini ; Treasurer, Mrs. Edna Mae Assenza ; Show Manager, Paul Ruggiero. Mrs. Helena Price, from Westfield, New Jersey, will handle publicity and the show catalogue. This new club will be under the direction of the Cat Fanciers' Federation. They plan to hold a trial show, "a non-professional show" as the President explained to me. The object is to arouse interest in the locality.

* * *

Out in Detroit another new club has been formed, called the Wolverines. It, too, is under the sponsorship of The Cat Fanciers' Federation, and a show will be held this coming season. Knoxville, Tennessee, is also planning a C.F.F. club.

* * *

Garden parties and Kitten matches are in full swing. Bridge benefits will be run for the financial support of the various specialties. Interest is just as keen as if the show season was really here.

One club is organising a grooming class which is already over-subscribed. Two other clubs have taken up the idea. This will be a great help to the novices, yes, and some of the older breeders too. It is always heart-breaking to see a typey cat go up to the judge's bench poorly groomed. I know one instance last year where a breeder offered to groom her opponent's cat only to have it go over her own in the final count. The winner was a novice breeder. This is the kind of sportmanship that we want. The breeder who did the grooming was Miss Ellen Laflin, veteran breeder and a staunch supporter of all that is good in the Fancy. Miss Laflin is throwing her beautiful seaside home open to a garden party on 20th August for the Atlantic Club. This has become a tradition and is always a crowded affair.

* * *

Already the final plans are being made for the fall shows. Atlantic, Empire, Penn State, Mid-West Feline and in fact most all of them are selecting venues and forming committees.

* * *

Hettie Gray Baker is working on a new book. Anything that she does is good. It is to be composed entirely of Cat Tails—true cat tales—actually happened, every one of them. She is a grand person. What the social register is to New York City, Hettie Gray Baker is to the Fancy.

* * *

A newsletter has just arrived from the Colorado Cat Fanciers, Inc., which has some very startling suggestions. I'm wondering if they will be strong enough to put them over with their Association, C.F.A. A few of the suggestions I agree

with heartily. One is that no cat receive points in any class unless there is competition. Another is that all cats be judged in their color classes if possible, this would be a specific "Solid Color" Combination Class. The stressed point being that every cat gets competition. Another suggestion is that extra large classes should be given special consideration. They make a very good point in

suggesting that kittens should receive some points, perhaps half the number received by adult cats. Here is the bombshell that will rock the Fancy : "No cat be allowed to prefix name with the word Champion until such cat is a proven sire or dam, regardless of number of points won." I hear machine guns, sniping and heavy artillery being rolled up !

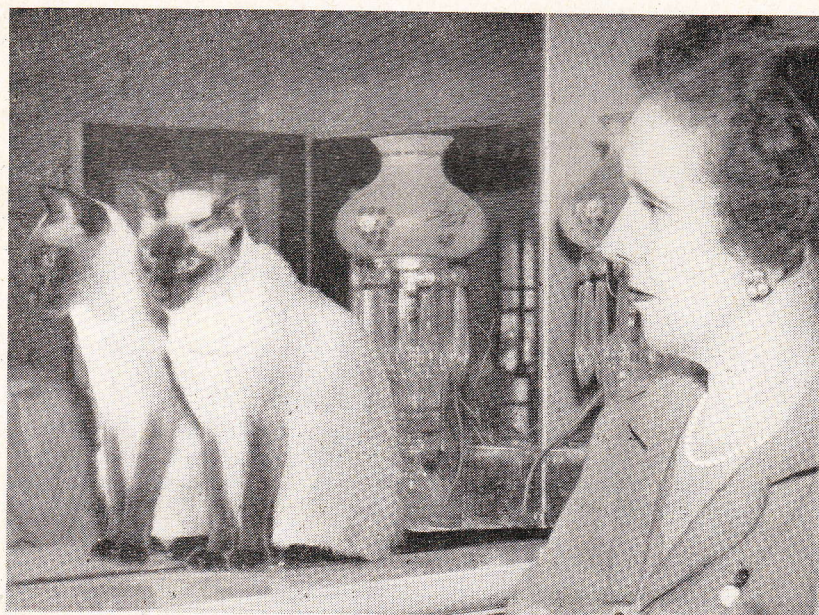
American Personality — MRS. VIRGINIA COBB

INTRODUCING to you, Virginia Cobb, that very modest, unassuming breeder from Newton, Mass.

If you know and love Siamese you will want to know all about Mrs. Cobb. She named her cattery after her home town of Newton. She is probably one of the most prolific importers in America. The first Siamese she owned was purchased as a Christmas present for her husband. This cat was the well-known Ch. Djer Kits Chinkaling of Newton. Chinky was

brought over from England by Mrs. William Hard and previous to that lived with Miss Payne and then Miss Elsie Hyden, also Mrs. Metcalf.

Chinky was famous for her extremely light coat and dense points and these she retained through her sixteen years of life. This classic queen was the mother of ninety-four children and her ancestry is today among many high ranking Siamese of America. At the age of seven years she started her show career and was given



Mrs. Virginia Cobb with her Champion Chindwin's Singumin of Newton.

the high honour of Best Cat. Her sons distinguished themselves wherever shown and were probably the best known Siamese ever photographed in colour by the Associated Press, which covers the world. The high point in her publicity was probably the coloured series in the National Geographic, 1938. There was an especial honour given her by the Boston Cat Club who held a 'Champion Chinkaling Memorial Show' after she crossed over to the cat valhalla.

A fact that is not too well known is that Virginia Cobb was the first breeder in America to own and exhibit a Burmese, also an Abyssinian. Then there was the advent of The Debutante of Newton, a Longhaired Siamese. This fact was published in detail in the American Journal of Heredity. When it comes to scientific experiments in breeding Virginia Cobb has long been a prominent and respected name.

There is a long record of importing to her credit. The first two who came over were Ch. Wivenhoe Tarn and Wivenhoe Sunchet. Next to cross the ocean was Ch. Oriental Nanki Pooh and his brother Micado. Nanki Pooh was Best in Show the first time he was exhibited. There were five sons and many granddaughters, all outstanding. After careful investigation it is found that there is quite a record of championships from Nanki Pooh. Later, Persley Enchantress came over. Enchantress presented the Newton Cattery with Newton Yan Tana. Enchantress's sire was Ch. Prestwick Pertana

and Yana was the spit-'n'-image of his famous English sire.

Out of Ch. Nanki Pooh and Ch. Wivenhoe Tarn came the famous American Grand Champion Newton's Jay Tee. It was a thrill of a lifetime when Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb gave Jay Tee the Best Cat award when he judged in New York in 1949. At this same show he gave Best Novice to a son of Nanki Pooh's and Best Kitten to a granddaughter who, incidentally, happens to be the cat that is making history in the Siamese Fancy today. I refer to Ch. Chindwin's Singumin of Newton. In the Washington District of Columbia Show, Ch. Singumin won Best Siamese over eighty-seven rivals.

Jay Tee was raised on a nursing bottle. The Associated Press carried her picture all over the country and the favourite pose showed Jay Tee lying on her back holding her bottle. Then one day—just like that—she stopped. No more would she perform for guests at the Newton Cattery—so she was given malted milk tablets which she loved. There was a special hassock where she would sit, receiving her admirers. Truly, Grand Champion Jay Tee was a queen to royalty born. Sweet tempered, dainty, short close-lying coat, always in good condition, ready for a show with just a few days of grooming. She was a close companion and friend to Virginia all her life long, never separate but once while Virginia was in the hospital. It was on a sad day in October of last year that

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Grand Champion Jay Tee's long reign ended.

It is the opinion of many breeders that Virginia Cobb has broken more traditions in scientific breeding than any other person. She is quite capable of holding your attention for hours when she gets on the subject of genetics and its intricacies. She makes you believe that it is a subject easily understood. Her talks are as interesting as fiction. My personal reaction to her is that she is a durable, genuine person. When she is talking Siamese and their breeding, you can almost hear the electrical crackle in her voice; she is that vibrant.

I have known her for several years and she has not changed an eye-lash in all

this time. We all love to hear her talk. She will give you a simple analysis with all the technical aspects of her experience in breeding, explaining with simple, clear, dramatic words, that the owner has an obligation to understand the problems of the cat-children entrusted to their care. It is not manufactured knowledge she gives you—it is tested and true. This is probably one of the reasons she is considered a breeder's breeder.

Her hobby outside of Siamese is roses. She has a garden of rare beauty, which is visited by the New England Rose Society, usually in June. For seven years she was Secretary of the Boston Cat Club and has held the office of Treasurer as well.

BILLIE BANCROFT.



Care at Kitten Time

By EMILY DE HAAS

THE selection of a kitten should not be made without study and consideration. If the intending purchaser is planning to become a breeder then, of course, the matter calls for some special preparation. Attendance at shows, visits to well-known breeders, information on different breeds; all these things are important.

New breeders in America are inclined to proceed much too fast. They see all the beautiful varieties and immediately want one of each. The result is, to their sorrow, in a few years they are crowded with too many cats and cannot keep the kittens that should be retained for careful selection. One queen that can be bred to a good male should be a good start for the first year. Or if two colours are more appealing, they should be related, such as Blues and Blacks, or Creams and Blues, Silvers and Whites or Blacks. Thus, improvement of type and colour can be made by cross-breeding.

I am not in favour of mixing Longhairs and Shorthairs. The average cat breeder will have enough work taking care of one kind, and cannot give adequate attention to too many.

If the kitten is to be a pet, care in selection is important. The sex of the kitten must be taken into consideration for cute little females can mature very rapidly. Females may be spayed, but this operation is much more expensive than the altering of the male. Some males need never be altered, but others become troublesome at the breeding period, particularly in a house or apartment.

All kittens are appealing, but in selecting a pet, if you have any choice, think about the appearance of the kitten when it has grown up and try to select good markings. It is really better to take the kitten when it is not too young. I do not sell kittens until they are three months old. By that time you can begin to see

how they are going to look as adults. In the case of the breeder this is an important point to remember.

Take the kitten home in a good tight basket or adequate carrier. Far too often owners have lost their cats by having them escape from insecure baskets and may have had the chastening experience of having to search in strange places. A cat is a very nervous animal, and may become terrified in its new surroundings.

When the kitten reaches its new home, place it in a previously prepared place. This may be a small room, or an enclosed porch. Provide sanitary facilities and fresh water and leave the kitten alone for a while to settle down. If there are other pets, keep them away for several days, so as not to frighten the new member of the family. These first few days are *very important* and will determine the tone of the future for the cat and other pets, who can and will live together peacefully if given the right start. Gradually the kitten may be allowed to meet the whole family and take its place in the household.

Cats are not like dogs. They need different feeding, living quarters and care. They like to climb up high, and are adventurous. Far too many are allowed to roam loose only to meet their death by motor cars. Cats do not seem to be able to acquire road sense. So I advocate providing an outside cage or pen unless, of course, the owner lives in the country or is fortunate enough to have an enclosed garden.

Next month we will discuss feeding and quarters more fully.

A man brought by the R.S.P.C.A. before the Lowestoft magistrates on a charge of causing unnecessary suffering to a cat by killing the animal in an improper manner, admitted hitting the cat a few times on the head because it was ill. A neighbour heard the cat's screams. The defendant, who was fined £1 and £8 18s. 0d. costs, said he was really fond of the cat but as it had been ill with flu he thought it was not good for the children at the house or his dog.

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Holidays bring Problems

By ELISABETH WILD

HOLIDAY time is the one period of the year when ownership of a cat can be a worry. Cats are not easy creatures to take away, for they are much attached to places and are thus liable to disappear in strange surroundings in an attempt to find their way home again.

One hears only too frequently of heartless people who shut up the house and leave a pet to fend for itself. It is a cruel practice, for centuries of domesticity have made cats dependent on human beings for food and shelter. The domestic cat does not revert to a wild, hunting creature capable of fending entirely for itself if abandoned by its owners.

Anyone keeping a cat for "mousing" will tell you that puss hunts twice as well when she is properly fed and tended. A half-starved animal has not the energy or initiative to hunt with much success. To say the least of it, a cat in the summer is bound to be thirsty as well as hungry, and water may be even more difficult to find than food.

There are several ways of tackling the problem, and perhaps the best is to enlist the help of some kind and reliable friend. If she comes to the house twice daily with food and drink to which the cat is accustomed, and sees that it has shelter at night, that is all that is required. Cats soon grow used to those who minister to them, and beyond slight resentment and bewilderment on puss's part at the persistently closed

doors of the house, she will soon accept the change of routine.

The main thing, of course, is to be certain that your friend is truly reliable. Depending on the neighbours in general is not wise; it is more satisfactory to ask one particular trusted person to take care of your pet.

A friend may offer to take puss into her own home during your absence. This is a good solution, although the cat may fret for its own surroundings. See that she understands the food puss will eat, as many cats are very conservative in their tastes, and would starve rather than take an unusual dish. Send something from your house with which the cat is familiar along with her—perhaps her sleeping basket or cushion.

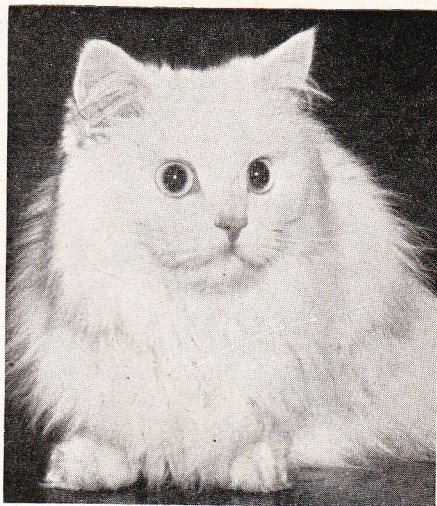
Boarding Out

Cats have a good memory, and this will give her a sense of security in her adopted home. Until she settles she should be confined to one room, provided with bed and ash pan, and not allowed out. Frequent "buttering the paws" is quite a good idea, for licking them clean holds the cat's attention, and gives your friend a chance to know her.

Many people, instead of relying on the goodwill of friends and neighbours, prefer pets to be boarded out at a recognised establishment during holidays. In this case, booking should be made in good time, and it is as well to visit the boarding kennels yourself to see if they are efficient-

ly run. Find out the sort of food that is provided, and if your own pet is difficult to please, acquaint the owner with details of what she will like. Cats may fret in confinement, away from familiar faces and surroundings, so most boarding kennel proprietors are only too glad to have your instructions.

If you decide to take the cat away with you, do be sure that the travelling basket is strong, secure and well ventilated, not too small to allow the animal to move about, or so large it is tossed from side to side with the motion of a vehicle. For short journeys, a pillow-case with a draw string round the neck will be a suitable carrier, for this enables the cat to see you, and to see what is going on, and yet not be able to escape.

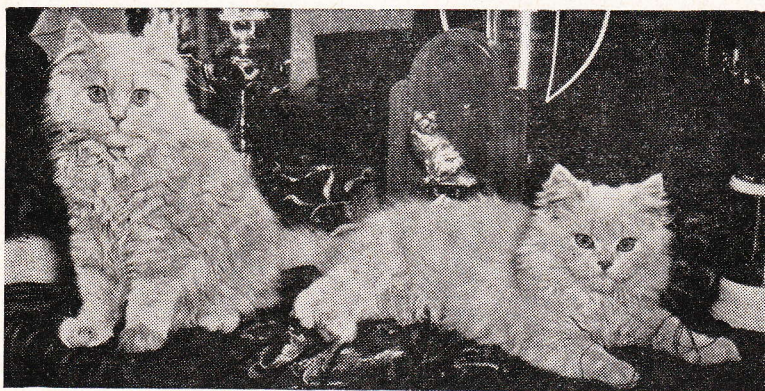


TASSITA AV FREY, Blue-eyed
White female belonging to Swedish
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DANEHURST CATTERY

Owner: Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S.

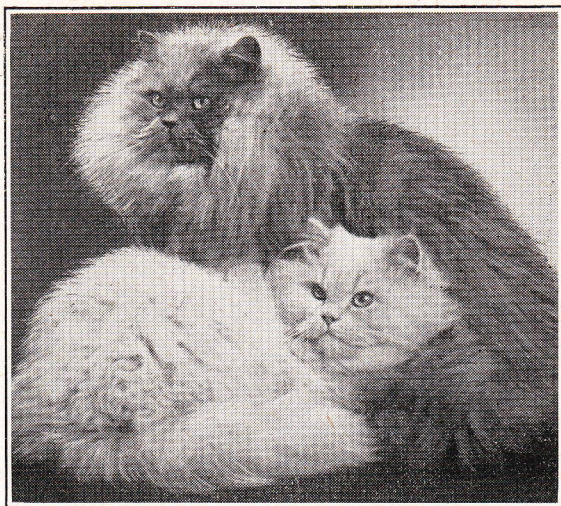
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Photograph by Norman Heal

**Mrs. Brown's stud cat Phillimore
Fluellen with his 7 months old cream
son Owleycombe Jester.**

MRS. REGINALD BROWN, of Owley Cottage, Bradley Cross, Cheddar, Somerset, owner-breeder of the Owleycombe Persian Cats, writes :-

"It was in the Spring of 1951 that I decided to put all my cats and kittens on to your famous Kit-zyme Tablets. There is no doubt that the Tablets played a big part in helping to build up a good stamina because when the dreaded infectious feline enteritis found its way into my Cattery the following Autumn, all the adults and one kitten escaped infection—as well as two cream kittens which I sold during the week prior to the outbreak of the disease. Up to this time all my stock had lived together.

The five kittens that were actually ill averaged 4 to 4½ months of age and they were given penicillin and hydro-streptomycin injections immediately. During all this time the kittens were on liquids only, but they were never forcibly fed, nor was there any night nursing and as soon as they went on to solids again the Kit-zyme Tablets were re-introduced into the diet.

I believe it is very unusual to save stock from this complaint as they usually succumb to "secondaries," so do you wonder that I have such faith in Kit-zyme?

I started showing again in London at the last show of the season and one of the enteritis patients, a blue kitten with a very pale blue full coat took three Firsts and a cream kitten, Owleycombe Jester, also an ex-patient, took a First.

Since using Kit-zyme I have noticed a very great improvement in wealth and length of coats which is not all due to breeding and just before the enteritis outbreak I succeeded in making a very beautiful young blue queen a full champion."

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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.

FROM Mrs. Ada May Miles, of California, U.S.A., comes news about Kiva Chaco, the Smoke male kitten pictured on the front cover of this issue. She bred him from the Black male Grand Champion Pied Piper of Barbe Bleue (whose photograph appeared in the November issue of OUR CATS) and a Smoke female Champion Kivas Chuka.

Her letter continues: "He was the smallest of the litter and when he was about a week old I discovered he was not getting enough of his mother's milk as the other larger and stronger kits were pushing him out. At that time I was in a cast from hip to ankle and in a wheel chair and every two hours I was either wheeled out to him or he was brought to me and I gave him warmed goats milk, gradually adding pablum to it. In a few days he was much stronger and able to battle with the rest for his milk. He became a great favourite with us because of this special attention and he was nicknamed 'The Champ' because he was always the first to tackle his brothers and sisters in play. He has the sweetest disposition and when only five days old he purred and one had only to look at him to start his motor up.

"Signora Paganini saw the photograph of my Smoke male Gregory in American Cats Magazine and wrote for a female but I had no female I could spare. So she purchased Kiva Chaco. He was exhibited three times in U.S.A. last year and was twice Best Kitten in Show and once Best Opposite Sex Kitten. It was hard to send him so far. He left here on Monday night and should have arrived in Milan, Italy, on Friday, but there was a delay in planes in U.S.A. and he did not arrive until the following Monday. When Signora Paganini learned of the delay she cabled London asking that every care possible be afforded him whilst at the airport en route for Milan. He was evidently given great care as he arrived well and in fine condition. He was eight months when he left.

"Smokes have made great progress here. A few years ago when I decided to breed them there were only one or two in a class. This year the judges who came to the West Coast were surprised at the number of entries and how fine they were. I think they are a beautiful breed and quite a challenge to breed nice ones. It is such fun raising the kittens. The kittens to me are my reward for the hard work one finds in the Fancy if one is active at all."

Later I heard from Signora Paganini that she is delighted with Kiva-Chaco.

Redwalls News

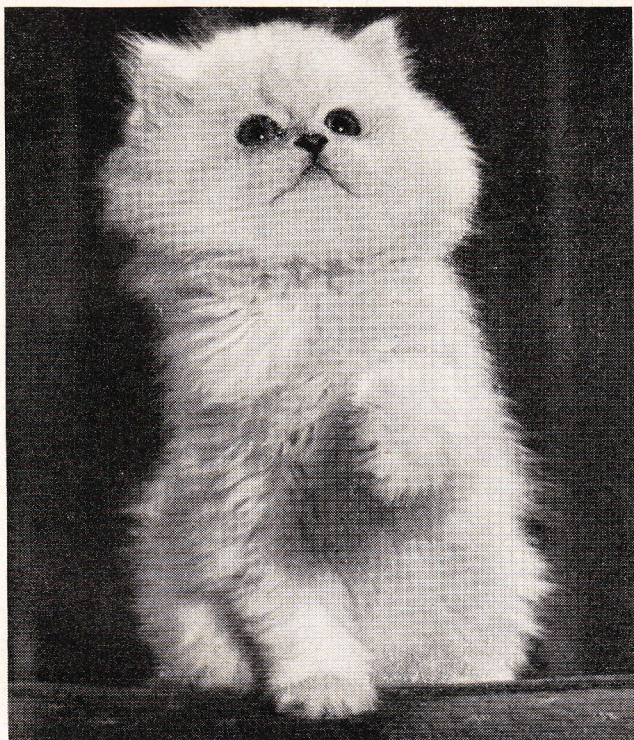
Mrs. Barron of Hillingdon acquired Redwalls Fiesta from Mrs. Hacking. She is a daughter of Anchor Cream Cracker and an unknown sire, mated

to Mrs. Davies's Cream male Elmwood Cavalier. She has produced three Creams, one Blue-Cream, and one Blue and White male.

I was pleased to have news of Mrs. Hacking's cats. She has been very successful in raising strong healthy winning stock.

Mrs. Hacking writes :—" All my cat family are well and all my five queens

success ; five Cream males reared by the mother and three Blue-Creams reared by a foster. As you know they were Best Longhair Litter at the Crystal Cat Show, Olympia, and all were sold except the two I wished to keep, Redwalls Bath Oliver and Redwalls Butter Fingers. The former shown at three Championship shows, was always first in his Open class. He is flying to Brazil as soon as



Guy Withers

REDWALLS CRYSTAL has been "hitting the high spots" in Gay Paree !

have had kittens this year. I am trying to breed some really pale Creams and find it fascinating. Redwalls Pastelle (Blue-Cream) has a nice litter by the Cream Optimist of Sunfield which includes a lovely pale Cream female. I am keeping some to show but most of them were booked at birth. The litter of eight born last July were a great

his permit arrives. Butter Fingers has gone to Paris by plane and is adored by Mme de Bovet. You will be amused at an extract from her letter. 'Butter is quite O.K. but how mischievous ! He is such a darling . . . and so clever. He discovered recently the wireless and is delighted with it, especially with Louis Armstrong'."

"Redwalls Crystal—a Chinchilla—(granddaughter of Ch. Langherne Winsome) who was sent to France a few days before a show in Paris was the Best Female in Show and had much publicity on radio, T.V., and in the press. She appeared on the cinema screen in the arms of the Begum Aga Khan and one weekly newspaper is preparing an article 'All about Redwalls Crystal, the Angel-faced Cat from England.' This young queen is also owned by Mdme. de Bovet."

Wins and Losses

From Mrs. Brine, Wickford, Essex, comes news of her Blues. She hopes Ch. Campanula of Dunesk is in kitten to Ch. Thiepvall Wanderer. The progeny of this mating should have lovely coats as both parents excel in this respect and of course have proved their all round excellence by their titles.

The following extracts from her letter are interesting:—"I bred seventeen Blue kittens in 1951 (lost four) sold nine and have four young males left which I want to find good homes for. I exhibited six winning kittens, five of them were by my young male Avernoll Knight Anthony. I was awarded the trophy for the highest number of points in Blue kittens 1951/52 season. Anthony has had several very nice queens to visit him so we are looking forward to the competition when the Show season commences. So far I have six kittens, one, a little beauty by Sir Roger of Dunesk.

"You will be sorry to hear we were visited by foxes at dusk about a month ago and all my fine White Wyandottes, except one in a broody coop, were slaughtered. It is a great loss."

Mr. and Mrs. Brine won many trophies with their poultry exhibits before they commenced breeding cats.

A Move to Sussex

Mr. and Mrs. Towe will shortly be leaving Morden to take up residence at Crowborough. They are having a flat

in Mr. Gordon Allt's large country house. The cat houses are already installed and the Siamese leaving shortly. The surroundings are ideal and their friends wish Mr. and Mrs. Towe every happiness in their new home.

Home from South Africa

Visited Mr. and Mrs. Vize at Banstead. They have settled down after their lovely holiday in South Africa. I was most interested to see the trophies they have brought home, especially the beautiful cameos carved on sea shells, the mounted ostrich foot and the life-size model of a Siamese cat curled up asleep which would be a joy to all cat lovers. A round basket was provided for the model to make it appear more realistic. It was modelled in clay by Miss Fania Pocock, Chairman of the South African Cat Union.

Ch. Astra of Pensford, Myowne Gallant Homme and the well known Black Shorthair Inky Bit are all fit and well. Mrs. Vize is very grateful to her fellow fanciers for all their kindness to her cats. Trenton Verity is in kitten to Astra and her Blue-Cream Myowne Gaymary was nursing five Creams and one Blue by Gathorne Glissader. A new acquisition is a Black Longhair male Bourneside Turvey by Mrs. Aitken's Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond. He is a really sound black with a good head and lovely eye colour.

My American Visitor

A glorious summer morning to welcome Mrs. Cicely Mellor, of Brooklyn, U.S.A., to lunch. She is over here on a holiday which took in Switzerland and France and after a visit to her mother in Somerset she will be returning to business affairs in America. Although she does not breed cats Mrs. Mellor attends many shows in America, introducing to the public her distinctive cat specialities under the trade name of "Felinia." These novelties comprise stationery, bookplates, seals, show cage toys, swinging clowns and goldfish (cat-

nip scented), and soap with a line drawing of a cat on one side which is indelible right through. A complete list can be obtained from her at 248 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn 5, New York, U.S.A.

We first met and dined in New York on the day I arrived there two years ago and it was very interesting hearing about personalities I had met at the various shows.

The Hendon Reds

Tea with Miss Lelgarde Fraser at her secluded bungalow at Godalming. Hendon Orsini, last season's outstanding winning Red Tabby Longhair kitten has grown into a lovely cat, such rich colouring, good markings and brilliant eye colour. His brother—almost as good as himself—was galloping about the garden with him. At present they live amicably together. Ch. (U.S.A.) Doll Dance had four beautiful Reds on May 1st by Ch. Hendon Lysander. A tragedy followed for when they were fine big kittens at about two weeks a stray black cat forced the wire shutter into their room and killed the young family. Miss Fraser was only in time to see the killer escaping. This was a sad shock for her and elicits our deep sympathy.

Hendon Major Maroon was looking in fine condition. So far he has not sired but he is physically perfect so there is every hope that he will do so in the near future. Ch. Hendon Lysander was on the alert waiting his turn to promenade and the Blue male Hendon Robin Hood also. It is grand to see males having some freedom each day. Cats are such liberty loving animals and how they enjoy their gallops. The senior males made a bee line for a rival male's cat house but a little "shoo" drove them away to enjoy the summer day elsewhere. The Reds looked lovely on the green grass and the condition of all the cats was a credit to Miss Fraser's devotion to their welfare.

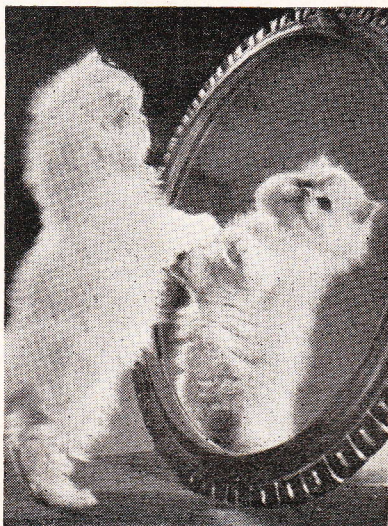
Yo-Yo At Home

Visited Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warner at Sevenoaks. Champion Clonlost Yo-Yo came in for a brief visit. He was looking well after a busy season at stud and is so affectionate that it is a pity he cannot always be with humans. Spotlight Pepecto was nursing a bonny promising litter of five by him, and a trio of three by Yo-Yo and Mallington Madcap were capering about having high jinks in the lounge to say nothing about tit-bits from our supper. Their dam last season produced Spotlight Piccolo, Best Kitten in Show at the Scottish Show and Spotlight Picador who also did so much winning. Piccolo is now owned by Mrs. Mackenzie of Aberdeen.

The Crystal Show

The General Meeting of the newly-formed Crystal Cat Club attracted a good attendance of fanciers. The Club has over a hundred members and many more are anticipated when entries arrive for the Show at Olympia on August 22nd and 23rd. Owing to the enormous cost of organising a show at this venue it is essential for it to be a two-day event and all breeds will be shown on both days. It was proposed to use an extremely potent disinfectant on the pens and to spray the atmosphere between the first and second day. This disinfectant is recommended by the Royal Veterinary College and guaranteed harmless to cats and other domestic pets.

The National Hall at Olympia (the scene of the first Crystal Show) is an ideal venue and personally I welcome with gratitude the opportunity of seeing our British-bred and British-owned cats and kittens, which are among the best in the world, presented under such ideal conditions. I hope breeders will support this laudable promotion to their utmost and to do everything in their power to keep the turnstiles clicking on August 22nd and 23rd.



Guy Withers

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Brown Tabbies, Red Tabbies, Tortoiseshell and Tortoiseshell and White Adults and Kittens	Mrs. A. H. CATTERMOLLE
Siamese Adults and Kittens	...	Miss E. WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM	F. TOMLINSON, Esq.
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Abyssinians, Russian and British Blues Adults and Kittens, Neuters	Miss K. YORKE
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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.

FALSE PREGNANCY

I feel I ought to add some remarks to Mr. Jude's otherwise most interesting article (May issue) and suggest he is wrong in respect of alleged "false pregnancy."

In the last 12 years, since we have always had quite a large number of cats, we have had over a dozen cases of queens being definitely in kitten and then, suddenly, in a few days, they were normal again. But in none of the cases was it a matter of false pregnancy. In every case it was just the simple explanation—miscarriage in the early or halfway stage of pregnancy—and we had absolute proof in every case.

The cats *were* in kitten and in the case described by Mr. Jude I think it was the same as with some of our queens; the cat went for an airing, had her miscarriage out in the garden and within a day or two was normal again. Mr. Jude found no evidence among the rose bushes because, as I found on two occasions, the queen had dug the little premature corpses in. On one occasion we found the evidence among the coal dust in a bin, on the other we actually witnessed the whole affair taking place in the garden.

Mr. E. Munro,
Matfield, Kent.

VOICES FROM HOME

In my opinion OUR CATS far exceeds anything we have in the States. My husband and I are the proud owners of Inwood Chinky, a beautiful Siamese Seal Point male by Mrs. A. S. McGregor,

of England. After one show he only lacks two points for his championship, a record which is surely a credit to the English Fancy.

Chinky's favourite place in the house is the radio. He sleeps there in winter-time because it is warm. Some programmes must irritate him for he has been seen to move the dials with his paw. When the Christmas message from your late King George came over the air he immediately became very interested and listened intently. I am sure it was the English accent which caught his fancy for he did the same when Mr. Winston Churchill spoke over the air while he was in the States. Then I have two English friends who visit me and Chinky always jumps to their laps and sits and listens to their voices.

I often wonder what he thought when he heard my voice for the first time!

Mrs. M. Porter Walley,
Austin, Texas, U.S.A.

RED POINTED SIAMESE

Thank you for publishing my letter to you in your May issue under the above heading and Mr. Jude's reply to one of my questions. I am sorry he passed over the other question.

There are a number of statements in his reply to which I should like to take friendly exception. It is not accurate to say that sex-linkage is rare in mammals. With only a very modest knowledge of genetics to aid me, I can recount enough sex-linked factors in man and other mammals to disqualify any claim to rarity. In any case, every gene carried

in the X-chromosomes or Y-chromosomes represents a sex-linked characteristic, and because we know only a few of them, we have no justification in arguing that there are in fact only a few sex-linked genes. The fact that only a small percentage of the many recorded genes have been observed to be sex-linked is quite obviously to be attributed to the fact that there is only one pair of X-chromosomes in each chromosome "set" whereas there may be anything up to 47 pairs of other chromosomes according to the species under observation. In man, for instance, with one pair of X-chromosomes to 47 pairs of other chromosomes, the chance of any given gene being located in the X-chromosome and therefore sex-linked is very much less than in the fruit fly with a pair of X-chromosomes and three pairs of other chromosomes.

I cannot believe that Mr. Jude really means what he says in his sentence "My clear statement that in cats only one sex-linked gene is present, the 'yellow,' is a true statement of fact." I cannot find in the literature any justification for the astonishing assertion that the X-chromosome in cats carries one gene only. A priori, this is highly unlikely, and the fact that only one such factor has been recorded to an observer's knowledge, is no justification for a dogmatic statement that no other such factors exist.

I came to the conclusion some time ago from my own breeding results that both black and red pigments are sex-linked in cats, that they are, in fact, alternative and paired factors, neither being dominant. I was glad to find recently that this view is upheld by Darlington and Mather. (*The Elements of Genetics* 1947, p. 49).

This theory gives a much clearer and more complete explanation of colour inheritance in cats as we breeders observe it, than the view that only "yellow" is sex-linked and that black presumably is carried in another pair of

chromosomes. I should like to hear Mr. Jude's comments on these observations. The question is one of fundamental interest in colour inheritance in cats and it is of importance that it should be fully and accurately discussed. I hope other readers will contribute their views.

Dr. N. Archer,
Greenford, Middx.

EYE CHANGES COLOUR

I have a British Blue female, aged 5, and about a year ago I noticed a tiny dullish brown speck in her right eye. I did nothing about it until it became obvious that the mark was growing larger.

The vet. was consulted and he stated that it was nothing detrimental to the cat's sight but only a change in the pigmentation and that, in time, the whole eye might become brown.

I wonder if any other readers have a cat with the same symptoms?

Miss J. Edwards,
Topsham, Devon.

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 interesting and of value to other cat lovers.

NEXT MONTH !

The adventures of BOSUN will be resumed. The S.T. "Mary Hillier" has now reached Gibraltar and life aboard and ashore continues to be far from dull for our sailor Siamese.



Tailpieces

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



A SPECIAL programme for pet lovers can now be heard on 208 metres from Radio Luxembourg. It will be on the air twice a week at 7 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays. It includes tunes about animals, news from the zoos and a pets' postbag in which children's queries are answered. A Pets Corner will be introduced by Ric Hutton, an animal lover from Australia.

Many of our readers appear to have enjoyed the little poem "Cat and Crocuses" which appeared in our May issue. Unfortunately, the last line of the first verse did not scan because the word "sun" was omitted in error. The line correctly reads "Royal, sun-illuminated cat." The poem, by Miss Eva Martin, of Brighton, has been broadcast by the B.B.C. It appears in the excellent little anthology "In Praise of Cats" published by Messrs. Frederick Muller Ltd.

The Gibraltar Council, I hear, has an annual round-up of stray cats and to avoid any risk of mis-classification the local S.P.C.A. decided to lay in a stock of distinctive collars for the use of pet owners. They were manufactured and delivered to the Rock by Messrs. Collier and Collier, of Bournemouth, one of our advertisers.

The P.D.S.A. has decided to institute an "Animals Roll of Honour." It is intended, I am informed, not as a stunt or a sentimental gesture but to drive home the lesson of man's moral obligation to the animal world. The Roll will be a permanent record of service rendered by

animals to human beings and applications for the inclusion of an animal's name will be carefully examined by a committee. Where an animal's name is accepted a certificate will be sent to its owner. The Roll will be started from January of last year and after a ceremony of official installation will be on view at P.D.S.A. House, Clifford Street, London, W.1.

I hope this paragraph will help to scotch the rumour that there will be no section for cats at this year's Sandy (Bedfordshire) Show. The position is that although the Governing Council has for some unknown reason refused to grant Championship status, Sandy will be holding an Open Show for cats under G.C. rules on Thursday, 28th August, which has an even larger classification than last year's show.

This year the annual Cat Week organised by the Cats' Protection League will open with a bazaar at Slough, Bucks., on October 4th, which is St. Francis's Day. This is a Saturday and during the following week the League hope to arrange various attractions culminating with a party in London.

According to an agency news flash from Bonham, Texas, U.S.A., Dusty, a 17-year-old cat has just produced her 420th kitten.

The Ministry of Food is investigating allegations that the operations of "knacker men"—buyers of meat for dogs and cats—are threatening the autumn quota of meat for human consumption. It is reported that these men

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PRIZE WINNERS

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are offering between £25 and £30 for a cow, which is about £8 per head more than the farmers can afford for a beast to rear for meat. Since the days of wartime control prices of dog and cat meat have jumped from 8d. per lb. to between 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. in rural and industrial areas. A new controlled price of 10d. per lb. is suggested as a remedy to remove the threat to supplies for human consumption.

When a partly blind fawn was found on the fringe of Balcombe Forest, it was taken care of and later was adopted as a pet by the Sunshine Home for Blind Babies at East Grinstead. It has, of course, been christened Bambi and at the Home it will take its place among other pets which include two cats, a dog and a donkey.

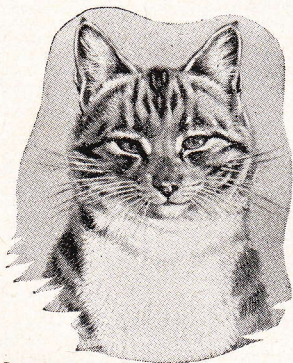
A husband who charged his wife with cruelty complained at the Divorce Court that the cat was given its meals before he was given his. His petition was dismissed and Mr. Commissioner Grazebrook said that the husband sought to

make capital out of the fact that the cat was sometimes in his particular armchair. The wife had said it was ridiculous to suggest that the cat always had its meals first. The husband disliked animals.

A sea channel 100 yards wide didn't prevent a black cat from visiting his old home on at least three occasions. The cat belongs to Miss Margaret Campbell and her brother Mr. John Campbell, an engineer employed at works on the island of Seil, Argyll. During the Winter the Campbells and their pet lived on the Seil side of the channel, returning to the neighbouring island of Easdale several weeks ago. Miss Campbell says that puss has swum the 100 yards from Easdale to Seil to visit his old home on at least three occasions.

I hear that the Rand Cat Club's Show in Johannesburg on 31st May was a great success. 164 cats were benched and over 2,000 people paid to see them during the afternoon. Mr. F. G. Stewart was show manager.

MICKEY.



HAPPY CAT

The cat who is a household pet *must* be kept free from fleas and lice. Dust him regularly with 'Lorexane' Dusting Powder—it will keep his coat healthy and immaculate. Self-respecting cats appreciate its protection. It is pleasantly perfumed and perfectly safe.

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THE SAFE INSECTICIDE



Ph.B.41

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(continued from previous page)

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