

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING



SPRING IN THE AIR!

Proving that in the matter of gambolling this lively Tschudi Siamese Kitten can give points to any frisking lamb. Note how the tail is used to aid balance. Photo by "Daily Mirror."

MARCH 1953

1/6

FOCUS ON KITTENS (see page 3)

Kit-E-Kat feeds

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. What a treat for every puss. Eyes half closed, purring with contentment. Mmm—what a meal! Buy some for *your* cat today.

KEEPS A
CAT FIT!

KIT-E-KAT

THE COMPLETE CAT FOOD



CHAPPIE LIMITED OF MELTON MOWBRAY

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management ;
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats ;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats ;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

VOL. 5 No. 3

MARCH 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



HAPPY FAMILIES

As you see, there are many mouths to feed at the Kentish (Bayleys Hill, near Sevenoaks) home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warner, where Fern Warner and her two little brothers are making sure that the Siamese family get fair shares and a little petting at mealtime. Mr. Warner, a comparative newcomer to the Fancy, has achieved a great deal towards the improvement of the Siamese standard through the agency of his fine young stud Champion Clonlost Yo Yo.

Crinkly Ears are Cured

CRINKLING of the ear (cauliflower ear) is a condition frequently met with in cats. It is a sequel to head shaking caused by irritation and ear canker parasites are usually responsible for starting the trouble. The condition is known in veterinary circles as hæmatoma of the ear and according to Messrs. J. J. Yeats and L. C. Vaughan, of the Department of Surgery, Royal Veterinary College, Streatley, the only satisfactory treatment is radical surgery. This view is supported in an illustrated article on "The Treatment of Aural Hæmatoma in the Cat" which they recently contributed to *The Veterinary Record*.

Operative technique is described in detail. The patient is anesthetized, the hair on the ear is clipped and the ear cleaned. The hæmatoma is punctured and an incision is then made centrally along the whole length of the ear. An ellipse of integument (skin) is then

removed and sutures placed in position.

The silver wire frame is then sutured in position on the inner aspect of the ear and the ear is moulded to its correct position by shaping the frame.

Frame and sutures are removed a week after the operation, at which time the ear will be erect but slightly thickened. Gradually its condition returns to normal.

The method of treatment outlined was described as having been successful in his hands by Professor C. Formston at the International Veterinary Congress 1949. Five cats out of six treated were cured and in the unsuccessful case the concha of the ear crinkled because the cat removed the supporting frame the day after the operation. It is pointed out that the wire frame is extremely light in character and it was not necessary to give sedatives to the cats while they (the frames) were in position.



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).

OUR CATS is published monthly and closing date is the last day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details.

No responsibility is taken for MSS. and photographs during transmission or in our keeping. In the absence of agreement, copyright of all articles belongs to OUR CATS Magazine, which holds the right to reproduce in any form.

Views and opinions expressed in individual articles are not necessarily those held by the Editor.

Yearly Subscription Rate is 17s. 6d. for 12 issues post free (U.S.A. Three Dollars). Single copies 1s. 7d. post free. OUR CATS Magazine is distributed nationally through the usual trade channels and can be ordered through any Newsagent or Bookseller. Cases of difficulty in obtaining copies should be reported to the above address.

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.

Focus on Kittens

By KATHLEEN YORKE

It was in 1950 that we first published this soundly practical article on the care and management of litters. The author, who is so eminently qualified to advise on this timely topic, has kindly brought the material up-to-date where necessary.



THE time is here when your mother cat is expecting or will have had her kittens. Their whole future is dependent on the way they are tended and guarded during the first months of their lives. If you know the mother is capable and reliable, leave the kittens to her care at first, always keeping watch to see they are progressing and that each kit is feeding from the mother and not being pushed out.

Often the stronger ones push a weaker one away and it is necessary then to ensure that the unlucky one gets several good feeds. The little mother will sometimes put her paw over it to keep it close to her whilst feeding and later when cleaning it.

Handling young kittens is sometimes necessary, but let that be done by yourself as the mother trusts you. But remember to handle as seldom as possible.

Have a change of blankets ready for the bed, so that you can put the clean one in as the old blanket is taken out. Thus the kittens need only be put on the

clean blanket and not removed from the box.

If the mother cat goes out into the garden she may pick up a flea or two, which will quickly leave her for the young ones. So sprinkle some well-known flea powder *under* the blanket and take care to use a powder free from D.D.T. Never put the powder on top of the blanket where the kittens can roll in it. The mother might get very ill through cleaning them.

It is a wise plan to pin or fix the blanket to the bottom of the box as this prevents the possibility of any of the kittens getting underneath and suffocating.

I have had cats who liked to roll the kits up in the blanket, making a long sausage of it, when they are going out. They cleverly unrolled the blanket on their return and there was always the danger that one of the kits would be left in the last fold and thus get laid on. So fix your blanket and, if you can, have a count on mother's return to the box to see that none of the kits is missing.

The box itself should be arranged so that the mother can get in and out easily. Place it away from any draught as this is fatal to cats and kittens. Do not have

a direct light falling on them. Kittens' eyes must be protected until they are well opened and for a week or two after. Their eyes do not open until about the ninth day, and when open they are very delicate and must be watched in case they stick up. If this happens, gently bathe the eyes night and morning with warm boracic water and rub a tiny smear of vaseline across the lids last thing at night. I have found the last treatment most effective.

When Eyes Won't Open

When bathing the eyes use a clean piece of cotton wool each time and see that you dry them gently but thoroughly. If left wet the eyes will most likely stick again. If any of the kittens' eyes are not starting to open on the ninth day, hold the kit gently and bathe each eye in turn, keeping the wet, warm wool over each eye for a minute or two. Use the boracic water mentioned above and gently smear with vaseline after you have dried the eyes.

If by the twelfth day the eyes are not opened and look bulgy, you should consult your veterinary surgeon or telephone to one of the Fancy for guidance, such as the Hon. Secretary of the Cat Club you belong to. You will always find that people are willing to help with pets.

Sometimes kittens' eyes get inflamed after they have opened, and this may be caused by the oozing out of the mother's milk, which dries on the fur and causes it to become matted. One should always see that all is clean and free around each teat.

Everything Clean

Cleanliness is absolutely essential in everything to do with kittens, just as it is with babies. Never leave saucers about when they start to feed and always see that sanitary pans are washed and dried when they are changed, which should be frequently. A kitten will not use a dirty pan and will run off to a corner; thus

bad habits are formed. When they see their mother scratching in a pan they soon understand what is intended. Cats are by nature very clean animals.

The first time a kitten goes to use a pan without its mother's aid, you will often find it running from one spot to another and crying. If the mother is there, she will croon to it. If not, you should talk quietly to the kitten, who will soon understand that all is well and have confidence to use the pan. Sometimes a kit will run to a corner and start to scratch, and if you say "No" very firmly he will run to his pan.

At 3/4 Weeks

At about three weeks old, if a big litter—perhaps a little later if there are only two or three kittens—I start to offer them some nourishment. Personally, I always start them on pure cow's milk—goat milk is better if you have it. To this I add a wee pinch of sugar or glucose. Sometimes I start them feeding from a grapefruit spoon, at which they will nearly always suckle, and I gradually lower it on to a flat small butter saucer. If they continue to try to lap, I take the spoon away.

I try one kit at a time, either on my lap or on a low table, and if the milk is not taken after an attempt or two, I try out another kit. Some refuse and others will lap up hungrily. As a rule I do this once a day for a few days, then twice, but the hungry kits I would feed twice a day from the start. Very little milk is given at each feed and I keep it warm by putting it in a jar which I stand in hot water.

After a week the kittens should be lapping well. Increase to three little feeds a day and then to four at four weeks' old. Thin Benger's Food or Midlothian Oat Flour of a drinking consistency is excellent for two of the meals. Keep to plain milk for the other meals. If you cannot always get milk, Cow & Gate Full Cream is excellent and kittens thrive well on it.

I am a great believer in Farex for kittens and start by mixing a little with the milk and sugar, stirring it well in. This is offered to them round about the fifth week. After the war, when Madame Gibbon, the well-known Continental fancier, was staying with me, she noticed how well my kittens were thriving on Farex and she has used it ever since with great success.

Well-boiled bread and milk sweetened

is also much appreciated by kittens. Add a little top of the milk to it first before giving it. At first they will lap up all the milk, but in a day or two the bread is also taken. You can do this with cornflakes if you prefer.

At five weeks I put a tiny sprinkle of calcium powder on the food—about the size of a grain of wheat—and, later on, one drop a day of halibut liver oil.

(To be concluded next month).



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

'WELLCOME'

BRAND

**FELINE INFECTIOUS
ENTERITIS VACCINE**



PREPARED AT THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES
A BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. PRODUCT

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.

WHERE PETS ARE WELCOMED

Just a few lines to let you know how much I enjoy the feature "Tail-pieces" each month. I was particularly interested to read the paragraph about the relaxing of the "No pets" rule in hotels and guest houses.

Any reader who wishes to receive a list of addresses of hotels and boarding houses where dogs and, in some cases, cats and other pets are accepted, should write to Canine Defence, Leaflet 515, 10 Seymour Street, London, N.1. I also know that a stamp to cover postage would be appreciated.

Mrs. J. Hough,
Palmers Green, London, N.13.

THOSE GIN TRAPS

I have a feeling that I shall not be the only one of your readers writing to commend the fine action of Mrs. Lorna Hill, who, as reported in your last issue, dumped a number of those terrible gin traps in a nearby river. The continued use of these instruments of torture is a blot on our so-called civilization and whenever I hear them mentioned those lovely words written by James Stephens run through my mind :

I hear a sudden cry of pain !
There is a rabbit in a snare :
Now I hear the cry again,
But I cannot tell from where.
But I cannot tell from where
He is calling out for aid ;
Crying in the frightened air,
Making everything afraid.

I have just read that the Ministry of Agriculture are taking a first delivery of a new type of rabbit trap, supposedly

of the humane variety. Will their use bring some relief to the long suffering owners of cats and dogs ? I wonder !

G.B.L., Salford, Manchester.

A TESTIMONIAL

I am sending my subscription renewal for the next two years and do please make sure that no issues are omitted. I find OUR CATS so interesting and helpful and I am sure you will be interested to know that through its articles I have followed up the crosses for Red Point Siamese and have got two beautiful males.

My first litter was 1 Black, 1 Royal Seal, 1 Tortie and 1 Red Point and the next litter 2 Blacks, 1 Tortie, 1 Royal Seal and 1 Red Point. Now I have to go on and get the queen.

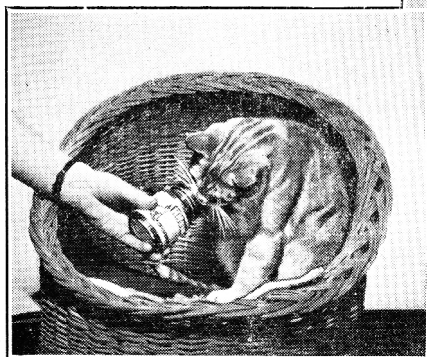
A South African breeder
(name and address supplied).

CAPONIZING AND STERILITY

I was most interested in Mrs. Joan Rudd's letter in your last issue because up to a few weeks ago I had no idea that such a thing as chemical caponization was being practiced in the poultry world. Then a letter from a friend who breeds cats in America mentioned the danger of sterilization and I had begun to make some enquiries into the subject. I shall therefore be particularly glad to read your own observations.

P.P.W., Preston, Lancashire.

Editorial Note :—I am sure we can all recall the days when the capon, or surgically castrated bird, was popular for the table on account of its plump appearance and greater tenderness and size. The taste to-day is for a smaller



into the mouth

Out of the bottle . . .

MR. P. BANHAM of Per Ardua, 25 Larkman Lane, Norwich, writes :—

“In one of your recent advertisements it was stated that Bruin, the featured cat, ‘tries to get Kit-zymes from the bottle.’

Down with Bruin! Here are two photographs of my Derry, who not only tries but succeeds in getting his rations out . . . and gets them for his pal Tom as well, if allowed!

Tom does not appear in the photographs but he, like Derry, is a ‘ginger’ and almost a gentleman. They have no claims to pedigree, but Kit-zyme has been just as beneficial to them as to any of your much photographed prize-taking lovelies. Their coats have a healthy gloss and their appetites never leave them!

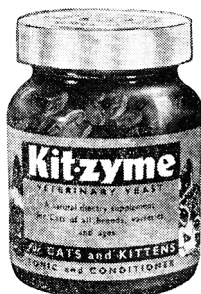
Derry, as you see, helps himself . . . from paw to mouth! Tom, a more conservative cat, has no truck with self-service and takes his tablets from the hand. Both would take more than the suggested ration if given the opportunity and I would not hesitate to recommend Kit-zyme to other owners of ordinary household cats.”

KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

VITAMIN-RICH YEAST



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

bird and with this change there has been a steady decline in surgical caponization, an operation which called for a great deal of time and skill. In place of the knife we now have chemical caponization for both sexes and there is no doubt at all that there is a real danger of sterilization when the heads of these treated birds are fed to cats.

The synthetic oestrogens (or chemical compounds) which are given to the birds to restrict or reduce their sexual activity can be administered in a number of ways—by incorporation in the food, by injection or by implantation. Pellet implantation is the method most commonly used in this country to-day because it is the easiest and cheapest. It consists of inserting a pellet or tablet containing oestrogen under the skin with the aid of a special injector.

W. M. Allcroft, B.Sc.(Agric.), Ph.D., National Agricultural Advisory Service, writing in an official journal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, describes how the injector is inserted through a pinched-up fold of the birds' skin at the base of the skull. The pellet is left *in situ* under the skin when the needle is withdrawn. The implant is made as far up the neck as possible.

Mr. Allcroft continues: "Where poultry waste including heads and necks is used for the feeding of animals it is

important that the site of the implant should be carefully examined and all trace of residues removed. If this is not done there is a grave risk that the unabsorbed portions may cause serious effects among animals. There have been cases in the U.S.A. where failure to pay sufficient attention to this has led to outbreaks of abortion on mink and fox fur farms. It is easy to see that when this occurs the farmer loses the whole of his pelt crop for the season. The seller and purchaser of offal from chemical capons should take all precautions to eliminate this sort of disaster, though the onus is more squarely on the purchaser."

There is the warning and the precautionary measures to be taken by cat breeders who are in the habit of feeding chicken heads if they wish to avoid the risk of sterility among their stock.

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.

LAURENTIDE SEAL & BLUE POINT SIAMESE & RUSSIAN BLUES



LAURENTIDE JADE

Excel as Pets

Scientifically bred for stamina
and other desirable qualities

Kittens usually for sale
from prize winning Queens

Seal Point Siamese and Russian Blue
Studs available to approved Queens

MRS. A. HARGREAVES, F.Z.S.
NETHERTON HOUSE · DREWSTEIGNTON
NR. EXETER, DEVON · Drewsteignton 232

Victims of the Floods

By THE EDITOR

THE countrywide concern evinced over the sufferings of domestic animals in the great flood disaster of February 1st was the latest shining example of their established and secure place in our national life. As the grim picture was revealed in print, over the air and on the television screen and as bit by bit we learned of the terrible toll of human life and property taken by the angry waters as they surged over our East Coast defences and the dyke walls of Holland, it became apparent that many hundreds of domestic pets had shared the fate of their unfortunate owners. Many were swept away to instant death, some experienced alarming adventures before they were rescued and others were left dazed and bewildered by the suddenly-changed world around them.

Our humane organisations were quickly on the scene to render aid and assistance. The work of their officials in the face of deplorable weather conditions was truly magnificent and it should go on record that in many instances they received valuable assistance from the military and voluntary helpers.

Many Offered Homes

The R.S.P.C.A. alone rescued over 10,000 animals from heavy farm cattle to white mice and hibernating tortoises that were utterly oblivious to the seriousness of the occasion. Many homeless cats were collected by the P.D.S.A. and taken to their Ilford sanatorium, where, as you can see from the picture on the opposite page, they were provided with comfortable quarters while they waited for their owners to claim them. People wrote from all over the country offering homes to these evacuees but, of course, there could be no question of adoption while any hope remained alive that they would eventually be claimed or able to return to their old homes. Some of these cats,

alas, are still waiting for the sound of a familiar voice.

The Cats' Protection League rushed food and bedding for the cats brought to the evacuation centre for the Canvey Island district. It was on Canvey Island that I heard of food and water being passed through the letter boxes for stranded pets.

A "Gentleman Cat"

At Jaywick, where the sea struck with tremendous force, a rescue party heard the cries of 65-year-old nursing sister Louise Kemp. She had been trapped in the windowless loft of her bungalow for 31 hours with her tabby cat Tiger. She had had no food or drink and was only lightly clad. After she had been rescued and taken to hospital, Sister Kemp said: "I was in a deep sleep when my Tiger—he's a real gentleman cat—pawed me and I saw the water swirling around in the room. As it rose, I climbed on to the top of a wardrobe and made a hole in the ceiling with a clothes hanger. I bundled Tiger through the hole and followed him into the loft."

Tiger was subsequently rescued and labelled "Sister Kemp's Cat" to await a grateful owner's discharge from hospital.

Official Heart Melted

Then there was the amazing story of Mrs. Rosemary Allen, an old-age-pensioner living on Canvey Island, who sat on the top shelf of her dining room sideboard for four days and nights without food, water, light or heat. She was not completely alone for when this very brave old lady was eventually rescued and taken away in a police car for treatment, she had with her the cat who shared her terrifying experiences.

(continued on page 12)



Keystone Press Agency

PATIENT EVACUEES

These are a few of the 199 cats rescued from the floods, mostly in the Canvey Island area, and taken to await reunion with their owners at the P.D.S.A. Sanatorium at Ilford.

One of the lighter stories of the disaster concerns the young R.A.F. National Serviceman stationed in Suffolk who for two days had been worried about his black-and-white cat. His C.O. granted him special leave to see if it was all right. The young man made his way to Canvey Island, waded through the waters at considerable risk and discomfort to himself and eventually found his pet. He was later seen by a newspaperman walking back along the high road with the cat nestling in his arms.

Front Line Reports

Many of the reports filed at the headquarters of the various humane organisations provided a vivid picture of the appalling "front line" conditions with which the rescue units had to contend.

For example, a report to P.D.S.A. head office from the Canvey Island area ran: Unspeakable chaos. Vast areas flooded to depth of 4ft. and more. Hundreds of animals drowned, others starving and in pitiable state. Reception centre established opposite Haystack Inn. Empty bungalow lent by resident for animal rest centre. Many animal owners fighting their way back through flood to find their animals. Numerous bodies of both humans and animals floating in the flooded streets . . . Boats hired or borrowed to rescue isolated animals. Saw cat crouching on roof by a broomstick to which white handkerchief attached. Entered house by upper window and found bodies of

occupiers, including boy of seven. Rescued the cat.

From Whitstable: Saw several cats looking out of top windows apparently unperturbed. As they were safe and comfortable put supplies of food through the windows and left them there. . . . Treated large numbers of cats suffering from results of sea water immersion.



We are indebted to one of our Dutch readers, Dr. B. W. Kroon, for this graphic picture of a family of evacuees from one of the flooded districts of Holland. A dishevelled and worried mother nurses the youngest of her three fine sons, one of whom, Henny, holds on tight to the treasured pet he has saved from death in the rising waters.

All fanciers should read

"THE CAT FANCY"

A monthly journal devoted entirely to Pedigree Cats
now in its sixth year

- JUDGES' FULL REPORTS ON THE SHOWS
- BREEDERS' NEWS
- THE FANCY OVERSEAS
- CLUB MEETINGS AND REPORTS
- STUD AND SALES ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC., ETC.

Single copies 10d. Post free. Yearly Subscription 10s.

Obtainable only from . . . THE EDITOR (KIT WILSON)
"THE LOFT" 18 SOUTH END KENSINGTON W. 8

Skin Diseases — More about Eczema

By P. M. SODERBERG

Author of "Cat Breeding and General Management" and other books.
Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club.

AT the conclusion of last month's article on eczema it was assumed that the veterinarian would first regard this disease as one dependent upon diet and the consequent digestion of the food which had been given. In a way that was definitely an over-simplification of the situation, but it was nevertheless essentially true. It did, however, neglect certain other possibilities.

It is now recognised that disease of certain organs and glands in the body may produce eczema in cats. Naturally this is a subject in which I am completely out of my depth. How far disease of the liver or pancreas is responsible for eczema in individual cases is something about which I know nothing at all. But this one fact is clear, that with the development of veterinary science it is not beyond the bounds of probability that even surgical treatment may be resorted to in cases which have long proved intractable to what one would consider to be more normal treatment.

The next point of interest to the cat owner who suspects that his cat is suffering from eczema is to know something of the symptoms which are apparent to the eye, for, although he will obviously seek professional advice for both diagnosis and treatment, some elementary knowledge will be of use and interest before the cat is taken to the veterinarian.

The first fact to be recognised is that there are two distinct types of cat eczema. The terms commonly used are wet eczema and dry eczema. Whether or not this is an indication of a different form of the disease in fact, or whether it is merely that the complaint affects different individuals in a different manner is not really

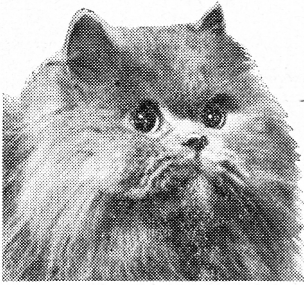
a matter which can be discussed in any detail here.

Ruling out for the moment those cases which result from diseased organs, we can consider the subject from the point of view of the cat's blood. If this blood is carrying toxins, they may affect different parts of the skin surface in definite ways. It may be that this toxin-laden blood stream affects the nerves and produces an inflammation which is carried to the nerve ends found on the surface of the body. On the other hand, the nerves may not be obviously affected and the significant signs of trouble may occur at those places on the skin where the smallest of the blood-carrying vessels are situated. I just do not know, so it is no use pretending that I do, but I must make the one point here that nervous affections can influence eczema.

The Wet Variety

Wet eczema, as its name implies, shows on the skin patches which are moist. The amount of fluid produced to cause the irritation is too copious to be quickly absorbed and thus there are wet or sometimes even blister-like patches. Some years ago I had a dog which periodically suffered from this form of eczema, and the amazing thing about it was that the dog would be perfectly fit early in the evening and yet a few hours later would scratch violently. Inspection showed a number of wet patches which had appeared in a short space of time.

The most remarkable thing about this case was that the patches always appeared on the outside of the back legs and never anywhere else. I have never had a cat with wet eczema, but I have heard of cases in which the lesions were always confined to a comparatively small



“Film Stars envy my coat”

says prize-winning Blue Persian Eireanne Apollo, bred and owned by Mrs. E. Marlow, Eireanne Catterie, London, W.14.



‘Judges rave about my pale, even, silky coat,’ says Apollo. ‘This is one of my favourite snaps. Aren’t we looking pleased! We’d just won more prizes at the Festival and Crystal Cat Shows.’



PEOPLE often ask Mrs. Marlow how she wins so many prizes. Good breeding and good feeding is her answer. She gives her stock ‘Tibs’ tablets regularly and recommends them as a source of the vitamins and minerals that help to keep a cat in show condition.

famous breeders say:

TIBS
KEEP CATS
KITTENISH



10d. and 2/-

area of the body and were never widespread.

Dry eczema produces far less fluid and this is quickly absorbed to leave dry, scaly patches of skin. I have had a cat with this form of eczema. The first sign of trouble is often violent scratching and the immediate supposition was that the cat had an unwanted guest which must be caught and destroyed. Careful examination, however, showed there were a number of slightly raised red patches varying in size on the back. By the next morning, even without any form of treatment, the redness had largely disappeared and the affected parts were covered with dry scales.

Eczema—Wet and Dry

I cannot say which form of eczema produces the greater irritation, but both lead to considerable scratching and it is for this reason that treatment should be immediately applied.

As one form of eczema is wet and the other dry, it seems quite clear that the substances applied to the skin cannot be the same, for the wet eczema should be dried by the application of powders rather than lotions. This must be a matter which can safely be left to the veterinarian, but, if you are one of those people who insist on doing your own doctoring, and there are such people, then do remember that there are two different conditions which need different treatment.

The first thing to do is to alleviate the irritation, for constant scratching will only make matters worse and may produce wounds which could become infected. It takes a little time to look for new patches and to treat them at once, but from the point of view of the comfort of the cat the effort is well worth while. There is just one further point to make with reference to external applications for eczema ; it is that cats are definitely allergic to coal tar derivatives. What may suit you who are not in the habit of

licking yourself may be entirely unsuitable for your cat.

External treatment alone is not enough to effect a cure unless the cause is so simple that it can easily be removed by a change of diet. Rarely is the cat owner so fortunate as to find the simple case. There are a number of stock prescriptions which have been used by veterinary surgeons for a number of years, but more recently it has been increasingly realised that these prescriptions do not always meet the individual case and that the very particular nature of the disease may mean that a number of medicaments must be tried before the right one is found.

Aids to Digestion

It may be necessary to provide extracts such as pancreatin which will help in the more satisfactory digestion of food. On the other hand, the veterinarian has at his disposal many other glandular extracts which he may wish to try. Such matters must be left entirely to him, and the only wise precaution that the cat owner should take is to see that the veterinarian he consults is one who knows cats. To-day, far more attention is paid to the needs of small animals such as cats, but it is not every veterinary practitioner who has either the same opportunities or the same interests with regard to small animals.

Well, this is all I have to say for the present on the subject of eczema, and it may be more than enough. If, however, it has banished the bogey of ringworm for some of you, and led others to investigate the causes of scratching with a more intelligent eye, what I have written will not have been entirely useless.

IMMUNISATION

Cat Flu

Feline Enteritis

Sera and Vaccine for prevention and cure

Details from : **VETRINAID PRODUCTS**
122 SUNNINGFIELDS ROAD, LONDON, N.W. 4

Cats in Shakespeare

By BRIAN INGRAM

THIS title is quite unequivocal, and, fortunately, we are not concerned with the claims of Bacon, Marlow or Edmund de Vere to the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. Neither is Will's attitude to cats of any importance at present as we are more interested in clarifying the position and influence of the cat in the late 16th century as seen through the eyes of our greatest dramatist.

The first Elizabethans were a lusty, practical people who reserved any sentiment for each other. All other forms of life were only tolerated so long as they proved useful to man. We have no fireside sphinx, no homely puss in Shakespeare's world. There are two doubtful exceptions, but both are in the nature of flippant asides: Launce, servant to Proteus, one of the Two Gentlemen of Verona, bewails a misfortune so great that he saw

"Our cat wringing her hands."

Hotspur counters Glendower's boast that the earth trembled in fear at his birth with:

*"Why, so would it have done,
At the same season, if your mother's cat
Had but kittened . . ."*

Most of the references are inspired by popular superstitions and Shakespeare had little affection for

*" . . . creatures vile, as cats and dogs,
Of no esteem . . ."*

Ailurophobia was a recognised complaint, though certainly not by that name, and Shylock recognised it as an incurable allergy by referring to

"Some that are mad if they behold a cat."

Bertram (*All's Well that Ends Well*) is another sufferer who

*" . . . could endure anything . . . but a
cat . . ."*

Bertram shows his aversion to Parolles by likening him to a cat. In Shakespeare's day dislike of cats indicated bad temper, baseness and cowardice, faults very noticeable in Bertram's character. The Rev. Edward Topsell gives a quaint account of this allergy in his contemporary *Historie of Foure Footed Beastes*:

"There is in some men a natural dislike and abhorring of cats, their natures being so composed that not only when they see them, but being near them and unseen, and hid of purpose, they fall into passions, fettings, sweatings, and pulling off their hats, and trembling fearfully, as I have known many . . . ; and therefore they have cryed out to take away the Cats."

Witches and Wizards

To the eternal shame of mankind cats have been made to suffer until very recent times, through their natural preference for the company of solitary social outcasts. These witches and wizards, so-called friends of the devil, were a real and frightening factor of the English scene three-hundred-and-fifty years ago, and there are numerous references to them and their feline companions in Shakespeare's plays, the cats figuring as accessories in their incantations.

"Thrice the brinded cat hath mewed" chants one of the three hags in *Macbeth*—a sure sign that the oracle was about to be "worked." Edgar, disguised as the madman "Poor Tom," rounds off his crazy speech with:

"Pur, the cat is grey"

which appears to be the equivalent to the more familiar "abracadabra."

Proverbs and figures of speech occur throughout the plays, and are often deliberately altered or punned upon. Cats are frequently the subjects of these sayings and throw light on some of the customs of the late Tudors. Many are obvious

similes and still current to-day, such as Claudio's

"What though care killed the cat,"
and

"They'll take suggestion as a cat laps milk,"

says Antonio in *The Tempest*. Others are less familiar, and require some explanation like Stephano's remark on offering Caliban a drink :

"There is that which will give language to you, cat,"

referring to the saying that "good liquor will make a cat talk." This has a double meaning if we remember that Stephano is described as "A drunken butler" in the list of *dramatis personæ*—only the best for a toper.

Rather an unpleasant note is struck by Benedick's

"Hang me in a bottle like a cat, and shoot at me,"

which refers to the revolting practice of forcing a living cat into a bottle or wicker-work basket thus forming a target

for archery practice. This is reminiscent of the St. Bartholomew's Eve "sport" of the French who filled a wicker basket with live cats and then flung it onto a bonfire, the screams of the unfortunate animals depicting the agony of souls in torment.

That foolish Athenian, Bottom, boasting of his acting prowess asserts :

"I could play Ercles rarely ; or a part to tease a cat in,"

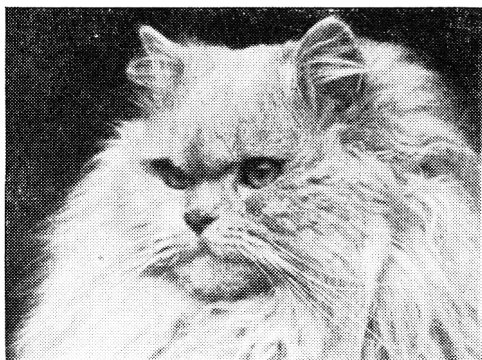
which again, sounds rather barbaric, but it is only a figure of speech for a ranting performance, perhaps originating with a burlesque of Hercules' struggle with the Lion of Nemea. In another contemporary play, Tom Middleton's *Roaring Girl*, there is a character called Tearcat, whose behaviour well justifies this interpretation.

There are more such examples. Cats occur about fifty times in Shakespeare's plays and perhaps I may have the opportunity to pursue the theme in some future issue.

DANEHURST CATTERY

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

BLUE, CREAM & CHINCHILLA PERSIANS



CHAMPION DANEHURST PRINCESS (Cream Persian)

Prize Stud Cats available. Kittens by prize-winning stock usually for sale—to approved homes only.
Can be seen by appointment.

OLD LANE, ST. JOHNS, CROWBOROUGH, SUSSEX
Crowborough 407

**AMAZING
NEW
DISCOVERY
BANISHES
CAT
SMELLS
INDOORS**



Lets be frank! Keeping a cat or kitten indoors has it's unpleasant moments—someone has to empty kitty's toilet box every day. That is why you will be so delighted with KITTY-PAK, the amazing new deodorant.

KITTY-PAK is a scientifically prepared material for your cat's toilet box that completely dries, deodorizes and absorbs all waste matter, making daily cleaning quite unnecessary.

KITTY-PAK does not adhere to fur or paws, and it is absolutely harmless.

KITTY-PAK is so economical too, one 7 lb. carton will keep your home sweet and clean for weeks, and it costs only 3/6d.

Take advantage of this great scientific achievement to-day. Once you have used KITTY-PAK you will wonder how you ever managed without it.

Kitty-Pak

Manufacturer Prov. Patent

Please send me a 7lb. carton of KITTY-PAK

I Enclose a P.O. for 4/6 (3/6 & 1/- Part cost of postage)

NAME

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

ADDRESS



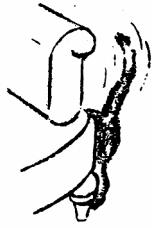
Buy a carton of KITTY-PAK from your pet shop to-day or post this coupon direct to the manufacturers.

New Milton Supply Co. Ltd.
Milford-on-Sea (Hants.)



Tailpieces

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



A VISITOR to this country from Malaya was talking over the air about the living conditions she had left behind. She was greatly puzzled to know where the daily milk supply was going. The answer was supplied by a Malay servant who explained that a cat purring was interceding with the gods.

A cat who managed to get himself trapped on the water tower at a Poplar power station caused a lot of commotion. Firemen with a turntable ladder were called in and a searchlight lit up the scene as they climbed 100 feet to the top of the tower. After two hours work they had to give up and a fish-baited trap was prepared and laid. Puss was tempted and brought down on the following morning.

The R.S.P.C.A. prosecuted a woman at Bootle for dropping a kitten out of a window. During the hearing of the case she was said to have told the police: "I admit throwing the cat out of the window. I thought it was a stray." The kitten's injuries were not serious. When told she would be fined £1 with £1 costs the defendant said: "I will have to use a cosh to get some money."

Mrs. Dorothy Horlock, joint licensee of the Bricklayers' Arms, Bermondsey, found the boiler room a mass of flames. She called the fire brigade and then rushed back to rescue her two cats. Firemen using breathing apparatus very soon had the outbreak under control.

The London *Star* newspaper is running an interesting series of stories on the

mother theme which are contributed by readers. A recent prizewinning effort was submitted by an ex-staff nurse at a busy London hospital. She recounted how one day, the big day of the week when "the Chief" did his clinical round and gave bedside lectures to the medical students, one of the stray cats with which the hospital abounded had her kittens in the linen cupboard. The family was hastily removed to the porter's lodge. But some time later, again on the day of the Chief's round, the cat struggled back up two flights of stairs with a kitten in her mouth. Everyone held their breath and waited for an explosion from the Chief. Instead, he looked at the cat and said quietly to the assembled students: "And there, gentlemen, goes the eternal miracle which puts to confusion all that medical science can teach you—the triumph of the mother instinct over apparently insurmountable difficulties."

The 1953/54 show season will open in London as is usual with the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show in July. The date and venue have now been fixed—31st at the Royal Horticultural Hall. Entries will be restricted to kittens and neuters with classes for brood queens and studs. Mrs. A. Vize will be the new show manager and Mrs. Aitken has succeeded Mr. Frank Williams as the Club's hon. secretary.

Katherine Terrot, Chairman and Secretary of the Bexhill Cat Club, has hit on a novel idea for the entertainment and instruction of members at their social gatherings. She has purchased an Episcope, a form of magic lantern, and with

its aid she projects cat news and pictures on to a screen. And from where does she get many of the fine pictures for this feline Movietone News? From this magazine, of course!

Two young mineworkers—Roy Pottle (17) and Brian Edwards (18), both of Herne Bay, Kent—were found guilty at Canterbury of an act of deliberate cruelty to a cat by setting fire to its tail. Each was fined £22 10s. 0d. for what the prosecutor for the R.S.P.C.A. described as a wanton and sadistic deed.

Some interesting figures are disclosed in the R.S.P.C.A. review of their operations during 1952. Their inspectors investigated 30,750 complaints of cruelty to animals which led to 962 convictions, 23 prison sentences and 11,559 verbal cautions. Although the Society is always reluctant to take children to court, 151 convictions were obtained in juvenile courts for cruelty to animals, a serious state of affairs. Dogs are the animals most frequently the victims of convicted cruelty. They featured in 288 cases, cats featured in 110 cases. About 400,000 patients were handled and 103 awards were presented for animal life saving.

Financial aid is sorely needed to extend the work of the R.S.P.C.A. overseas. In Singapore, for instance, where religious belief forbids the taking of animal life and unwanted cats and dogs are put in sacks and left on the roadway to be run over by passing vehicles. Gifts in envelopes marked "Overseas Fund" will be welcomed by the General Secretary, R.S.P.C.A., Jermyn Street, S.W.1.

A news item from Melsetter, Rhodesia, gives details of an unusual fight between an eagle and a cat. The cat was playing with her kittens when the big bird swooped down and carried her off. But the cat was more than a match for the eagle. She forced it to earth and continued her attack until the eagle was dead.

A 4-year-old black and white cat named Snooty has arrived back at his old home in Windermere after walking 120 miles from Sandbach, Cheshire. Mr. and Mrs. John Richardson took Snooty with them in the back of their car when they moved to their new home in Sandbach in September. Three days later he disappeared only to turn up five months later—rather wild but otherwise in good condition—at the house of the Richardson's former neighbours in Windermere.

An unusual claim was settled by Judge Kingsley Griffith at Bridlington County Court, where the ownership of a stuffed two-headed cat was in dispute. The licensee of a local hotel sued another local licensee for the return of the cat or its value—£20—and £20 derived from the hiring out of the cat on exhibition. Judgment was given for the hotel keeper in whose premises the curiosity has been left for three years. He said after the case had been settled that he intended to give the cat to a museum.

MICKEY.

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.**

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.

An Old Book

When I was a small girl I used to look in a book in which there were a number of cat pictures. I was not old enough at the time to read the book, but I still remember well a picture of a kitten called Banjo. Do you happen to know this book?

We only know of one book in which a kitten called Banjo was one of the illustrations. Banjo was a poorly marked tabby with a very white chest and a particularly snikey face. The book was the life story of Henriette Ronner and was illustrated with many of her cat pictures. It was published by Cassell & Co. somewhere in the 1880's at 50s., but there was a cheap edition which appeared in 1892. Henriette Ronner could certainly draw, but all her cats seemed to be singularly lacking in character. Many of the paintings were pretty pictures, but that was all that one could say about them.

On Telegony

I have been told several times that if I allow my Blue Persian queen to run wild she will be mated by a stray tom, and that if this happens she will be useless for breeding pure-bred kittens afterwards. Is this true?

It depends upon which part of your question you are referring to when you say, "Is this true?" If you allow any queen to run wild all the time, she will undoubtedly have kittens which will be sired by some marauding male. Cats are made that way as you may have noticed

when your sleep has been disturbed by the singing on the roof or beneath your bedroom window. With a little experience you will sense when your queen is coming into season. That is just the time to keep her away from any gallant strays and to send her to a pure-bred stud cat if you desire to breed pedigree kittens. The second part of your question is sheer rubbish from a scientific point of view. It was believed for a long time that the mismating of female cats or dogs had an effect on all succeeding litters. This was called telegony, but it just does not mean a thing scientifically. One mating can only affect the litter that is produced from that mating. So, if the lady mismates, be more careful the next time she calls, and send her to a Blue Longhair stud. All the kittens will be Blue Longhairs if the parents have been bred that way.

A Feline Dribbler

I have a neutered marmalade cat who dribbles whenever he sees food. He also tries to rub away the saliva from his mouth. Can you tell me how to cure this objectionable habit?

If it is a habit, we do not know what you can do about it. But we doubt very much whether it is a habit at all. Some dogs are notorious dribblers when there is food about, and, although cats who do this are not unknown, they are extremely rare—so rare, in fact, that breeders of long experience have never seen one. It is much more likely that your cat's teeth are causing the trouble. The fact that he rubs his mouth with his paw points to this. Look at the teeth and if they are