

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



## Show Preparation

*"ZIPPER," Blue Longhair aristocrat, patiently submits to a pedicure in preparation for his next appearance on the show bench.*

*Photo by Associated Press.*

OCTOBER 1952

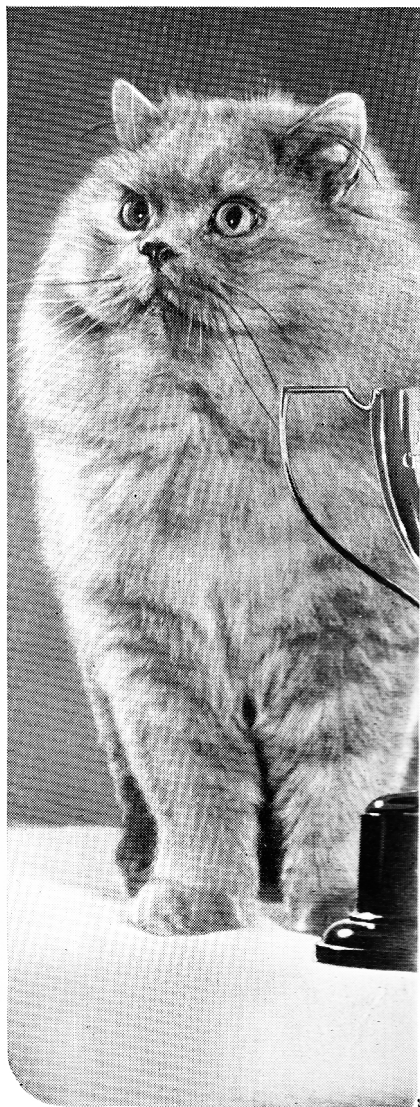
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Read about "CATS IN FLATS" - page 7

*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 Nevorn 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."

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**KIT-E-KAT LIMITED**  
MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICESTERSHIRE

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 4 No. 10

OCTOBER 1952

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.

Managing Editor :

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

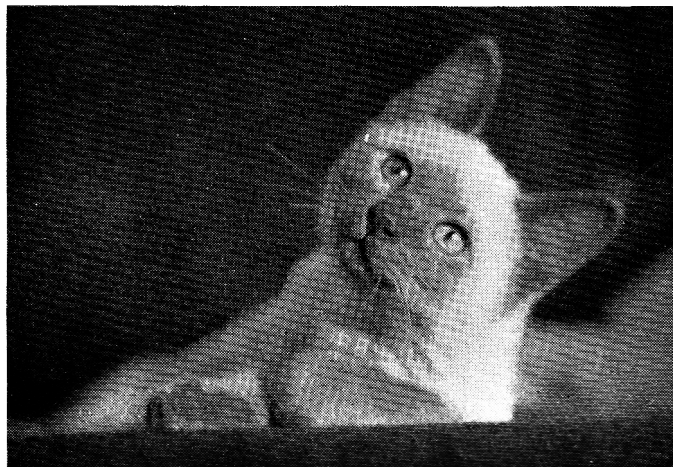
American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT


**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

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This little lady with the inquisitive air is PEEP-ELLEN, Blue Point Siamese kitten, bred by the photographer Mr. Denis Jack from Wansfell Ariel ex Princess Peep-bo, and now owned by Mr. Gordon Holt, of Thornton, nr. Blackpool.

 **GENERAL INFORMATION :** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macauley 1462).

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# A Note on Cats

IT might be interesting to know something of the present trends of the urban cat population in Britain. In November 1944 Mr. Colin Matheson of the Department of Zoology in the National Museum of Wales contributed a paper on The Domestic Cat as a factor in Urban Ecology to *The Journal of Animal Ecology*. This was based mainly on an inquiry made in Cardiff and Newport in the spring of 1944. Mr. Matheson found that the cat population was not less than 13 per cent. of the human population (roughly 10½ per cent. house-kept cats and 2 to 3 per cent. strays), and that there were fewer cats in the new housing estates—as compared with older parts of the towns.

Cats, being untaxed and unlicensed, are subject to no exact census, and though W. H. Hudson once glanced at the subject (in 1898 in *Birds in London* he suggested that the metropolis might

have nearly three-quarters of a million cats, of which perhaps 80,000 or 100,000 might be strays), bird-lovers have not shown much interest. In some years before the second world war the numbers of stray cats humanely destroyed in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Liverpool represented from 1 to 3 per cent. of the whole human population.

Inquiries into "how many cats there are in our town," ratios to human population, the distribution or incidence of cat-keeping in various types of household, and so forth, might perhaps provide congenial exercises for schools teaching field work and the applied use of statistics. In spite of Dick Whittington and the laws of Howel the Good, cats and their history have not received the attention which their popularity or numbers might seem to warrant.

(Reprinted from the August issue of "Town and Country Planning.")



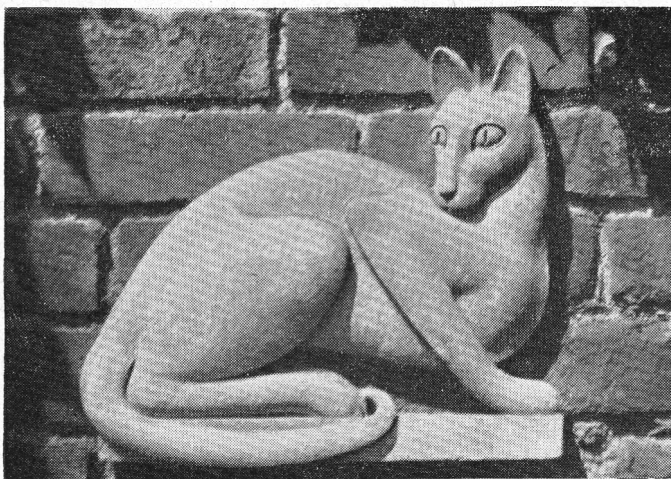
## Let's go to a Show

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				
13 November	...	*Croydon Cat Club	... ..	London
22 November	...	Scottish Cat Club	... ..	Glasgow
3 December	...	*National Cat Club	... ..	London
13 December	...	Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	...	Edinburgh
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.

## “Birabonzse”



**A sculptor's tribute to a treasured pet.**

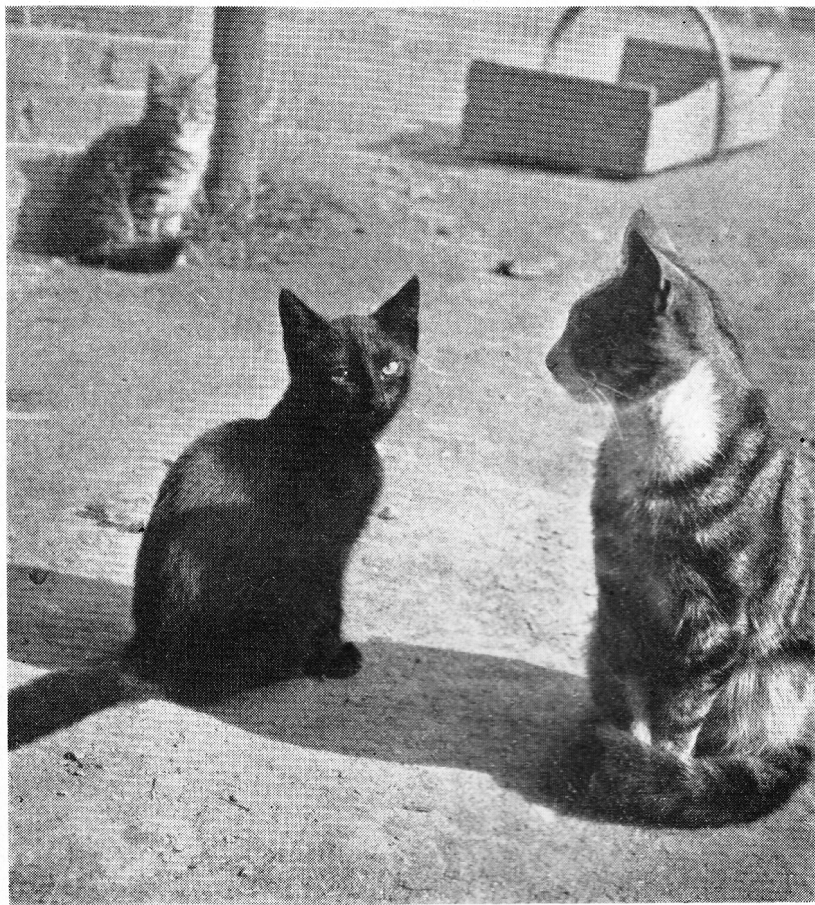
**G**WYNNEH HOLT, of High House, Broomfield, Essex, is a sculptor whose works have for many years been exhibited annually at the Royal Academy, the Royal Scottish Academy and important exhibition centres in other parts of the country. She also has carvings in the permanent collections of the Aberdeen, Wolverhampton and Newport (Mon.) art galleries.

Being also a real cat lover, Miss Holt derives special pleasure and satisfaction in the modelling and carving of cats. No doubt many of our readers were impressed by the examples of her work on view at the Siamese Cat Club Show held this month.

The delightful carving reproduced on this page was executed by Miss Holt in memory of her Siamese pet Birabonzse, who died in January of this year. Miss Holt writes : “ No work of mine was ever completed unless he (‘Bonzie’) carefully examined it by touch, sight and smell, especially the latter. Ivory really was his choice. Who knows, perhaps it evoked some deep memories of the jungle of his ancestors ? He took the greatest interest in the actual carving, sitting on the work bench for hours oblivious of flying chips and much banging. When the piece was finished he would inspect it and then proceed to lick it all over.”

Miss Holt has now acquired a new pet Lemling Richard, who will succeed Birabonzse as model for future carvings and paintings. She adds : “ Everyone, I am sure, if they have any sense of rhythm and beauty cannot help but appreciate the magnificent form and movement of a Siamese cat. As a sculptor I have always been fascinated by the ripple of the muscles under the soft silky fur and I have spent many delightful hours studying these movements.”

## A page for the proletarian puss No. 28



*G. Pennethorne.*

### [ THE GOSSIPS ]

“No, my dear, I don’t know her!”

(Continued from our August issue.)

## **Bo'sun Reaches "The Rock"**

**We sail with our Sailor Siamese from Cadiz to Gibraltar, where several new friends are made despite the fact he is "confined to ship"**

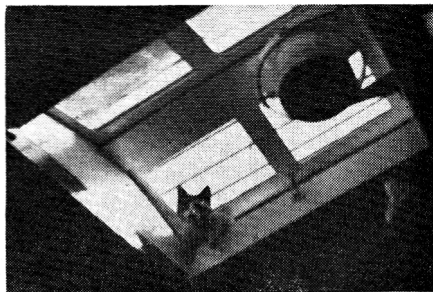
**I**N Cadiz, we were moored alongside a crane and became quite friendly with the watchman who kept an eye on our ship when we went ashore. The man took quite a fancy to Bo'sun and told us in Spanish that he, also, had "uno gato en la casa." To prove his point, next night when he appeared he had his kitten with him—a sweet little marmalade. Remembering Bo'sun's reaction to Lisbon Liz I was in a quandary as to what to do. Not to offend the man, we told him we had to hurry ashore—and as we never leave Bo'sun on deck when we're away from the ship—we felt this couldn't upset the man.

When we returned the little cat was sitting at one of our portholes and Bo'sun was below looking out. As this had probably been going on for an hour or two, they had apparently made friends through the glass. Soon we turned in, hoping the watchman would take his cat home when he went. Next morning Bo'sun was up much earlier than usual, and we discovered why. His marmalade friend was sitting on the skylight and when we sat down to breakfast he stuck his little head through the small opening and greeted us with a squeak in soprano which Bo'sun answered in his deep baritone. One would never believe that two so entirely different tones could come from such similar animals.

We decided that we were going to have the kitten with us for the rest of the day, as the watchman had left the crane. So before letting Bo'sun out, I gave the little thing some breakfast and then removed the evidence. Then we allowed the two

to meet. The fact that we hadn't let the other kitten below apparently put Bo'sun at his ease. They made friends immediately: They scampered all around the deck and rolled each other over and had a simply wonderful time. Two or three times I had to intervene in their sport, though. The little marmalade evidently didn't object to the rough treatment, but Bo'sun at times seemed to be a little too enthusiastic in pouncing on his new found playmate.

I was not a little worried that Bo'sun might catch something in the way of "livestock" from his new friend, but as we were planning to stay in Cadiz for



**"His marmalade friend was sitting on the skylight. . ."**

a few days, Bo'sun couldn't be kept below. However, as soon as we made our departure Bo'sun had a more-than-usual ear-cleaning, much brushing and investigating. As far as we know, he's none the worse for his encounter. For hours after we sailed away he kept running around deck calling for his little chum.

Another day and night at sea! Then at 5.30 a.m. we sailed into Gibraltar. What a sight! A tired old moon was just waning, twinkling lights on shore beckoned, and the tremendous mountain

was silhouetted against a sky fast lighting with the first rays of a brilliant sun. We shall never forget the picture. Having sailed all night, we had a few winks of sleep and then prepared to go ashore. Our plans were short-lived.

Just as we were about to leave the ship, the harbour police boarded us and said Bo'sun would have to go into quarantine if he were allowed to land. What a disappointment for us—and for him. Apparently, the same rules apply here as in England, so poor Bo'sun is for the second time in his short life confined to ship. We have rigged a long line from bow to stern with a little ring attached to his lead. He has plenty of room to run and play about—but no shore leave. Hard lines for a Bo'sun who hasn't been ashore for over a week.

### **More New Playmates**

Fortunately, we don't intend to stay here long. As soon as we re-store ship, we're off and shall make for the very first port in Spain where he can have his run ashore. There is no doubt that Bo'sun thoroughly enjoys his life aboard—but he gets such a kick out of his shore-going excursions that we hate to have to deprive him of his fun.

He still has retained his beautiful coat—although he is now over two years old and shows no sign of getting any darker, and everyone who sees him says that he is a wonderful specimen of a Seal Point Siamese.

Shortly after we landed in Gibraltar, Bo'sun's Uncle Bill and Sheila arrived in the Yacht Sylla. Much to our surprise and more so to Bosun's, they had acquired two kittens "Floresta" and "Mimi." As they were not as proficient in jumping the gaps between the yachts to get ashore—it was not necessary for them to be tied up. After many hisses and growls from Bo'sun (which both kittens completely ignored) he took them to his heart, and became so engrossed with his new friends that he had no desire to leave the ship and was allowed off his lead to romp and play with them aboard.

We were both naturally delighted that his playmates made him forget his confinement to ship.

There were several other cats in Gibraltar, most very thin which we were told was due to the heat. Bo'sun also lost a little weight which George feels was a good thing, as carrying around a lot of excess fat could be extremely uncomfortable in these surroundings.

Among the many cats was Ginger, who visited the yachts each night crying for food. A more pathetic animal I have never seen. Thin to the point of emaciation, one of his poor legs was badly crippled and he hobbled along on only three. His cry was the most plaintive I have ever heard. I fed Ginger as did most of the yachts moored in the harbour, but always away from our ship as I didn't want him to come aboard 'lest Bo'sun make a friend of him. He didn't look too healthy.

One of the locals reported him to the police, recommending that he be destroyed. The vet. came down one day and after looking at him said he was not in pain and apparently much better fed than many of the other cats in the neighbourhood. So Ginger was given a new lease of life. The vet. had a look over Bo'sun too and said he was a wonderful specimen.

There is a history to Ginger, but I cannot vouch for its authenticity. It is said that he was the ship's cat aboard the submarine "Affray" and was always among those present when it went to sea. Rumour has it that Ginger deserted ship about an hour before it left Portsmouth on its ill-fated voyage. Later, he joined another ship and stowed away to Gibraltar where he decided to stay.

By his interest in the yachts and the hand-outs he receives, we think he has decided that life aboard the more sporty type of vessel might be more to his liking. We expect to hear that some of our friends will discover a feline stowaway aboard when they take off from Gib.

**(More about Bo'sun next month.)**



# *Cats in Flats*

By P. M. SODERBERG

**I**T is not everyone who can live in the country surrounded by fields and all the other amenities which the country provides and which cats appreciate. Nor are all other householders fortunate enough to live in a town house with a well-fenced back garden providing ample space in which a cat can safely take its daily exercise.

There must be hundreds of thousands of people up and down the country who either from choice or compulsion live in flats, and more often than not flats that have no access to ground level except by way of lift or staircase. Even if they live on the ground floor, they may open on to a road that is swarming with traffic. That is no place for a cat at any time.

Does this mean that the flat dweller has to become reconciled to doing without the cat that he would like to keep just because all day and every day, with but few exceptions, his pet would have to be confined within the narrow limits of a few rooms? No, I do not think that is the inevitable conclusion, and the belief is confirmed, for there are many thousands of cats which have known no other conditions since they were taken from their mothers at eight weeks. Such flat-dwelling cats look in the pink of condition which is itself a testimonial both to the care that has been given them by their owners, and is also a tribute to the well-known fact that cats can accommodate themselves to unnatural conditions if provided with certain compensa-

tions which such conditions make necessary.

Most people would agree that an entire male should not be kept solely in a flat, and there are few breeders who would try to do so. If it is possible to provide an ample run somewhere, even if it happens to be on a flat roof, then that is another matter, but, if the cat has to spend all its day confined within the actual living rooms of the flat, it is neither fair to the cat nor the owner to keep an entire male or hope to carry out stud work satisfactorily.

My mind is not quite so definite when it comes to a female, but I doubt if she should be asked to produce and rear families when she has no access to the good earth other than that in her sanitary tray. Young stock should be reared under ideal conditions, and life in a flat could never be considered as ideal for a breeding queen. It may be said that many thoroughly sound and healthy kittens have been produced under such conditions, but that will not alter my opinion.

I honestly believe that the cats to be kept in flats should definitely be animals which have been neutered. It is certainly better for them and in the long run is also better for their owners. Neutered cats accustomed to flat life develop a distinct and pleasant personality but it is somehow different from that of other cats.

To keep a cat in good health in a flat is not as easy as when there is ample garden space, and no one should keep a cat under such conditions unless he is prepared to

take more thought for his pet's welfare than the ordinary cat owner has need to do.

Most people will agree with the statement that all cats should have an opportunity of getting into the fresh air and feeling the sun on their coats. This may not always be easy, but usually there is one window facing the sun. This can be wired in so that the cat cannot fall, and then, if a suitable platform is made behind the window, the cat can bask in the sun at will, when there is sun, and at other times can lie in the direct light which will come through the open window. Sometimes the ingenuity of the thoughtful cat owner is wonderful to behold, and I have seen many contrivances in use which allowed ample exercise and abundant fresh air. Cats who are treated in this way flourish, and, although they may be restricted in space, they nevertheless get exercise sufficient to keep them fit.

### **Look to Diet**

A cat which lives in a flat needs a diet different from that given to an animal which has unhampered freedom, and if ever I live in a flat I shall pay careful attention to the food I give my pets, for there is no doubt about my keeping cats even if I have at some time in the future to leave the country.

The first point to remember is that any animal which does not take a great deal of exercise should be limited to a minimum of starchy food, for, just like the human who takes little exercise, the wrong diet soon causes a physical spread which is neither handsome nor healthy. The best foods are those rich in protein, but the flat owner should not forget that vitamins are of vital importance for all animals compelled to live in unnatural surroundings.

These mysterious substances are essential to health, but can be provided in a number of ways. They can be bought in the form of capsules to be mixed with the food, and it is very difficult to overfeed them.

There are also tinned foods on the market which will provide vitamins in adequate quantity apart from the other essentials of diet. Tinned foods also have the advantage that they add that variety to the diet which may be the spice of life to a cat that is a flat dweller.

### **Two for Company**

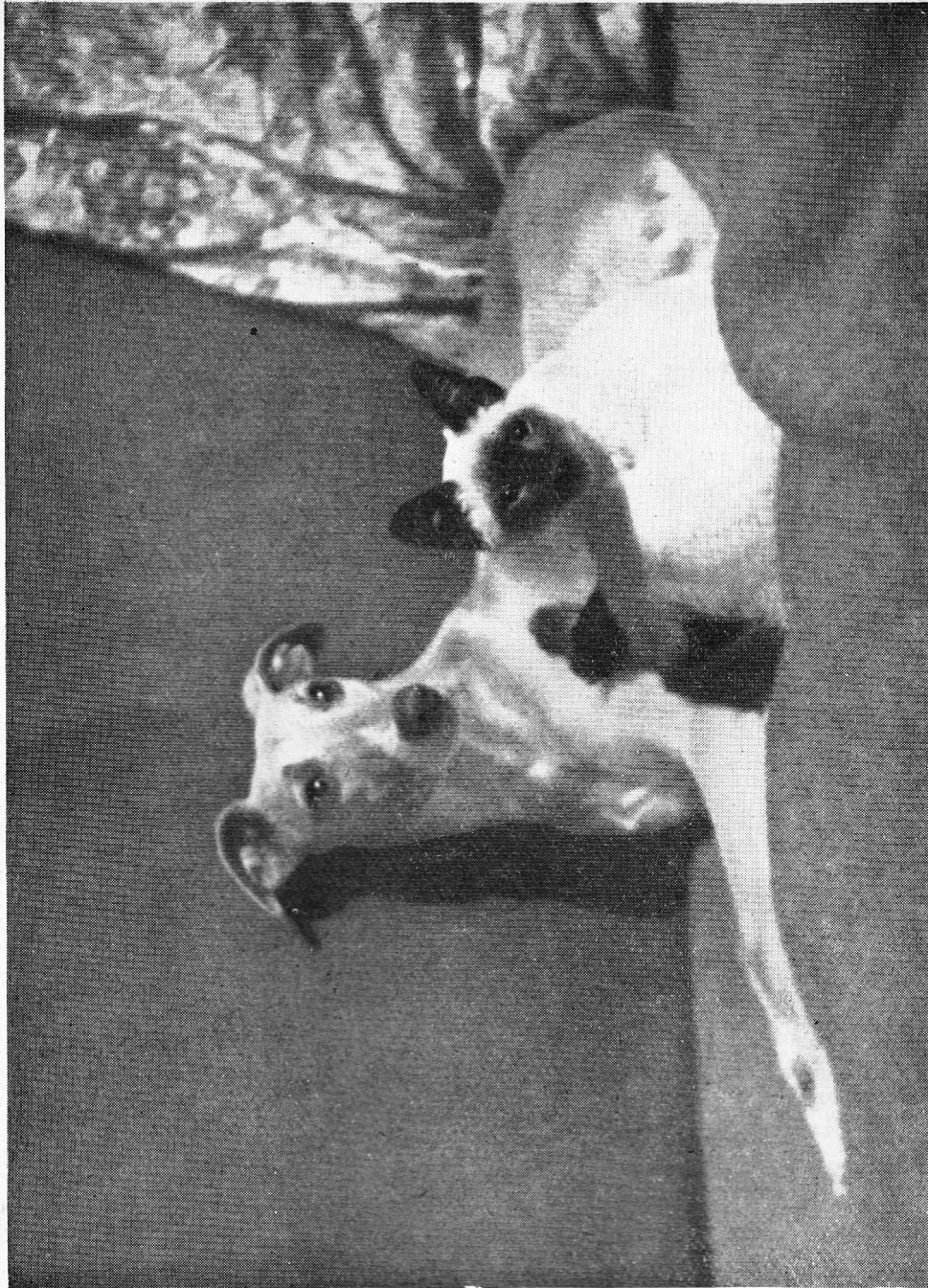
There is one other point I would make with sincerity when referring to the cat which lives in a flat. Such a cat can be very lonely, and unless it can receive a full measure of human companionship there should always be two cats and not just one.

If you have a Siamese you can buy a collar and lead and take your pet to the nearest park for a stroll. I am sure that other breeds could be taught to go for walks in a similar manner, but let it be in a park and not the shopping centre where most cats are distressed by the bustle of a busy street.

So, if you want to keep a cat in your flat, do so by all means, but remember that you will have to give much more thought to the animal's welfare than if you lived in the country and could just open the door each morning to let it roam at will.

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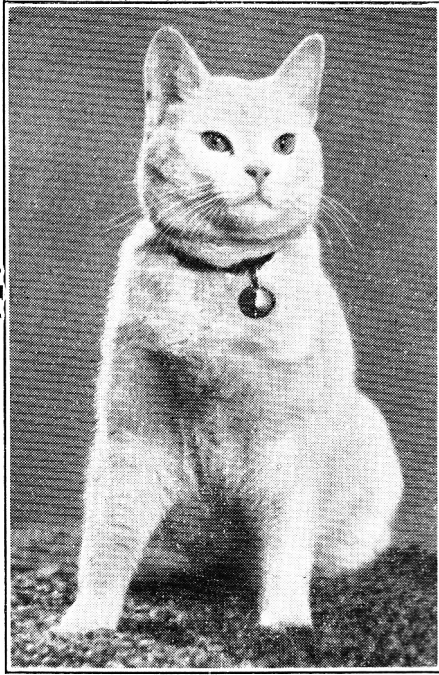
**Renewal time will be round again for many of our subscribers during the next few weeks. Will they please help us to save office work by renewing promptly on receipt of the first reminder ?**



Satan, the Siamese kitten, and Richard, the dog, are the pets of that eminent High Court Judge Sir Harold Danckwerts. Sir Harold is justly proud of this delightful photograph because he took it with ordinary indoor lighting with no special aids. The block has been kindly loaned by "The Tail-Wagger Magazine."



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## SNOWY

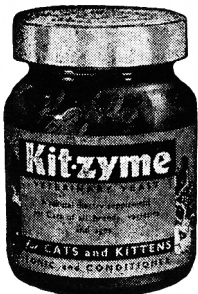
**MRS. HANNAH LOWE**, of 16 Faringdon Close, Liverpool, 19,  
writes :—

*"I must let you know what results I have had since giving my cat Kit-zyme.*

*Snowy is all white, weighs 12½lbs. and will be one year old this month. He had been troubled with worms since I got him and under advice I had given him capsules and tablets with no results.*

*I pressure cook all Snowy's food in case there are worms in the fish, but it was not until giving him Kit-zyme that the worms disappeared and I have not seen any sign of them since."*

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



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*Literature Free on Request*

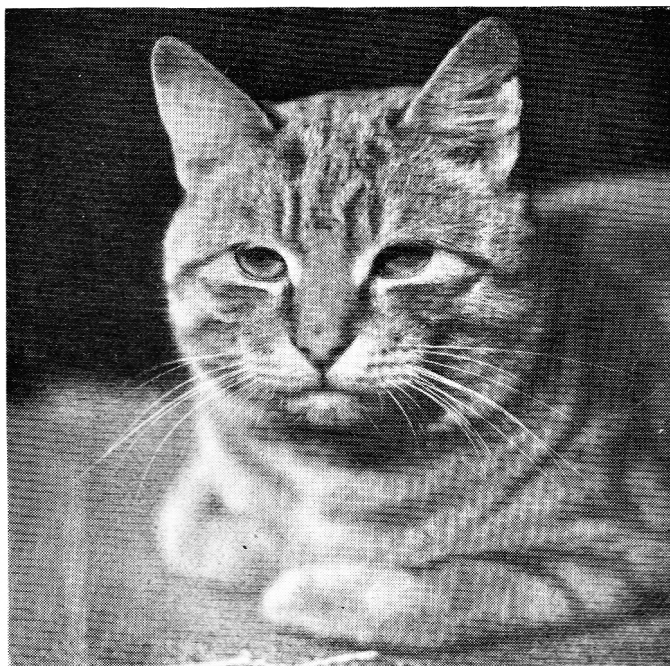
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# A Model Cat

By LISA GORDON SMITH

THREE years ago Douglas Burn, the well-known press and portrait photographer, first met his favourite model, Gemma (born under the sign of Gemini) was presented to him by a neighbour who had a superfluity of kittens, and the small and

he soon learned that if he presented himself with an appealing look at the appropriate moment, nine sitters out of ten would ask to be photographed with him. The constant stream of fresh faces made Gemma both friendly and fearless, and a perfect boon to the



A lovely study by Douglas Burn of GEMMA, his model cat.

active bundle of ginger fur, after a careful inspection of his new premises, decided that his place was in the studio. Never, if he could help it, did he intend to be left out of the picture !

Whether it was the warmth of the arc-lamps which first attracted him we shall never know ; but

camera-shy. He has never refused a client but once ; that was an Alsatian whom Gemma turned out of the studio, neck and crop !

So publicity conscious did Gemma become that if a sitter did not ask for him to be included he would assume that it was an oversight and—somehow—when the

plate was developed, there would be Gemma, somewhere in the forefront. So, on occasions when (for some reason uncomprehensible to a rational cat) his picture is definitely *not required*, he has to suffer the indignity of being shut out of his own studio !

When "the boss" is doing technical things with the enlarger, Gemma likes to sit on his shoulder and supervise ; an arrangement which would be perfectly agreeable to everyone but for his habit of taking an occasional short-cut over the new, wet prints !

### **Hoarded Rats**

Another pleasure for an astute studio cat is the cine-film which hangs looped over long lines to dry. Gemma soon discovered the delightful rustling sound which this gives out when patted with a delicate paw. Unfortunately this does the film no good at all and Gemma had to learn that this sport is forbidden. But one day, when Douglas Burn entered his studio in a hurry, he was greeted by gales of laughter from his assistant. Gemma, who had been happily patting the loops of film, had heard the approaching footsteps and immediately began an extensive pedicure of the offending paw. It was a pity ; but he just *had* to look round to make sure the innocent action was being duly recognised !

At one time he was thought not to be a very good ratter ; a sport for which, in an old London building, he did not lack scope. But later, a very strange smell was noticed ; and, while in the process of contacting a surveyor, Douglas saw Gemma enter with a large dead rat, which he carefully deposited beneath a heavy cupboard. Investigation showed this cache to be extensive—and of

some antiquity ! On another occasion, a "thing that went bump in the night" was discovered to be Gemma, happily toying with three lively young rats at once !

Gemma, now the picture of happy good health, was once the victim of cat 'flu. The dreaded disease attacked suddenly, as it often does, and no vet. could be found. The Secretary of the local R.S.P.C.A. branch came to the rescue with penicillin and M. and B., and, after giving his owner a great fright, Gemma recovered with no after-effects except a tendency to leave a frill of tongue sticking out in moments of abstraction.

But he will always tuck it away when Douglas Burn sets up a camera and asks him to "watch the dicky-bird" !

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## **WILL YOU PLEASE HELP BY**

- 1. Recommending OUR CATS to your friends at home and overseas.**
- 2. Renewing your subscription on the first application. Tell us should you not be able for any reason to renew.**
- 3. Using our advertisement pages as much as possible.**
- 4. Sending us good pictures and news items from local papers.**
- 5. Providing names and addresses of customers and cat-loving friends whom you would like to receive a specimen copy of OUR CATS. This information will be treated in strictest confidence.**

# Some Light on Reproduction

By ALBERT C. JUDE

**I HAVE a Chocolate Pointed Siamese queen who was born on April 24th, 1951, and up to now (16th July, 1952), she has not called. As I have heard of Siamese calling as early as five months, I am beginning to wonder what is wrong. She is very lively, and apparently in perfect health, but it would be a sad disappointment if she never has any kittens. Do you think any treatment would be advisable ?**

It is quite true that some cats call much earlier than normal, particularly Siamese. It is also a fact that some queens go much longer than is usual before a first call. In the latter case there is, generally, no cause for alarm.

Normally, in young animals, while the body tissues are still in active growth, the sexual organs may, for the time being, be unable to get enough supply of the substances which are necessary to enable ova or spermatozoa, as the case may be, to ripen. The time when full development is reached, varies within limits for each species, and is controlled by either hereditary factors or environment ; maybe by both.

Of the substances required, it is now known that the anterior lobe of the pituitary body—a small gland situated beneath the brain—makes an essential contribution. An extract of this gland, if injected into the young animal, will greatly increase the number of eggs shed, in fact it will bring forward the time of maturity. Mice have been experimentally injected, and as a result, have reproduced at about 7 weeks of age, which is several weeks earlier than normal. Full growth in the mouse is normally reached at 14 weeks, but cases are known where

mating occurs normally and successfully at about 6 weeks of age.

To make clear the importance of the gland referred to, it can be said that if it were removed in the young animal the reproductive organs would not develop at all ; and if removal was made from the adult animal, it's reproductive organs would atrophy. It is known that the anterior pituitary produces important substances of the nature of hormones that are secreted into the blood. One regulates growth ; others act on the sex-organs controlling fertility ; and another is essential in the producing of milk and all the maternal instincts.

## Effects of Fatness

As body growth reaches maximum, the sex cells ordinarily are ripened, and the reproductive activities of the animal will begin as a consequence. But in cases where the necessary stimulants from the anterior pituitary have been lacking in supply, the stage of reproductive activity must of necessity be delayed. Obviously it must be helpful at this time if additional supply of nourishment is given; but care has to be taken that it is not of an over-fattening type, for this would only cause a complexity of the situation. Ill effects from undue fatness on general fertility can be seen in all classes of animals, showing that the nutritional factors involved are general and widespread in their effects, and in their action vary only slightly from species to species.

The relation between fatness and infertility is not always a simple one of cause and effect. Under-development of the reproductive organs, or a mere postpone-



ment of breeding may of themselves lead to a high or over-fat condition, and females, if fed too well before their first service, may prove sterile for a prolonged period. Again, good feeding favours an early puberty, but if the animals are not bred from early, the chances of subsequent sterility are increased. The supply of good food raises the nutrition and increases bodily vigour and fertility, while overfeeding and lack of sufficient exercise lead to excessive storage of fat and reduction of vigour and fertility.

### Seek Advice

Two hormones which are elaborated in the anterior pituitary and which, passing through the blood-stream act on the ovary are, first, a follicle stimulating hormone; and second, a lutealizing hormone, which causes the follicles to rupture and form corpora lutea. In some animals, the anterior pituitary gland is very rich in the former hormone, and in other animals the latter hormone is particularly rich. Substances similar to these are now obtained commercially from other sources. These are sold in convenient form under various trade names, and can be given quite successfully, but the advice is that this should only be done as a result of professional advice. The point is that there may be some reason why an animal has not "called," in which case other treatment would be necessary.

Slowness to mature is also experienced

at times in males. While writing this article I have received word from a reader that her male has only just mated—at the age of 2 years 2 months. In this particular case, however, it is probable that the retarded development was due to cat 'flu.

A consideration that applies to the males of all domestic animals is that slowness of service is by no means necessarily an indication of infertility. It is true, however, that they are often associated, and notably so in animals which are too fat. In some males it may be found that they are habitually slow at service. Various drugs (such as opium, strychnine, cantharides, yohimbine, etc.) are used in suitable form to increase sexual desire of animals slow at service. Some of these, however, act as irritants to the sexual organs, temporarily increasing the blood supply in those areas. While their employment in moderation and under certain circumstances may be beneficial, their use in general is not to be recommended. They are excitants that will ultimately depress rather than increase the breeding powers of the animal on which they are used.

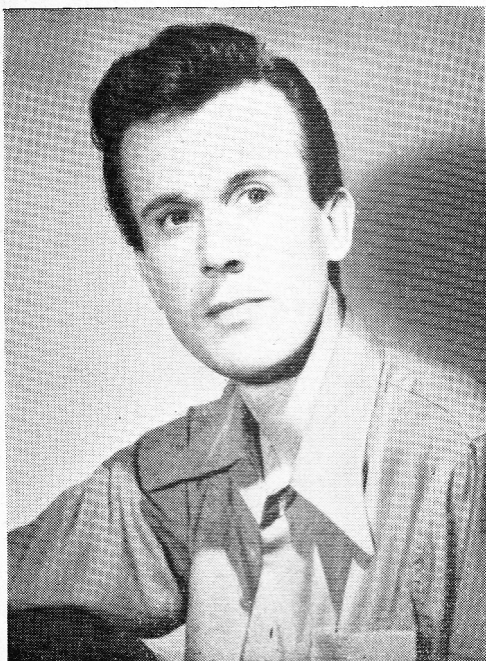
Since writing this answer I have received word from my questioner that "By a strange coincidence my queen started to call the very day after I had posted my letter to you. Perhaps, however, you will still use it as an article in OUR CATS for I am sure there must be many people who would find helpful the advice you have given me."

### ***This is worth thinking about . . . .***

A Subscription to this Magazine makes the ideal present for a cat loving relative or friend . . . . for Christmas, a birthday or any other occasion. It's a gift that lasts the whole year through.

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Billy Thatcher

### ***We interview a famous Siamese lady and her author-guardian.***

“EVER since her first radio appearance in June, Tai-Lu’s fan mail has been steadily growing,” said Mr. Billy Thatcher, actor and co-author of “Tai-Lu Talking” and proud owner of Princess Tai-Lu, his well-known Siamese Seal Point.

“And now she is to become a television star as well,” he continued. “Shelagh Fraser—my co-author on the ‘Tai-Lu’ stories—and myself have written a special T.V. version of ‘Tai-Lu Talking,’ which commenced on October 1st. After that the B.B.C. are to give a Christmas Party for Tai-Lu to be before a specially invited audience. Then in January she begins another radio series in the Light Programme for Lionel Gamlin, adapted from a second book about her adventures.”

“How does she take all this success?” I enquired admiringly.

“Very well,” smiled her owner, “her main concern of the day being a steady supply of horse-meat and chopped rabbit.”

Tai-Lu herself is a demure little creature, slim, elegant, and with the most lovely eye-colour. She is most affectionate and has very set habits.

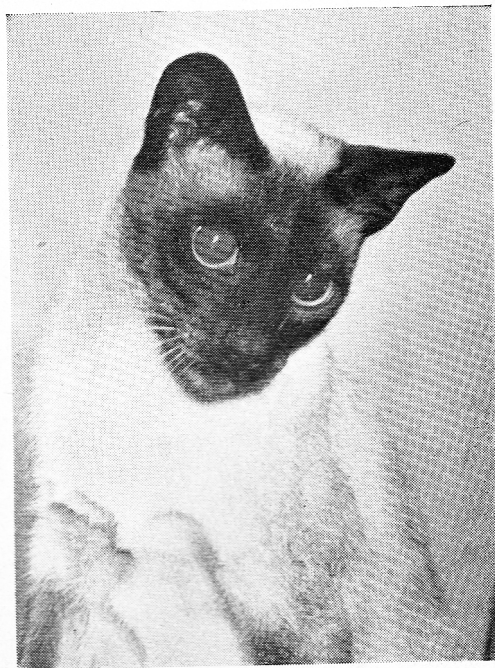
“She is very fond of company and enjoys parties,” said Mr. Thatcher, “but unfortunately she will have to miss her most important one when ‘Tai-Lu Talking’ is published in book form.”

“Why, too many late nights?” I asked.

“Family ties,” replied Mr. Thatcher. “She is expecting her new litter around October the 8th.”

At the mention of her name Tai-Lu sprang onto his lap and began talking in a loud voice.

“You see,” continued her owner, “she’s telling me not to forget that important date. As if I ever could!”



**A pensive Princess Tai-Lu**

*(Both photographs are by Donald Scott, F.Z.S.)*

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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:

## BLACK AND WHITE CATS

In reply to Miss Gyll's letter (August issue OUR CATS), I would like to say a few words about Black and White cats.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Black and White Cat Club the laying down of a Standard of Points for Black and White cats, both Longhaired and Shorthaired, formed an item on the agenda. It was, if I remember correctly, decided unanimously at that meeting to shelve the discussion of that item until such time as Black and White cats make an appearance in sufficient numbers on the show bench to justify classification as a breed. It was felt by those present at the meeting that it would be idle waste of time to lay down a Standard of Points, so to speak, in a vacuum and that only after a number of these cats had been bred and shown could a useful purpose be served by deciding which points are desirable.

Black and White cats can be shown in "Any Other Variety" classes and it is up to the owners of attractive specimens to bring them to the cat shows. Once they are a permanent feature and prove their ability to reproduce their pattern and type, their owners and breeders will be justified to describe them as a "breed" and to take the necessary steps to have them recognised as such by the Cat Fancy.

I hope that Miss Gyll, who obviously has the variety at heart, will become one of its pioneers and help to put a true-breeding strain of Black and White cats on the map. My best wishes are with her. May she succeed and have none of the nasty setbacks which make all animal breeding such a hazardous undertaking.

Miss Edith Ullman,  
Hampstead, N.W.3.

## TEETH TROUBLE

I wonder if any of your readers can help me with advice on the following matter: I have a Siamese, now 7 years old, who is a fussy feeder. She likes her food soft and as a result her teeth get covered with tartar and her mouth sore. Last year she was very ill and had to be fed for days. This year she went off her food but only for a couple of days.

I am worried that each year it means a general anaesthetic with the risk increasing as the cat grows older.

What can I do? She won't look at a bone and is not too pleased with dry cat biscuits.

Mrs. G. M. Anderson,  
Abingdon, Berkshire.

## TORTIES AND COLOUR HEREDITY

I have occasionally written about this subject which is intriguing our experts, Dr. Nora Archer (with whom I have corresponded on the matter), Mr. Jude and Mr. Soderberg.

We breed Torties for a hobby and have bred the only known Blue Tortie, Blue Belle of Scotland, now 4 years old. For reasons which Dr. Archer so admirably analysed, Blue Belle has never produced another Blue Tortie. Her mother is a Ginger and the vast majority of her kittens from any mating are very beautiful Gingers. When we back-crossed her with her own son, an all-Black, the result was also Gingers.

Now, we had a perfect Tortie-and-White, Sen Toi, who died two years ago, and for sentimental reasons we kept her then remaining kitten, a handsome grey Tabby tom, Duncan Toi. Sen Toi's mother, by the way, was a grey Tabby, sire unknown.

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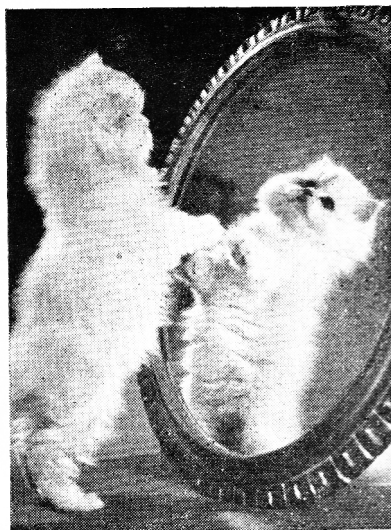
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Guy Withers

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To summarise, we see this picture :

<i>Queens</i>		<i>Toms</i>
Grey Tabby	mated with	?
	result	
Tortie-and-White	mated with Grey Tabby	
	result	
		Grey Tabby
Jet-Black	mated with	Grey Tabby
(no Tortie in line)		
	result	
All Tortie-and-White	(exact replicas of	
	sire's mother).	

Do these crossings prove anything or do they again confuse the issue ?

Mr. E. Munro,  
Matfield, Kent.

## CATS IN SOUTH AMERICA

I was interested to read in John Brown's article "Cats in South America" (August issue *OUR CATS*) that he considers "kindness to animals more common than ever before, a result of Anglo-Saxon influence and the propaganda of the churches."

Twelve months ago I returned to this country after a five years' sojourn in Uruguay, and, while I always found the Uruguayans friendly and kind-hearted, their attitude towards cats seemed to be casual in the extreme. The accepted method of disposing of unwanted kittens was apparently to dump them in the street in the hope that their cries would induce some passer-by to give them a home.

I had a little Tabby female and the task of finding homes for her babies was truly a formidable one.

"My cat has got some kittens," I would begin brightly. "They are so pretty. Wouldn't you like one?"

The mere idea was invariably received with mirth. "Oh, senora, whoever

would want a *cat*?" would be the laughing response. "Why don't you take it to the Parque Rodo?"

This was one of Montevideo's principal parks, and in it there dwelled a large and ever-increasing band of these poor outcasts. They lived out in the open all the year round, and were fed on fragments of meat from the municipal abattoirs. It was said they had cleared the park of the rats with which it was formerly infested.

In my opinion the average South American has still some way to go before he learns what a joyful companion a cat can be.

Mrs. Ruth F. Butterfield,  
Fulwood, Preston.

---

**We received many interesting responses from our readers in answer to the problem we posed in our last issue concerning the future of Ginger. The prize-winning letter will be published in our November issue.**

---

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# Care at Kitten Time

By EMILY DE HAAS, the well-known American breeder

**P**REPARING quarters for cats is a matter that usually concerns the breeder. However, the owner of one or more cats will find that if it is possible to prepare quarters of some sort, it will simplify caring for the cat and will mean, in some instances, the difference between keeping the cat, or having it stolen or killed. The days when cats and children could roam the streets safely disappeared when the motor car became popular.

For one or two cats it is very easy to prepare a small pen. If a large packing box is available it can be screened, some shelves and boxes put in, and made a satisfactory place to put the cat in at night, or at times when the owner is away. If a cat has the freedom of the home for part of the day it does not hurt it to be put into a pen of this sort for part of the time. A cat likes to get up high, so the box or pen should be planned with that in mind. A friend of mine made a pen and called me to come and see it. He had made it like a dog's kennel so the poor cat was on the ground. That was quite wrong.

The breeder must plan on more

ambitious lines, he must have a building of some kind with ample room to put runs alongside. The building can be divided with wire partitions into rooms, and these should have small openings into the runs. The runs, of course, must be entirely enclosed with wire, on the top as well. I have runs about twelve feet long and six feet wide, with never more than two cats to an apartment. These have deep sand in them and can be raked out frequently. Here in California, where we have so much sun and dry air, these runs keep clean and have no odour. In a country where there is a lot of rain it may well be that this arrangement would not be so sanitary.

I train kittens to use a sanitary box (or tray) with torn up papers in it so that if a purchaser wishes to keep the kitten indoors, it is ready to use this sort of arrangement. The papers can be burned easily and are so much easier than trying to provide boxes of dirt.

I also bring the kittens in from the cattery when they are weaned and let them spend part of the time in the house and porches so that they are thoroughly acquainted with the noises and activity of the household and will not feel strange when going to a new home.

**All fanciers should read**

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# Tailpieces

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



THE quarterly Newsletter of the Abyssinian Cat Club, so admirably produced by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Denham, records that Dinah, in the ownership of Miss Cheesman of Oxford, is probably the oldest Abyssinian cat in the country to-day. Dinah, now 14 years old, is a member of a large four-footed family which includes nine other cats, two Elkhounds and an Old English Sheepdog. Another interesting item of Abbie news is that the Wimbledon enthusiasts Dr. and Mrs. Waller have imported two females bred in France by Mlle. Meyer. Saites Bela and Saites Byblos are in quarantine kennels until January next. They are the first Abyssinians imported for many years.

A lorry driver making a 25-mile trip to London was puzzled by the mewing of a cat whenever he pulled up. It was not until he reached his destination that a thorough search revealed a young cat trapped in one of the double wheels of the lorry. Although it must have gone round thousands of times it was unharmed. Puss was taken to a P.D.S.A. dispensary.

The Bulawayo (Southern Rhodesia) Cat Club and Shelter, which started last year with five members, has a fine record of achievement. The membership has grown to 70 and now the Prime Minister, Sir Godfrey Huggins, K.G., has consented to become Hon. President of the Club. I know that much of the credit for this progress should go to the enthusiastic Secretary, Mrs. E. T. Mehliiss.

Every night a strange little family take

a walk through the streets of Ipswich. They are Mr. Leonard Dawkins, a 60-year-old widower, his two cats, Whiteie and Fred, Lady, a plump little dog and Donald, a 14-year-old duck. Mr. Dawkins spends 12s. a week on the upkeep of his family. He says that they all romp together in the dining room and recently, when Fred, a ginger cat, was missing for three days, the other pets pined until he returned.

Miss Eleanor Scott, a member of the Pro-Cats Society, Pasadena, California, is reported to have subscribed 300,000 lira (£145) to a body in Rome devoted to the care of the many thousand stray cats in the Italian capital. The condition of these unfortunate animals is said to be terrible in other Italian cities besides Rome.

When a mysterious cloud of soot fell recently on the Neasden area of Middlesex, white cats and dogs turned grey. Housewives went to work with mops and men swept pavements. A power station is blamed for the visitation.

Champion Velvet Mask Delphine, one of the best-known Siamese cats in Australia who generally makes the headlines with her show successes, has won fame in another direction. "Del" belongs to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hine of Lara, Victoria, who are farmers. When Mr. Hine went out to the feed room one evening to get some bran for the cows, the cat accompanied him in the hope of finding a mouse or two in the shed. Just as Mr. Hine reached the bin there was a hiss, a snarl and a flurry and scurry at





... "but nothing seemed to help him"  
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Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. H. Marsh (Mrs.), Folkestone, Kent.

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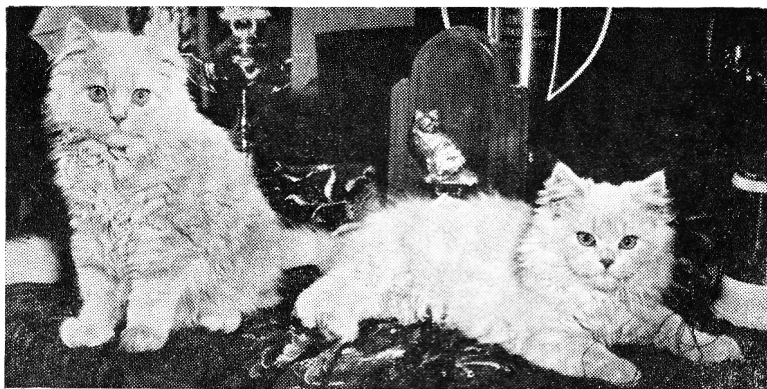
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his feet. "Dell" was engaged in a life-and-death struggle with a 4ft. tiger snake. The fight was fierce but brief. "Dell" seized the snake immediately behind its head and broke its back and such was her savage fury that even when the snake was dead, she continued to bite down the whole length of the snake's body. "Del" gave birth to six healthy kittens the next night. The story of her bravery was told with pictures in the local newspapers. Said Mr. Hine: "Another step and I should have trodden on that tiger snake in the gloom. Even if 'Del' never wins another prize at the shows, she's got a home for life with us." And another who is very proud of this little queen's achievement is Mrs. Ella B. Martin, of Great Baddow, Chelmsford, who selected and exported her to the Hines.

"The goat that reeks on yonder hill  
Has browsed all day on chlorophyll."  
R. W. Marsh writes in the  
*News Chronicle*.

Mr. J. Arthur Rank, Chairman of the Animal Health Trust's Executive Committee, has donated £1,000 for the purchase of essential scientific equipment for the Trust's research stations at Houghton, Hunts, to enable their programme to be more rapidly pursued.

Guy Fawkes Day will soon be on us again. The National Canine Defence League have launched a campaign to prevent pet owners from losing their animals through panic when the banging commences. Cats and dogs should, of course, be kept in the house until the fireworks are over. A mild sedative may be given to ultra nervous cats—up to five grains of bromide potassium, or half an aspirin tablet. These quantities can be doubled for dogs. So please remember that fireworks can be terrifying to super-sonic feline hearing and don't let puss "go crackers" over crackers!

The Natal Cat Club, now in its fourth year, has well over 100 fully

paid members. At the Annual General Meeting held in Durban in September, the trophies and prizes won at the Championship Show the previous month were presented by Mrs. Leighton Black. Nearly 1,500 people attended this fixture and the Club is justly proud of the fact that its members own seven potential Champion cats. After the distribution of the Show awards, members liquidated a wonderful iced cake topped by a miniature cat and kittens and three glowing candles.

Chinchillas worth £400 a pair have been imported from Canada by air. But this is not news for cat fanciers to get excited about. These animals are the fur-producing chinchillas. A Wimbledon man intends to conduct a breeding experiment.

Did you listen to the radio adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's famous short story "The Cat That Walked by Himself?" The voice of the philosophical cat was that of Alan Wheatley, who according to the *Radio Times*, once owned three cats. Now he is a busy actor living in a London flat he has to be content with the casual friendship of cats in the neighbourhood—one is a lean and hungry-looking animal he has christened "The Street Cat Named Desire!" Alan Wheatley is the compiler of a radio anthology devoted to cats and called "The Tiger in the House."

May I remind readers that I shall always be grateful for cuttings and snippets from their local newspapers appertaining in any way to felines. Readers overseas are included in the invitation!

The Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa has recently issued its annual report. The total number of treatments given during the year was 184,344, truly a stupendous effort. The Society pays great attention to education of adults and children alike in the need for kindness and tolerance towards animals. The North African

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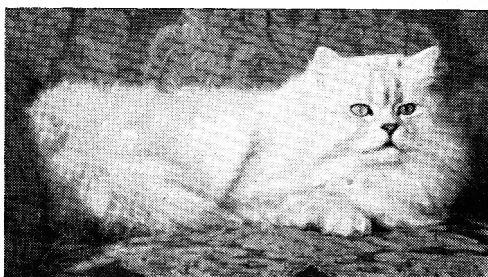
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brand of cruelty to animals is a sickening one and it is heartening to read that subscriptions and donations for 1951 amounted to over £5,000 and legacies £44,540. May this fine work prosper. Many cats were given urgent treatment.

Two cats were the great friends of invalid Miss Isabel Jordan-Lloyd, Great Bookham, Surrey. When she died in July last at the age of 56 she directed in her £24,000 will that "my much loved and spoilt pussies should be put painlessly to sleep; they are too old to learn new ways and would not understand strangers." Her wishes were duly carried out and the two pets, Marmy and a black Persian, now lie buried in the garden of their home.

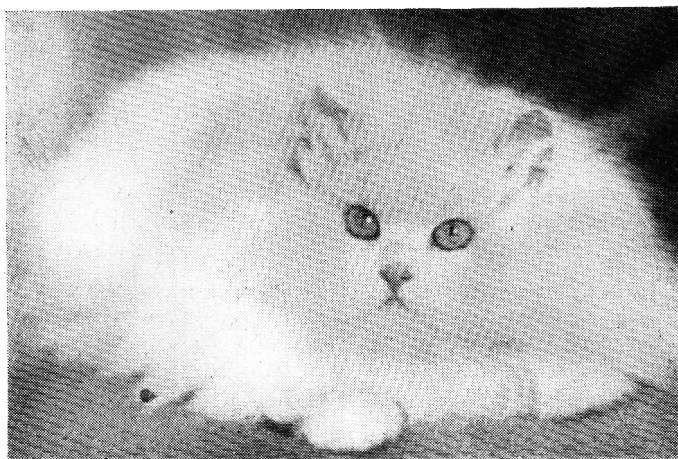
Still they come! Three 15-year-old boys were convicted at Rochester Juvenile Court of cruelty to a kitten. They were put on probation and ordered to pay 16s. 2d. costs each. The Chairman, who took the unusual course of directing that the names of the boys should be published "in the interests of justice," told them that if he had the power he would have seen that they suffered as



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much as the kitten suffered. The names of the little thugs were twin brothers Peter and David Harrison, Pemberton Square, Frindsbury, Rochester, and Kenneth Collins, Hone Street, Frindsbury. They killed the kitten by throwing it into the air.

MICKEY



**Double Champion WHITE ROSE BEAR**, Blue-eyed White female, belongs to Mrs. T. R. James, of Minneapolis, U.S.A., who paid a visit to this country during the summer and met many of our fanciers.



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# *Paws across "The Pond"*

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

ONE of the highlights of the Cat Fanciers' Federation, Atlantic Club Associate, was the garden party held at the home of Miss Ellen Laffin, Sea Gate, Long Island. Luncheon was served on the patio overlooking the water. This has become an annual event looked forward to and planned far in advance. The members had a perfect day in a picture-book setting. Miss Laffin has some very wonderful cat children, Silvers, Creams and White Persians. Seldom is there a show that she does not take high honors. One Blue-eyed White Persian has the most wonderful eye color you could wish for. Miss Laffin is also Secretary and Treasurer of the C.F.F. Solid Color.

Plans are afoot in all the clubs of the three Associations for the coming show. Garden State, one of the older clubs, is calling a meeting this week. Miss Elsie Hydon will manage the Show which will be held in the early part of December. Anything that Miss Hydon does is done well. She is brewing magic for members and breeders. The All-Breed judge has been selected and there is no doubt that her name alone will draw an enormous gate. I've had letters from hundreds of miles away telling me they were coming just to place their stock before her. There will be breeders from California, Florida, Tennessee, Mich., Ohio, Colo., Mass., R.I., Conn., and many more centres that space does not permit to mention.

Mrs. Coreen Petta has lost her beautiful Blue boy import, Southway Billie. I feel a personal loss as Coreen and I

decided that he was my namesake. Billie was to have made his first appearance at the show this fall but the Great All-Breed Judge has handed him his Black Ribbon instead.

Oh, angel dear, drifting with all your  
shadow host,  
Should you see a fluffy small blue  
ghost  
With copper eyes  
Oh, goddess of unnumbered dead!  
Give one soft touch  
If only one  
To that uplifted pleading head.

Empire State is calling a meeting of their clan this week. Many are the plans afoot for their coming show. I've heard that Mrs. John Hunter is to be the All-Breed judge. Julia Hunter is the president of Empire and has really built the Club to a strong membership. Seldom will she accept the honor of being All-Breed judge at her own Club but such pressure was brought forward that she could hardly refuse. Mrs. Hunter is a versatile judge and a very charming lady. Her services are much in demand during the show season. She has been referred to as one of the three best judges in America (C.F.A.)! This was told to me by two other judges and I consider it a high honor, coming from judges in The Cat Fanciers' Association.

Quite a few breeders are counting on making one or two points this season and so finishing with a Grand Championship for their best cat. I've counted eight already—and there must be many that I have not heard about. Just one point—maybe two points—and then what a thrill—or sadness!

Every day the number of cat figurine

## **MRS. ALICE M. CLARK**

**I**NTRODUCING Mrs. Alice M. Clark, personality extraordinary, a citizen of the Golden State of California, counsellor-at-law and president of the Pacific Cat Club of San Francisco. Probably there never was and never will be a member of the Fancy who has the decided views of Alice M. Clark.

She has been associated with animal welfare work as long as she can remember. No friend considers it an imposition to call on her, day or night, when veterinary advice is a necessity. This does not mean cats alone, but any animal—at any time. Last week, a gentleman in New York City told me he considered her a better veterinarian than the average veterinary surgeon.

Mrs. Clark is a person who inspires strong likes and dislikes. I have talked to many of her friends and some who are not her friends. They all agree that she is a remarkable person. Everything she does she does well, with a competitive intensity.

The shows that she manages stand as an example for all other managers to copy and woe betide the publicity hounds who try to put something over. Her knowledge of the Fancy is well grounded by personal experiences. She really IS a master of the intricacies of showmanship and any show that she has charge of is enriched by her knowledge. What is very hard to understand is why this remarkable woman has not been placed on the judging list of the Association to which she belongs. Surely if anyone rated this honor, Alice M. Clark does? Her attitude toward judging is not doctrinaire philosophy, neither has it anything to do with political ambitions.

Mrs. Clark is devoted to her feline children. The Manx is probably dearest to her heart, then comes the Siamese. I've never heard her mention Persians. Her subtle, highly diverting sense of humor has carried her through some very complex situations. She is not a person

collectors seems to be increasing. At every show in the various cities, I run into figurine collectors on the prowl for something unusual and rare. Price does not seem to matter and there are as many judges as breeders who are addicted to this craze. English Royal Doulton, Beth Barton ceramics and German Meissen seem to be most in demand. Judge Matil Rotter appears to be leading the field so far. Mrs. Rotter is called to many and various cities and has perhaps had a better opportunity in her scope of selections.

The Detroit Persian Society, Detroit, Michigan, will be holding their Show on December 6th and 7th. What a grand bunch of people they really are. Helen Dunn Jacobson is the Show Secretary. What she has forgotten about the Fancy would be an education to the average novice. One can't help but think that Sallie Partlin, her next door neighbour and close friend, is ever ready to advise and help should she need such services. I've long looked forward to meeting Helen Jacobson. Sallie Partlin is the breeder and owner of the famous Grand Champion, Beau Barry, who crossed over to the cat Valhalla a couple of years ago. It is an honor and a pleasure to number Sallie as a very dear and close friend.

Norfolk Cat Fanciers, Inc., are really planning something stupendous in size. This will be their sixth All-Breed Show. Top judge will be Saxby-Mabie, who is always a top drawing card to any gate. There will be in the Speciality line American Silver Fanciers, National Siamese, Domestic Shorthair Club of the South and the Solid Color Club of the South. I am under the impression that Miss Kay Thoma will do the Specialities. She is a very competent and skilled judge. I have not met her personally but gossip in the Fancy says she is very well liked. Norfolk Cat Fanciers, Inc., is located in the state of Virginia. This will really be a show of shows. Would some of you English cousins come over and join us, please?

to embroider the actual facts of anything—she is at times frank to a point of embarrassment. I have been told many times that novice breeders, who were emotionally upset over a judge's decision have gone to her for explanations and found her both sympathetic and attentive to their problems. Her understanding of personalities is as old as the myth of Daedalus.

She is a born organizer. Three of the clubs in California, to my personal knowledge, were originated and founded by her. There are probably others as well. She is one of those unusual people who want right—nothing but right—for

each member of her Association. Let the chips fall where they may, if feelings are hurt—too, too bad.

I have found this charming lady possesses an unlimited zest for living. This combined with an austere discipline of mind allows her to concentrate under distracting circumstances. She is a very active worker in the Cat Fanciers' Federation. I do not see how she can much longer avoid accepting a judgeship. When that time comes—and speed the day—her friends will be purring like the kettle-drums in Berlioz's Requiem!

BILLIE BANCROFT



**Mrs. Alice M. Clark with POUCHIN, one of her treasured Manx cats. Pouchin was imported from Southampton. She crossed the Atlantic in the care of the captain of a freighter and subsequently won ribbons at all her shows. Mrs. Clark has achieved many fine wins with her present Manx queens. One was voted All Western, an outstanding American award.**



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Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

A NEW show manager making his bow always merits one's sympathy but Mr. Dunks acquitted himself like a veteran and put in an enormous amount of work to make the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show on September 19th an all-round success. 261 exhibits were a record for the Club and well justified the Committee's decision to hold their usual show.

It was early in the season for Long-hairs but even so I find a total of 37 adults disturbing. Kittens were better with a total of 56. Chinchillas made a better show with 14 to their credit.

A wonderful entry of Siamese cats and kittens provided plenty for Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Kent and Mrs. Holroyd to do. The Rev. B. Rees was busy sorting out 19 brace and 13 teams with his very efficient steward Mrs. Hancox to handle them. The winning Blue Adults, Mrs. Vize's Myowne Gallant Homme and Mrs. Pullen's Jewel of Dunesk were a lovely pair, ultra refined and excelling in quality.

Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Ch. Scamp of Allington was for the third year in succession Best Exhibit at the Herts and Middlesex Show—a remarkable feat. Mrs. Denton's consistent Blue male kitten Anson Eros was Best Long-

hair Kitten. Other awards were Best Shorthair Cat Mrs. Harvey's Siamese Blue Point Wynperri Blue Prince; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Priston's Siamese Blue Point Pristine Bandoola; Best Neuter, Brigadier Rossiter's Blue Point Siamese Mirza Taklif, who graced the front cover of the June issue of OUR CATS. Quite a field day for the Blue Points!

Miss Kathleen Yorke judged the pets and commented on their lovely condition. The 1st prize winner was Mrs. Perkin's Cream Puff.

Mr. Keith Robinson representing Our Dumb Friends' League, attended to see that fine character actress Kathleen Harrison present the animals' V.C. to Smokey, a Shorthair Tabby.

Although only 6 weeks old Smokey aroused two families when the kitchen caught fire in the early morning hours and enabled all the inmates to get to safety. They were awakened to find their bedrooms filled with smoke.

Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard's exhibits not for competition were interesting. They were two Seal Point Siamese—Kalin of Kalinlangenkamp (a male) and Cleopatra—imported direct from Siam to Germany and thence to England. Although Cleopatra is 3½ years she contracted infectious enteritis in quarantine and her mate was "off colour." Fortunately they made a good recovery and have since had a family. Their coats appeared longer and more open than our Siamese but all they had been through might partly account for this. It would be interesting to see them again later on. Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard are devoted to them and do not mind be-

cause they are not so stream-lined as the majority of Siamese at the shows.

Congratulations to the Show Manager, Mr. Dunks and Mrs. Dunks, who gave him such loyal support, and to the Committee for a delightful show, which I imagine was also a financial success.

### **Record Gate at Paignton**

Congratulations are due also to Miss Cathcart and her Committee on the success of the South Western Counties Cat Club Ch. Show on September 24th at Paignton.

Miss K. Yorke, whilst Miss Kit Wilson gave a running commentary on the mike. These prizes were mostly won by children and some very old ladies.

“ Best Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Lamb’s Seal Point Siamese, Pincop Simon, bred by herself ; Best Longhair Cat, Mrs. McVady’s Blue, Gaydene Rudolph. She was also awarded the Blue Female Championship with Gaydene Candy Kisses, both bred by the exhibitor, an unusual double honour. Best Longhair Kitten, Miss Cathcart’s Brown Tabby Trelystan Cameo ; Best Shorthair Kit-



*Ludgate Garden Photographers*

**The scene at the Herts and Middlesex Show (see report on previous page) when Smokey, a Tabby kitten, was presented with the Blue Cross Medal of Our Dumb Friends’ League.**

She writes :—“ We had the biggest gate we have ever had—832 people—which will help the Club in the future. The day was wet and windy which caused the canvas roof of the enclosure to flap and this rather alarmed some of the cats until they got used to it. We made the Show look bright and cheerful by draping cretonne all along the trestle tables which also hid the cat baskets. The Urban Council, from whom we hired the place, arranged a rockery of ferns and plants at the base of the platform. Everyone was cheerful and it was a very happy Show.

“ A feature was the presentation of special prizes to the household pets by

ten, Mrs. Dyke’s Seal Point Siamese, Kenya Raneé : Best Neuter, Miss Milburn’s Brown Tabby, Trelystan Peridot.

“ We had some absentees among the exhibits and were sorry that Mr. Peter Waring’s six were absent owing to the illness of Mrs. Waring.”

### **News from Durban**

Mrs. Miles, who owns the Westridge Cattery, Durban, South Africa, sends news of the cats she imported from England last January. They were pictured in the February issue of OUR CATS and are a feather in the cap of Mrs. Ella Martin, of Chelmsford, who selected them and arranged transport.”

Mrs. Miles writes : " At the Championship Show in August, Blue Star Twinkle was awarded Best Cat in Show and four cups, one for best eye colour. Harpur Blue Orchid got the Reserved Ch. certificate. The Cream Widdington Sunshine bred by Mrs. Sheppard and the Chinchilla Treetops Cloudburst bred by Mrs. Fletcher and my Siamese queen were all awarded Challenge Certificates and the Chinchilla Fabian of Allington got a Reserved Ch. certificate, so it really was a thrilling day. Mrs. K. R. Williams sent out a Siamese queen to Mrs. Rainer of Johannesburg and our Secretary has one of the kittens. He is lovely and his eyes are perfect.

"Mrs. Vize came up to see me when she was in Durban and was so helpful. We all enjoyed her talk at the Club. I am having more kennels built as I want to try out some crosses and am still keen on Smokes. By an accident a Siamese queen got to the Chinchilla male and their kittens are like Chinchilla Shorthairs. They are very pretty. My Chinchilla queen is expecting kittens for which I have a waiting list. They are the most beautiful of all cats in my opinion.

" I do long to have a trip overseas to one of your Championship Shows. It must be wonderful to see a quantity of exhibits like my imported cats. I shall be going all being well to Johannesburg in November."

*Note* : I am writing to ask Mrs. Miles about a *Reserved Ch. Certificate* as we have no equivalent award here. I will publish her reply in due course.

### **English Stock Successes**

Mrs. Ulla Magnusson writes :—" Here comes the catalogue from Gotenburg. The winning Siamese adults were the ones you selected in Stockholm, Sabukia Sinbad and Exotic Isabella" (which evidently makes the latter a Full Champion as she was Mr. Stirling-Webb's choice last November at Copenhagen). The stock of Baralan Challenger (a Blue male bred by Mrs. Henn) were

awarded high honours. Best Cat in Show was a lovely Red Cheri av Barbarossa. Best Kitten also by him, Krokholmens Jasmine, a Blue-Cream ex a British-bred Cream Aviary Blossom."

I was amused at the names of the winning Blue male kittens, Drevikshofs Ido, Tito, Fido and Wido, also progeny of Baralan Challenger. Morris Sable was not present but Mrs. Magnusson expresses the opinion : " Morris Sable is the best Siamese male in Scandinavia, in my opinion. He was shown in perfect condition at Oslo. One could not find a light hair in his points and his forelegs were just as dark as his ears, a really lovely male."

Special prize at Gotenburg went to Fru Königsson's Gippeswyk Darby for best-groomed cat. Congratulation to Mrs. Brice-Webb on breeding the winning Blue adult female, Ronada Onaway (pictured in OUR CATS, June issue). The public chose the Stockholm winning White Longhair female, Tassita av Frey for the title " Miss Gotenburg 1952."

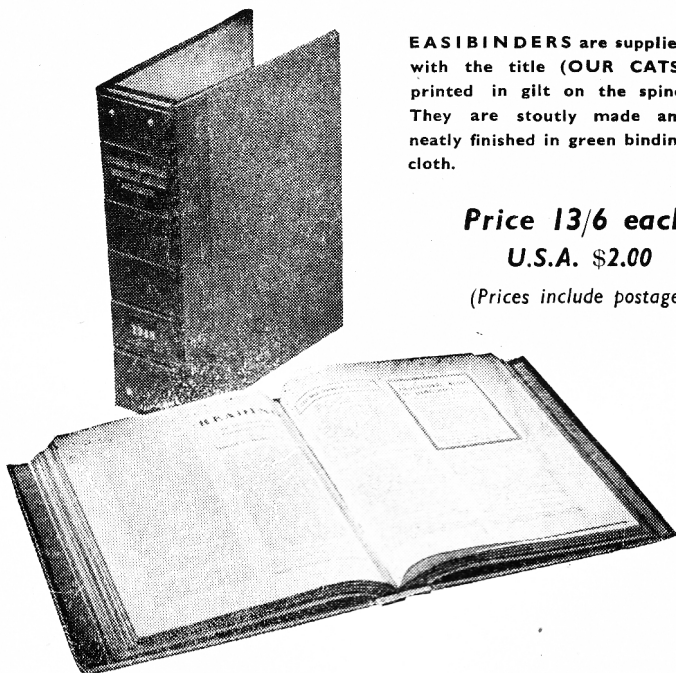
### **Dangers of Birth**

In the October issue of the *Reader's Digest* an interesting article appears under the title : " Birth : Most Dangerous Experience of Life." Nearly every cat breeder has had reason to mourn kittens which appear well-developed and physically normal but are born dead or expire shortly afterwards. These losses are unsatisfactory and one always wonders why they occur. The explanation given for some of the mortality among newly born human babies could equally apply to kittens. Salient points from the article read : " One of the top baby killers : asphyxia, or oxygen starvation.

In the womb a baby faces no oxygen problems ; the mother supplies all requirements. Since the lungs are inactive for the most part, the baby's heart detours blood round them. But at the moment of birth a shunt-valve in the heart closes, securely and permanently, and sends blood to the lungs to pick up air. Something, no one knows what,

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prompts the baby to take his first vital breath. From then on, the respiratory centre in the brain must trigger each succeeding breath. . . . Usually everything goes without a hitch. In a distressing number of cases, however, babies do not breathe properly, they are victims of neonatal asphyxia. . . .

### **Lack of Oxygen**

It is estimated lack of oxygen is responsible for 60 per cent. of deaths in the first hours of life. In some cases the placenta becomes detached before the baby is born, in others the umbilical cord is compressed. Either of these things can reduce or shut-off the oxygen supply to the baby. In still others, a membrane covers the baby's lung surfaces, excluding air. . . .

An anaesthetic which puts the mother to sleep also puts the baby to sleep. . . . Drugs given within four hours before birth depress the respiratory centre in the brain—dulling its urge to breathe."

The latter is probably the reason why there is such a high mortality among kittens born as the result of a Cæsarian. Looking back over the years I realize that many kittens which I assumed were dead could possibly have been resuscitated had I possessed my present knowledge. Artificial respiration, using methods as for humans, can work wonders with inert, newly born kittens.

### **Export to Denmark**

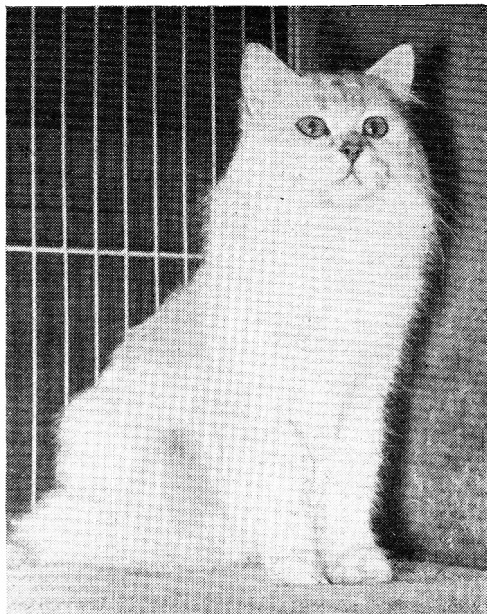
Mrs. Highton's Silken Rosy Rascal (by Proud Pedro) flew to Denmark early October. She is intended as a wife for Morris Sable. Mrs. Lamb, awarding her first in the 2 to 6 S.P. Siamese kitten class, wrote in her report. "Good head and eyes, lovely body and tail, dainty legs and paws, well placed ears." Nominated for Best in Show she was beaten by her litter brother, Silken Rogue. She is a lovely kitten and should have a "rosy" future in Denmark.

### **American cat of the Year**

American *Cats Magazine* announces the 1952 Cat of the Year. He is Mrs. Frances Kosierowski's Blue male Grand

and Double Champion Great Lakes Timothy of Rosemont, bred by Mrs. Myrtle Shipe, who is Secretary of the Cat Fancier's Association. Best Opposite Sex is Mrs. Lillian Pedulla's Seal Point Siamese Female Grand and Double Champion Cymri Dee-Va, bred by owner.

This is the sixth year this award has been presented to the highest scoring male and female cats of each breed and colour appearing in all cat shows throughout the United States and Canada. An interesting feature of Great Lakes Timothy is that he has a Black Longhair sire. Leading in number of times they have featured in sections of All-American wins is Mrs. F. W. Freudenthal's Silver Tabby Shorthair female, Grd. Dble. Champion Aztec's Belinda, who has been Best Silver Tabby Shorthair female every year since 1947. Runner-up is Mrs. Helen Amos' Chinchilla Longhair male, Grd. Ch. Michael



*Ludgate Garden Photographers*

**Champion SCAMP OF ALLINGTON, male Chinchilla, was Best Exhibit at the Herts, and Middlesex Show for the third year in succession.**

of Beverly-Serrano from Lakeside, California.

Mrs. Amos writes to say :—" Michael is just as sweet and lovable as he looks. By winning the award for five years he has established a record never before achieved by a Western cat. We are indeed proud of him and the lovely kittens he sires. He is eight years young and as playful as a kitten. Judges marvel at his adaptability at the shows. He has had many owners during his lifetime but he is with us now for ' keeps ! ' "

### **Our Blacks Do Well**

From the same magazine an excerpt from Mrs. Ada, May Miles' article apropos two British-bred Black Longhairs is interesting. Chadhurst Samson (bred by Miss Rodda) is now a Champion and his daughter is one of Great Lakes Best Black females with a lovely snub face and very deep copper eyes. Chadhurst Chloe of Great Lakes, imported at the same time by their present owner Mrs. Shipe, has two kittens which one reads are " little dreams." Mrs. A. M. Miles alludes to a show she attended at Long Beach, California, on August 3rd, and writes : " I cannot recall ever seeing so many Chocolate Point Siamese kittens. Mr. W. A. Franklin, of San Francisco, came down with several, also adults, and I notice in glancing through the cata-

logue prices range from 75 to 200 dollars."

I would like to see a photograph of the bob cat kittens Mrs. Miles mentions as having been rescued from a cave in the Chatsworth Hills by Albert Gabaig, Junior. He took them home and fed them on goat's milk at first, then ground hamburger. With adequate vitamins, they evidently prospered because as their appetites increased hamburger was replaced with horsemeat.

### **Answer to a Problem ?**

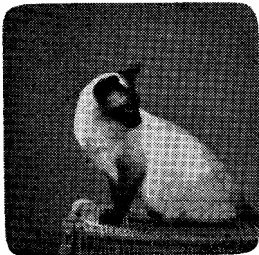
A very interesting article by Dorothy McCrea on " Experimental Breeding " contains an item of especial interest to Abyssinian breeders. At Houston Cat Club Show (Texas) the authoress met Mr. Price Cross (so well known by correspondence to many Siamese breeders here) and he mentioned that Taishun Abigall, bred in England, had a litter with one kitten which showed no white. Though rather dark he felt that the kitten was the answer to the white chin question. . . . Once the white was eliminated, he would take measures to introduce the ruddy coloring.

The above with acknowledgements to U.S.A. Cats Magazine.

By the time you are reading this two London Championship Shows of major importance will be almost here.

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**MRS. A. HARGREAVES, F. Z. S.  
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I refer to the Croydon Cat Club Ch. Show at the Seymour Hall on November 13th, organised by Mr. A. Towe and the National Cat Club Ch. Show on December 3rd at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, with Mrs. L. Speirs making her debut as Show Manager. We all know Mr. Towe's capabilities, and knowing Mrs. Speirs I quite expect she will live up to our fine traditions. Please do your utmost to attend and bring your friends. Every breeder, exhibitor and cat lover in this country wants to see our premier shows at these magnificently light and spacious halls but, remember, they are expensive and their future engagement depends on the personal effort which each one of us makes.

### Apologies

Apologies to the breeder and owner of Quantocks Gossamer (see cover picture of the September issue). She is by Ch. Morris Tudor not Morris Sable as I

stated in "Just Fancy." Apologies also to Mrs. Hjelde Anderson. Her lovely White Longhair female Tussa was one other cat who had the honour of C.A.C.I.B. at the Oslo, Norway, Show.

I much prefer to make corrections than allow errors to pass. Many of us peruse cat periodicals published before the war so I can well imagine posterity looking with interest at OUR CATS in which the Editor has presented so many lovely pictures of our winning cats. It is therefore important that the captions and details concerning them should be correct and in this connection contributors can always help by seeing that names are printed in capital letters and caption details checked before photographs are submitted.

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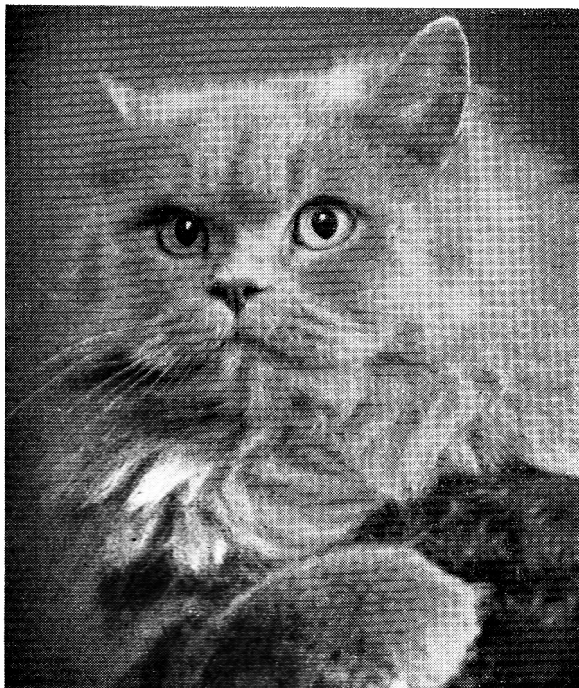
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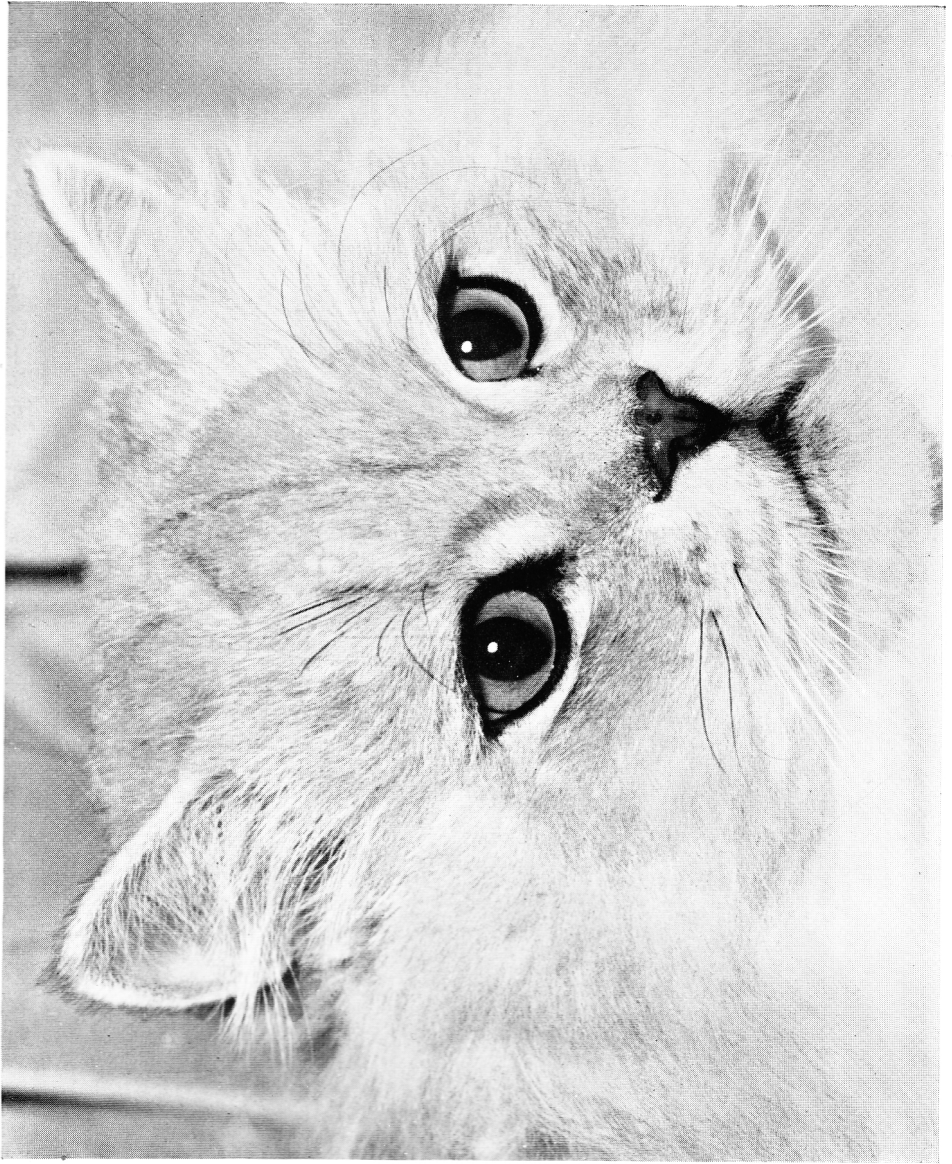
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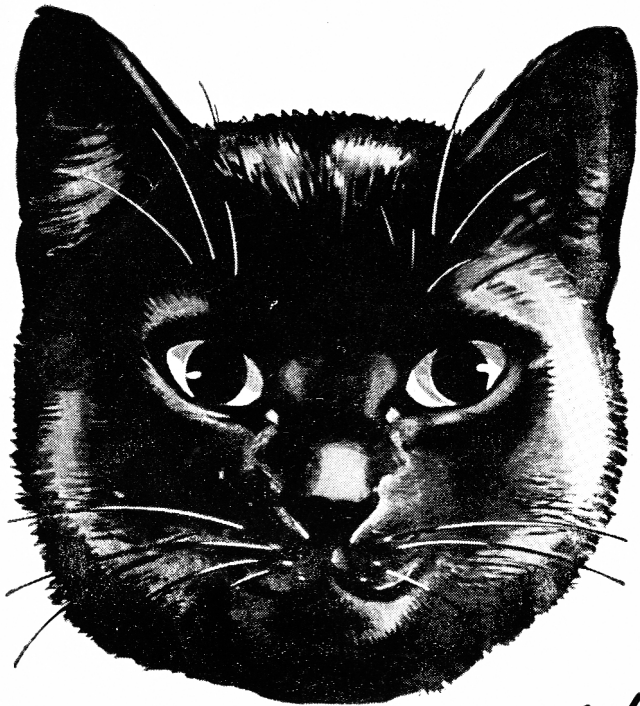
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