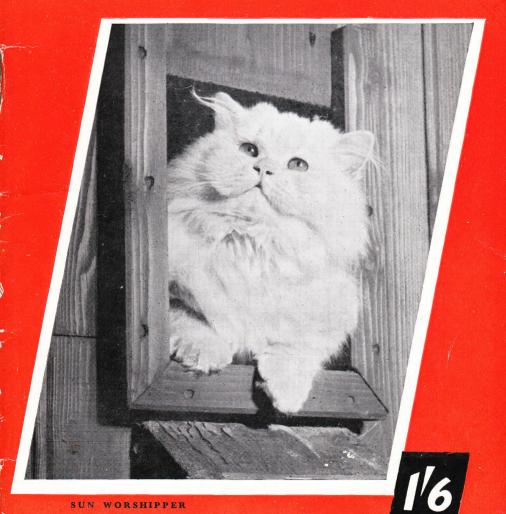


AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



SUN WORSHIPPER

Miss Yolande Coget's Cream female BENTVELD MARTINI makes an appealing picture as she sits at the cattery doorway to enjoy the sunshine. Martini was bred by Miss H. L. Posthuma, the well known Dutch fancier.

FEBRUARY 1953

/E INVITE YOU TO THE QUIZ (see page 3)



a cat

KEEPS A CAT HEALTHY! Healthy cats, happy kittens, all as fit as fiddles, thanks to the finest, richest food they've ever eaten - Kit-E-Kat. A rich food, yes - and economical too! Here's a good, big tin packed with all the vitamins and minerals a cat must have for complete nourishment. Ready cooked Kit-E-Kat, ready to serve Kit-E-Kat, and only one shilling! What a treat for a puss. Eyes half closed, purring with contentment. Mmm - what a meal! Buy some for your cat today.



CHAPPIE LIMITED OF MELTON MOWBRAY



AUTHORITATIVE . INSTRUCTIVE . ENTERTAINING

Published every month with the best possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is :

(1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management;

(2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats ;

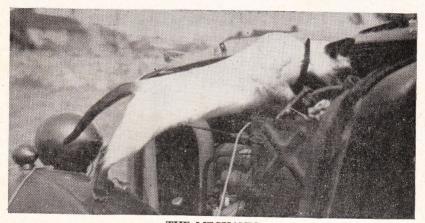
(3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats ;

(4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world. VOL. 5 No. 2 FEBRUARY 1953

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



THE MECHANIC

RAKI, Siamese owned by Miss M. Baster, Weston, Bath, takes a professional "look-see" under the bonnet. "What's all this nonsense about trouble-free motoring ?" he might be saying !

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"The Worth of a Cat"

THE name of Hywel Dda (Howell the Good) frequently crops up in the writings of those who like to have a little historical background when they are dealing with cats.

Howell the Good was one of the princes who ruled in Wales during the Middle Ages. He died in 948. Always a warm admirer of King Alfred and the English way of life in those times, he visited Rome in 928 and after his return became even more closely associated with the English Court.

Among the code of laws he initiated for the good of his people was a series designed for the protection of cats. Their values were assessed and penalties fixed for stealing or killing them.

There was, for example, the Vendotian (or North Wales) Code which stated :

The worth of a cat and her tiethi (qualities) is this :

- 1. The worth of a kitten from the night it is kittened until it shall open its eyes is a legal penny.
- 2. And from that time, until it shall kill mice, two legal pence.
- 3. And after it shall kill mice, four legal pence; and so it always remains.
- 4. Her tiethi are, to see, to hear, to kill mice, to have her claws entire, to rear and not devour her kittens, and if she be bought, and be deficient in any one of these tiethi ;

let one third of her worth be returned.

Another code was the Dimetian Code, of which an original manuscript showing the drawing of a cat at the top can be seen in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. This stated :

- The worth of a cat that is killed or stolen; its head to be put downwards upon a clean even floor, with its tail lifted upwards, and thus suspended, whilst wheat is poured about it, until the tip of its tail be covered; and that is to be its worth; if the corn cannot be had a milch sheep, with her lamb and her wool, is its value; if it be a cat which guards the King's barn.
- 2. The worth of a common cat is four legal pence.
- 3. Whoever shall sell a cat is to answer for her not going a caterwauling every moon ; and that she devour not her kittens ; and that she have ears, eyes, teeth and nails ; and being a good mouser.
- 53. There are three animals whose tails, eyes and lives are of the same worth : a calf ; a filly for common worth ; and a cat ; excepting the cat that shall watch the King's barn.

(Extracts from Lady Aberconway's "A Dictionary of Cat Lovers.")

This is worth thinking about . . .

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

We shall be pleased to send OUR CATS to any part of the world and, if desired, to enclose your personal greeting or message to the recipient.

Our Subscription rate is 17s. 6d. (which includes postage) for twelve monthly issues. Readers in America should remit Three Dollars (by check or bills) and those on the Continent can obtain an International Money Order through their local post office. The address for subscriptions is OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

Quiz!

In which "thirsters after knowledge" are handed over to our panel of experts. Readers are invited to submit their questions—by post, please, marking their envelopes "Quiz" in the top left-hand corner.

F I bought recently has had what looks like a dark skin covering part of each eye, and there is also a slight discharge from the corners. Does this mean that the kitten has developed some form of eye disease?

The skin which is partially covering the eyes is called the haw and is a sort of third eyelid which usually remains folded at the inner corner of the eye. This haw is a membrane which sweeps across the ball of the eye to remove any small particle of dust causing irritation, and its purpose may also be to moisten the surface of the eye.

The fact that your kitten is showing the haw in each eye is not necessarily a sign of any disease of the eye, but is rather an indication that the kitten is not a hundred per cent fit. It might be wise to consult your vet.

In all probability the kitten has worms, and, when this is the case, the haw often rises, and this condition is often accompanied by a slight discharge from the corner of the eye. If you observe the animal's motion, you will probably notice that worms are excreted. Kittens suffering from worms often have staring coats and an appetite which seems insatiable. The haws will also rise in cases of general debility from causes other than worms, but there is no indication that your kitten has been seriously ill.

If the vet. decides that the kitten should be wormed, get him to prescribe both the cure and the dose, for worming can be dangerous when carried out without due attention being paid to the age and size of the kitten and also its general fitness.

Gestation Period

I have recently read in a book that the period of gestation for a cat is 57 days, but I find that my queen always has her kittens on the sixty-fourth or sixty-fifth day. Is this unusual?

The book is wrong, for it is most unusual for any queen to have her kittens as early as the fifty-seventh day. In fact, if the kittens are born as early as that, it is most unlikely that they will survive. Most books used to say that the queen carried her kittens for 63 days, but we suspect this was merely a way of saying that the period of gestation is nine weeks.

The most usual day for the birth of kittens is the sixty-fifth, but maiden queens having their first family often go beyond this time. There is little need to worry about a queen if she goes beyond the sixty-third day until she appears distressed. When that happens, the vet. must be called at once. Many a queen has delayed as long as the sixtyninth day before producing her family, and neither she nor the kittens have been any the worse for the experience.

Cat Bibliography

I am anxious to make a collection of old cat books, but I do not know what has been published up to the time of the outbreak of the last war.

Can you tell me how I can obtain a bibliography relating to cats ?

There is a very simple way of obtaining such a list if you are prepared to take a little trouble. It will be necessary, however, to obtain entry to the Reading Room of the British Museum. You must write to the Director of the Reading Room and state what you want to do, and he will then in all probability grant you the necessary permission.

In the Reading Room you will find the huge general catalogue, and, if you look under the heading " Cats," you will find a long list of books dealing with this subject and dating back as far as the beginning of the seventeenth century. There were few books written exclusively on the subject of cats until the end of the last century, although there were some natural history books which had sections devoted to them. The three earliest books we have seen dealing entirely with cats are "The Book of Cats" by Ross which was published in 1813, "The Domestic Cat" by Stables, 1876, and "The Cat" by St. George Mivart, 1881. None of these is easy to find in secondhand bookshops.

Sidney Denham has recently published his "Cats Between Covers" and this is a bibliography of books about cats which you should find very interesting and informative. It was advertised in the December issue of this Magazine.

Wonder Drugs

I have recently heard of several drugs called wonder drugs which are now used in veterinary practice in the United States. Two drugs which seem to have effected remarkable cures are chloromycetin and terramycin. Are these obtainable in this country and have they achieved the remarkable cures which have been claimed for them ?

Practically every year one hears of some new drug which will cure all the ills of both man and animal, but, if you notice carefully, it is not the men of science who make these extravagant claims, for they have learned from experience that there is nothing in the world which is a cure for all diseases except death itself.

Both chloromycetin and terramycin are remarkable antibiotics and have cured a number of cases of disease which a few years ago would have been considered hopeless, but neither of them seems to be able to cure even the common cold, one of the most prevalent of all so-called simple diseases. Both these substances are obtainable in this country, but only in small quantities as they are made in the U.S.A. and the dollar problem affects the position. They are also expensive.

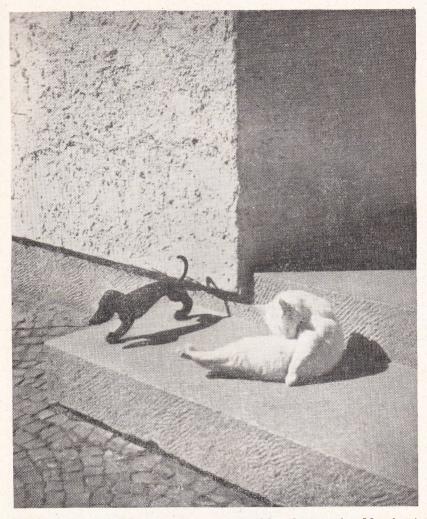
Vets in this country use both when they can obtain them and have found that they have remarkable curative properties for certain specific diseases, but even now considerable experiment is still going on both here and in America to find out for what diseases they are, in fact, specific.

Search for Book

When I was a child I read a charming story about a white cat called Don Pierrot de Navarre. Can you tell me who wrote this story and whether it is still possible to obtain the book ?

We can tell you something about this cat and also the author of the book. The book is called in English "A Domestic Menagerie" and was translated from the French of Théophile Gautier by an Englishwoman who was very fond of cats. The lady's name was Mrs. William Chance.

This cat was said to have been brought from Havana by Mademoiselle Aita de la Penuela who drew cats as a hobby. The cat she brought to France was called Pierrot because it was as white as a powder puff. When it grew up it had to have a more high-sounding title for it became the founder of "The White Dynasty." Whether you will be able to find a copy of this book, we cannot say, for it was published in 1899. A page for the proletarian puss No. 32



This charming little street scene was captured by photographer Maurice A. Cheshire in a sunlit street in the pocket-sized state of Liechtenstein. "All I can say about it," he says, " is that the cat appeared seemingly from nowhere, posed unconcernedly for its photo, then dashed off from whence it came. Clearly, he isn't troubled at all by the boot-scraper dog !"

Word Puzzle

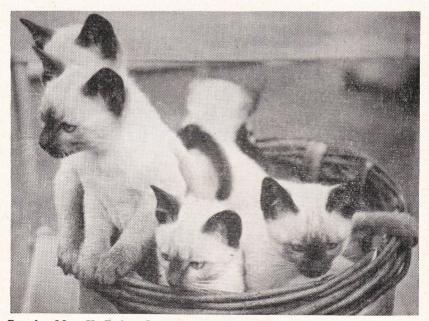
The word "Kitcat" has always puzzled me. What have the "Quiz" panel to say about it ?

Very little, we fear ! The word came into existence round about 1700 when it was the name given to a Whig literary club in London. The members met at the house of a pastry-cook named Christopher Katt. The dictionary also tells us that "Kitcat" is the name given to a portrait 36 by 28 inches in size, so called from the portraits of the Kitcat Club painted by Sir G. Kneller. There have been commercial revivals of the name from time to time.

Record Price for a Cat

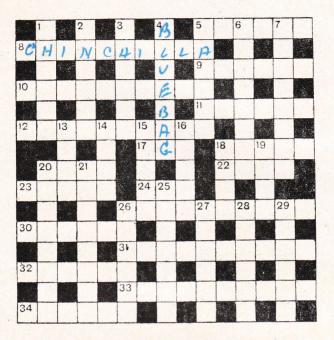
I have been told that a cat has recently changed hands for a threefigure sum. Is this correct and can you say if this is an all-time record ?

It is quite true that a 2-year-old Blue Longhair male has been sold within the past few weeks for £150. We believe this to be a record figure for any cat or kitten. The cat in question is Champion Myowne Gallant Homme, bred by Mrs. A. E. Vize, of Banstead, Surrey, from Champion Astra of Pensford ex Trenton Verity (sired by Champion Oxlevs Peter John). In our January 1951 issue we printed three pictures of Myowne Gallant Homme and it was apparent at that early stage in his career that he was a kitten of exceptional character and promise. He subsequently went on to win his Championship at three consecutive show appearances; a record achievement. Myowne Gallant Homme was bought by Mme Mariani, of Paris, and breeders especially will be glad to know that before he flew to France he left behind some of his progeny to carry on the good work.



Breeder Mrs. K. Foden, Streethay, nr. Lichfield, submits this picture of a nice Siamese litter by Barney of Streethay ex Mimi of Streethay. The grandmother of these kittens was Lou-Lou, who travelled from South Africa on "H.M.S. Vanguard" with the late King George and the Queen on their return home from the Royal Tour. Lou-Lou was much admired by Her Majesty during the voyage.

"OUR CATS" CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Puss is upset—by its prickles ? (6).
 An ethereal feline (10)
 Mixed metal in the headgear. Puss loves it ! (6)
- 10. Cooks for cats prepare this (10)

- Hole surrounded by material (6)
 "Sandy weeds" (anag.) (10)
 Three-quarters of a palmy pith (3)
- 18. Fifty rest from work (5)
- 20. A portion comes back (4)
- 22. Man or Malta (4)
- 23. Reverence (5)
- 24. Short extremity (3)26. "All new deer" (anag.) (10)
- 30. Servant for a hunt (6)
- 31. Another popular variety (10)
- 32. No miser will this with his money (4, 2)
- 33. See the eyes of the Whites ! (10)
- 34. A light for the Coronation (6)

DOWN

- 1. Determine (6)
- 2. This is harmony (6)
- 3. But here's the rub (6)
- 4. Mother's remedy for stings (7)
- 5. Hiding-places (6)
- 6. Puss helps to guide the night traveller (8)
- 7. It covers the whole world (8)
- 13. A challenge (4)
- 14. Spot (4)
- 15. Famous poet (5)
- 16. Bumpkin (5)
- 18. "Rail" (anag.) (4)
- 19. Masculine name (4)
- 20. Puss will do this after meals (8) 21. "Lithe cat" (an apt anagram) (8) 25. We have seen it die (3, 4)
- 26. One paw is a cat's this (6)
- 27. An old military rank (6)
 28. He pulled the New Year in (6)
 29. Exalted (6)

The Disappearing Manx

An Association is formed to "Save the Rumpies"

FOR some time past there have been feelings of concern and misgiving among cat lovers in the Isle of Man about the future of the famous race of tail-less Manx. In some quarters the breed is thought to be in grave danger of extinction and prompt action has been urged to prevent such an unfortunate state of affairs.

The steady decline in the number of Manx cats is attributed in part to the demand from overseas buyers and to the fact that so many people have been having their Manx males neutered.

The position was discussed at a meeting of enthusiasts and fanciers called by Mr. W. D. Kerruish, the island's Government veterinary surgeon, and held at his Douglas home last month. Another disturbing fact revealed at the meeting was that as the breed gets purer, whole litters of kittens are stillborn. This was discovered by the geneticist of Liverpool University while doing research on the Manx cat. The high mortality rate is fortunately only met with in strains that are almost entirely pure. It can be overcome by mating a "stumpy"-a tailed cat of Manx blood-to the pure Manx. The resulting litters will be mixed. containing tail-less, " stumpy " and tailed

kittens. It is reported that only on very rare occasions does one meet with a litter that are all true Manx "rumpies."

The "Save the Manx" enthusiasts at the meeting decided to form the "Isle of Man Manx Cat Association" and Mr. N. S. Twining, Kerroo-ny-Clough, Greeba, has been elected Secretary.

When the Association becomes active, it is proposed to issue a certificate for all Manx cats being exported, provided they have been examined and passed by the Association's veterinary surgeon. Breeding will be encouraged by the guaranteeing of classes at island shows and the award of special prizes.

A standard for the Manx cat has been drawn up by the Association for judging purposes. Of 100 possible points, 45 are for the breed's main characteristics tail-lessness, height of hindquarters (which gives the cat its unusual "hopping" gait) and shortness of back.

Mr. Twining has kindly explained to this Magazine that purity could only be assessed from the physical point of view. Whereas a Manx cat may appear to be pure, having the characteristic hollow at the end of the backbone, no indication could be given as to its pedigree. If mated to another "rumpy," it may not breed true.



Miss Snowball

By ANN WILKINSON

SHE is an elegant snow-white Persian beauty, with soft pink ears and small pink retroussé nose. By name Princess Narcissus Alba, but Miss Snowball to all and sundry.

In her thick white mantle of fur, with long snowy tail wrapped around her, she sits for hours on the tall pillar of the drive gates, aloof, regal, immobile. She is unmoved by the sound of passing traffic, disdainful of barking dogs, and utterly oblivious of the sweet cooings of old ladies and delighted children who point to her lovely eyes—one china blue and one bright green.

She does not heed the endearing words nor join in the conversation, for she is completely deaf. For this reason she wears a collar with a tiny bell which rings wherever she goes. Thus I know exactly where to find her to summon her in to meals, and to bring her in for the night.

We also have our own special sign language. An urgent beckoning finger says "Quickly, dinner," which brings her in at the double. Hands clapped and waved towards her mean "off to bed" which does not bring so quick a response. Her brush and comb mean grooming, which she loves. But first she must stretch lazily, pretend not to notice, before walking forward slowly, curling and bowing her pretty head.

But hands cupped together bring intense excitement—George the hamster is coming out to play!

Snowball rushes into the house. George sits in my cupped hands, small, fat, sleek, vibrating urgently, his black beady eyes shining brightly. He sniffs the air, washes his face, sniffs again and twitches his whiskers. Miss Showball comes nearer, eyes wide, dark and intent. She creeps forward, tense, alert, tail swaying gently.

George peers at her, paws the air and stands to his full height of six golden inches. They lean forward, brush whiskers and with a wild leap into the air, Snowball rushes round and round the room. This act is repeated over and over again.

Then George, giving a final polish to his whiskers, drops down to the floor beside her. They touch noses, both start with surprise, and off Miss Snowball goes again, rushing madly round with George galloping behind her on his little fat feet like a diminutive bear, skidding on the polished floor, rolling over, starting again and never quite catching up with Snowball.

Of course, I never leave them one can never be quite sure of animals—but they always played together without mishap.

One day when Snowball was out and I was cleaning the hamster's cage, George took himself on a tour of exploration. He was an agile climber and quickly got to the top of a toy cupboard, where he stood on his hind legs investigating a paper hat. He fell over backwards and lay spreadeagled on the floor, incapable of movement.

Poor George ! I picked him up and laid him in the soft warm straw, with a hot water bottle on the outside of the cage.

I shut the door and felt exceeding unhappy. Later than evening he ate a good meal and drank his milk, and in an amazingly short time he was scratching to be let out for his run. I put him gently on the floor and in no time he was rushing about the room again, but dragging his hind legs.

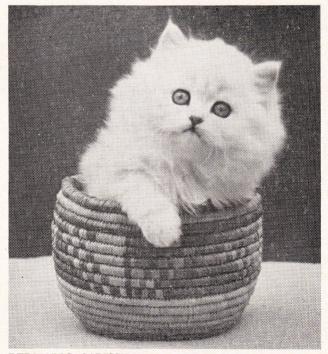
On the vet.'s advice, I massaged him twice a day, and let him use his legs as much as possible. I applied hot dry compresses to his spine and tail-end, every four Miss Snowball watched hours. his treatment with interest and some envy I think, sitting on each warm flannel as it was removed, and purring loudly. Now and then the two animals gently touched noses, and when George was returned to his bed. Snowball kept vigil at his door. He gradually improved, and within ten days he appeared to be well again, using his four legs normally in his excited attendance upon his playmate.

But one day some weeks later, when Snowball paid her usual morning visit to his cage, George failed to come out. She sniffed hard, peered anxiously inside, sniffed again, then shook herself violently and walked away.

George was dead.

Snowball went to her basket and remained there the rest of the day, completely off her food. The following day she was back to normal and had forgotten all about him.

I think Miss Snowball's greatest love was for Charles, my schoolboy son's rabbit. Charles was a lively young Flemish buck with a will of his own, and certainly no love for cats. They snarled



REDWALLS CARISSIMA, bred by Mrs. E. M. Hacking, Liphook, Hants., was one of a pair of Chinchilla kittens sent by plane to Italy.

and spat at each other on first acquaintance. Charles kicked out with his strong hind legs, and Snowball fled.

He was a rabbit with quite a personality. Each morning I filled his tin with food and offered it him. He would pick it up in his strong teeth, fling the contents over his back and use the tin for a certain purpose. I would empty it, cleanse it thoroughly putting back the food which he would quietly devour.

Each day I walked him round the garden at intervals, in a tiny red collar and small lead. Miss Snowball followed cautiously. After some days curiosity overcame caution, and she approached him with her long whiskers twitching, from behind. Charles was The hind legs lashed startled. out and missed. Snowball took a flying leap over him, Charles did a semi-somersault into the air, and in the confusion I dropped the lead.

Over him again went Snowball, rushing madly across the garden, into the air again went Charles. Both stopped quite suddenly to perform their toilets. Snowball was soon back again ready for the game, and Charles stamped his feet and chased her into the flower bed. A snapdragon gave him an appetite and up he somersaulted into the air again and again.

Mad Escapades

It was an extraordinary sight. From now on they became firm friends, and daily they would play in this manner. Neighbours and their children gathered to watch the mad escapades. Cat chased rabbit, rabbit chased cat, leaping, bounding over each other, playing hide-and-seek in a tunnel made by a length of timber leaning against the wall.

After a time Charles resented the attentions of strangers, and the neighbours fled. And woe betide any caller at the house, for Charles became a wonderful guard. At the approach of unfamiliar footsteps he would sit bolt upright, savage his whiskers, and gnashing his teeth would bound after the intruder.

My family and I have laughed ourselves almost hysterical at the sight of this small rabbit chasing a grown man down the drive. But it wasn't so funny when Charles failed to discriminate and decided to turn us out too. I had to be most careful when breaking up the playtime, for if I picked up Snowball first he would take a run at my legs, and it needed some practice to evade him.

He spared no one-but Snow-With her, apart from the ball. wild frolics, he was gentleness itself. She tended him carefully, washing his long ears with her little pink tongue and soundly boxed those same ears when he would not sit still under the administration.

But now alas, he too has gone to the Happy Hunting Ground, and Miss Snowball has returned to her solitary watch on the tall pillar, beautiful, snow-white and most aloof.

Because cats and dogs caused so many accidents last year, Bexley, Erith and Crayford Road Safety Committee is urging people to "Keep your pets off the road."

A 42in. long wild cat has been trapped near Duror, Argyll. It is said to be the largest caught in district for many years. *

*

*

When a mailbag was opened at Launceston (Tasmania) Post Office a kitten scrambled out. It had spent 48 hours in the bag, most of the time in the hold of a steamer.

Protect against Feline Infectious Enteritis

Feline Infectious Enteritis is a very infectious virus disease of cats, sudden in onset and usually fatal. It may be introduced into a cattery following exposure to infection at shows and spreads from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is very high.

To save your cat from this disease consult your veterinary surgeon. He will advise you regarding protection, now possible by the introduction of

WEBBCOME.



A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

Skin Diseases — Eczema

By P. M. SODERBERG

A LTHOUGH it is always unwise to generalise from too few particulars, the frequency with which letters are received referring to skin troubles in cats leads one to believe that they are becoming more of a problem in some parts of the country.

Cat owners, quite naturally, are singularly ignorant on the subject of skin diseases with the result that they either jump to false conclusions or do what is perhaps even worse, neglect to act when they notice a skin condition which is abnormal.

To deal first with the wrong conclusions which are often reached by cat owners, it must be said that ringworm is by no means a common skin disease in cats. It certainly does appear from time to time and may run through a whole cattery. When this happens the owner is bound to have to endure a long period of hard work and will face many disappointments, for when the disease has been apparently cured it often starts up again quite inexplicably.

Thus, if a cat is suffering from any form of skin disease, the first thing to do is to seek the advice of the veterinarian. He alone can diagnose the trouble accurately and he may even consider it wise to seek the help of the laboratory before he feels he can return a true verdict.

Home doctoring can never be advised for the simple reason that there is no panacea for all skin diseases and treatment must not only be suited to the particular disease but frequently it must be individual in that it is only efficacious for a particular cat.

Let us now consider eczema, which is one of the commonest of skin diseases encountered in **e**ats. This is not a Author of "Cat Breeding and General Management" and other books. Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club,

disease confined solely to cats, for it can be encountered in many animal species, but there is one fact about it which must always be cheering to the animal owner. *Eczema is not contagious*. In a cattery containing a dozen cats only one may be affected by the disease, and even if at a later date a second cat shows similar symptoms this does not imply that the second cat has developed the complaint through contact with the first. It is true that the development of the disease may have the same initial causes.

Too Much Fish

It was believed at one time that cats which were fed on a fish diet were bound eventually to develop eczema. This is by no means a statement of fact. Some cats may develop eczema as a result of eating too much fish, but other cats fed on exactly the same diet will never show the slightest sign of the disease. A similar theory has from time to time been expressed with regard to diets which, when regarded from the point of view of balance, seemed to be too heavily weighted on the side of starchy foods. One could go on from this and it would be found that the individual experiences of cat owners would tend to prove that any diet which was not correctly balanced would, by reason of the items in which it was overweighted, cause eczema.

Now that may seem to simplify the issue considerably, but does it ? From what has already been said, it appears that cats which were always fed a carefully balanced diet would never develop eczema. Unhappily that is not true, although it may not be wrong to say that unbalance in diet is more likely to cause this skin trouble.

The conclusions one may deduce from these facts are that eczema is essentially a disease whose causes vary from one

individual cat victim to another. Put even more simply, what may be the predisposing cause in one cat may not have the same effect on another. Thus, the veterinarian is faced with a very difficult problem when he has to treat any cat suffering from this particular complaint. He knows that the cause of the trouble in his patient is almost certainly some particular allergy, but what he does not know is the item of diet, or perhaps even the quality of the cat's environment, which has produced the skin condition. If the particular item of diet to which the cat is allergic can be ascertained, then its removal should produce a speedy cure. The trouble is to find the specific cause.

True Diet

Common sense obviously indicates two immediate courses of action. The first is that if the cause of the trouble is essentially one of diet, then the accustomed food should be immediately changed. There are still people who believe that cats should be fed almost entirely on fish, and others, who are convinced to the extent that their views cannot be changed, that the true diet for a cat is meat and this means meat to the exclusion of practically everything else.

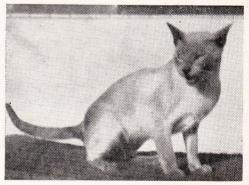
If the diet is known to be extreme in either of these particulars, it can be changed at once, and not infrequently when this course is adopted improvement in condition is immediate and continuous.

The second course to adopt is to ensure that the waste products of digestion are effectively eliminated each day. So few cat owners seem to realise that a regular bowel motion does not of itself constitute efficient elimination. What is important is to know the length of time which elapses between the eating of a meal and the particular bowel movement when the waste products from that meal are evacuated. Material which is held in the bowel too long is bound to ferment and in the process may produce toxins having serious consequences of which eczema may be only one.

I am not one of those cat breeders who is always going round his cats with a medicine bottle or a box of pills, but there is a middle course which entails the use of medicines and even pills from time to time. I am all against purging cats at any time, but I am prepared to be over-ruled by my vet upon occasion. A case of eczema might well be one of those occasions, but I should then leave him to prescribe the aperient. For my own part I keep my cats functioning satisfactorily internally by the regular but infrequent use of liquid paraffin, and if I want to be a little more drastic a liver meal will normally meet the case.

Obviously, I am a long way from the end of the eczema problem, but I shall hope to complete the picture as I, a nonveterinarian, see it by writing a second article next month.

For the present we must leave the story where it has established the fact that eczema is peculiar to individual cats for a variety of causes; that a radical change of diet may produce quick results—and here tinned foods which are scientifically balanced should not be forgotten—and finally, that satisfactory elimination from the bowel will almost certainly play an important part in both prevention and cure.



RUSHMORE BLUE PETER, Blue Point Siamese male, belonging to Mrs. A. Cousins of Stanks Hill, Birmingham Road, Warwick. Blue Peter has won many awards, including two Challenge Certificates.

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.

WILL SOMEBODY WRITE ?

I would be pleased to hear from any English breeder who would care to drop me a line now and again.

I am so interested in the photographs and advice given in your Magazine. You certainly have good cats in England and I only wish I could own one of the Allington Chinchillas. My cats have their breeding in the background.

Mrs. W. Taylor,

1 Mooramba Avenue, Lane Cove, Sydney, Australia.

CORONATION SHOW

Will you kindly publish the following notice in the next issue of Our Cats ?

"Preliminary Announcement. The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy will hold a Coronation All Breeds Show at the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W.1, on 9th October next.

Further particulars will be published later."

W. A. Hazeldine,

Secretary, G.C.C.F., Banstead, Surrey.

STERILITY THROUGH CAPONISING ?

Can any reader tell if I feed the heads of caponised chickens to my Siamese will it make them sterile or have any other ill effects ? I have only recently heard of caponising and feel extremely alarmed, as numerous people assure me my Siamese will become sterile.

Chicken heads have been widely used in both catteries and kennels as a very nutritious food when simmered tender and minced. My vet. cannot help me, I fear, but as a precautionary measure I have been slicing off the backs of the heads, i.e. from the base of the comb to about 3 inches down the necks as I understand the caponising pellet is inserted just there. Hens are being caponised as well as cockerels now, according to a report I read last week, so picking out the hens' heads from the cocks' is useless.

Mrs. Joan Judd,

Redland, Bristol 6.

We shall be in a position to give some information on this important subject in next month's issue.—EDITOR.

ATTESTED PEDIGREES

Cat breeders may be interested to know that attested pedigrees with their extensions and ownership can be sworn by affidavit before any solicitor who is a Commissioner for Oaths at a cost of 2s. 6d. Such statements are signed by the Commissioner and become documentary proof of birth and ancestry.

These pedigrees have the advantage of being accepted unquestionably by all businesslike persons or organisations who respect British Common Law and render illegal any alterations made on copies by unauthorised individuals. Anyone swearing false affidavits risks proceedings.

Mrs. Felicity Tschudi Broadwood,

Send, Surrey.

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.

MRS. ROSE WINKELRIED of 21 Winans Avenue, Newark 3, N.J., U.S.A., writes :--

"I've been wanting to write to you for a long time now in praise of Kit-zyme. It all began several years ago with my very first cat, Fuzzy, who had just had a severe attack of gastroenteritis. Fortunately, one of my English correspondents, Mrs. Jose Cattermole, sent me a large tin of Kit-zyme. This was exactly what he needed to restore his appetite and playfulness. Before long his bluegrey, silver tipped coat became sleek and shining and his large, green eyes brilliant. Again he was in the garden, leaping in mid-air to chase butterflies.

Red Boy was also in need of Kitzyme when he first came here. He was a scrawny looking kitten, but to-day he is an enormous, gorgeous looking, marmalade cat. Both he and Fuzzy are out in all kinds of



PANTHER WITH HIS MISTRESS

weather, but the exposure never harms them, as they are well fortified with the vitamins and minerals in Kit-zyme.

Then there is Two-tone, a black and white stray kitten, who was so sick with worms, a skin disease and intestinal infection, that he had a close call to Cat Heaven. But thanks to the benefit derived from Kit-zyme, he is now very much alive and the picture of health.

My baby, Panther, who has just returned from the hospital where he was wormed and treated for an intestinal upset, is also improving rapidly with the aid of Kit-zyme. When he sees the other cats eating these tasty tablets, he opens his copper-coloured pop eyes real wide and begs prettily and, of course, joins the party."

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





Promotes resistance to: LISTLESSNESS, FALLING COAT, LOSS OF APPETITE, SKIN TROUBLES 50 ($7\frac{1}{2}$ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-KIT-ZYME is sold by Chemists and most Pet Stores

Literature Free on Request

If any difficulty in obtaining write to: PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., Park Royal Road, London, N.W.10

Reference No. 66

Your Cat's Teeth

By DEREK STEWARD

UR cats, like human beings, have two sets of teeth ; a baby set, known technically as the deciduous dentition, and an adult set, or permanent dentition.

The deciduous teeth number twenty six, as opposed to our twenty. In each jaw there are six front teeth, known as incisors. These are small and sharp, and are used for the prehension of prey and the cutting of food. Behind these, on each side, is a single canine, a long tooth adapted for grasping prey and well developed in the carnivorous animals. Then follow the molars, used for preparing the food prior to swallow-There are two of these on ing. each side of the lower jaw, and three on each side of the upper.

We Have Two More

The cat has two fewer permanent teeth than humans, namely thirty. There is the same number of incisors and canines as in the deciduous dentition, and in front of each upper canine is a space (or diastema) into which the lower canine bites. Behind these are the pre-molars, teeth present only in the permanent dentition. There are three of these on each side of the upper jaw and two on each side of the lower, though the first upper pre-molar, that is counting from the front, is often absent and, when present, is small.

Lastly, there are the molars. There is one of these on each side of both jaws, those of the upper being very small. The sharpbladed lower molars, and the upper third pre-molars, are specially adapted for dealing with a carnivorous diet, such as flesh and bones. These are termed carnassial teeth.

The joint by which the lower jaw moves with respect to the upper, known as the temporomandibular joint, acts simply as a hinge, so that the cat is not able to move his teeth from side to side in a grinding action, such as we do. Thus he shears rather than masticates his food.

The crown of each tooth is covered with enamel, a hard, white, semi-translucent substance, while further down over the root



Here's a Siamese fellow who doesn't mind showing his incisors, canines and molars! His name is BOY, neuter pet of Mrs. E. M. Walter, of Kenton, Middlesex, and he was bred by fancier Mrs. Joan Varcoe, Otford, Kent.

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A CHAMPION

AT MR. RICHARD WARNER'S Spotlight Catteries, Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks, *Seal-pointed Siamese Ch. Clonlost Yo-Yo* graciously grants an interview to the 'Tibs' Reporter.

CLONLOST YO-YO, proudly introduced us to his wife and 5-days-old family and then showed off his 35 trophies, including the magnificant cup he won as Best Shorthair, Crystal Cat Show 1951.

M^{R.} WARNER heartily endorses the 'one Tibs a day' rule for all his stock. He gives pregnant and suckling queens Tibs with every meal. Cats love the liver flavour, and their daily Tibs tablet provides the full normal need of vitamins A and B.

Famous breeders say:



this is replaced by a less hard material, rather similar to bone, known as cementum. Between the cementum and the bony wall of the socket in which the tooth is inserted, are many fibrous strands constituting the periodontal membrane, by which the tooth is held in position.

Beneath the enamel and cementum is the dentine, a hard yellowwhite substance permeated by many microscopic tubes which open out into the hollow centre of the tooth where the pulp is situated. Here are nerves and blood vessels which enter the tooth through a small hole in the tip of the root, the apical foramen.

Less Prone to Toothache

- As a result of decay, amongst other things, the pulp may become inflamed and swollen and, because of the hard unyielding structure in which it is housed, it is subjected to considerable pressure which gives rise to the severe pain known as tooth - ache, or odontalgia. Luckily, as a result of their diet and the avoidance of human foods which favour dental disease, our cats are remarkably free from tooth troubles.

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.



ANSON ANGELA, young Blue Longhair queen by Anson Delphinium ex Robin of Pensford, made her show debut last year and was a winner at the Herts. and Middlesex and Blue Persian Championship Shows. Breeder is Miss I. Statman, Cricklewood, N.W.



Don't Count Your Kits!

By HELEN MACGREGOR

A S soon as I saw Bang, short for Bangkok, I hoped that she would be more successful than most of Miss Green's "get rich quick " schemes.

"You see, dear," explained Miss Green, "she's going to be a marvellous investment. *Everybody* wants Siamese kittens, and I should easily be able to get six or seven guineas for each of them because of her pedigree. Even if Bang has only three in each litter, with two litters a year—and, of course, she *may* have more—that will be forty pounds. Bang will pay for her cost over and over again."

There was a mocking gleam in Bang's china blue eyes which filled me with misgivings.

Sixty-three days after Bang's marriage ("Imagine dear ! I had to pay !) at enormous expense, to Menam, the only male Siamese in the neighbourhood, Bang's maiden silhouette was still unchanged.

Menam's owner and Miss Green exchanged some libelous letters. Menam's owner, however, was able to produce proof that Menam had already sired many prize-winning cats. The fault, therefore, could not be his. Miss Green apologised. Menam's owner cooled down. As a generous gesture, she said that " next time" the honeymoon could be spent at Miss Green's. The trouble might be that Bang was emotionally upset when away from home.

Miss Green prepared an attic for the nuptials of the happy pair. When she called, some hours later, with the bridal baked meats, she found Bang sitting on the windowsill, licking her exquisite chocolate and cream coat. Of the bridegroom there was no sign.

It was only when hope was dead that Miss Green thought of looking up the chimney. There was Menam, palsied with terror. It was obvious that Bang was allergic to Menam and, this time, had shown her allergy in an inhospitable and unladylike manner. Menam was returned to his owner.

Then somebody suggested that Bang might feel more kindly towards the Siamese tom named Wot (short for "Wot An Assi Am ") belonging to a farmer's wife who lived a long distance away. The farmer's wife had said she was willing to do without a stud fee if she might have first choice of the kittens. This consent Miss Green gladly gave. After all, time was padding on, and Bang was becoming a bad bargain. Her food bill alone was much more than Miss Green could really afford.

"I do hope, dear," confessed Miss Green, blushingly, "that Bang isn't one of those—you know —ladies that don't like gentlemen."

After Bang's return from the farm, her beautiful body soon began to look like the shape of things to come. Miss Green's hopes soared stratospherically. By the look of Bang, there must surely be more than three kittens? There were five. But alas, it was obvious that Bang had given her heart to some disreputable tabby!



ilpieces

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

R

FINE new dispensary has been opened by the P.D.S.A. at 198 Tulse Hill, Norwood, which is one of London's big and crowded dormitory areas. The opening ceremony was performed by local M.P., Brigadier J. C. Smyth, V.C.

"There was no soap in the bathroom this morning, Mrs. Jones," "Well, you've got a tongue in your head." "Yes, but I'm not a cat !"

John Watts, a 12-years-old Highams Park schoolboy, came across a severely injured and dying cat. He promptly called out his friend Derek King to help rescue the unfortunate creature. Whilst Derek trudged off to get help from the nearest P.D.S.A. Dispensary, John lay crouched in a biting wind on the almost perpendicular slope of a river bank for over two hours, tending and comforting the cat. He was unable to climb up the slope with the cat in his arms, so he lay there shivering until help came, doing his best to protect his charge with the warmth of his body. The boys' grand spirit did not go unnoticed and unrewarded. They each received a book and a letter from the Council of the P.D.S.A. They also received a letter from a lady who described herself as a working woman, enclosing 20s. and offering the boys a week's holiday at her Bournemouth home.

Awakened by his cat, Mr. George Taylor, of Hornsey, discovered that a fire had broken out in the front room of his flat. The fire brigade put out the blaze but not before the fireplace had fallen through to the room below. The Seacroft (Leeds) Show Society is including a Cat Section for the first time at its annual show to be held on Saturday, 27th June.

With the death of Champion Stonor Kate, the Fancy has lost one of its best known and best-loved cats. Miss G. Sladen's famous Manx had attained her thirteenth year when she fell victim to a long illness. Stonor Kate was a lady of great charm and equable temperament. She loved going to shows and meeting people and she was frequently a welcome guest on television. She won many Challenge Certificates and was judged Best in Show at the Croydon Cat Club Show on the occasion of the Club's last fixture in the Surrey borough before moving to London. Kate will be greatly missed.

A legal battle with cats as the central figures is due to open in Paris next month. Mrs. Anne da Fano, who was born in London, had seven cherished cats until last Christmas, when dogs chased and killed two of them. Now Mrs. da Fano is claiming $\pounds 100$ damages from the owners of the dogs.

Binki is the resident cat at the wellknown Castle Hotel, Richmond, Surrey, and he is a cat with decided tastes in the matter of diet. All through the week— Fridays excepted—he eats his regular dish of meat. But on Friday, it simply has to be fish. Mr. Arthur Pearce and Mrs. Gladys Walker, who look after Binki, agree that "It's odd, very odd, but we let him enjoy his fad." He is a very intelligent cat and a great favourite with the staff.

MICKEY.

AMERICAN NEWSLETTER

Paws across "The Pond"

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

HE Friends of Felines have had a meeting at the home of Mrs. Robert Thurston in New York City, to discuss the future of their organization. It seems that the individual members are " in the red " on their financial assistance to helpless creatures of this unfriendly world. Each member has planned some personal activity, the proceeds to be turned into a general fund. For instance, Mrs. Jane Andrews has a summer home at one of the Jersey lakes. She will lease one of her rooms for the summer. Another lady, eighty-two years young, will do "tatting." She promised ten yards, which was disposed of immediately to the various members at one dollar per vard. Mrs. Arthur Jenlins, of Yonkers, New York, promised to turn in fifty dollars by the next meeting. She has two orders for patch-work quilts. Each and every member promised a donation before the next meeting, March 17th.

The Empire Show, New York City, held in the Roosevelt Hotel, was exceptional in attendance both days. Mrs. John Hunter was All-Breed Judge. This show resembled the Penn State, held in Philadelphia in the early part of the season—a great many more Siamese than Persians although in this particular section of the East there are a large number of the Longhairs.

The Crusaders held their annual election of officers in Montclair, New Jersey. A very interesting phase was discussed after the regular business session was over. Eleven different members had been asked to investigate and find out all that was to be known regarding a disinfectant reported to be effective for 24 hours after using. It was used by the judges in the last Garden State Show. Usually the American judge will use alcohol after handling each cat. Ouite a bit of comment was going the rounds regarding the judges not disinfecting their hands as usual. There was so much talk that on the morning of the second day, I asked Judge Revington and Judge Yorke "What about it ?" The Siamese judge was present-and spoke up-saving that his daughter who was a nurse, used it in the hospital all the time. This disinfectant has been a moot question to the breeders and a few of the judges ever since the Garden State Show. At the Crusader Meeting, the eleven members each reported that their veterinarian said it was a good soap-some had been using it for two years and more. But as for being better than alcohol-No. Would it last 24 hours ?-No. I visited my own veterinarian just to get his reaction. Quote : "It's a good medical soapbut you use alcohol."

So many of our judges are vacationing in Florida this winter. Mrs. John Hunter returned just in time to do the Empire Show. Mrs. Saxby-Mabie returned to Boston to do the All-Breed at her Show. Hunter is president of Empire and Saxby-Mabie is president of the Boston Cat Club. Mrs. Crystol Small, judge in A.C.A. as well as C.F.F., was also in Florida this winter. Mrs. Ralph Wilkinson and Judge Doris Hobbs (C.F.F.) are planning a trip down South America way. Mrs. Wilkinson is president of the Atlantic Cat Club.

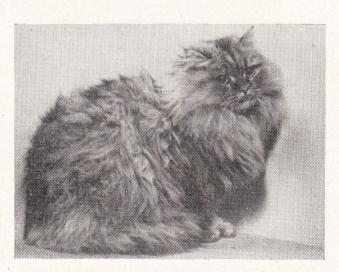
There has always been, since I can remember at least, a strong feeling regarding the various shades of the Blue Persians. This subject was brought up in some of the Associations in an effort to create two classes of Blues (light and dark) but it never amounted to anything. Now it seems to be a swing the other way to the Creams-the rose-beige cream and the lighter cream-this past season. I have witnessed some very critical decisions. One judge offered a well-known breeder five hundred dollars for her cafe au lait Cream boy. I was standing before his cage in open-mouth admiration. This judge walked up to me and I said : "What a dream of a cat ; what a beautiful evenness in color." "Well." drawled his judgeship, "a bit too light, I'd say, a bit too light." No cat of mine will ever go before that judge !

Matil Rotter, one of those nice judges in the C.F.A., tells me she is waiting for the day she can drag her husband away from his business long enough to cross over to your side of the Pond. And when she does go I'm betting my last dollar she will arrive at the height of the English show season and cover as many as is possible while there.

Doris Connell is doing a lot of research on the various breeds. She is planning a career in judging in C.F.F. Right now her heart is torn between the Manx, Siamese and Persians. She quite likely will end up with a raft of each breed.

Down New Orleans way they are making history with their very young Cat Club. I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Winnie Porter at one of the shows this season. What a colorful person she is ! I'll be with you at next year's show, Winnie, I really will.

There are a lot of heartaches this season over Blue-Creams. Every judge seems to have her own interpretation of a Blue-Cream. The standard is printed. Why change it ?



SLAPTON SNOWCLOUD, bred by Mrs. Dyer, and sired by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo, is the neuter pet of Madame H. Dolli of West London, a regular visitor to the London shows.

Thanks, America?

Letter from MISS KATHLEEN YORKE on her return home after fulfilling two judging engagements in the United States.

Y thanks to your American Associate Editor Billie Bancroft for all her kindness to me at the Garden State Cat Club Show. It was but a short while we had together. A nice telephone talk later on was pleasing, when we discussed some of the White cats on the Continent and elsewhere. I do thank her all the "Quotes" she collected for last month's OUR GATS ; it was most enterprising. I am grateful, too, for all the publicity she got for me whilst I was in the States. Mrs. Bancroft is quite right, Miss Elsie G. Hydon is one of the grandest people to meet to-day, so tactful, calm amidst all the bustle of getting everything ready to start off the show, nothing perturbed her, just a sweet and gracious manner all the time. No wonder the American Cat Fancy adore her and think she is the absolute best.

I think the American people just wonderful, the kindest one could ever wish to find. Winnie Porter was grand to me and we had a good laugh later at the end of the show over one of her Manx cats.

Two Good Torties

I am sorry the decision on the Tortoiseshell was not liked by Mrs. Nixon, but it just happened to be the very same decision of Mrs. John Revington that same day. First and Winners were awarded by both judges to Hermscrest Miss Frances, second to Glad-Low's Victory Bell of Mol-Cron. Both are good cats, but on the day Hermscrest Miss Frances stood away from the other. I should have loved to own both. Can I say more ? Torties and Chinchillas are a weakness of mine. I have owned many lovely cats of both breeds and bred from them and exhibited and won with them.

I again thank Billie Bancroft for her personal quote " a million dollar smile, etc.," and all the other people who answered her queries about me. I enjoyed reading them all. Sorry Miss Clum was disappointed, but on the day, Moonbeam, a lovely cat, was not at his best. I had looked forward to seeing him as I had placed him first in England as a kitten, but on Dec. 9th he was not up to Ch. Dixi-Lands Montpelier Victor, shown by Mrs. Limpert in all his full glory. Moonbeam was not there on the second day. I should have liked to see how Mrs. Revington placed these two, the only entries in the Blue Male Champion class. Both these cats have done a lot of winning and deserve to.

America's Fine Judges

Another thing I agree with is Mrs. Scherrer's remark "... I can't see why it is necessary to import judges. Our judges here at home are plenty good. In fact, I don't think there are better judges anywhere than what we have in America." I think this is a splendid remark and rightly made.

There are some of the very finest judges of cats in the world in America. I have officiated at two shows where Mrs. John Revington and Mrs. Lester O'Neill were co-judges, and their method of judging and placements left no doubt of their splendid eye for a good cat. I was pleased that our placings were identical in very many instances.

I do not know the other American judges, but have heard high praise of them. Many have told me that Miss Hydon is one of the very finest judges (Concluded on page 27)

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Thanks, America! (Continued from page 25)

they have. This pleased me a lot to hear so many say this. I know she is. She has only to see a cat or kitten for a moment and she has appraised it, and knows exactly what it will turn out to be and what she breeds in cats or dogs is outstanding.

May I be allowed another word or two to mention one other judge whom I had the pleasure to meet, Mr. A. de Santis. He has wonderful perception, sees at a glance the good and the bad. He has an eye second to none and is popular as a judge. Mr. de Santis was wise to buy the finest stock, take Miss Hydon's advice always and listen to her and follow her judgments. Should I ever show under him and lose I should be perfectly in agreement with him and know he had put the right cat or kitten up.

I met no other American judges, except for just one minute after a C.F.A. Board meeting when I was waiting for Miss Hydon and Miss Goodwin. Then I was introduced to Mrs. Rotter. I was told she is one of the finest American judges and everyone flocks to show under her.

I thank you all for your confidence in showing under me, an English and International judge, and I was thrilled with the lovely cats I saw and handled. Thank you for entering at both shows for me. My notes on Mo-Kan will be with you shortly. This was another grand show where everyone was so kind to "the stranger in their midst."

And just a final word to mention that I met and enjoyed a chat with Mrs. Virginia Cobb. I had the joy of handling her wonderful Grand Ch. Chindwins' Singumin of Newton. I am wondering if Mrs. Virginia Cobb is one of your judges. She should be and if she is I apologise for not bracketing her with the judges mentioned above. All who know her think very highly of her.

KATHLEEN YORKE

We happened to be listening to an American radio programme the other evening, when a Battersea (London) girl was introduced to the audience as the housekeeper at the Beverly Hills residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Mason. She said that it was part of her duties to look after 23 cats and that Mrs. Mason just couldn't refuse a home to any unfortunate stray. When Groucho Marx asked the girl why she hadn't married, she replied that she "wouldn't give up her job for the best man on earth."

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Bo'sun returns to Gib.

Being a further instalment in the adventures of our Sailor Siamese aboard the S.Y. "Mary Hillier." The log, as usual, is kept by DEE BLACKBURN.

V HEN we left you last month we-that is, Bo'sun, Skipper George, our friend Jim Mackinnon and myself-were making our way back in the "Mary Hillier" from Palma, Majorca, to Gibraltar. We planned this return visit to the Rock, although it entailed a there-and-back sailing of 1,000 miles, to stock up our ship for another year's sailing in Mediterranean waters. The cost of tinned and prepared foods in Majorca is prohibitive.

The wind was not in our favour when leaving Palma, so we made several stops at night along the way. Lord and Lady Avebury on their yacht" Fantasy" left for Gibraltar the same day we did. When we sailed into Ibiza, some eighty miles from Palma, we discovered that they, too, had decided to moor for the night in this attractive anchorage. We went aboard for drinks, but Bo'sun refused his invitation because he hadn't forgotten his last encounter with their boxer dog Skipper. We think he might have forgiven the dog if Skipper hadn't been so zealous in greeting him with his friendly but ferocious-sounding bark.

Another port along the way was Almeria, in Spain, a most picturesque spot from the sea. Houses appeared to be built terrace fashion all the way up the mountain side. They were gaily painted in pale blue, pink and yellow. So intrigued was I by the daintiness of the scene that we walked halfway up the mountains one day to view the scene more closely. What a shock !

These pretty little "homes" from the sea were fronts painted on the sides of the mountains and the people just lived in the caves. On closer inspection we found that many of the holes had no painted facades, but were merely roughly cut doorways into the rocks where they lived. The paint used on the more elaborate is made purely from the various clays which are found in the vicinity. It washes off in the rain, of which, fortunately, they have very little.

The inhabitants of these unusual homes were obviously very poor, barefooted and hungry looking. The smaller children wore no clothes and the older ones were scantily clad in nothing more than rags. Flies were so thick they resembled rain. The people were covered with them and made no effort to shoo them off. The children romped and played in streams of water trickling down the mountainside which by the stench could be nothing but sewage. How they manage to survive living under these conditions is certainly a miracle.

However, in spite of the obvious poverty, when the local fishermen discovered Bo'sun, as is usual in these harbours, much fish was proferred. The men refused money, but were delighted with our cigarettes.

We have been told by friends that Bo'sun is as good as a watch dog when we are not aboard. Uncle Bill Phelps of the yacht "Sylla" has often said he'd think twice before attempting to go below into our cabin when we are not aboard in spite of the fact that Bo'sun knows and is quite friendly with Bill when we are present. Other friends have told us similar stories, but we have naturally never seen him in the role of watchdog. One day, however, on this trip, I had the pleasure.

We were moored in the small harbour of Puerto Adra. George and Jim had gone ashore and I was below having my siesta. Apparently Bo'sun thought he was alone. I was awakened by the most fiendish sounding howls, the like of which I had never heard before ! I immediately went on deck to see if a rat or other animal had come aboard to cause Bo'sun to react in such a manner.

There was Bo'sun in the cockpit poised for a spring—four vicious fang teeth bared and emitting blood curdling howls. Two fishermen in a small dinghy who had come to put some fish aboard for him were quickly retreating with the words : "No es uno gato, sino es un perro" which in Spanish means "It is not a cat, it is a dog." I said nothing to Bo'sun, but just came below and let him continue as the men were by this time far enough away to be out of danger. If he has such a proprietary feeling for his home—far be it from me to attempt to quell it.

Who knows, this watch dog role may come in handy one day ! Of course, we have cautioned our friends to speak to Bo'sun by name when coming aboard —and also never to open the hatch if we are not about.

Because of reverse winds—or no wind at all—it took us eleven days to cover the 500 miles to Gibraltar, making, of course, several stops en route. We took Bo'sun ashore in the harbours we visited as much as possible knowing that because of quarantine regulations in Gib. he would be confined to ship. Then one morning (it was my watch) out of the mist of night appeared the "Rock," so all hands were called on deck to view the sight.

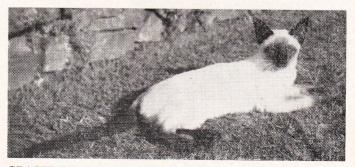
There's a tremendous thrill when the destination is reached—and Bo'sun is always on hand to participate. So now we're back in Gibraltar. Bo'sun's cousins Mimi and Floresta have left for the West Indies so he has no one to amuse him in his confinement, and he's a lonely little fellow.

He doesn't even have the pleasure of another encounter with Skipper because although "Fantasy" is here in Gib., too, Skipper was left with friends in Spain because of the laws prohibiting his shore going excursions.

We discovered on arrival, too, that Ginger, the marmalade stowaway pussy mentioned in a previous article, has gone to kitty heaven. He apparently was not well and the authorities were prevailed upon to put him to sleep. Poor Ginger !

(To be continued)





GRACEDIEU MA-NOO is a favourite neutered pet of Siamese breeder Mrs. G. E. Matthes, Nanpantan, Loughborough, who writes : "He is a grandson of Mystic Dreamer. He was a caricature as a baby—all ears, eyes and tail !"



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON — popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge — turns the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

Early Moulting

OMPARING notes with other Longhair breeders, several of them found their cats started to shed their coats at Christmas which proves that temperature has little to do with it. For the next two or three months it will be advisable to be on the alert. Listlessness or temporary loss of appetite frequently means a fur ball. Immediately these symptoms are noticed in an otherwise fit and healthy cat, I give a teaspoonful of olive oil or medicinal paraffin, for two or three days. It is much easier to give if placed in a warm spoon a size larger than the dose. With experience one can give it in a few seconds by putting the left hand on the back of the cat's head and gently pressing the jaws open with first finger and thumb. With males one would probably need a helper as their heads are usually too large for one to get the finger and thumb into position. If one can avoid wrapping them in a towel it is much easier as frequently when a cat finds itself unable to move freely it is on the defensive and appears to be able to avoid swallowing liquids and tablets. A few drops of spilled oil will percolate over an incredible area and if this happens light

carbonate of magnesia (obtainable at Boots the Chemists in one ounce packets) dabbed on with a small pad of cotton wool will absorb the oil.

Show at Felixstowe

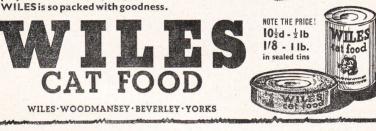
Miss German has kindly sent me a marked catalogue of the East Anglian Cat Club Show at Felixstowe on January 17th which verbal reports inform me was most enjoyable and well presented by the Misses Marjorie and Audrey German.

115 exhibits represented a fairly good figure for a non-championship show. One would however expect a very generous classification attracting more support and not to find 24 classes cancelled owing to "No entries." But a perusal of the season's catalogues reveals that even the Championship Shows, when held in the provinces, do not attract exhibitors like the London fixtures. About 350 exhibits at the all-breed shows is about the average now in London and the nearest approach to this in the provinces this season is the L. & N.W. C.C.C. Ch. Show with 210 exhibits exclusive of 21 household pets.

Best Adult in Show at Felixstowe was Mrs. Covell's Blue Longhair female Gaydene Mavourneen. Other winners were Best Shorthair adult, Mrs. Cattermole's Blue Mingswyk Blue Prince; Best Kitten in Show, Mrs. Crickmore's Blue Longhair Thiepval Solitaire; Best Shorthair Kitten, Miss Wiseman's Abyssinian, Heatherpine Isis; Best Neuter, Mrs. Coldham's Seal Point Amethyst of Yangtse; Best Household Pet, Mr. and Mrs. Witt's Longhair Kitten, Winsome,

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We can despatch Brooches to any part of the world in an attractive gift box and enclose your personal message or greeting. So many cat lovers have been delighted with these Brooches that it is somewhat superfluous to add that they are supplied on a "money returned if not satisfied" basis. The 45 household pets must have been very attractive and I note than one called Fluffy's Son was awarded a first.

Winners at Manchester

Many lovely exhibits awaited the judges at the first Championship Show of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club so ably organised by the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer Mrs. Culley at Manchester on January 24th.

Mrs. Vize was unable to judge on account of indisposition, and Miss Lelgarde Fraser had to cancel because of the death of Hendon Orsini. I was unable to travel owing to a chill and because I thought it unwise to exhibit my Dawn of Pensford who, I discovered when taking her to Derby, will not eat away from home.

I have heard from several of those present how much they enjoyed the Show. It is a grand place to judge with its maximum amount of daylight from the glass roof.

Mrs. Culley writes : "We had a very good gate. We reached the 1,000 mark, maybe a few more. All the catalogues were sold and the Show will be a financial success. We were so sorry a number were unable to come owing to illness, human, not feline. I was suffering from the after effects of 'flu myself.

"You remember Mrs. Macfarlane, who was one of our founder members? She passed away on Wednesday after a long illness. She was a very active worker for the Club and will be much missed."

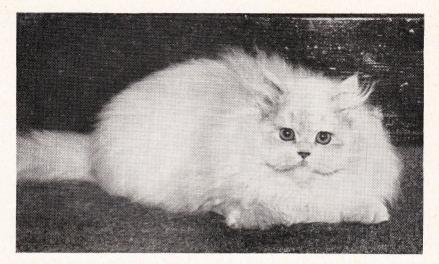
Mrs. Culley has been a wonderful worker herself and she must be proud that from a small beginning the Club has achieved championship status for its show.

Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Lamb's Seal Point Siamese male, Pincop Simon, who became a Champion. This owner's Blue Point Siamese female Pincop Azure Zelenda also attained her full title. Best Longhair Adult was Miss Langston's Chinchilla Fifinella of Allington, who also became a Champion. Hearty congratulations to the owners who bred these exhibits. Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Smith's Blue Beamsley Victoria ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Matthewson's Blue Point Siamese Fernteig Zyn. Master Parker was first in Chinchilla kittens with Hazeldene Jade Goddess ; one of the first prize litter of six by Ch. Scamp of Allington which attracted so much attention at the N.C.C. Ch. Show. Breeder is Mrs. Brittlebank.

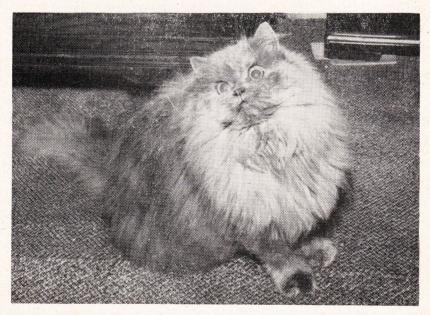
Blue-Cream Champion

Mrs. Udall's lovely Blue-Cream female Hathaway Heyday became a Champion at this Show. On writing to congratulate the owner she replied : " I started breeding cats with a Chinchilla named Merely Serena (pictured in OUR CATS, August, 1952). She was Best Kitten in Show at the S.W. C.C.C. at Torquay in 1951 and the Blue-Cream Heyday was also brought out for Best. I bought her and her sister Heather Bell from Miss Elliott of Cheltenham and the former has won consistently ever since. Exhibited five times as an adult, she has been first three times and second twice to your Dawn. I am delighted she is now a Champion. Her sister is lovely also but not so well intermingled. I hope to show her next season. Heyday had a litter by Ch. Bayhorne Minton and the Cream female Bluecroft Butterscotch has three times won the cup for Best Cream female kitten and has won the Brood-queen class for her mother.

"I also have a Siamese, Causeway Nicola, bought expressly for my husband who likes them very much. She was second in her Open Class at the M.C.C.C. Show but with such large classes of Siamese females she has not been outstanding enough to be first but hope springs eternal (especially in the cat world !). My husband has a mink farm so what with mink, cats, kittens and goats, life is one long session of births. Mink babies are called kittens and one



Reference is made on the previous page to the new Blue-Cream Champion Hathaway Heyday. Here is her handsome Cream daughter, BLUECROFT BUTTERSCOTCH, by Ch. Bayhorne Minton. Butterscotch, bred by Miss L. L. Elliott and now owned by Mrs. Nash, Banstead, Surrey, has been Best Cream Longhair Kitten at three consecutive shows.



HATHAWAY HAWTHORN, also bred by Miss Elliott at her Cheltenham cattery, is a Blue-Cream litter sister to Champion Hathaway Heyday. of my cats actually suckled one last year. We are in the throes of buying a house and will be settled soon at Wimborne, Dorset."

Miss L. L. Elliott of Cheltenham, who bred these two lovely Blue Creams, is not a newcomer by any means. Her mother, Mrs. Elliott, bred many lovely Blues before the war, the most famous probably being Son o' Flick, owned by the late Mr. and Mrs. Yeates.

Red Tabby Loss

Our sympathies are with Miss Lelgarde Fraser, so well liked and deeply respected by us all, on the death of her fine young Red male Hendon Orsini. He was sired by Ch. Hendon Sir Roderic, a very famous Red Tabby, his dam being Ch. (U.S.A.) Eastmoor Doll Dance. The two females from the litter were exported to Mrs. Downey of New Zealand. Unfortunately the mating cannot be repeated as both parents have passed away. It is a great loss for Miss Fraser and the Red Tabbies in this country as the late Mrs. Campbell Fraser imported Eastmoor Doll Dance to provide an outcross for her own and other breeders' Red Tabbies. It is a blessing Miss Fraser has a son of Sir Roderic so well known as Ch. Hendon Lysander. Miss J. M. Fisher has given Miss Fraser the Blue male Cedric of Hadley. He is a very nice cat with the pale lavender coat and large wide-awake copper eyes she so admires. He has sired a number of winners and is at stud at Little Primrose, Godalming, Surrey.

Two notable young Blue males have been absent from this winter's shows owing to illness of their owners. Mrs. Stephenson's beautiful pale Blue, Woburn Sunshine (pictured in OUR CATS, April, 1952), who won such high honours last year and was so consistent was unable to be shown as Mrs. Stephenson was ill in the late autumn and is only just recovering. Mrs. Boulton's fine young male Denyston Denys, who was exhibited as a kitten in 1950 at the B.P.C.S. Ch. Show and awarded Best Male kitten and subsequently was twice first in his Open class, has not been shown owing to the illness of Mr. Boulton. Best wishes for a complete recovery to the owners and may we see them and their much-loved pets with us at the next season's shows.

Southern Counties

The Southern Counties Ch. Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall on February 3rd was a grand finale to a wonderful show season which has been blessed with freedom from serious illness. I have heard of only two cases which might be directly attributed to infection.

Over 350 exhibits were presented and many were very lovely cats but February is late for Longhairs. Several adults had partly shed their coats and some of the Blues were shady. Nevertheless, it was a glorious array presented in this welllit hall, which is so suitable for our shows and so convenient for exhibitors. Mrs. K. R. Williams deserves much praise for a successful show. I understand Mrs. Varcoe, Hon. Treasurer of the Club, and Mr. Williams and Mr. P. Dunks worked like trojans.

With three exceptions the rest of the Committee were busy as bees judging.

The following were outstanding cats : Best Longhair Cat, Miss Langston's Chinchilla male, Ch. Flambeau of Allington ; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Dallison's Dalmond Damarette ; Best Shorthair Cat, Mrs. Hamilton's Manx Yanaam Greeba ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Highton's Seal Point Siamese female Silken Faun ; Best Longhair female, Mrs. Crickmore's Chinchilla Ch. Thiepval Snowcloud ; Best Longhair Neuter and Best Neuter in Show, Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson's Pekeholm Petula ; Best Shorthair Neuter, Mrs. Bentley's Ch. Mockbridge Blue Morn.

The Blue kitten entry of 28 exhibits was the best we have seen this season and as usually happens when this is the case the average quality was very good. Some of the kittens were really outstanding. Specials for Best Blue kitten were awarded to Mrs. Brunton's female, Gaydene Wildrose, by Ch. Southway Crusader and bred by Mrs. McVady. Best Blue male kitten award went to my Foxburrow Frivolous, by Ch. Dylan of Allington, bred by Mr. Soderberg. These two feline aristocrats should win honours next season if all goes well.

Congratulations to Mrs. Snoxall (formerly Mrs. Sharp) on her Blue male Dusty of Dunesk by Ch. Baralan Blue Boy becoming a Champion. He looked very nice and has the lovely eyes which are a *sine qua non* in each variety whether they be the copper eyes of Blues, the aquamarine of Chinchilas or the lovely sapphire blue of Siamese.

The high-light of the day for me was the success of my Blue-Cream Dawn of Pensford, who became a Champion. I purchased her mother, Anchor Felicity, at six months from Miss Hildyard of Liphook. The following spring I mated her to Mrs. Vize's Ch. Astra of Pensford by whom she had two Cream males and three Blue-Creams, all destined to become Champions—Int. Ch. Twinkle, Ch. Twilight and now Ch. Dawn of Pensford. Signora Paganini of Italy has one of the Cream males, Sunbeam of Pensford, who has already two Challenge certificates so he may be the fourth. This—four champions in one litter—would be a record, I imagine.

Anchor Felicity is a dear cat, always sweet and gentle. She has her families with a minimum of fuss. She is a great credit to Miss Hildyard and is still a young cat, only three next May.

The only other trio of Longhair Champions in one litter that I know of are Miss Langston's Ch. Mair of Allington, and Champions Morfydd and Myfanwy of Allington. The latter two are now owned by Mrs. Arvid Ohlin, of Westerly, U.S.A. They are by Ch. Decbank Michael.



Mrs. Hacking's Chinchilla female kitten, Redwalls Memory (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington) was an outstanding exhibit and was brought out for Best in Show. This owner's kittens are always so well grown and beautifully presented.

Forty-three Seal Point Siamese kittens awaited Mr. Soderberg. His eventual choice for Best Kitten was Mrs. Highton's Silken Faun. It must have been an unenviable task to sort out 27 Siamese kittens in the 3 to 9 months' novice class. In Siamese adults judged by Mrs. Savers. Dr. Grace Nicholl's Seal Point male, Hymers Jason, was the winner. I see he was entered in Novice Exhibitors class so this was a nice win for his owner. The Best Siamese adult and winning Seal Point female was Mrs. Macpherson's Banchor Panya.

The inspection by the three honorary veterinary surgeons, Mrs. Calder, Miss Bentley and Miss Woodger, was very well arranged and expeditious. Each had their own table, disinfectant, etc., and very efficient steward. The Best in

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Show arrangement was also excellent. The five judges were introduced and as they were on a raised platform they and the exhibits could be easily seen. The public were obviously very interested as latecomers had to wander round the perimeter of a crowd about ten-deep. Several exhibitors liked the idea of five judges instead of three, and I am inclined to agree. It is an arrangement which I should like to see made a rule. Best in Show judging usually gives rise to anomalies such as some exhibits being beaten in their side classes under one or more judges and then taking precedence when they are awarded Best in Show.

However, it is not so farcical as it was twenty or more years ago when a judge could bring out any cat or kitten for Best in Show without inquiring whether it was first in its Open or Breed class. We then sometimes had exhibits unplaced in their Open classes coming out and awarded Best in Show.

Rule 34 now reads : "A judge can bring out any cat for Best in Show from any class that he has judged provided it has been placed first in its breed class on the day."

Best Exhibit in Show on this occasion was the beautiful Orange-eved White Longhair kitten, Mrs. Dallison's Dal-Damarette (by Ch. mond Carreg Cracker) whose picture we printed last month.

Finger Pokers Active

It was a cold fine day for the Show and the spectators numerous but not as many as one would like to see at such a feast of feline beauty. The tragic flood news and pictures from the East coast ousted all photographs which Mrs. K. R. Williams had every reason to expect would be in some newspapers.

We had the usual sight of spectators poking their fingers in pens at the kittens and I was dancing from one pen to another among the Blue kittens trying to prevent them. One spectator asked to refrain from touching my kitten asked

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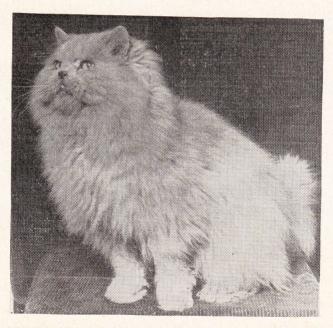


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"Why, is he fierce?" It is the friendliest kittens who endanger themselves most. Wary kittens and adults retreat to the back of their pens and usually stop there. Before next show season I intend to make enquiries about cellophane and perspex. I know the former can be procured in many thicknesses but fire-proof qualities must be the first consideration.

Our thoughts turn now to the winning kittens which we hope to breed this season. Some months will elapse before the next show on July 31st at the Horticultural Hall. I shall be "over the hills and far away " by that time but my thoughts and good wishes will remain with you all. On Guy Fawkes Night last year, Anne Ingram, an eight-year-old Sunderland girl, saw a little tabby kitten with a firework tied to its paws. When she rescued it she found it was badly burned, so she took it to an animal clinic for treatment. Now it has recovered and Anne has named it Squibs. Her kind action has been marked by a letter of commendation from the P.D.S.A.





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Obituary

SLADES CROSS WONG (Siamese Stud) on January 21st, 1953, aged 5 years and 10 months, of bronchitis owing to fog. Much beloved and greatly missed. Son of Slades Cross Shikari.

CH. STONOR KATE—our darling "Grandma"—passed peacefully to sleep on December 16th in her 13th year after a long failing illness. Her lovely nature and outstanding personality will be remembered by all who knew her. Her loss is irreparable in our home ; we miss her terribly. Gwendolene Sladen and Margery Bryce.

Miscellaneous

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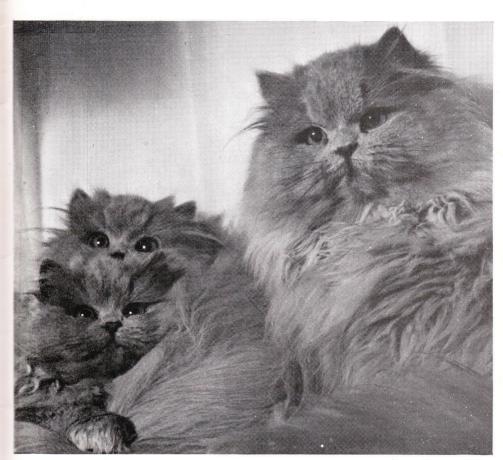
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