

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



The Inquisitors

This fine study by Astrid Bergman shows QUANTOCKS GOSSAMER and WALDO PRECIOUS, a pair of prize-winning Siamese kittens bred in England and exported to Mrs. Ulla Magnusson, of Stockholm. See "Just Fancy" for more details.

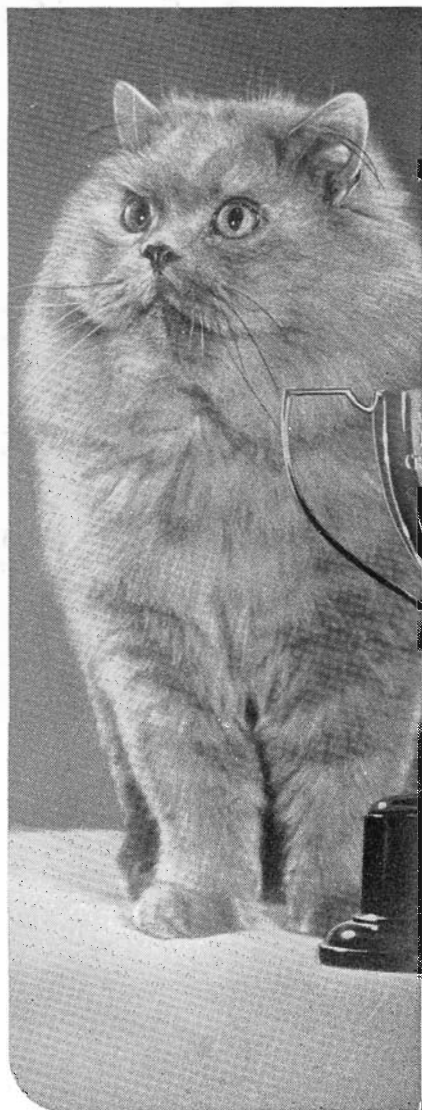
SEPTEMBER 1952

1/6

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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CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

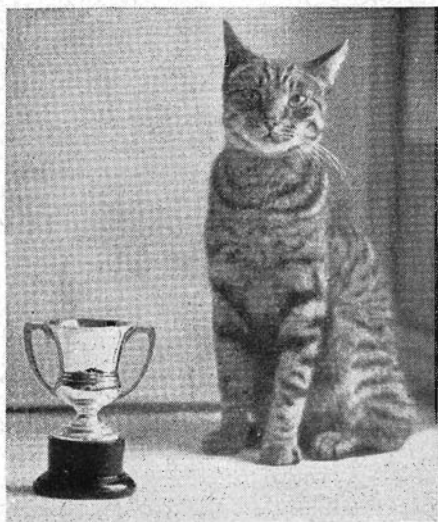
THE CRYSTAL SHOW

ANOTHER Crystal Cat Show has had its hour. Last month's two-day fixture at Olympia was the third in the series and the first to be held under the ægis of the newly-formed Crystal Cat Club. The Club certainly won its spurs.

I spent many enjoyable hours in the vast hall and its precincts meeting old friends of the cat world and making the acquaintance of many interesting personalities I certainly wouldn't have met anywhere else but at Olympia. If some of the pens were empty and the representation of pedigree cats fell short of expectations, it was not due to any lack of effort on the part of the organisers. The Committee, Mr. A. W. Hunter, Show Secretary, and Mr. Frank Williams, Show Manager, all did their best in the face of—yes, let's square up to the facts!—a campaign of vilification in which all sorts of controversial side issues, the smear of "commercialism" and interference with intending exhibitors all played their deplorable part.

From what I gathered, it needed moral courage to show at Olympia this year ; either that or the good fortune to be living in some remote spot in blissful ignorance of the internecine strife raging over the Crystal Show.

As far back as the summer of 1950, OUR CATS came out strongly in support of the Olympia enterprise because we believed in it. I cannot see that anything has happened since to warrant any change in policy and, in our view, it is greatly to be deplored that the Show has not been



"The Times" Photograph

TIGER, office cat of "The Times" newspaper, was the winner of the "Cats of Fleet Street" feature at the Crystal Cat Show. His friendliness, cleanliness and prowess as a ratter earned for him the silver trophy.

Seaman Gunner Roy Sharman from **H. M. S. Neptune** fills his cap with **Cream Longhair** kittens exhibited at **Olympia** by **Mrs. D. Nash**, of **Banstead, Surrey**



Associated Press

given a fair chance to get itself established. The Crystal Show, born of goodwill, has received precious little in return.

Provided it is given the full-blooded support of the Fancy, this two-day meeting could develop into our biggest single factor for progress and prosperity. It could do more than all the rest of the cat shows rolled into one to promote a wider understanding of the cat and its welfare ; to stimulate interest in the breeding of quality stock and to attract newcomers and educate novices. As a market place for pedigree cats and kittens and as a magnet to attract the ordinary cat lover, Olympia has no equal. Developed along the right lines, the Crystal Show could do for the felines what Crufts has done for canines, and that is plenty.

The established clubs need have no fear that Olympia would harm them. And it shouldn't be difficult to overcome most of the objections to two-day shows if a few wise heads got together and persuaded the anti-Crystalites to get their heads out of the sand. Two-day shows are really no novelty here and they are the regular routine in other countries where exhibitors and spectators frequently travel over long distances to attend them. We live in a compact little island and I see no reason at all why with a little planning the Crystal Show couldn't be staged as two one-day shows on consecutive days. And what's wrong with one of the Clubs running its Championship show on the first day, with an Open show and side events, kittens, children's pets, etc., on the second day ?

I think it is generally recognised by now that August is not a good month for the exhibition of cats, particularly the Longhairs. Last month the sun never stopped shining on the Crystal Show and the gate suffered in consequence—people very naturally preferred to stay out-of-doors.

The separate exhibition in the gallery of the National Hall devoted to the pets of London Children's Cinema Clubs was a delightful idea and, I thought, one that " stole the show." I had been warned to expect a crowd of juvenile delinquents with a collection of battle-scarred, disease-ridden alley cats rounded up for the occasion from the back streets of London ! Instead, what did we see ? Well-behaved youngsters who were thrilled to be at Olympia, considerate towards their pets and industrious with brush and comb when the judging time came round. The pets themselves made a brave show and I saw only one who was obviously overcome by the strange surroundings.

The Fluffs, Gingers, Niggers, Micks and Tibbys were, of course, represented in force and they must have felt their chances of success dimmed somewhat by the appearance of such as Skitch-MacCavity, Cleopatra, Whisky-Jennifer and Tidies-Tidales. The happiest moment

came when the excited youngsters queued up to receive their medals and gifts from Miss Elizabeth Cruft. It seemed a great pity that the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy were not present in force to meet and encourage these fanciers of the future.

I cannot at this point attempt any guess as to what the future holds in store for the Crystal Show. If the organisers, discouraged and bewildered by the events of the past few weeks, decide to "call it a day," then no-one can blame them. But as next year is Coronation Year, let us hope that commonsense and goodwill prevail and that all the smoke will clear away to let us see the greatest cat show of all time.

Finally, dear readers, no correspondence on this subject, please! Controversial issues of this nature are correctly settled within the councils of the Fancy. We prefer to devote our all-too-limited space to interesting and helpful features and pictures.

EDITOR.

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Let's go to a Show

We urge our 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 and exhibitors. Brief details of the show programme for the 1952-53 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.

	Promoted by	Venue
1952		
14 October	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
16 October	*Siamese Cat Club	London
25 October	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
13 November	*Croydon Cat Club	London
22 November	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
3 December	*National Cat Club	London
1953		
9 January	*Notts. and Derby Cat Club	Derby
24 January	Lancs. and North-Western Counties Cat Club	Manchester
6 February	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
* Denotes Show with Championship status.		

Meet the Breeders

My Cat Life

By MRS. ELSIE KENT (née Hart), one of the best-known figures in the Siamese world

THE National Cat Club show, Crystal Palace, London—I do not remember the year—but it makes a very good start to the story of my “cat life.” Judging for Best in Show is proceeding, and probably was, in those days, just as big a mess as it is to-day! On the platform a well-known Cat Fancy personality, who I know as Miss Kit Wilson, was telling the world the best cat in show. Thought I, how wonderful to be on that platform and perhaps even to have bred the best cat in the show!

Several years passed and I was given my first Siamese and having heard vaguely of the Siamese Cat Club I thought it a good idea to join. I purchased and read from cover, to cover “The Siamese Cat,” by Phyl Wade, and gave a standing order for “Fur and Feather.” Advertised therein was a cat show sponsored by the Kensington Kitten Club at Tattersalls, particulars from Mrs. Sharman.

I sent for a schedule and with great trepidation entered my Siamese Hooka-Manchu and Angus Romney. I believed, as every novice does, that they conformed exactly to the Standard of Points. They were judged by Mrs. Wade, Capt. Powell, Mrs. Yeates and the aforesaid Miss Kit Wilson. They won! Romney was even judged Best Neuter in Show and took home a silver cup. With the

row of red cards decorating the pens everybody came to speak to me and I returned home elated that I had broken into the cat world.

My next venture was the Siamese Cat Show where I didn't get a card and could have wept with disappointment and astonishment. Well, from then on, the cats won on and off and in the end did very well indeed as Romney was three times Best Neuter in Show, had three silver cups and over fifty special prizes to his credit. There were no Premiers for neuters in those days.

Time again passed. I attended every cat show far or near. I went to every general and other meeting. Siamese being my breed I became acquainted with most of the well-known breeders and quite a number of other varieties as well. I suppose for lack of finding someone better I was asked to take over the Hon. Secretaryship of the Experimental Breeders' Society, a new venture in breeding. Completely ignorant, I found myself plunged into a controversial group, who, after a short time packed their bags and departed leaving me to “hold the baby.” By this time I had become fairly well known amongst cat folk as “Mrs. Hart who apparently hadn't much else to do but run around the cat shows!” So the next offer was the Hon. Secretaryship of the



Fox Photos

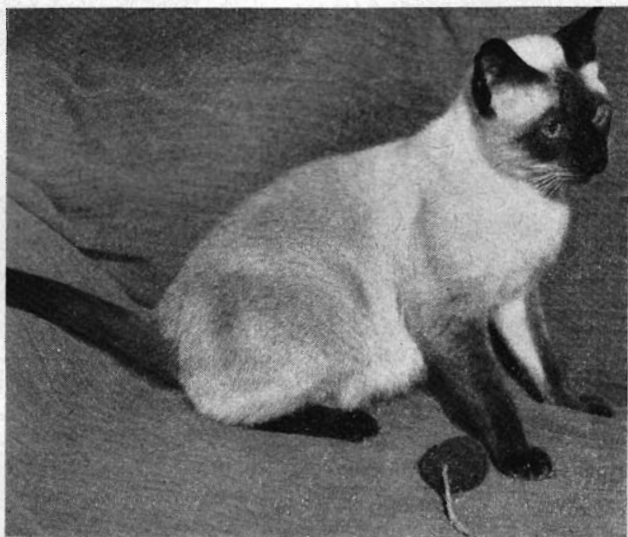
SEALSLEEVE SHAH-PASHAH and SEALSLEEVE SHAH-PETITE out for an airing with Mrs. Kent.

Kensington Kitten Club, then a small club catering only for kittens. I accepted and remained Secretary until just after the end of the war.

In 1938, the late Mrs. Wade asked if I would become the Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, such post being a somewhat tricky position to hold, Siamese Cat Club secretaries coming and going as the wind. I had a few misgivings as this was the largest specialist club in the Fancy, but

ber free of charge. I edited it throughout the war years, in fact, until the club grew even more. The work became heavier, and I could not continue. So it was taken over by the present Chairman, Mr. Soderberg.

During the pre-war years I had stewarded for most of the Siamese judges and many others as well. I learned an enormous amount about cats, regularly visited breeders' catteries, saw their kittens and could quote their



"Illustrated" Photograph

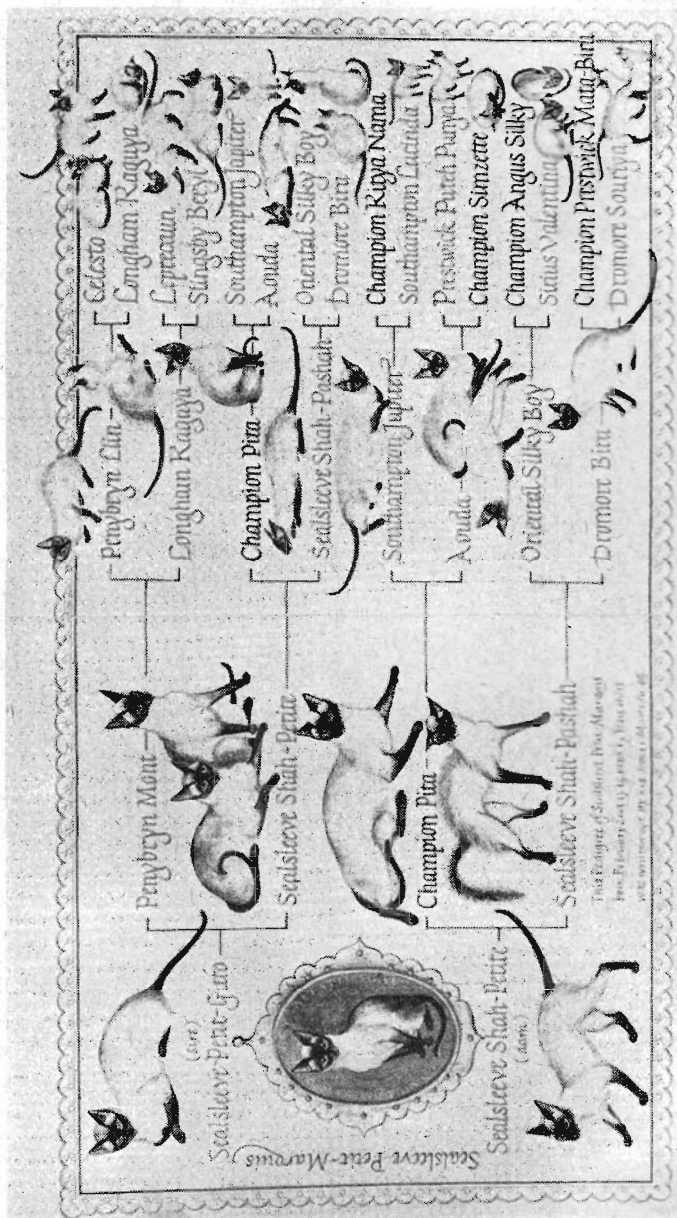
"SHAH-PASHAH, the founder of the Sealsleeves"

I was enthusiastic and not a little nervous. In 1939 I prepared to run the Siamese Cat Club show and was desolate when it had to be cancelled owing to the outbreak of war.

Most of the cat clubs had drifted into hibernation but the Siamese Cat Club Committee made up its mind to do everything it could to keep its members together and to achieve this end the Siamese Cat Club News-Sheet was born. It was published quarterly and sent to every mem-

pedigrees by heart. But it was not until some time later that I decided to have a go at breeding and was presented with Shah-Pashah, a kitten whose appearance brought forth "Hardly the sort of kitten I should expect *you* to choose" from Miss Dixon! "Perhaps not," said I, "but she will breed good stock." And she did.

Although no great show specimen, Shah-Pashah, the founder of the Sealsleeves, was a good looking queen in her youth. From



Mrs. Kent is the proud possessor of this delightful pedigree form illuminated in 1949 by Marie Angel who was the proud owner of Sealsleeve Petit-Marquis.

her I bred, Shah-Petite, who in turn produced Ch. Sealsleeve Petit-Laid, Best Siamese Adult at the Siamese Cat Show and Sealsleeve Petit-Fey, 1st and Ch. and best Exhibit at Nottingham. From Shah-Pashah came also Sealsleeve Shah-Gantee who bred Salween Conqueror, sire of the now famous Ch. Inwood Shadow. From Shah-Pashah came Sealsleeve Shah-Danseur, who breeds winners in every litter, one of whom is Ch. Killdown Jupiter. Many of to-day's winning kittens have old Shah-Pashah for granny. She is still wandering around, ten years old, spayed, but with as pale a coat as a six month's kitten.

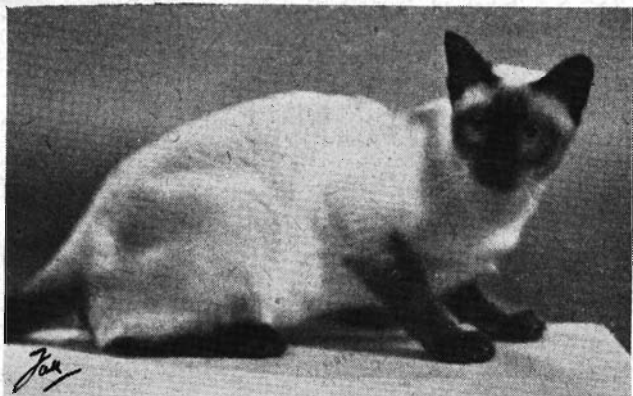
Siamese were News

Came the end of the war. Siamese began to increase and the Club demanded a show. It was not easy to organise, no pens, no hall, procedure more or less forgotten, but with searching Lime Grove Hall was found, Rabbit pens were hired and the first post-war London Championship show was held. It was a tremendous success and we made a handsome profit. Being the first Siamese show since 1938 we

scooped plenty of publicity and quite a number of newspapers carried my story of the Siamese who walked around on collars and leads. Imagine my consternation when a reporter descended upon me wishing to take pictures of these remarkable cats and imagine the disgust of Shah and Petite when they were expected to parade. However, after escape and recapture in various neighbour's gardens we did get a few pictures, certainly not showing any of us at our best.

The Siamese Cat Club continued to grow and the secretarial work increase, until, owing to domestic duties, I could not give sufficient time to it. With great reluctance I asked my committee to accept my resignation after twelve years of happy connections with Siamese and the Club. I have few cats now, only one breeding queen, Sealsleeve Machoux, my stud Sealsleeve Petit-Gitto and Shah's daughter Shah-Miniature, also spayed.

When they depart to the happy hunting grounds I do not think I shall breed again, but remembering the words of the late Cyril Yeates, "Once a breeder, always a breeder," who knows?



Photograph by Fall

SEALSLEEVE PETIT-FEY, bred by Mrs. Kent from Penybryn Mont ex Sealsleeve Shah-Petite, was Best Exhibit in Show at Nottingham.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 27



"Daily Mail" Photograph

A PAT FROM THE P.M.

When Mr. Winston Churchill attended a recent function in the City of London he paused to make the acquaintance of the handsome cat who lives at Liverpool Street Station. How well puss manages to maintain her traditional dignity in the presence of such distinguished company !

Portrait of a Cat

By C. G. L. DU CANN

NO writer, English or French, understands cats better than the famous French novelist known throughout Europe as "Colette."

In her latest book translated into English as "Chance Acquaintances" (published as No. 3 in her Collected Works by Secker & Warburg), there is a charming and intimate picture of a cat, done as only "Colette" can portray a character.

What distinguishes Colette's cats from every other author's is that they are both individual and acutely-observed. They are not just cats: they are Colette's cat, a private-edition cat, a Queen of Cats.

Picked up in the fields, completely wild, scrabbling at the walls when brought in, she soon became civilized and a true Parisienne like her mistress. "She used the lift, had meals in the *bistro*, rode in taxis, and travelled by train like an ordinary person," and "She had a splendid, fastidious and classically striped face and two green eyes filled with a supernatural radiance."

Such was "Peronnella," later called "Prrou," who became part of her mistress's life. There is a difference between "having a cat in the house" and "living with" your cat. Colette lived with hers.

When the village children clustered round crying: "A cat!" this cat looked them up and down in a way that made them fall back. "Few she-cats," says Colette, "are ready to compromise on question of precedence. Toms are the ones that give way."

Colette loves, but is not sentimental about, her cat. When she is lost: "There is a suffocating difference between a room where a feline presence has a moment ago been reigning and the same room empty." Yet Colette can tell a stranger: "Blow on her nose, she can't bear that, it'll send her home in no time."

This cat accompanied her mistress for a regular morning walk to buy freshly-drawn milk. "She would shoot up a tree with an impetus reminding you of the films one used to watch being run through in reverse." Then she would "level her magnificent green eyes—so sure of themselves, so ultra-green and variable—on everything around her. It was the masculine look of a she-cat who has decided to make frequent evasions of her gender and to live a life of comparative sterility."

Local people who called this cat "Puss-on-the-Lead," brought presents. Small bits of Gruyère cheese, a red rosette to wear, and a little celluloid ball with a lead pellet inside, were some of them.

At the sound of her mistress's voice, the cat "floated across the barrier between the balconies as lightly as a silk scarf, and came in to join us." Has the light, graceful movement of a cat been better described? It is with that light, evanescent grace that this cat moves in and out of Colette's story. But she has other characteristics, "a rather rough gaiety" and "a calm vigilance." "Farsighted like many cats, she saw a familiar figure approaching in the distance and drew her ears closer

together." That last phrase is intense, original, and personal observation—something we all recognise as true when it is pointed out to us!

When you begin Colette's story you are interested in the human characters, of course. Before you have read very far, even if you are not a cat-lover, the cat lives so distinctly with a life of its own, that you are equally interested in the cat. (She might be your cat). You keep waiting for the cat to come back into the story, just as you might look out for your own cat coming back into your room. It is astonishing how Colette has put vivid and real life into her cat-portrait in a few sharply-etched phrases, for there is not a single long description of the little cat anywhere.

Delightful Prose

Here she is again. "She greeted me with a kind of dispassionate pleasure. She simply pushed her forehead roughly into my hand, purring, and watched me attentively while I brushed and combed my hair." Colette speaks of her few personal belongings which she held invaluable at that time: "my cat, my desire to travel, and my solitude."

When the cat sleeps, Colette notes "her descent among the dreams that smoothed her striped coat, made her eyebrows and whiskers twitch, and sometimes parted her lips to show dry and transparent gums. . . ." Again, "at an impure smell the cat sniffs with her mouth half-open as was her habit" on such occasions. Finally, when the cat jumps, her leaps "resemble according to her mood the flight of a fairy or the clumsy floundering of a filly."

Never once does Colette drag her cat into the novel either "by

the scruff of its neck" (as the saying is) or otherwise. The cat sidles in naturally and unobtrusively, and without her the story would be the poorer, for she is as necessary to Colette as Horatio is to Hamlet.

No woman-author is more feminine than Colette, who gives those novel and intimate touches of femininity that surprise and delight the reader by their originality. None has better displayed the strangeness that can lie in sex-relations. But now we must give her fresh laurels. No writer of fiction, male or female, has proved to be better qualified to observe and express the elusive soul of an individual cat. Cat-lovers are indebted to her for her latest book.

Peronnella, *alias* "Prrou," *alias* "Come-here," *alias* "Let's-be-off," *alias* "O striped to the utmost of stripeability," and a dozen other fancy nicknames, "which names fell to shreds on her like second-rate clothing" will live long in the memory of readers. She may even be immortal! Certainly she deserves immortality.

A cutting from a Virginia, U.S.A., newspaper tells the story of the Siamese pet Rosebud, who saved the lives, and property of two of our readers, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Learn, of Richmond. A fire started in the basement and some time after the couple had retired they were awakened by Rosebud, who ran up and down the bed mewing and pouncing first on one and then the other. Smoke was filling the house. The fire brigade was summoned to deal with the outbreak and they reported afterwards that "if it hadn't been for the cat, there was a strong possibility the house would have burned to the ground." Mrs. Learn writes: "Naturally, we are very proud of our Rosebud."

A Sixth Sense?

By SIDNEY DENHAM

WHEN some years ago a clergyman moved from Cornwall to a new living in Kent, he took his two year old cat Toby with him in a hamper. Released from the hamper, Toby took one look at his new surroundings, decided he did not care about them and disappeared. Four months later and 300 miles away Toby turned up in the Cornish village. He was recognised by the clergyman's former servant and showed that he had come back to stay.

How did Toby find his way 300 miles over country which he had never seen? Most people would say "by a sixth sense," or by a "homing instinct." These cases of cats making long journeys back to their homes are not uncommon and the ability of the cat to "home" is probably not less than that of the dog, although cats do not cover such long distances.

A Classic Case

The longest of which I have a record in England is 350 miles, but there is a classic case in the United States of a cat covering 1,600 miles from New York state to Denver in 1949. The remarkable feature of this case was that the cat, Clementine, did not "home," but followed its mistress to a new home. She had been left behind with a relative, stayed long enough to wean a litter of kittens and then disappeared to turn up exhausted in Denver months later.

The question arises in all these cases whether the cat that appeared was really the same one that disappeared. In the case of Clementine there seems to be no doubt about identity—she had seven toes on one foot, two white spots on her stomach, a scar on her shoulder.

How did Clementine know even in which direction her mistress had gone? How did she find her way over 1,600 miles of very varied country she had never seen before?

Obviously she did not use her normal senses of sight, smell, hearing and touch, but some faculty quite distinct, a something the psychologists have christened "psi." The phenomenon is spoken of as "extra-sensory perception," generally shortened to ESP and during the last fifteen years it has been widely investigated in human beings by research inspired by Dr. J. B. Rhine and his associates at the famous Parapsychology Laboratory of Duke University, North Carolina. These investigations have shown that telepathy is possible and given us some knowledge of how it works.

Recently Dr. Rhine has begun organising research to discover whether animals have extra-sensory perception. Since animals cannot talk, investigation is harder, but on the other hand if we assume this ESP is some natural faculty diminished in man by civilisation, we should expect to find it much more strongly developed in animals. Cats and dogs offer particularly favourable opportunities for investigations and by examining thousands of well-authenticated examples of apparent ESP by them, Dr. Rhine hopes to plan experiments to establish the existence of the sixth sense in animals and give indications of how it works.

The cases in which cats have followed their owners to new homes, as distinct from those in which they have returned to old homes, are of particular interest because they obviously eliminate any possibility of the senses of sight and smell having been used and even of the sun acting as a "compass," an explanation that has been offered in the past.



PERCY AND GUS

MISS ANNIE ROSS, of 264a Dunn Avenue, Toronto 3, Canada, writes :-

"My kittens Percy and Gus have had several Kit-zyme tablets every day since they were about a month old and they have thriven on them. They apparently adore the taste, too, for when they get out in the back yard amongst the snow which they love, and I cannot persuade them to come in, I only have to rattle the can of tablets. The very moment they hear the sound they are in, mewing for their dose !

I am enclosing a snap of the kittens taken when they were two months old, with Percy trying to get into the can to help himself! They are shaded-silvers, large and strong and I am sure Kit-zyme deserves much of the credit. I want you to know how delighted I am and how much the value of Kit-zyme is appreciated."

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The possibilities of ESP in cats are not limited to finding their way over long distances. Many people know of instances where cats seem to be aware of the approach of someone long before it could be explained by the use of their eyes, ears or noses. Belief in the clairvoyant or psychic powers of the cat is very old and common amongst cat lovers. But for a scientific investigation really authentic examples are needed. I remember being told of a warship's cat that always went ashore at the first opportunity and never returned until an hour or two before sailing time—but never missed the ship. One evening the cat came aboard and was remarked on because the ship had still some days in port. But within two hours the ship was under emergency orders to sail! Did the cat know? If so, how did the cat know? The return in the ordinary way might be explained by the cat noticing certain activities aboard. In this case there were none—but the cat knew even before the captain!

Ship Cats

Some of the most interesting stories apparently showing ESP concern ship cats. Amongst my many records is one of a cat which missed her ship in Sydney in 1936. Seven weeks later the ship docked in London. Six days later the cat came aboard! How had she travelled 11,221 miles? By another ship, obviously, but how did she pick on the right ship, how did she find her way through the maze of London Docks? This instance is not unique. In another instance, although over a mere 2,000 instead of 11,000 miles, the ship on which the cat travelled was identified. She simply came aboard a few hours after "her ship" had left her behind and established herself. But the moment the ship docked she left and found her way over three miles of dock to her own ship!

Dr. Rhine says: "We have passed the point where there is any question that the investigation is warranted. There is clearly a lot to explain in animal behaviour that could be due to ESP and is

not as yet otherwise accounted for. We have even reached a second stage, that at which we find behaviour that can be accounted for by nothing else, that is known and experimentally verified except extra-sensory perception."

The investigation is of great interest to cat lovers. And it is not a matter of pure curiosity or even thirst for knowledge for its own sake. Proof of a sixth sense in animals would throw light on the scientific investigation of whether there is anything that survives bodily death, whether there is anything in "personality beyond the physical operations of the organism."

If you know at first hand of some incident that is well authenticated and suggests the use of a "sixth sense" Dr. Rhine would like to have the facts. In any case I hope that he will, in due course, report on the progress of his unique investigation. Your stories may be sent to The Editor of this Magazine.

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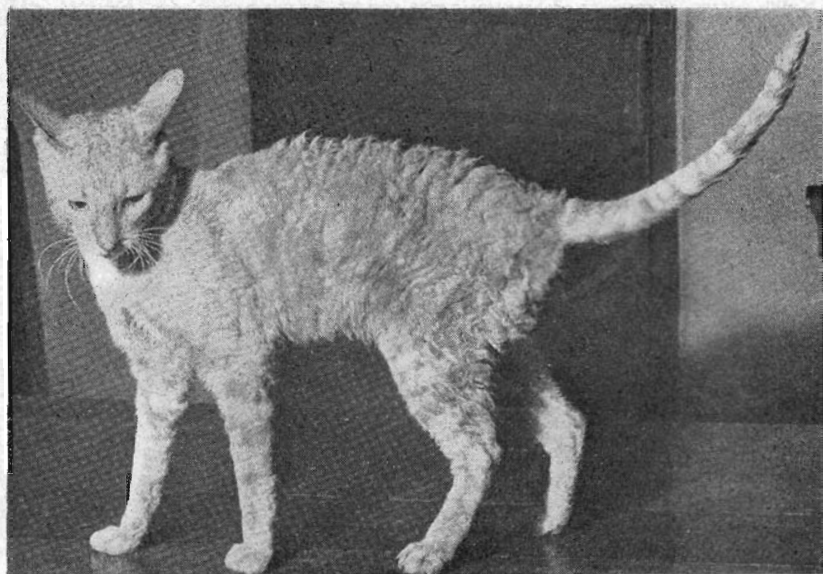
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Edinburgh 9: 4 Dick Place.

Glasgow, S.2: 14 Queen's Drive.

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HE'S A FATHER NOW !

The appearance of this fascinating wavy-coated male cat in a remote West Country village was reported in our July issue. We have since received the interesting news that he has sired a healthy litter of three kittens, two of which are even more wavy coated than himself.

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On Judging Siamese

By MRS. DUNCAN HINDLEY

Doyen of the Siamese Fancy

SOME, it is said, are born judges and some have judging thrust upon them. This is not altogether true as no one now is appointed a judge unless he or she has had long experience either in breeding, stud work or stewarding. Our judges of to-day must "serve their stewardship" in the truest meaning of the words—they must have stewarded at shows for at least three years.

A stud owner will, of course, have so many queens of all degrees of perfection and imperfection through his hands that he soon is able to appraise each queen directly he sees it. A steward's duties are exacting but as nothing is done well without hard work, no one complains except a few exhibitors, sometimes rightly and sometimes wrongly! A good steward will almost invariably make a good judge and the best are those who concentrate on their work and allow the judge to concentrate too. This is one of the reasons why a steward should not speak to the judge unless spoken to.

Most judges, when they get the opportunity, will point out good and bad points in the cats and give their reasons for doing this and that, but it must be in the judge's own time and not the steward's. I know from experience that it is easy to create a wrong impression. A member of the public watching the judging has been overheard to exclaim "But the steward seems to be doing the judging!"

Correct handling of the cat is one of the most important things

to learn, especially with Siamese. Each judge and steward may have a slightly different method, but an understanding and quiet steward is worth more than gold to a judge—and to the cat! A nervous exhibit must be kept from getting temperamental in the show pen and personally I do not believe that his confidence can be gained by either talking or making "sweet noises" to him. Siamese are particularly susceptible to strange noises. It may even be necessary to leave him for a while and return to him later when he may have settled down. Many judges follow this plan.

Every good judge wants to give each cat the best chance he can. Stud cats in particular are apt to be edgy at shows owing to the smell of other stud cats. At home, in their own surroundings, they are no trouble at all and it is the visiting queens that one has to be careful about.

Removing the exhibit from the show pen is not always quite so easy and simple as it sounds. After the cat's confidence has been gained, he should be turned round gently but firmly with his hind-quarters to the opening of the pen. The grip should be firm with both hands round his shoulders and front legs. Then he can be lifted out backwards.

Another method is to grip him firmly by the scruff of the neck with the left hand, having the right hand under his tummy so that he can be lifted up slightly and removed without his hind-legs catching in the bar of the

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door opening. Once he is on the table, the steward should continue to hold him firmly all the time—unless, of course, the judge wishes to handle the cat—stroking him from head to tail to smooth his coat, and trying at the same time to get him to show off his length of body, etc.

There is nothing worse than to see a judge ruffle up a cat's coat and then leave it like that. No Siamese can look svelte with a rough coat and that is why so many "go down" if they are not in perfect condition or are bristling their coats with annoyance at the next-pen neighbour, or from nerves. Every movement by the handlers should be quiet and restrained; it is fatal to let a cat think you are afraid of him. It is said that humans give off some particular odour when they are afraid of an animal and this upsets the object of their fear. Whether this has ever been proved, I cannot say.

Difficult to Judge

Siamese to my mind are the most difficult cats to judge as the least thing alters that "typey" appearance and being of a temperamental disposition, this so often happens. A coat slightly open from nerves can make them look round-headed, short-necked and thick in body. No judge can be blamed for passing them by.

An adult cat, especially a stud cat, is bound to become heavier in build and his jowls will make him look more round-headed. For this reason it seems to me only fair that in the open class the age of the cat should be marked in the judge's book, as it always has been by the Siamese Cat Club. No stud cat or brood queen should be penalised for what is the natural result of age and hard work.

With a Longhaired cat, this thickening probably only intensifies his heavy type, but not so with a Siamese.

Exhibitors have so often been known to question the fact that a cat will win under one judge and not under another on the same day. Well, the answer to that one probably is that each judge interprets the Standard of Points slightly differently. Of course, a Siamese may very easily win at one show and not at the next. It



PRESTWICK BLUE SEAMIST, bred by Mrs. Hindley from Ch. Blue Seagull ex Ch. Larchwood Lilac.

is astonishing how a cat can alter in appearance in a few weeks and more often than not this is due to condition. It will be noticed that the S.C.C. allows only five marks for condition, but it must be remembered that these are *extra* marks. If a cat is out of condition it is penalised on every point,

including type, for the reasons given before.

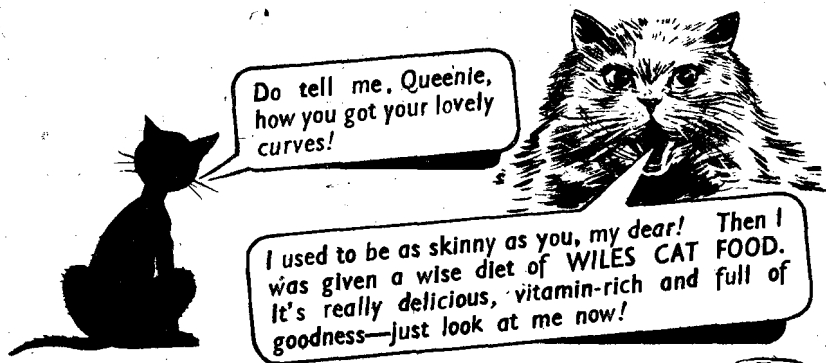
Taking all in all, most of us feel that the judges and stewards do a fine job of work and it is very easy to don the mantle of critic. The perfect Siamese has not yet been bred but in spite of the pessimists, we are getting very near to perfection. This only applies to the Seal Points. Blue Points and Chocolate Points have not yet been bred long enough and with such intensity, though the exhibits at the coming shows should show a marked improvement. The dry summer unfortunately has had a disastrous effect on coats.

It is this illusiveness that makes the Siamese such fascinating animals to breed. Add to this their interesting personality and what more can one seek in a variety?

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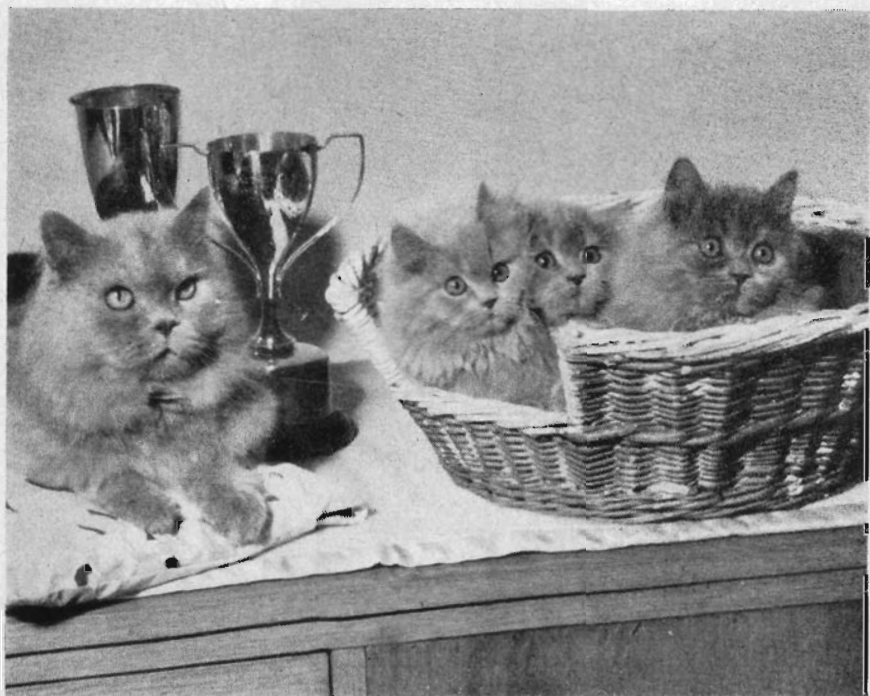


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Some Useful First Aid Tips on

Poisoning

By P. M. SODERBERG

THERE are a few people who will poison a cat that is a nuisance to them, but fortunately their number is small indeed. I certainly sympathise with the keen gardener who is subject to the unwelcome gardening activities of a cat attending to the needs of nature, and I can feel for the bird keeper who finds that his pets are constantly disturbed, particularly during the breeding season, by a marauding cat. The pesky creatures are a nuisance, but there are many humane methods of reducing the inconvenience to a minimum.

I have at times heard of cats being poisoned under such circumstances, but I have always had my doubts and so far in my experience there has never been proof as a result of a post mortem that poison intentionally administered has been the cause of death.

Occasionally one hears of an epidemic of poisoning, but investigation of the facts proves that poison has had nothing to do with the disaster. The conclusion had been reached merely because the cat had suffered from violent sickness and had died in obvious pain within twenty-four hours. When such unfortunate epidemics occur, you can be reasonably certain that the cause of the deaths is the much dreaded infectious enteritis.

Yet some cats do die from poisoning, but these cases are invariably accidental. It is thus wise for the cat owner to have sufficient elementary knowledge which will be sufficient to save a cat's life which might otherwise be lost.

To give a long list of possible poisons would be a waste of time, for their name is legion and there are, in fact, far more substances that will poison a cat than have the same effect on humans. All that is necessary here is to give a very small number of poisons which are those most commonly encountered in cats.

Coal Gas

At least two gases are used for cooking, but the one most commonly employed is coal gas, and from this cause a few cats have lost their life through their own inquisitiveness allied to the owner's carelessness.

It is no more than sensible to see that gas taps which can be turned on accidentally by a cat are so tight that they cannot easily be moved by a paw. A little thought is all that is necessary to prevent this misfortune, and, if you go out for any length of time, there is no need to leave your cat in a room where there are gas appliances.

Nevertheless there will be occasions when a cat is found suffering from coal gas poisoning and you can only hope that you will find the victim of this accident before it is too late. Much depends upon the circumstances, but it does not take a cat long to die from an overdose of coal gas.

The first thing to do is to get the animal into the fresh air, and, if necessary, to apply artificial respiration. This is not difficult, but it is a good idea to practice on a good-natured cat that is perfectly fit. Place the cat on its

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back with the head turned to one side, and then look to see that the tongue is drawn forward.

By grasping the forelegs gently but firmly, they must then be pushed into the chest to compress it. Suddenly the pressure is released. Count three as pressure is exerted on the chest, and then, when you have relaxed, pause for a count of two before continuing the same movement. Never give up hope of recovery in less than an hour.

Phosphorus

Some cats suffer from phosphorus poisoning because they eat vermin which have been killed by poison containing this substance. There are not many cats which eat carrion, but there will always be some who do, and it takes little phosphorus to cause violent pain with constant vomiting. This is one of the easier poisons to recognise because it gives a characteristic odour to the breath. The smell is not that of phosphorus itself, but resembles the breath of humans who have eaten onions.

When there is violent pain the best thing is to give the cat something which will combine with the phosphorus so that the compound becomes comparatively harmless. Copper sulphate will do this, but as you will have sent for the vet. he will bring it with him if you tell him of your suspicion. Provided the cat can drink, barley water is soothing, but no fats of any kind may be given. That rules out milk.

D.D.T.

There is no doubt that some cats suffer from poisoning due to the use of insect powders containing too high a percentage of D.D.T. In fact, it is safer not to use D.D.T. at all on any cat, al-

though some seem not to be in the least upset by it.

Poisoning from this cause rarely produces violent symptoms, but the cat loses its appetite, and in a bad case there may be some vomiting. If you have used such a powder, see that any remaining in the coat is at once removed.

The best way to remove the cause of the trouble is to give the cat as much drink as it will take. For this purpose the best drink is anything which the cat is known to like. In this way D.D.T. is quickly excreted from the body, and, within twenty-four hours, the cat will be none the worse for its unpleasant experience. The owner, however, may have learned a valuable lesson.

Arsenic

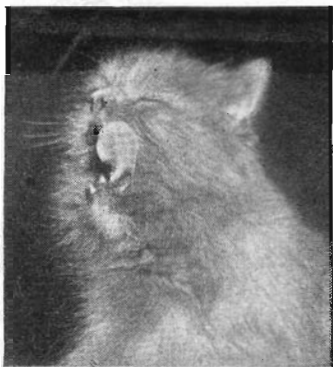
I once had a cat poisoned by arsenic, and it was a combination of the stupidity of the cat and my own folly which caused this trouble. The cat had a passion for licking anything wet, I a similar passion for killing weeds on the path. The cat paid for its eccentricity as this was one of those weed killers which contain arsenic. The cat recovered.

Arsenic poisoning is difficult to recognise, but, if you have been using weed killer, you may have the clue. Arsenic causes vomiting and diarrhoea, and the only course to adopt is to remove the poison from the stomach as quickly as possible. The usual emetics well known in the home can be used on the cat, and perhaps salt and water is the best. The white of an egg given after the emetic has worked will soothe the stomach.

It is as well to be prepared rather than panic when the emergency arises.

'Prizes are such a bore'

yawns Blue Cream Persian Bourneside Shot Silk, bred and owned by that leading breeder, exhibitor and judge, Mrs. E. G. Aitken of Banstead, Surrey.



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MRS. AITKEN has long experience of breeding winners — she is also a judge of international fame and her husband is Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. So her opinion carries weight—and her opinion of Tibs could not be higher. She has used them regularly for her stock since they were first introduced.

'Personally, I'd rather have a nice piece of rabbit than another challenge cup', says Bourneside Shot Silk. 'Still, it's nice for Mistress when we win prizes.'

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Correspondence Corner

general interest.

CAT SCRATCH FEVER

I was interested to read the article on cat scratch fever in your July issue, as previously I had only heard of the complaint when I was a small child well over 30 years ago.

Some of my earliest recollections are the warnings of my parents that I must handle pussy most carefully, not solely on account of being kind and gentle to animals, but also because a cat scratch could cause cat scratch poison. When I grew old enough to understand more, my father explained the swollen glands, etc.

We lived in the heart of a rural area miles from civilisation, so evidently the illness was well-known among country people many years ago.

Dorothy Cresswell,
Cambridge.

CRITIQUE

Nothing could be more praiseworthy than the excellent admonishment given to us by Dr. Norah Archer in her recent letter (July issue). Let us take heed and refrain at the offset from making exaggerations and statements which once uttered are ever after so difficult to eradicate. I am referring in particular to the new anomaly cited by Mr. Jude—the wavy-hair mutation.

Mr. Munro's letter on "False Pregnancy" is of decided interest and it is such information carefully observed which paves the way for true scientific progress. It is, however, singular that the abortions mentioned were buried and not devoured. Carnivores of the wild would almost certainly devour their abortions. It is only

the ungulates who leave their "tragedies" exposed. All vets. will testify to the occurrence of false pregnancy in bitches; it is considered common in rabbits.

In a recent article by Mr. Soderberg he made a statement which if corroborated by weighty evidence, is sensational to say the least. I refer to eye colour. Mr. Soderberg says "even so any stud with poor eye colour should never be used." He is speaking of Siamese. If the Blue Persian Cat Society who after all have been breeding for many years could corroborate this evidence, then there would be no more problems for the Russian Blue breeders who have the greatest difficulty in producing and retaining the green eye. Equally, the Blue British breeders are at pains to secure an amber or copper eye and not one of pale yellow (which frequently has a green flange around the pupil as well). Personally, I do not think eye colour inheritance is as simple as this.

Cartwright Farmiloe, F.Z.S.,
London, N.W.8.

MUSICAL CATS

Having read the article by J. Seddon in the August issue of OUR CATS on "Musical Cats," I am hoping that my experiences will be as interesting to other people as they were to me.

Some years ago I had a fine Blue half-Persian cat which was very fond of sitting straight up on the piano stool and gently touching the keys with his front paws as if he enjoyed the sounds.

Circumstances compelled me to part with him and I gave him to a very musical friend. Donald (that was his name) used

to sit close to her when she played classical music, but not when she turned to dance music or jazz. On one occasion he was left alone in the house except for a visitor upstairs. Sounds of music were heard and the visitor came down to investigate. Donald was found sitting on the piano stool, pawing the keys and evidently enjoying himself.

My second experience of a musical cat was when I had a Tortoiseshell half-Persian. She loved music, especially a brass band or an orchestra playing Tchaikowsky or similar loud music. She would sit with her ear against the sounding board, her body trembled and her tail would switch from side to side. Her interest would end abruptly with a man's voice singing or speaking.

Mrs. C. Gilbert,
Berwick.

MORE EYE TROUBLE

In your July issue there is a letter from Miss Edwards about her cat's eye. Can you please tell her to watch that eye.

We had a cat who developed dark spots in the iris of one eye. It did not appear to be in any pain so we did nothing about it except show it to the vet. who said the eye must at some time have been injured. This condition stayed for several years. Then, this spring, we noticed a red blur (which we thought was a burst blood vessel or vein) in the eye, which became swollen. Still it did not seem to worry our pet. He got thin but as he was nearly ten years old we put it down to his age.

Later the eye burst and discharged, so we sent for the vet. But the tablets he prescribed only appeared to distress the cat, so we sent for a lady vet., who did her best to save the cat. But he died in a convulsion the same night. She said the eye was septic and the septic condition had spread inside and was the cause of death.

Mrs. M. E. Beak,
Hatford Road, Nr. Farringdon,
Berks.

HERE'S A PROBLEM

I have a ginger tom cat about ten months old. I found him last Christmas when he was very small and starving. He is extremely affectionate, very clean, a good mouser, etc. In short, I am very attached to him.

This place is an Admiralty Industrial Hostel. I've been here a year, consequently Ginger knows every nook and corner and almost every person. I may be going to the south of England shortly to live.

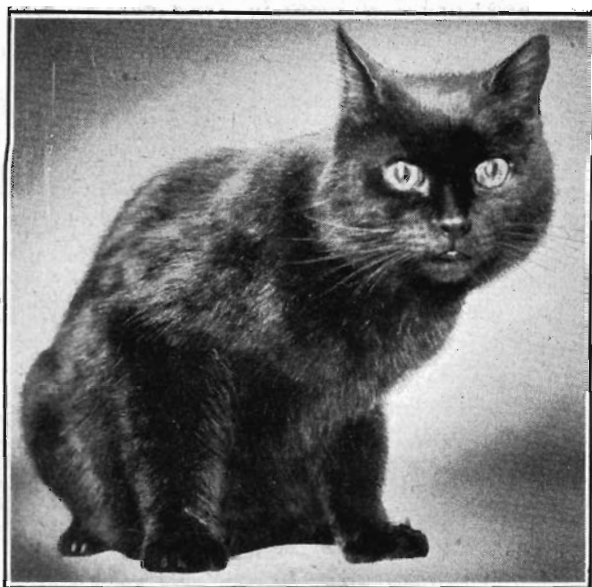
Now, in Ginger's interest, would it be fair to take him with me or leave him with a good person who likes him, of whom there are plenty, though I don't know them well enough to know for sure if they would look after him as much as I do. Ginger follows me everywhere and I daren't cycle to work when he is looking or he would come with me, two miles away.

I would like very much to take him with me to the South. But if you think it kinder to leave him, I will.

(Name and address supplied).

What would YOU decide about Ginger's future? For what in the Editor's opinion is the best answer received from a reader, a prize of 5/- will be awarded. Letters must not exceed 300 words and the Editor's decision must be accepted as final.

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.



NIMROD

MRS. D. M. EDGILL of 44 Selva Lane, Mill Hill, London, N.W. 7,
writes :-

"Last September the whole coat of my cat, Nimrod, became matted into solid lumps and was really in a shocking condition. We could do nothing to get it right and he was looking more like an armadillo than a cat when someone recommended Kit-zyme tablets."

"Since taking them he has grown an entirely new coat and lumps of tangled fur have literally fallen out."

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A Guide to Cat Books

Cats Between Covers : A Bibliography of Books about Cats by Sidney Denham. Published by H. Denham, 1/48 Elsworth Road, London, N.W.3. (7s., post free).

ALTHOUGH cats have been domesticated in Britain for many centuries, it was not until 85 years ago that the first book in English wholly devoted to them was published. This was C. H. Ross's quaint "The Book of the Cat," which is probably familiar to many readers. Since then books dealing with cats from many different aspects have been published in increasing numbers until to-day there is almost a bewildering choice, with some new work appearing almost every month. Sidney Denham's excellent guide to books about cats is therefore timely and should be welcomed by book collectors as well as cat lovers.

As the author writes in his introduction : "A shelf of books about other people's cats is no substitute for the sight of a real cat relaxed before your fire or the sound of the uninhibited activity of a litter of kittens steeplechasing in the passages. But books can enlarge the cat lover's appreciation of the cats who share his home and even cats in general."

The author divides his bibliography into sections dealing with histories, poems, reminiscences of cats, books of drawings and photographs, practical books and children's books about cats. Each bibliography is preceded by interesting notes on some of the books. For the most part, the bibliography is restricted to books published in England although there is a short but interesting list of some unusual books published on the Continent and a number of books published in both England and the

U.S.A. are included. The fact that the bibliography is not claimed to be complete even within its own limited field but includes details of some 170 books shows how far we have come since the days of Charles Ross, whose friend, when he mentioned his idea of writing a book about cats, laughed and said no one would want to buy it. As Sir Compton Mackenzie says in his foreword : "I have no doubt the great majority of readers will be as much surprised as I was by their own ignorance of the literature of cats."

Room for More

The author makes practical acknowledgment to the fact that there may be omissions and that there will certainly be many additions to the literature of cats in the next few years by providing a number of blank pages for "Notes and Additions" at the end of the volume. This is a novel and useful idea. The only important omission I note on a first reading is the late H. C. Brooke's pamphlet on the Abyssinian Cat published in 1929. The omission is, I am sure, inadvertent, as it was referred to by Mr. Denham in his own little book on the same subject last year.

The pamphlets listed include an interesting one on the curious Legend of the Barnbrugh cat, a wild one which engaged in a desperate struggle with a crusader who attacked it. Both man and cat were killed in the fight. The author points out that although this legend, associated with Barnbrugh church where the knight was buried, is unsupported, it was not so unlikely as it may seem. Gordon Stables records the case of a Scottish boy in the last century being killed by a wild cat which he attacked.

In a number of cases, the author gives

notes of considerable interest about the books. It will probably be news to most readers, for instance, to discover that the common expression "tom" for a male cat originated with an eighteenth century book which featured a cat of this name and enjoyed a certain popularity, so that Tom became allusive for a male cat, as Reynard had become allusive for a fox.

There are, I believe, many collectors of books about cats and as the author points out, the older and rarer books are becoming increasingly hard to find. They will certainly want this book. But I think it may prove even more interesting to those who are simply cat lovers and know little of the many books published about cats. Whether there is, in fact, any library in Britain which contains all the books described is doubtful. We have not yet a library devoted to cat books like

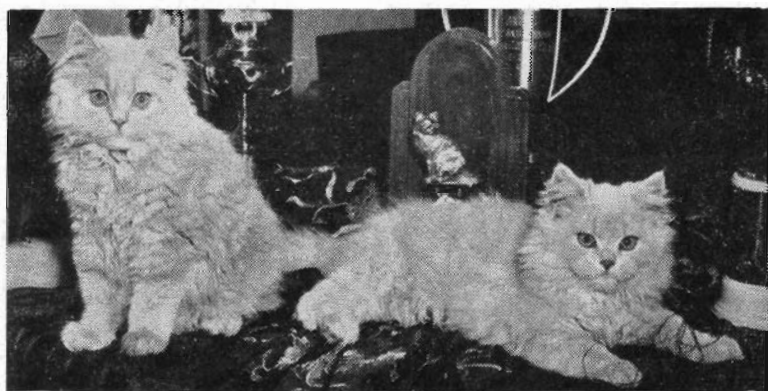
that at Yale University described in this volume.

Dare I suggest that the formation and housing of such a reference library is something that the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy might consider? No doubt many of these books are available at the British Museum Library which has, I understand, recently been enriched by the gift of old stud books and other literature left by Cyril Yeates. But the British Museum Library is not accessible to the ordinary reader. Mr. Denham's book will have served a good purpose if it does no more than stimulate the interest of the Fancy in this way. But, in fact, I feel it will be valued by hundreds of readers and I cannot do better than echo Sir Compton Mackenzie's tribute "to a task accomplished with exactitude, diligence and affection."

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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.

GLORIOUS weather prevailed for the much discussed Crystal Cat Show at Olympia.

What a wonderful venue for a show ! Ideal conditions for the exhibits, judges and stewards and how delightful to have refreshments at any convenient time and a chat with friends in congenial surroundings. The preliminary criticism affected the entries as many persons associated with this Show anticipated. Many would-be exhibitors imagined they might be penalised if they showed at a big show not sanctioned by the Governing Council. Under present G.C. rules this is not so, and some shows take place each year which, although outside its jurisdiction, are very well organised, notably the 1950 and 1951 Crystal Cat Shows with Mr. A. Towe as Show Manager, and this one managed by Mr. Frank Williams.

August, the holiday month is not the ideal time to stage a really representative London cat show, and two days duration is another deterrent to some exhibitors. However, 194 pedigree cats graced the pens and a remarkable collection of household pets was on view in the gallery of the vast hall. I had been rather dubious about the cats of the

Odeon and Gaumont Children's Cinema Clubs but over 200 arrived in perfect condition and the polish on the coats of the Shorthairs was a credit to their young and enthusiastic owners. I judged nearly a hundred of them and they were docile, sweet tempered and not disturbed by their strange environment. Their youthful owners were well behaved and capably managed by officials of various cinemas. It was a real joy to handle these lovely pets and I could not help but form the opinion that these cinema clubs really help to foster a love of cats and interest in their welfare. The exhibition of these fine pets would only be practicable, in my opinion, in a hall such as Olympia, where they can all be accommodated in the huge gallery as a separate exhibition.

The principal awards were :—Best Cat in Show, Major Dugdale's Blue Longhair Harpur Romeo, by Ch. Harpur Blue Boy; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Denton's Blue Anson Eros, by Robin of Pensford ; Best Longhair Neuter, 'Mrs. Stringer's Blue Eireanne Silver Belle, by Neuburie Bambi ; Best Shorthair Cat in Show, Mrs. K. R. Williams' Red Tabby Ch. Vectensian Anaconda by Rivoli Rogue ; Best Kitten in Show, Mrs. Regan's Shorthair Silver Tabby Bellever Silver Chalcidony by Ch. Hillcross Silver Flute ; Best Neuter in Show, Miss German's Russian Blue Premier Dunloe Pavlovitch by Ch. Dunloe Silver Toes.

All these exhibits won silver cups outright and in some cases two. Mrs. K. R. Williams' Ch. Vectensian Anaconda was awarded two trophies for Best Shorthair male and later Best Shorthair Cat in

Show and she very generously gave one to Mrs. Vaughan's lovely White Manx female, Snowy Guelder Rose, Best Shorthair female, a gesture which was much applauded.

Mrs. Denton for the second year in succession had the honour of Best Longhair Kitten and also won two cups. A remarkable feat, four cups in a year. Miss Chafer exhibited a beautiful Blue female kitten Blue Puggie by Ch. Thiepval Wanderer. She was sold with her sister as companion to Major Maitland Reynell and both will be pets. Several kittens were sold and breeders had the satisfaction of chatting to their future owners.

Mr. P. M. Soderberg, Chairman of the Crystal Cat Club, presided at the microphone in two sessions of "Any questions?" on the second day of the Show. Mrs. K. R. Williams, the Hon. Veterinary Surgeon, Mrs. Muriel Calder, M.R.C.V.S., and myself formed a panel. Nearly all the questions we had to deal with were about health and feeding. It was gratifying to note the solicitude of owners for their pets.

Thousands of people attended the Show, once again proving there is tremendous interest among the British public if cat shows are adequately advertised and held at a venue which appeals to them. The penning was all that one could wish for and every exhibit appeared to have a double pen.

Sandy Show

A cool sunny day for Sandy Show in Bedfordshire. Ninety-eight cats and kittens were entered, Siamese having the most representative entry, which is usually the case to-day. Only forty-three Longhair adults and kittens were entered, Blues numbering thirteen. The Best Blue Adult Ch. Thiepval Enchantress and her winning daughter Thiepval Solitaire were outstanding in quality.

From various reports during the breeding season there have been many disappointments with Blue brood queens

and if it has been very extensive it will unfortunately be reflected later in show entries.

It was good to see seven Black Longhairs early in the season and no doubt Mrs. Aitken was contented to see Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond beaten by his son Bourneside Black Turvey, both bred by herself. Mr. Waring's trio of Black kittens were well grown and presented, Grettas Astrakhan being first. Miss Langston was awarded Best Exhibit in Show and Best Kitten in Show with her beautifully presented Chinchillas Ch. Scamp of Allington and Loreley of Allington. Other winners were: Best Shorthair Cat, Miss Harvey's Blue Point Siamese Wynperri Blue Prince; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Hewlett's Siamese Seal Point Gaywood Shebel; Best Neuter, Miss German's Premier Dunloe Pavlovitch.

Winners in Norway

Mrs. Ulla Magnusson kindly sends me a marked catalogue of the Championship Show at Oslo, Norway, which attracted many exhibits from Sweden and Denmark.

Madame Pia Sandoz, the well-known European judge from Zurich, Switzerland, officiated. She has travelled extensively on the Continent and handled many of the lovely cats exhibited in France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium. British-bred cats won many premier honours. Morris Sable (by Ch. Hill-cross Song) won his second certificate, and his breeder, our Mrs. Richardson of Ashted, Surrey, now has the unique honour of breeding him and two Siamese male Champions, the others being Ch. Morris Sable (England) and Ch. Morris Lindex (U.S.A.). All three are the progeny of one queen, Morris Una, mated to different males.

Quantocks Gossamer by Ch. Morris Sable (one of the Siamese appearing on this month's front cover) won her first Challenge certificate.

The winning Chinchilla adult was Redwalls Celeste by Champion Flam-

beau of Allington bred by Mrs. Hacking. Ronada Onaway by Southway Echo, bred by Mrs. Brice-Webb, was the winning Blue female. Twinkle of Pensford, Blue-Cream daughter of Ch. Astra of Pensford (bred by myself) was Best Cat in Show. All these cats were awarded C.A.C.I.B., the I.B. being equivalent to winning their Open Class with Honours. Only one other cat had this distinction, a Black Shorthair Teddy av Levitun owned by Mrs. Onsgaard, of Abildso. The winning Blue male Gippeswyk Darby (bred by Miss Alexander) and the winning Black female, Chadhurst Linda (bred by Miss Rodda) were awarded Challenge certificates and the latter's kittens won well, much to the pleasure of her owners, Mr. and Mrs. Runsenen of Copenhagen.

Last but not least Waldo Precious (also on the front cover this month) by Mrs. Richardson's Morris Padishah was Best Shorthair kitten. So, as Mrs. Magnusson points out in her letter: "It was a big day for the English cats as usual. It was a very nice show with a good gate and we were delighted to have Madame Sandoz with us."

Off to Canada

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, the popular Siamese fanciers of Ashted, will be leaving for Canada in the spring for three months' stay in Winnipeg. Their small family of Siamese will remain in their own home if a trustworthy person can be found to care for them. They plan to return in August.

A Lovely Garden

An enjoyable visit to Mr. and Mrs. Denton at their Denmark Hill home. After admiring Trenton Sugar Plum and their new "baby," Anson Eros we went into their enchanting garden. It is a veritable paradise for cats, to say nothing of humans! Surrounded by a high brick wall it has two large ponds with fountains playing and a rockery with a waterfall. The fish are a source of never end-

ing delight to the cats. They are reputed never to catch them but it was a bit suspicious when one was found carefully laid on the brink. Concealed coloured lights are effectively placed round the ponds and garden, a great advantage after dark as they can be switched on to locate the errant cats.

I was interested to see in a beautifully bound book several photographs of the Queen Mother when she visited the garden as Queen Elizabeth in August 1951. A certificate of merit issued by the London Garden Society has a citation: "For creating a garden worthy of a visit from Her Majesty the Queen."

Started with Chinchillas

I have also paid a visit to Mrs. and Mr. Barron at Uxbridge to see another little family of pets kept under happy conditions and liberty in a large garden. It was interesting to hear why they commenced breeding cats. Always cat lovers, they visited their first Show at Olympia in 1950 and were captivated by the Chinchillas. They met Mrs. Hacking and later visited her and purchased Redwalls Fairy, a grand-daughter of the famous Ch. Langherne Winsome. A Cream queen of Mrs. Hacking's, Anchor Cream Cracker, had mismated and produced a fascinating mixed litter so they purchased two, a Cream Shorthair to be made neuter, and a pretty variation of a Tortie and White, her colouring including some blue patches which precludes her from exhibition. Mated to Mrs. Davies' Cream male, Elmwood Cavalier, she produced the mixed litter of five mentioned in our July issue. This queen's name, by the way, is Redwalls Merley, not Redwalls Fiesta as stated in my notes. All have gone to good homes except Dalan Nicola, a pretty Cream female which they may retain. Mr. and Mrs. Barron had one setback at the beginning, a visitation of infectious enteritis when the trio of kittens were five months. As they were born in the autumn they rarely went into the garden and their owners had not been in contact with any shows

or breeders. With devoted nursing the kittens have now grown into three very robust adults.

It is fortunately rare to hear of this dreaded disease among a few kittens kept under natural conditions but cat lovers in this country will surely welcome the news that they can have their kittens immunised against feline infectious enteritis by the vaccine made at the Wellcome Research Laboratories. The vaccine is available from veterinary surgeons and I urge breeders to seriously consider having all kittens they intend to show immunised.

As we were near Mrs. Davies' at Chalfont St. Peters, we paid a fleeting visit and much admired her Blue Neuter, Premier Priory Adonis. His coat is magnificent, incredibly long, fine in texture and a lovely pale shade. No wonder patrons of their country inn come from miles around asking to see this outstanding pet cat. All the rest of her family, except the two males, were fit and well and playing around with the black poodle Aubrey.

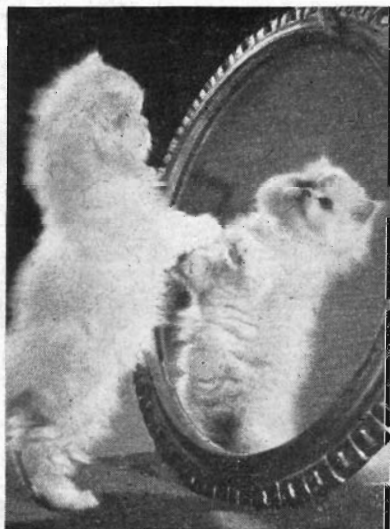
Popular Abbies

Present-day popularity of Abyssinians is due largely to the devoted post-war work of Mr. and Mrs. Denham. After the war Abyssinians were very few and far between but like many present-day breeders their ideas were "different." So they determined to publicise a breed they admired, which is not by any means inimical to loving cats. In fact, to present them attractively to a larger public is conducive to cats being properly valued and esteemed.

Their first book "Child of the Gods" was devoted to Abyssinians. It was hailed with delight. Their quarterly Abyssinian Newsletter is an encouragement to breed them and of interest to all cat lovers.

Kentish Cat Society

The first post-war show of the Kentish Cat Society at Tunbridge Wells proved a great attraction and was a social and financial success. The attendance



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was excellent for a non-Championship fixture. Mrs. Vize is a very capable Show Manager and this time she was coping with a show many miles from her Banstead home, which involved extra work. The Committee were very satisfied with her management.

83 pedigree exhibits, 4 "celebrities not for competition" and 13 household pets made a lovely array. Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Stephenson's Blue male Woburn Sunshine, who was making his first bow as an adult. Sunshine's picture appeared in the January issue of OUR CATS. Other awards were Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Richard's Blue-Cream Sharbri Adela; Best Shorthair Cat, Miss Robson's Silver Tabby Ch. Hillcross Silver Lady; Best Shorthair Kitten, the Rev. B. Rees White Sylvan Snow Beauty; Best Neuter, Mrs. Love-day's Blue Longhair Yew Hatch Andrew.



MURDERER AT LARGE

THERE is a murderer at large (reports the London *Evening News*) in the Surrey village of Oxshott. He killed Fleabite—and he probably has another 20 deaths on his conscience.

A price of £20 has been put on his head by Mr. Ron Harris. Other villagers are joining his investigations into the Mystery of the Missing Cats.

Fleabite, a black and white cat, was found in a ditch near Mr. Harris's home in Stokesheath-lane. The vet. said she had been hit with a club "more than once." Mr. Harris's reward notice—"for information leading to the identification of the person who killed my cat"—set the whole village gossiping.

Neighbours told how their cats had disappeared; girls at the local phone exchange told how they had lost a blue Persian kitten called Smoky and a marmalade cat called Sweetie. One elderly woman in the neighbouring village phoned to say: "I have lost 12 cats—some of them poisoned."

The toll rose to 20. The villagers believe there is either a maniac at work or someone who sells the fur. This theory is supported by the fact that only handsome cats are taken.

We regret that owing to illness the usual features by Mrs. Billie Bancroft are missing from this issue. Pressure on space this month prevents us from publishing Mr. Jude's "Answers to Questions," the article by Mrs. De Hass on "Kitten Care" and the further adventures of Bo'sun, the sailor Siamese. All these features will be resumed next month.

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Tailpieces

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with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas*



SIDELIGHT from the Crystal Cat Show at Olympia: Up in the gallery among the children's pets "Peter" was nursing a bonny family of kittens!

Canasta, the cat who is so well-known to TV viewers, is now in Korea entertaining the troops of the British Commonwealth. Roger Carne, the ventriloquist, has gone out with Ted Ray's party and he will see to it that Canasta is in his best entertaining form.

Here is another seasonal tip from my experienced fancier friend. With the approach of the colder weather cats need a little extra care and attention. They are very liable to colds and should never be turned out at nights if it is cold and wet. They should be dried if they come home wet. Baskets kept in the house should be raised slightly from the ground to get them away from draughts.

In last month's issue P. M. Soderberg contributed a timely article under the heading "Toll of the Road" which contained some useful first aid hints for cat victims. With the subject fresh in our minds, it is startling to read some of the facts revealed in a leaflet "Dogs and Road Accidents" recently published by the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents. 75,000 dogs were involved in road accidents last year which resulted in 3,000 human casualties, including 23 deaths and 600 cases of serious injury. Of the 75,000 dogs involved, 61 per cent. were killed outright and a further 35 per cent. injured, many so seriously that they

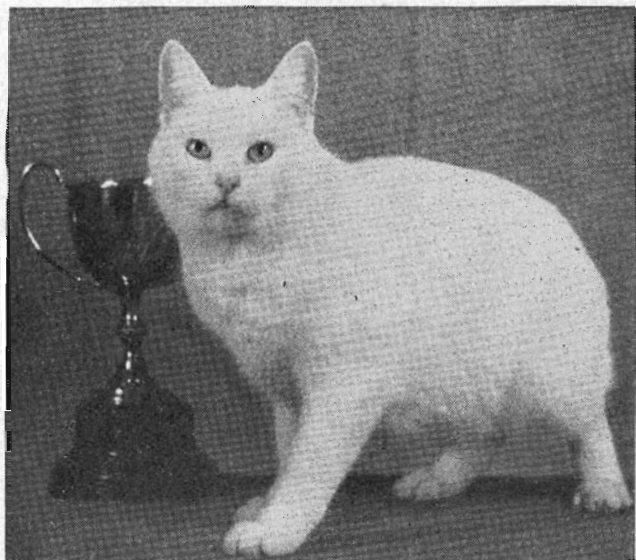
had to be destroyed. Dog accidents are estimated to cost the nation 1½ million pounds.

A commercial traveller from London drove his car into a Manchester garage and complained of a squeak near the steering column. The mechanic lifted up the bonnet and out jumped a cat, covered in oil. The cat is believed to have spent four very uncomfortable days trapped in the car's tool box under the bonnet. The garage director remembered some scraps of chicken and meat at home and the cat—promptly christened Squeak by the garage hands—was tempted to eat and forget all about his alarming experience.

The animal's V.C.—the Blue Cross of Our Dumb Friends' League—has been awarded to a Tabby kitten named Smokey who gave the alarm when fire broke out at the Forest Gate home of Mrs. Ivy Donovan and her daughter Marilyn.

Animal Sunday will be celebrated in many churches on the Sunday nearest October 4th, which is St. Francis of Assisi's Day. Suggestions for the observance of Animal Sunday have been published by the R.S.P.C.A. and a leaflet can be obtained free on application to the Society's headquarters in Jermyn Street, London, W.1.

When the Queen Elizabeth recently sailed for New York, an aristocrat was travelling aboard in first-class comfort. He was Ming, a Blue Point Siamese



Barnes Photos, Douglas

KERROO is a pure White Manx queen, born in June, 1947. She belongs to Mrs. J. M. Twining, of St. Johns, Isle of Man. Last year Kerroo won a cup for Best Manx Cat or Kitten and four of her kittens have recently gone to America by air.

PRIZE-WINNING BREEDER'S TRIBUTE TO LACTOL



Photo shows prizewinning Siamese kittens, the property of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Terry, Camier's Cattery, Green Farm, Stebbing Green, nr. Chelmsford, Essex.

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Mr. and Mrs. Terry have brought up these prize-winning Siamese kittens exclusively on LACTOL—and this year they came home from Olympia with First, Second and Third Prizes and two Highly Commended! "When weaned, our cats show remarkable health" says Mr. Terry. "We are great believers in Sherley's products."

belonging to London model, 24-year-old Petrena Lowthian and her husband, American actor Gerald Metcalfe. Miss Lowthian said that Ming was their mascot. His passage cost £3 10s. 0d. and when they got to New York she would like to make him a sort of trademark accessory in connection with her modelling work.

When the flood disaster hit Lynmouth, many domestic pets lost their lives. An emergency centre for unclaimed animals was set up at Barnstaple and cats and dogs were among the rescued. The officers of the various humane organisations did splendid work and were ceaseless in their search for pets still believed to be alive. One officer ploughed his way through silt and mud to find a black and white cat sitting miserably on the stairs of an empty damaged cottage.

Ocelots have been born at the London Zoo for the first time since 1858. Sheila, the mother, carries her twins about by the scruff of the neck like a domestic cat. And the cubs protest after the fashion of kittens.

For cruelly wounding a cat with a spear, a 13-year-old boy was placed on probation by the Castle Eden Juvenile Court. The weapon was a broom handle with a cobbler's knife fixed at one end. The Chairman of the Court described the boy's action as being one of the "most dastardly acts of cruelty the Magistrates had heard of for some time." The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector who prosecuted said that the boy had told him he threw the spear at the cat because he thought it had stolen kippers from a house.

A splendid new Animal Hospital for the P.D.S.A. has been opened at Cowplain, near Portsmouth, by its donor, Mrs. Nina Tant, of Mortimer, Reading. The large converted house with all its equipment and two acres of ground was given by Mrs. Tant as a memorial to her

late husband, who was also a great animal lover. The Hospital has two dog wards for 20 patients and a third ward for cats is nearing completion.

Those who hate cats, runs an old Chinese proverb, were rats in another incarnation.

Another National Cat Week is scheduled to take place in America during the week November 2-9. Fanciers are being urged to do their part to "Encourage Understanding, Appreciation, Better Care."

News reaches me from Miss Van Estes, Show Manager, that a delightful Kitten Match under the aegis of the National Siamese Cat Club was held in the beautiful gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Avata at Manhasset, Long Island, U.S.A. last month. Best honours were taken by Hollycat Pokie, a 6½ months-old Blue Point male bred by Mrs. Jane D. Stackhouse. Best Opposite Kitten and Second Best Kitten was the Seal Point female Cheshire Min Dee, sired by Ch. Morris Lindex (Imp.). 35 kittens were judged by Mrs. Julianne Dupuy-Koehler who declared that they were some of the nicest kittens she had ever seen.

Mr. Harry Batsford, the well-known London publisher, loved cats so much that he left £1,000 for their welfare and benefit in his will. Mr. Batsford, worth over £15,000 when he died last year in London, said that the grateful and friendly affection of cats "has been one of the chief of my solaces." He was 71. The money is set aside to be used at the discretion of his trustees for articles or propaganda "especially combating the pernicious idea that cats can feed themselves and that they must live on what they can catch—that is, that they hunt and mouse better if half-starved."

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Why Red Female Cats are Scarce

By E. VON ULLMANN

IT is a common belief that Red (also called "ginger" and "marmalade") female cats are something out of the ordinary. They do not appear as frequently among the cat population as males of the same colour and in this brief article I am going to explain the reason why.

The word "rare" requires some definition. Everybody will agree that calves with two heads are rare and that lions are rare in England. Yet rare does not mean the same thing in each case. While calves with two heads cannot be seen in large numbers in any part of the world, lions are comparatively common in Africa. In fact, one "rare" means abnormal and the other states that not many individuals of one species are to be found in a given place, although they may be numerous elsewhere.

The Red female cat is certainly not abnormal. Nor is it rare, for instance, in a cattery which specialises in that breed. If bred to a Red male she will produce 100 per cent. Red offspring of both sexes, as breeders of Longhaired and Shorthaired Red cats have successfully demonstrated for a good many years.

As, however, female cats whose matings are not controlled by a breeder are far from rare, the relative scarcity of Red females among the non-pedigreed cat population is noticed again and again by cat lovers and I hope that the following will furnish the explanation of this phenomenon.

Let us assume that a Red female pet cat, who has complete freedom is mated on three successive occasions by three tom cats, once by a Black, once by a White and once by a (Brown) Tabby. Being an orderly cat and conscious of the fact that she is serving as an illustration of the rules of inheritance, our female produces to each mating a litter of four, two males and two females.

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KITTENS

	Females		Males	
	Red	Other colours	Red	Other colours
Red to Black	0	2 Tortie	2	0
Red to White	0	2 White	0	2 White
Red to Tabby	0	2 Tabby	0	2 Tabby
Red females 0.	Red males 2.	Total progeny 12.		

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The result shows that there is no Red female among those 12 kittens, although $\frac{1}{6}$ th of the total and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the male progeny are Red.

As a second example I take a Tortoiseshell female whom I assume to mate to a Red, a Black, a White and a Tabby male.

FEMALE	MALE	KITTENS			
		Females		Males	
		Red	Other colours	Red	Other colours
Tortie to Red		1	1	1	1 Black
Tortie to Black		0	2	1	1 Black
Tortie to White		0	2	0	2 White
Tortie to Tabby		0	2	0	2 Tabby
Red females 1		Red males 2.		Total progeny 16.	

Here we find that for each female two Red males are being born from chance matings.

The third example, to finish the picture, is a Red male who mates a Black, a Tortoiseshell, a White and a Tabby female.

FEMALE	MALE	KITTENS			
		Females		Males	
		Red	Other colours	Red	Other colours
Black to Red		0	2	0	2 Black
Tortie to Red		1	1	1	1 Black
White to Red		0	2	0	2 White
Tabby to Red		0	2	0	2 Tabby
Red females 1.		Red males 1.		Total progeny 16.	

Here only two out of 16 kittens are Red but the sexes are equally divided.

Males in the Majority

To sum up, we can ignore the matings to White and Tabby as they do not produce any Red kittens at all ; the remaining five combinations, however, provide the answer. Out of the 20 kittens which result from these five matings, seven, which is roughly one third, are Red. The proportion of the sexes is five males to two females, or in other words, one quarter of the total progeny are Red males but only one tenth are Red females. These figures speak for themselves and supply the explanation for the fact that, if a number of Red cats is picked at random, most, if not all, of them are likely to be males.

I have deliberately ignored the fact that White or Tabby cats can have Red kittens, if they have Red ancestry, as this would unnecessarily complicate the issue and prove no more than has been proved in the foregoing.

To end, I would like to say a few words about Tortoiseshell males, which are usually mentioned in connection with Red females. A Tortoiseshell male is abnormal and cannot be produced by an ambitious breeder ; he merely happens from time to time, like a calf with two heads. He is the result of an " accident " to one of the sex chromosomes, which may be the reason why there is no recorded proof of such males being fully fertile.

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