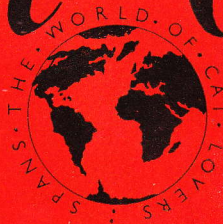
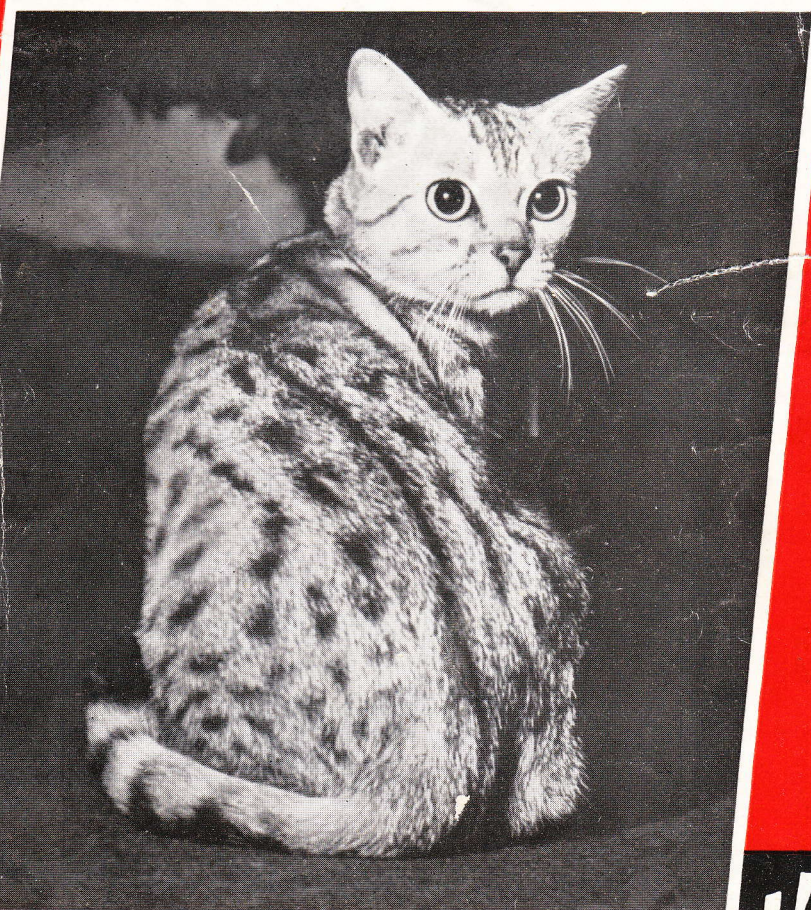


Our Cats

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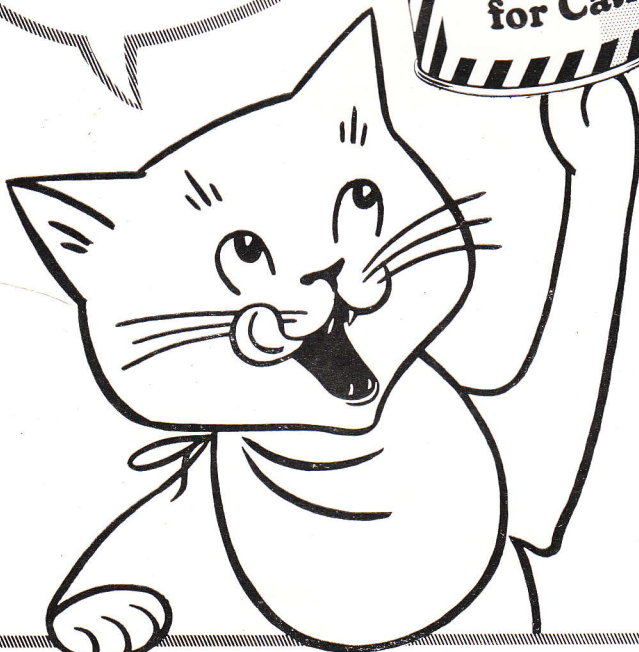
For many years M. E. Desbrière, of Paris, has been one of the best-known breeders of Silver Tabby Shorthairs on the Continent. His International Champion Chicat d'Acheux was esteemed by English judges, including the late Cyril Yeates. Our photograph shows M. Desbrière's Silver Tabby queen GENETTE in an unusual pose.

NOVEMBER 1953

1/6

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I can't wait
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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. 11
NOVEMBER 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


A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN

We were honoured on 17th October to receive the following communication from Buckingham Palace :

The Private Secretary is commanded by The Queen to thank Mr. A. E. Cowlishaw for his letter and for the special October issue of the magazine "Our Cats," which Her Majesty is pleased to accept.

Following this gracious gesture by Her Majesty, I have received numerous messages of appreciation from readers in many parts of the world, which I cannot hope to answer individually. It is obvious that the International Number was universally enjoyed. Thank you for all the nice things you have said about it.

EDITOR

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

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TRY "LUCEKATTER" FOR TEA

IF you would like to introduce a little novelty when next you have cat lovers looking in for tea and a chat, why not try your hand at "Lucekatter"—the little St. Lucia cakes of Sweden? These cakes are eaten in Sweden on St. Lucia's Day but no one seems to know exactly why. Lord Semphill, Chairman of the Anglo-Swedish Society, has suggested that their origin lies in the fact that St. Lucia, after she lost her sight, was led around by a cat. Others maintain that the custom of making these cat-shaped cakes came from Holland in the Middle Ages and had something to do with "devil cats," a charm against witches. In some remote parts of Wales today it is the custom to put a china cat in the hearth to keep witches from coming down the chimney.

The ingredients required for "Lucekatter" are:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ litre (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ pint) milk;
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ litres (approx. $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints) wheaten (wholemeal) flour;
- 30 grammes (approx. 1 oz.) yeast;
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt;
- 100 grammes (approx. 3 ozs.) butter or margarine;
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ decilitres (approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ pint) sugar;
- 10 kardemon (mixed spice can be used as substitute);
- Egg and icing sugar for covering.

Mix two-thirds of the meal with the sugar, salt and crushed kardemon or spice. Melt the margarine and warm the milk in it, then put the mixture in a pan. Stir the yeast into a little cold milk and add to the mixture. Work the dough thoroughly, sprinkle a little meal over it and let it stay in a warm place until it has risen to double its size. Work the dough again and then fashion small pieces into the form of a cat. (Use your own imagination here!) You may if you wish insert currants for the eyes. Place the pieces on a plate, let them rise again and then paint with the egg. Sprinkle with sugar and place in the oven. In a hot oven it should take seven to twelve minutes to get the little cakes nicely browned.



This is worth thinking about

A Subscription to this Magazine makes the ideal present for a cat loving relative or friend . . . for Christmas, the New Year, a birthday or any other special 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.

Eczema - the Common Scourge

Extracts from a paper read by Mr. S. Jennings, M.R.C.V.S., at the recent 71st Annual Congress of the British Veterinary Association.

IN the majority of papers on animal skin diseases that have been published in the past 25 years the writers appear to have given their general impressions of skin conditions as gained in the course of practice but without reference to figures based on individual records. In the present paper, therefore, an attempt has been made to confine the observations to those made on a series of carefully recorded cases. The work was carried out a few years ago, and though many skin cases had been seen prior to the present series, and from which general impressions had been gained, a special effort has been made to avoid using such unrecorded data.

The British Veterinary Association made the request that the paper should be confined to skin diseases of small animals and, while this has been fulfilled, no attempt has been made to present a comprehensive survey of all skin diseases of small animals and only those facts which it is believed have not been published hitherto are included.

So many attempts have been made by dermatologists to define eczema and so many conditions have been labelled as eczema that it has now virtually become a term which is used to describe any inflammation of the skin the cause or nature of which is unknown. Most users of the term, however, feel that it is associated with some antigen-cellular-antibody reaction and some workers have now come to use the term

"atopic dermatitis" and "allergic dermatitis" in its place. But Cooke (1947) states that "in no important group of commonly accepted diseases of allergy is our knowledge more scanty and more superficial, and the dermatologic and allergic literature more contradicting and confusing than in that group designated as allergic dermatitis." The term eczema, therefore, does not necessarily give any indication as to the aetiology of the skin conditions bearing this name.

Eczema, the common scourge of cats, has a clinical picture closely resembling that of eczema in the dog. Seventy-seven cases were seen in the present series. Holmes (1933) suggested that the lesions are self-inflicted and produced by the rough tongue of the cat. Records of the positions of the lesions show that almost invariably the lesions were within reach of the animal's tongue. The cat is able to bend the neck so that it can lick the skin over the spinal column just behind the scapula. By lying and then lifting one hind leg until it points directly upwards the cat can reach the whole of the posterior aspect of the thigh. The majority of lesions were in that part of the leg and on the skin at either side of the spinal column from the scapula backwards. In four cases there were also lesions on the head and in two there were lesions on the dorsal aspect of the neck. Scratching with the hind leg could have accounted for these, however.

Association with a Fish Diet.—

The condition has long been called "fish eczema" because affected cats usually have an almost exclusive diet of fish. On enquiry of owners of non-affected cats, however, it is found that most cats are fed almost entirely on fish.

Evidence against fish as a contributory cause was as follows :—

Six affected cats received no fish whatsoever.

Six affected cats received fish only occasionally.

Affected cats were cured while receiving an entirely fish diet.

Fleas are the Cause ?

Association with Ectoparasites.—

Out of 76 cases it was possible to demonstrate flea infestation in 61 instances, representing 80.2 per cent. In four cases the owner had two cats ; one affected and one normal. In every instance the non-affected cat carried great numbers of fleas but the owners stated that these animals never "washed" themselves, whereas the affected cats were "washing" continually. The diet in each case consisted almost entirely of fish.

Five fleas were released into the coat of an 11-year-old cat which was known to have been free of fleas all its life, which had never had skin trouble, and which received a diet consisting entirely of fish. Within four weeks the animal developed a typical severe eczema. Two weeks after the cat had been dusted with an insecticide the coat became normal, and it remained normal. This experiment will have to be repeated before conclusions can be reached. In the meantime, however, in

cats there is even stronger evidence than in the case of the dog that the lesions of eczema are self-inflicted and that fleas are the cause of the irritation.

Treatment.—The use of insecticides such as BHC dust was the only treatment advised in all the foregoing cases. The owners were encouraged to continue giving an entirely fish diet. Removal of the flea does not bring about an immediate recovery in the cat because a vicious circle has been set up and the animal continues to lick the lesions. The average case took three to five weeks to clear up. In some cases the fleas had returned to the animal in a remarkably short time and the condition continued. Where insecticides were used at regular intervals cats which had been chronic cases remained free for years.

Summary.—The relationship between eczema in the cat and a fish diet is discussed. There is strong evidence to suggest that it is not associated with a fish diet. Positions of lesions were always within reach of the rough tongue or the claws and 80.2 per cent. of cats harboured ectoparasites.

BO'SUN

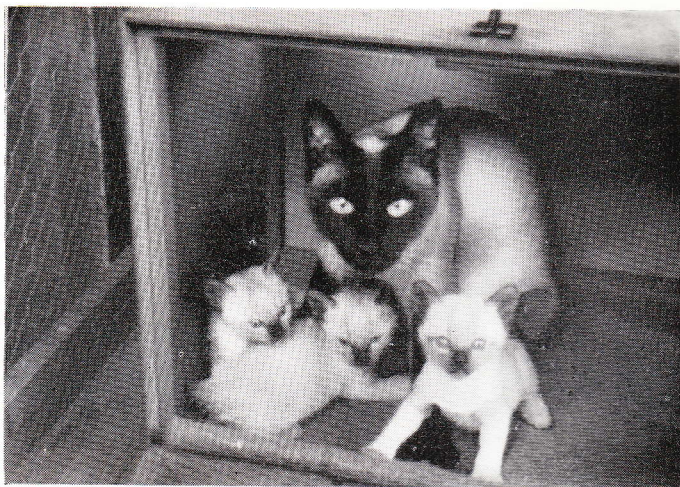
Those of our readers who have been following the adventures of the Sailor Siamese will be interested to know that we have recently received news from the Mediterranean. The "Mary Hillier" is afloat again and Bo'sun has been visiting Algiers. We hope to be able to resume Dee Blackburn's narrative in our January issue.

A page for the proletarian puss No. 40



Reuter Photo

Two long necks crane over the door as Goofy and Maggie, London Zoo giraffes, discover they have a caller. It is their old friend Whisky, to whom the giraffes are always at home.



Introducing CRAWSTON BELINDA and her tenth litter in a happy family scene at the home of Newark-on-Trent fancier Mrs. Vera M. Deane. Belinda (familiarily known as "Pimsi") has many cards to her credit from shows in the Midlands.



KENWOOD DAPHNE SUNBEAM is a very pale Blue Longhair daughter (unshown) of Robin of Pensford ex Ch. Moonbeam of Pensford. She is owned and bred by Miss K. Montague, of Finchley, N.3.

Cats of the Great

By P. M. SODERBERG

IS there anything remarkable in the fact that the great of all ages have found comfort and consolation in the company of their cats? It may be that there is something about the cat which appeals to the home lover of all ages and countries, for countless men of letters, musicians and artists the world over have had their cats, and most of them have paid tribute to these feline friends in either verse or line or colour and music.

It has always interested me personally that Jenny Lind, who sprang from the land of my fathers, was a great cat lover, although none of the names of her feline companions has been recorded. As a girl this great operatic singer used to look out from a window of her home which overlooked the street leading up to the Church of St. Jacob, and there she sang to her favourite cat. It is not all cats that appreciate music, but this one must have shared with passers-by on the road the beauty of a voice which was later to thrill the world.

Perhaps the cat story which has always appealed to me most is that which refers to Mahomet and his cat. This great Arab is recorded to have cut off the sleeve of his gown so that he should not disturb his sleeping cat when he himself had to answer the call to prayer. History records this cat's name as Muezza, perhaps from association with the legend that she was not disturbed when the muezzin was sounded.

So many people have recognised the essential homeliness of the cat and none more so than that eminent American writer, Mark Twain, for whom it was essential that a house should contain "a well fed and properly revered cat." For him no house could really claim to be a home unless such a cat was one of its regular inmates.

To all these people the cat was an essential friend and companion, but there were others, apart from the Egyptians, who realised its utilitarian value. In our own islands Howel the Good of Wales, a near contemporary of Edward the Confessor, enacted laws which protected this valuable animal from those who would kill or steal it. Whether Howel was a cat lover is not known, but he definitely appreciated the virtues of the cat as an essential part of farm and home.

Inspiration for Poetry

The cat, which is by nature something of a philosopher itself, has often been the familiar of the philosophers of many countries. The well known German writer, Heine, felt an attraction for cats which made him keep them in the room with him even when he was writing, and he endured without ill-feeling the inconvenience which an inquisitive cat can cause by walking over the paper on which one is trying to write.

It was the nameless but fat Angora cat of his uncle which spurred on his genius when he was a youth, for to him, despite her apparent disregard of cleanliness, she nevertheless appeared as a bewitched princess. Heine wrote many poems on cats which are still read in his own country even if they are neglected here.

Cats have from the earliest times been the subject of poetry, but perhaps no cat ever had a more poetic epitaph than did the Milanese-born cat of Domenico Balestrieri, the Italian poet. The name of this cat is not known, but it was the devoted companion of Balestrieri, and when it died not only he but many of his friends wrote poems to lament the untimely death of this feline friend. "Tears upon the Death of a Cat" was a book of nearly three hundred pages and was written in classical as well as modern

languages, to say nothing of one poem in the language of the great Islamic prophet himself.

Before the days of the Iron Curtain the cat was appreciated in Russia, and there is no reason to believe that this affection has been abandoned even under a totalitarian régime. The famous Russian composer, Borodin, was a slave to cats, but his genius was not of that sort which they could respect in any ordinary way, for, like so many geniuses, he was an eccentric and his cats imitated his own unpredictable behaviour. Two well known cats of his, Fisher and Lelong, together with many others unnamed, used to walk across the dinner table and poke their inquisitive little noses into any dish which happened to tickle their sense of smell. In this household such conduct was always accepted without reproach.

Perhaps the nation which has produced the largest number of real cat lovers among its famous men is the French, for over the centuries many great Frenchmen have been slaves to their cats. This is the more remarkable in that the cat displays a temperament so different from that which is considered to be essentially French.

Cardinal Richelieu presents a picture in his love for cats which is understandable, for he was really a lover of kittens with their boundless energy and obvious vivacity. When his kittens grew up he lost interest, but he was not heartless, for he bestowed

his cats, no longer kittens, as presents upon his friends and associates. Who dared refuse such a gift from so powerful a statesman whose memory was so good that he even remembered to ask after the welfare of his erstwhile friends and companions? Such cats were bound to be well cared for, as all his associates knew that the careless death of a cat might mean the calculated death of a man.

One of the most attractive of French writers who felt a similar humanitarianism for both men and animals was Pierre Loti who was devoted to cats. Cats were his constant companions, and, either as themselves or perhaps figuratively, they found their way into practically all his writings. It was he who, better than any other writer, felt the misery of the deserted cat and sought to relieve its distress even by death itself. No one can read Loti's many books without sharing with him an insight into the mind of all cats whether of high or low degree.

An article of this length can only skirt the fringe of a fascinating subject, but for those who care to search they will find so many famous men whose lives were influenced by the cats they permitted to share their homes. Balzac and Jeremy Bentham, Chang T'uan and Victor Hugo, Rossetti and the Empress Wu all had their cats and loved them, and beside them were hundreds of others equally famous scattered through the centuries and over almost the whole face of the world.

All fanciers should read

"THE CAT FANCY"

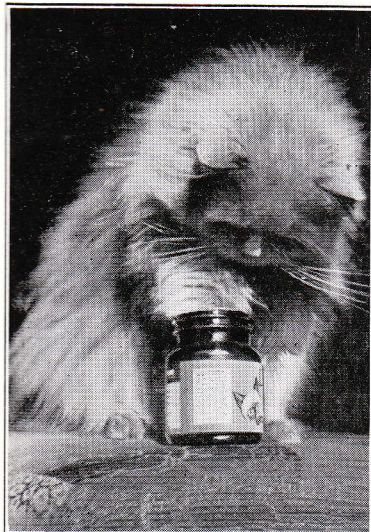
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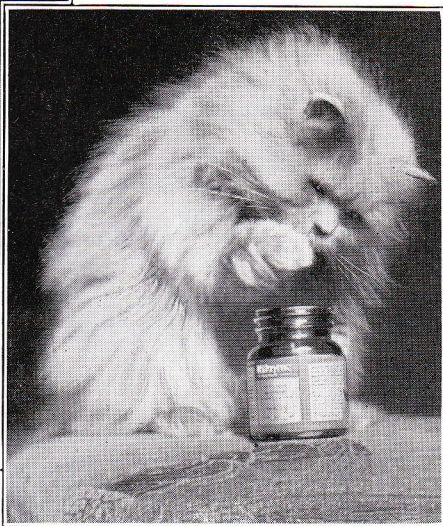
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“Self-Service” by Windy!



(Photo: TRASLER)



MRS. KATHLEEN FEGAN

of 8 Clifton Hill, Exeter, Devon, sent this amusing little story: --

“Beautiful ‘March Wind of Henley’ bred by Lady Eardley-Wilmot and owned by me, was recently ill and refused food for over a week. She even took no interest in her beloved Kit-zyne tablets.

On the eighth day, however, we said ‘Kit-zyne’ and she immediately sat up and took notice. We put the bottle in front of her. The photographs show what happened and we knew immediately that she was feeling better!

When we have a full bottle of Kit-zyne Windy doesn’t trouble to put her paw in except to extract the cotton wool. She just puts her nose in and eats! The tablets evidently do her good as she is now in excellent condition.”

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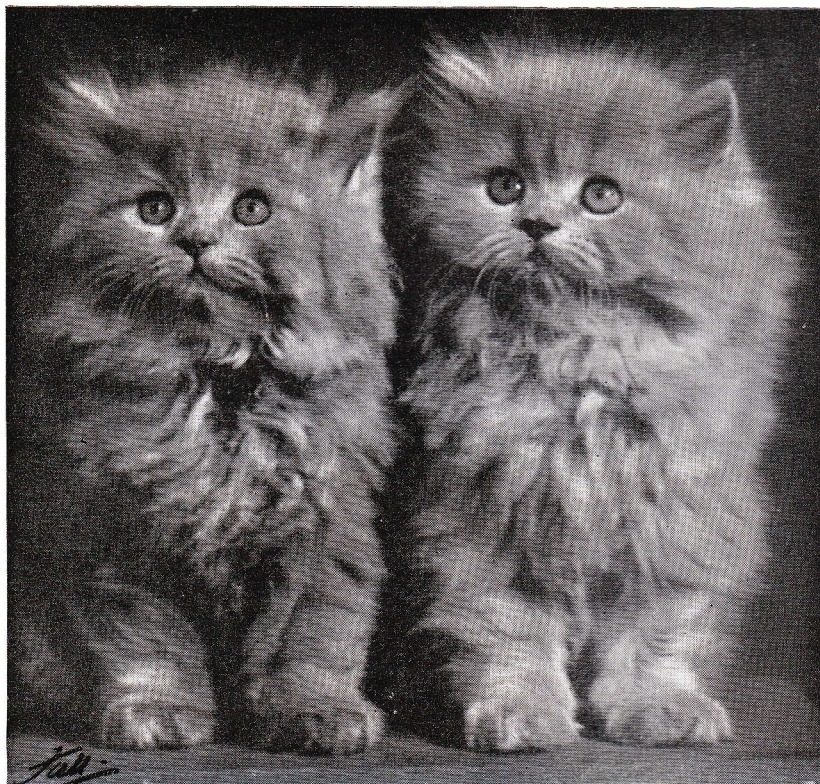
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WEE TWO !

Thomas Fall

A promising pair of Blue Longhair kittens bred by Mr. J. J. MacGarel, West London fancier, from Baralan Boy Blue ex Blue Angel.

Let's go to a Show

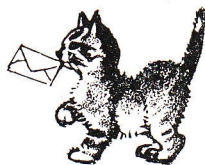
We urge our readers to attend as many Cat Shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show programme for the 1953-54 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

	Promoted by						Venue
1953							
28 November ...	Scottish Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	Paisley
28 November ...	Yorkshire County Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	Leeds
9 December ...	*National Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	London
1954							
9 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat	...	...	...	...	...	Nottingham
16 January ...	East Anglian Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	Felixstowe
23 January ...	*Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club...						Manchester
2 February ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	...	...	...	...	...	London
	* Denotes show with Championship status.						



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.



LETTERS WANTED

I'd be glad to correspond with any cat lovers.

Mrs. Walter Moore,
719 East Second Street,
Flint 3, Michigan, U.S.A.

NEUTERING AND DECLAWING

I would like to comment on the points raised by Mr. Soderberg in your August issue :

(a) *Neutering of males.* Considerable annoyance is caused throughout the country by screaming cats on the tiles at night, due more often than not to complete ignorance or neglect on the part of the owners. Unless a male cat is required for stud work he should in my opinion be neutered. This operation is simple and does not distress the cat in any way. Stud cats should never be allowed to stray or stay out all night for obvious reasons, i.e., annoyance to neighbours and risk of disease.

(b) *Spaying of females.* My reaction to this subject is much the same as for males. The majority of breeders know only too well what happens when they are unobservant or careless with a queen approaching a calling period. But the real trouble lies with owners of cats who couldn't care less what happens to their females. The result is that hundreds of unfortunate little kittens are brought into a very precarious existence. Malnutrition and disease become rampant thereby endangering the lives of healthy and well-bred cats who might decide to risk an occasional "flutter over the garden fence." With modern science spaying has become commonplace and most effective. I have often seen queens running about and actually climbing trees within 48 hours after the operation.

The cost is a possible deterrent but it is my firm conviction that cat owners should, if they really love their cats, bear the expense or have them put down. I agree that neutered males are apt to be less affectionate than females ; they sit about and appear to some extent to lose interest in life. I invariably find that buyers of kittens prefer males as pets, but I feel that the real answer is that they are thinking of the cost to have a female spayed. My stud cat is most affectionate, but only with me. He is very wary of strangers and distrusts them.

(c) *Declawing.* I am strongly opposed to any form of declawing as it only applies to cats who have full freedom and therefore need their claws to protect themselves and to catch their food. Caged cats need not be declawed as presumably the owners would not object to some scratching of the wooden parts of the cage. Two of my cats, both queens, one spayed, have complete freedom of the house and garden and they have not caused any damage to furniture. They were reprovved when they were kittens and now should they feel like transgressing they are checked by a reprovving bark from my dog. No, I think it would be a criminal act to remove a cat's claws at any age. It would be signing its death warrant.

Air Commodore F. J. Vincent,
Woking, Surrey.

AND A CANADIAN OPINION

While I readily agree that cats at times do considerable damage to furniture, I do feel it would be very unfair to take away their most effective means of self-defence. Even a much-loved and cared for pet will very likely meet an unfriendly dog or cat at some time—and

pity the poor cat with no claws with which to defend himself !

I also think it is a great source of enjoyment, if not only instructive, for a cat to be able to climb a tree or scramble over a fence in play and while I am certainly in accord with the spaying and neutering of pets, I would never deprive any cat of mine of her claws

Mrs. Victor,
Peterboro, Ontario, Canada.

THEY KNEW THE TIME

Mrs. Bentley's letter in your September issue about her Champion Mockbridge Blue Moon knowing when to expect her mistress home is most interesting.

Only a few weeks ago a fellow breeder told me the following anecdote : This lady lives in London and for some weeks she attended a series of concerts about twenty minutes walk from her flat. Her husband was in the habit of meeting his wife at the hall to escort her home. The two pet cats, undisturbed by the husband's exit, became restless twenty minutes after his departure and took up a position near the front door. Their behaviour was watched and timed by a mutual friend on several occasions.

I need hardly add that these two cats are much loved and are themselves devoted to their breeder and owners.

Mrs. J. M. Newton,
Moulsford Grange, Berks.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

I have just seen the September issue of your wonderful Magazine in which you have published a most excellent and truthful article concerning Miss Dransfield's fine work for the numerous stray animals, particularly cats, and also sick and injured ones, in this great industrial area (Newcastle-on-Tyne). I was most impressed.

I must emphatically confirm that the position for cats here is absolutely desperate and our present large and powerful animal society seems unable to extend its work to a shelter for these unhappy creatures, whose numbers are ever increasing in our city and surrounds.

I do hope that by some means Miss Dransfield will be able to run the kind of sanctuary she wants. There is nobody more capable, more self-sacrificing and more efficient. A great deal of harm was done to her work by an article in a national newspaper, which indicated her as a woman of wealth living in luxury and keeping under her roof numerous cats at one time.

However, we can only hope that this tragic position will eventually come to the ears of animal lovers who will set the desired project going. Once it is started, this good lady and her circle of helpers and friends, would, I am sure, "keep the ball rolling" to the desired end. We are hoping that one day the Tyneside cats will find that life, even if they are lost or injured, has not come completely to an end.

Miss Renee Minski,
Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.

This is one of a number of letters we have received from readers who have come in contact with Miss Dransfield's fine work in Newcastle among the army of unwanted and uncared for cats. This district is a black spot where substantial help is urgently needed. The Newcastle "Evening Chronicle" recently published an article pointing out that well over 20,000 stray cats living in derelict buildings and on bombed sites were endangering the city's hygiene. Gifts, however small, will be gratefully received, acknowledged and put to practical use by Miss Dransfield. Her address is 21 Queen's Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne 2. Will you please see what you can do to help this really worthwhile cause ?—EDITOR.

The amusing little sketches which adorn the heading of the previous page are reproduced by kind permission of Marguerite Chapman of San Francisco, whose animal drawings are so well-known throughout the Americas.

Siamese are Problem Cats

By ELSIE KENT, well known judge and breeder who was for many years Hon. Secretary and Show Manager of the Siamese Cat Club

ITEM on the agenda for a Siamese Cat Club Annual General Meeting :

"In view of the increasing number of cats placed at stud, many of whom are below the required standard, members should consider methods of grading, and empower the Committee to take immediate steps to maintain and improve the quality of breeding males placed at public stud."

Quote from Mr. Marshall, Secretary of the New Zealand Governing Council of the Cat Fancy :

"With your huge Siamese Club it is very disconcerting to learn for example how another judge and yourself have on different times expressed your difficulty in finding good enough specimens to send to New Zealand. Why is there such a large percentage of poor quality Siamese?"

And, judges during the past show season have commented many times on the falling quality of the breed.

According to the above, the cat which is different is not on the up-grade, but deteriorating badly. Why?

Firstly, I do not think the Siamese bred to-day are very much worse than the majority which appeared before the war, except that there are more of them. In those pre-war days we had a few really good cats and a vast collection of inferior ones. We also had the horde of commercially minded breeders who purchased a female kitten, sent her to the nearest stud and sold the resultant kittens for as much as could be obtained. At first sales were brisk, but when the market

became flooded, prices dropped and Siamese queens were hawked around for practically nothing. At the outbreak of the war the live-stock market crashed, and only the really serious breeder carried on.

Came the end of hostilities and the Siamese cat was once again a rarity, prices were high and so once more the commercial element appeared with exactly the same result and to-day the genuine breeders are at a discount. Such breeders are quite concerned about this state of affairs and they are casting around for a solution. The same breeders are also worried about the quality of the number of Siamese with the Championship dangling round their necks.

Weird Judging Results

The serious breeder may look to the Siamese Cat Club for guidance, but nowadays I fear he or she may look in vain. Once upon a time should the Club look upon a certain point with disfavour, Club judges were united in penalizing the fault and before long it disappeared for the simple reason that the breeder knew it was useless to exhibit such stock. To-day everyone judges to their own particular fancy and we get the weird results of half-a-dozen Siamese judges at the same show all putting up a different cat, which, even allowing for the personal element, cannot be right.

Various suggestions have been put forward in an endeavour to stem the Siamese flow towards the alley cat. From one leading breeder comes the idea that the Governing Council Stud List should be divided into sections.

The first should be headed "Approved by the Siamese Cat Club" and would contain the names of all those cats who

have been in one of the first three places of their Open class at a Championship show, or have won a first in their breed class at a non-championship show. Also a cat could be eligible for this section if three of his progeny by different queens won under similar conditions in their kitten classes.

In the second section would be listed all those cats who do not qualify for these conditions. The argument will naturally be that breeders can't be forced to use certain cats, but at least a number of keen novices would be helped, and the Siamese Cat Club itself would be showing discrimination.

Stricter Judging

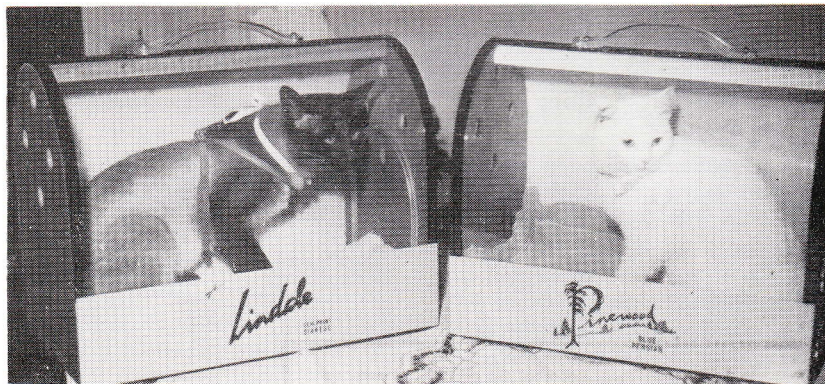
Another idea is that at the Siamese Cat Club Show the Open Male class should be restricted to those winners from other shows who would be eligible for the Approved Section of the Stud list. This would keep out the exceptionally bad specimens, and give a hallmark to the show. The committee might issue a directive to all club judges asking them to be more strict in awarding prizes, and

also not to sprinkle v.h.c.'s and h.c.'s unless the exhibits really warranted the cards.

We then get the grading scheme, used in other breeds of livestock, where judges are appointed to view the animal and give an opinion as to whether it is a suitable specimen to improve the breed. What a howl would go up at this! Who is qualified to undertake this thankless job?

After careful thinking one comes to the conclusion that no scheme really gets to the heart of the matter and it all comes back to the question of judges. A start might be made by calling together the judges to go over the standard of points and if they are in agreement on what constitutes a champion, to be much more strict and selective. If the Siamese Cat Club committee did this, it would then have greater power to discard a judge who gave awards to second rate cats and at the same time, the nervous judge would feel that he or she had the support of the Club in an unpopular decision.

No plan is absolutely foolproof, but with the show season here again, why not try it?



Leicester Mercury

Mrs. Linda Parker, the well-known Leicestershire fancier, believes in providing travelling comfort for her show exhibits. The traveller on the left is Champion Sabukia Sweet William and he is accompanied by Champion Pinewood White Heather, who has won Best in Show for his young owner, Master Roger Parker.



Tailpieces

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



FROM New York comes this fashion flash for cats, quoted by the *Evening Standard* reporter there: "Simulated diamond collars for well-bred cats. The collars are studded with rhinestones and are guaranteed to make the pet's neck glisten and sparkle 'like a rich woman at a ball.' The price is £20."

Camberwell Council are to ban pets being offered as prizes at fun fairs. This admirable ruling might with advantage be extended to cover the rest of the country.

Now that the long dark nights are with us again, readers, particularly those living in London and other big cities, should be on their guard against the activities of cat thieves. This warning should be taken seriously. Obviously, the sensible precaution is to keep your pets indoors from nightfall until the morning.

Mrs. Cecil C. Baines, of Elham, near Canterbury, one of our valued contributors and correspondents, has kindly sent me an interesting little story culled from an Italian periodical. Little Manuela Rossi, aged six, had to be operated on for tonsillitis. She insisted that her pet cat Fufi should be with her during the operation. When the two nurses started to administer the anaesthetic Fufi tried gallantly to defend her mistress. The nurses were obliged, in the face of bites and scratches, to suspend operations until the cat was removed and locked up in another room. A picture of Manuela in the journal shows

her proudly displaying Fufi, who is a Tortie.

I was very pleased to meet at the Coronation Show last month one of Switzerland's best-known and most successful fanciers, Madame M. A. Gay, of Liebefeld, Berne. Mme Gay is a lady of many accomplishments for not only has she bred many fine cats of several varieties and exported them to different parts of the world from her Du Bosquet cattery, but she takes a prominent part in Swiss club and show promotion. She also edits and produces the journal "Revue Feline D'Elevage." Mme Gay was particularly interested in the English Blue Longhairs.

Lord Stamp has moved the second reading in the House of Lords of the Bill to make anaesthetics compulsory in all operations on animals.

Intradex, a blood plasma substitute, is now being used successfully by British veterinary surgeons in the treatment of cats, dogs, horses and cattle suffering from shock. Hitherto when an animal needed a blood transfusion whole blood had to be given and as established blood banks do not exist, this was often a time-wasting and expensive procedure. Blood plasma substitute is being used in a variety of conditions such as haemorrhage, burns, surgical operations, vomiting and enteritis. Intradex can keep an animal alive while whole blood is being obtained. It is being made at Glaxo's antibiotics plant at Barnard Castle.

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Please mention OUR CATS when replying to advertisements

A cat named Tommy is reported to be the recipient of a £700 trust fund in the will of Mrs. Lena Rankin, Farmer City, Illinois, U.S.A.

Do you know that harvest thanksgiving services which have become such an integral part of country life in Britain and the Commonwealth are of comparatively recent introduction? It is only just over a hundred years ago that the first of these services was conducted at Morwenstow, a lonely place on the north coast of Cornwall, by the Rev. R. S. Hawker. Mr. Hawker was a great lover of animals and at one time he kept nine cats as pets in a house of their own. Each cat had its own bed and, with the dogs, they used to accompany Mr. Hawker to church. One, which he called the Righteous Cat, was often to be seen waiting at the church door.

An Essex letter writer in *The Countryman* describes how her black-and-white cat "seems to go mad with delight at the perfume of talcum powder and soap, rolling over and licking any powder spilt on the floor." Another correspondent, from Devon, tells a delightful little story about her 4-month-old first-cross Siamese kitten who watches the plug-hole of the bath patiently, as if he were waiting for something to jump out. He will even paddle on tiptoe through several inches of water to reach his goal, and when the tap is turned on he is even more fascinated.

One of the best known furnishing stores in London is Catesbys Ltd., of Tottenham Court Road. They recently marked their 90th anniversary with a party for the press. A black cat has for long been a feature of the Company's advertising and so a prominent place at the party was found for a large toy black cat. Puss, of course, is employed to give "a homey" suggestion to the Catesby advertisements.

The rescue of five cats has gained for Inspector Nairn the award of a bar to the bronze R.S.P.C.A. medal he already holds. Two of the cats were rescued from telegraph poles, two from roof tops and one from a tall tree.

The Cats' Protection League of Slough, Bucks, have got their bright new ambulance, the necessary funds having been raised over the past twelve months largely through the efforts of Miss Adele Rudd and her well-known Mortimer. The League's Cat Week this year brought in total receipts of £223. It is interesting to record also that a recent contribution of £80 to the League's funds was made from the profits (over £150) of the "Cats Through the Ages" Exhibition reported in our August issue.

A cat's sneeze led to the discovery of two burglaries at Fulham. It woke Mrs. Folkard, who discovered the kitchen window wide open and the room in disorder. An extended search revealed that the house next door had also been entered. A case of "cat-ishoo!"—wittily reported one of the London newspaper editors.

Sir Thomas Dugdale, Minister of Agriculture, was asked in the House of Commons how long the test of the "Imbra" rabbit trap under practical conditions was to last; on what scale it was being tried out and when would the results be known. Sir Thomas disclosed that about 15,000 traps are out on test by the county agricultural executive committees throughout England and Wales. He hopes to have useful results by the beginning of next year.

Dr. Pedro Pereira, the new Portuguese Ambassador who has recently arrived to take up residence in London, is 50, speaks English fluently and loves Siamese cats.

MICKEY.



'CATFORD is the right name!'

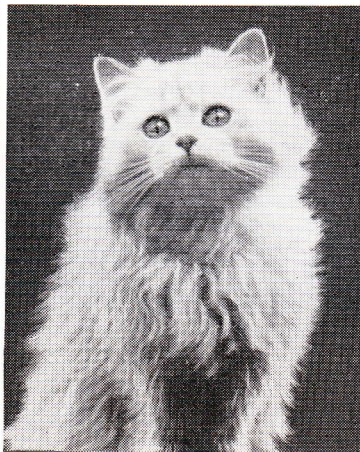
says the **TIBS** REPORTER

'I'M beginning to see why they call it *Catford*', remarked our reporter as he interviewed *Purring Tom Kitten*, winner of the Silver Tabby Class at the Southern Counties Show. This handsome prize-winner comes, appropriately, from Catford, where his owner and breeder, Miss E. L. Jury, has been turning out winners for over 20 years.

At Purring Cattery, 39, Bellingham Road, Catford, London, S.E.6, Miss Jury specializes in Chinchillas, Tortoise-shell, Brown, Silver and Red Tabby Persians and Manx. Her list of wins is a long and proud one. She exhibits at all the London Shows and also farther afield—one of her recent successes was Silver Tabby Ch. Certificate at Derby. The picture of health and contentment you see here is one of Miss Jury's Chinchillas *Purring Desdemona*.

It is certainly no coincidence that Miss Jury has been using Tibs for many years—as well as winning prizes! It takes superb condition to give a cat the silky coat and bright eyes that are the mark of a champion. Tibs Tablets provide the A and B vitamins cats must have regularly to look and feel their best. Miss Jury's

consistent successes are just one more proof of the value of that 'one-Tibs-a-day' rule.



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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.

Herts and Middlesex Show

LOVELY weather and the convenient well-lit Town Hall, Acton, made the Herts, and Middlesex Cat Club Ch. Show an enjoyable event on September 18th. This was the second fixture organised by the Honorary Secretary Mr. Dunks (and, may I add, Mrs. Dunks) and they worked hard to ensure its success.

As it is some weeks since the Show and as it has been fully reported elsewhere, this account will be confined to the chief winners : Best Exhibit, Mrs. Dallison's Longhair White, Dalmond Damarette ; Best Shorthair Adult, Mrs. K. R. Williams's Seal Point Siamese Male Bluehayes Foxey ; Best Kitten in Show, Mrs. M. Turney's Chinchilla Female Bonavia Flora ; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Matthewson's Blue Point Fernreig Zaru ; Best Neuter, Brigadier Rossiter's Silver Tabby Shorthair, Believer Silver Carnelian.

Mrs. Neville Duke very kindly presented the rosettes and graciously received a bouquet from the Club. The gate appeared to be an excellent one and altogether it was a successful and cheery Show.

Parade of the Siamese

The twenty-third Ch. Show of the Siamese Cat Club on October 1st gave more pleasure than usual because it was held in the Royal Horticultural Hall (Old Hall). Siamese breeders have wanted for some time to get away from the murky purlieus of Shepherd's Bush and here at last was a dream realized. Although a much more expensive venue, I imagine it was justified by what appeared to be the best gate I have seen at this fixture. Mrs. K. R. Williams, Hon. Secretary of the Club, managed it with her usual flair and one of her innovations was the gold and red bunting depending from the staging and covering all the cat baskets and other impedimenta.

The President, Sir Compton Mackenzie, made an amusing speech in which he referred to Lime Grove venue and expressed the hope that no more Siamese Cat Club shows would take place in "extinct swimming baths," to which one heard some polite but heart-felt "Hear, hears."

Over 200 Siamese assembled to delight the heart of the enthusiasts and after much sorting out by the judges the chief honours were awarded as follow :

Best Exhibit in Show, Miss B. Mitchell's Seal Point Adult Female Ayredale Erica (by Lindale Simon Pie and Morris Rana, the latter a daughter of that fabulous matron Mrs. Richardson's Morris Una) ; Best Male Adult, Mrs. K. R. Williams's Blue Hayes Foxey (by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo) ; Best Kitten, Dr. and Mrs. Groom's Blue Point Female

Banchor Blue Titania (also by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo); Best Male Kitten, Miss Gardener's Seal Point Leaver's Sultan (by Salween Rajah).

Generous donors gave 134 special prizes, many of them for novice cats or novice exhibitors which gave more pleasure to more exhibitors than donating almost every special prize to the "Best Cat" or "Best Kitten."

Mrs. Iveney of Gloucester, who so loyally travels to nearly every show just for the joy of looking at the exhibits, purchased a sweet baby, Rockford Tiny Tim by Chinki Ranya. Lucky little fellow, he will have a loving home as a pet.

Mrs. Lucas B. Combs, all the way from Kentucky, U.S.A., was a visitor we were delighted to have with us at this and the Coronation Ch. Show.

The weather was perfect and the 1953 Siamese Show closed with an aura of success.

The Coronation Show

A really mild autumn day greeted the Coronation Ch. Show at the new Royal Horticultural Society's Hall on October 9th. This grand occasion was the culmination of months of work by Miss K. Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy; Mr. A. A. Towe, the Show Manager, and the Executive Committee of the Governing Council.

Breeders responded splendidly by making a magnificent entry of 412 exhibits (not counting individual kittens in litters), a record number for a Championship fixture with the exception of the fine Festival Show we had in 1951. In the dim and distant past more exhibits have appeared at a show but they were mostly of unknown parentage and not the feline aristocrats which dominate our shows nowadays. The Hall is ideal with its huge expanse of glass roof, and some of the cats were literally basking in sunshine.

The number of well-known officials and breeders from abroad was a great feature of this show and gave it a truly international atmosphere. Madame Ravel, Secretary-General of F.I.F.E., Madame Gibbon and her daughter Liseron from Lausanne, Madame Sandoz from Zurich, Switzerland, Miss Posthuma from Holland, Mrs. Lorentzen from Denmark, Mrs. Magnusson and Mrs. Hjelde-Anderson from Sweden, Mrs. Svenning-sen from Norway and Mr. Marcel Guinard from Paris were some of the visitors we were delighted to welcome.

As is usual at our shows, there was some wonderful team work and everyone worked with goodwill both before and on the day to make it a success. The silver cups and trophies of the various Clubs (valued at several hundred pounds) made a magnificent display and the 327 special prizes donated by cat clubs and breeders from many countries looked very attractive on a long table on the centre dais. It was very rewarding to see the visitors streaming in when the doors opened at 1 p.m. and by 3 p.m., when Best in Show was judged, spectators were massed round the dais. Distinguished visitors present for this occasion included the Marchioness of Carisbrooke, the Dowager Lady Aberconway, Mr. Beverley Nichols and Miss Joan Gilbert, of TV fame.

Mr. and Mrs. Herod took the honour of Best Exhibit in Show with their White Longhair male Ch. Carreg Cracker by Ch. Carreg Comfort. This cat was presented in perfect show form and with a coat very pure in colour and longer than the majority after this exceptionally warm and sunny autumn. Best Longhair Female award went to Mrs. Cyril Tomlinson's famous Tortoiseshell, Ch. Pekeholm Pomona. Best Shorthair Cat was Mrs. K. R. Williams's Seal Pointed Siamese male Blue Hayes Foxey. As this was his third Challenge Certificate congratulations are due to his owner and also his breeder Miss King.

In the Open Adult Female class of 17 Seal Point Siamese Females, Regency

Hayes, owned by Mr. Colin Campbell and bred by Mrs. Ramsey, was the winner

Best Longhair Kitten was Mrs. Crickmore's Blue Male Thiepval Paragon, a beautiful kitten, with exceptionally good breeding by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue and Ch. Thiepval Enchantress, a famous queen who wears her five years so lightly.

Best Shorthair Kitten and Best Kitten in Show was Dr. and Mrs. Groom's dainty, ethereal Blue Pointed Siamese female Banchor Blue Titania, bred by Mrs. Macpherson. A hot contender for this award was Miss Wiseman's lovely russet-coloured Abyssinian male kitten Contented Carlos. Best Neuter award went to Brigadier Rossiter's well presented Shorthair Silver Tabby, Bellever

Silver Carnelian by Ch. Hillcross Silver Flute.

Space does not permit details of all the other lovely winners in their Open classes but mention must be made of the outstanding quality of the Blue Longhair kittens. They were some of the best we have seen at a post-war show. 39 of them competed in two classes and kittens awarded extra third in their Open class were as good as some we have seen "Best Kitten in Show" at previous shows. It was nice to see Mrs. Speirs exhibiting again with her beautifully presented Chinchilla adult female, Lorely of Allington, and her lovely little daughter Fleuri of Brentside.

Mrs. Brice-Webb, the well-known breeder of Blues, was thrilled to make her bow as a breeder of Creams and



Keystone Press Agency

CHAMPION CARREG CRACKER, Mr. and Mrs. D. Herod's White Longhair male, was a popular "Best in Show" exhibit at the G.C.C.F. Coronation Show last month.

Blue-Creams by winning First in a class of ten Blue-Cream kittens with Mayblossom of Pensford under Mrs. Bazeley, who awarded first and Championship in Blue-Cream adults to Mrs. Chappell's exquisite Ch. Gathorne Georgianna.

In the evening a new departure was the delightful dinner at St. Ermins Hotel, Westminster. Although our speedy one day shows keep one on the alert, everyone appeared to be in good form in the evening. Madame Ravel made a charming speech which was translated by Madame Gibbon. Our Vice-Chairman the Rev. Basil Rees aptly compared the Fancy to a jig-saw puzzle with each piece fitting in. Miss Kit Wilson made an amusing speech and Mr. Stirling-Webb gave the toast for the Governing Council.

Mr. Dunks proposed some toasts and that to the Show Manager, Mr. A. A. Towe, met with an appreciative response, especially when someone interjected "and Mrs. Towe." I expect this came from someone who realizes how everyone in the home of a Show Manager becomes involved in the work.

A Boom in Exports

Several lovely cats and kittens went abroad as a result of this Show. Mrs. Aitken's Black male (Challenge certificate winner) Bourneside Black Knave was purchased by Mr. Guinard and went to Paris. Mrs. Vize's Black adult female, Sarisbury Miriam, goes to Mrs. Konigson of Sweden and her lovely Blue Longhair kitten, Myowne Blue Nymph, to Mrs. Elisabeth Borjeson, of Goteborg. Miss Sherlock's Blue female, Bircotte Modest Maidie was purchased by Mrs. Svenningsen of Norway, and Mrs. Hughes's pale Cream female kitten, Broughton Primrose by Mrs. Magnusson of Sweden, who also acquired my Cream male, Gleam of Pensford, for her mother, Mrs. Lilly Westerlund, when she lunched here with Mrs. Svenningsen the Sunday before the Show. She also purchased some Siamese of which I have no details at present.

Mrs. Brittlebank sold her Chinchilla kitten, Hazeldine Silver Rex, to Mr. Nilsson, of Goteborg, and another kitten, Silver Jester, has been flown to U.S.A. The little queen, Hazeldine Silver Reine, has gone to that old-established Chinchilla breeder, Miss Hirst, of Huddersfield. Miss Posthuma, on behalf of a Dutch fancier, purchased a Hillcross Siamese from Mrs. Towe. No wonder a London newspaper ran headlines in an issue soon after the show to the effect that British cats were being flown all over the world!

Mrs. Lorentzen, on her first visit to England, kindly stewarded for me and it was a pleasure to have her and Mrs. Chapman with me all day. The latter's attention never wavered even when she heard that her Chinchilla female, Bridgeway Miranda, had been awarded the Challenge certificate under Madame Gibbon. My chief assignment was the Blue adult males and very handsome they looked in the morning sunshine. The winner was Major Dugdale's Ch. Harpur Blue Boy, such a lovely colour and such good eyes to contrast with his coat. The winning Blue female judged by Mrs. Oglethorpe was Mrs. Carbert's Anlaby Jennifer.

This wonderful Show emphasized the virility of our Fancy and how it has grown since 1939 and especially since the end of the War. It was a tiring day for our Chairman, Miss Kathleen Yorke, especially after her recent indisposition, but I know she was happy that her idea of a Coronation Show was such a grand success. A delightful gift to every judge and exhibitor winning a Challenge Certificate was a Coronation crown piece depicting on one side Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on horseback. It was in the neatest black and transparent plastic case and is a souvenir we shall all cherish for many years.

Southsea Show Revived

To Southsea on 21st October to renew acquaintance with a Southsea Cat Club Ch. Show in a hall on the shore end of

South Parade Pier. This Club was founded by Mrs. Cook-Radmore just before the war and held two very successful Ch. Shows. Came hostilities and every suitable hall was put out of action by raids and this was her first opportunity to organise a post-war fixture.

The entry of over 200 exhibits was excellent and I understand the gate was a record one. The opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. F. Miles, J.P., the former making a delightful speech. Mr. Gordon Allt was presented with the surprise gift of a stuffed cat of no known variety, for making the largest entry and caused amusement by remarking "How would you classify him, Mrs. Thompson?"

I particularly liked the page in the catalogue headed "Courtesy Page" in which judge's names and addresses were given for "those wishing to send appreciation of judges' services, freely given."

A Siamese is Best

Best Exhibit was Mrs. Duncan Hindley's Seal Point Siamese female, Silken Yacaranda, by Bynes Romeo. Other winners were: Best Longhair Adult, Mr. G. Allt's Cream male, Starkey Nugget, by Malmory Tafeteace; Best Longhair Kitten and Best Kitten, Mrs. Udall's Blue Bayhorne Decima; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Udall's Seal Point Siamese, Bluecroft Ballerina; Best Neuter, Mrs. Marshall's Blue Longhair, Ashdown Twinkletoes.

My Blue male Foxburrow Frivolous was Best Blue adult and his half sister, Foxburrow Faery (both bred by Mr. Soderberg) was the Challenge Certificate winner in Blue females. She was looking lovely and so well presented. Mrs. Aitken won in Blacks with Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond and in Tortoiseshells Mrs. C. Tomlinson's Ch. Pekholm Pomona won again. Space does not permit the mention of other awards in detail but I must make reference to the very nice Cream

kittens on view at Southsea. Mrs. Herbert was awarded Best Cream Kitten with Pineland Muffin, by Elmwood Cavalier. It was nice to see her exhibiting again after such a long interval and I hope it is a prelude to her return to the Fancy. It is about 25 years since we first met at shows and in those days she was noted for her pale Blues. She told me how much she regretted that present-day Blues, although excelling in type and eye colour, were on the average darker than in pre-war days, an opinion with which I concur.

Another old friend was Miss Ellis with a beautifully pale level Cream kitten, Parkwood Pip, by Parkwood Peterkin. She was known for pale Creams before the war and her stock should be invaluable for assisting us to breed paler Creams. Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Laurel of Allington became a Champion. Congratulations! Mrs. Chapman's Bridgeway Miranda was first in Chinchilla females.

When all the London-bound exhibitors assembled, we all agreed it had been a mighty fine show. Thanks for happy memories Mrs. Cook-Radmore, both senior and junior.

Breeder of Blacks

Mrs. Downey's (New Zealand) photo of her beautiful Black male Ch. Slapton Black Magic has been much admired in OUR CATS and again he proves the advantage of breeding from a good queen. His dam, Chadhurst Grey Lady, was bred by Miss Rodda, who is so famous for her Blacks in this and other countries. Although owned by Mrs. Dyer, she was still in Miss Rodda's possession when the kittens were born, and she tells me that when Black Magic was only a few days old one could see he was going to be lovely. Miss Rodda has bred many lovely cats, mostly Blacks, but she has also bred the lovely Tortoiseshell Ch. Chadhurst Juliet and many good Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams.

Mrs. Macpherson, of Balcombe, Sussex, mated her Seal Point queen, Banchor Panya (who is by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo and a Blue Point queen, to Mr. Stirling-Webb's Chocolate Point Ch. Holmesdale Chocolate Soldier. The result was a litter of Seal Points which all being well will be at the Croydon Show. One of her other queens bred by Mrs. Rendall is expecting a family by Onina Blue Boy and Banchor Blue Dawn who has been awarded two Challenge Certificates will be mated to Ch. Wynperri Blue Prince. Mrs. Macpherson is justly proud of Dr. and Mrs. Groom's lovely Blue Point kitten, Banchor Blue Titania, who has had two outstanding wins at the Siamese and Coronation Ch. Shows.

Australian News

From Mrs. Beryl Chandler, of Melbourne, Australia, comes news of particular interest to those Siamese breeders who consider paleness of coat is affected by temperature. She writes: "Ryecroft Mysterious Mick, who arrived in Australia so dark as to be almost all seal is now beautifully pale in coat. He was mated to a Blue Point queen and produced four B.P.'s and two S.P.'s."

In the Australian Siamese Cat Club Newsletter there is an interesting account of an alarming adventure that befell a Siamese queen with, fortunately, a happy ending.

"We've come to the conclusion (it runs) that our cats are different—deplorably different! (The Chandlers' cats we mean). Tess, a week off kittening, swallowed a needle and thread. Not for her the more ordinary ways of making us old before our time. Oh no! X-rays showed the needle lying near her spine down to her precious bundle of kittens. She couldn't be operated on in the ordinary way as an uncontrolled anaesthetic would suffocate a queen advanced in pregnancy, so a Collins Street specialist anaesthetist worked with the vet. in a pretty fancy operation involving controlled anaesthesia. The operation was

successful and in due course Tess gave birth to seven beautiful and perfect kittens."

And writing of the S.C.C. Ch. Show in Lower Melbourne Town Hall which attracted such an excellent gate last July, here is an interesting item:

"An innovation at the show was the distribution of duplicated sheets of the prize winners. These were available at 2 p.m. with the consequence that everyone had the benefit of a marked catalogue. We don't think this has ever been done at any show before, and now we'll tell you how we did it. The Club has bought a rotary duplicating machine. A stencil was cut from the judge's slips and the Secretary ran off the copies on the machine. Sounds easy, doesn't it? It is, but it took some split-second timing and organisation to do it, nevertheless!"

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MRS. NORAH ANDREWS

(President of the Cat Fanciers' Federation)

ONE of the most charming officials of the Cat Fanciers' Federation is Mrs. Nora Andrews. She is one of those people that it is a joy to interview. Modest, unpretentious and greatly given to understatement, she touches very lightly on her career as President of the Federation yet I happen to know she wields within it a powerful political influence. She has been its senior officer for something like sixteen years as well as President of the Brooklyn-Long Island Club for twelve years and is now Honorary President for the duration of the Club. Other offices she holds are Vice-President of the Atlantic Cat Club and Board Delegate for the Silver Society.

There have been many changes in the Federation rules and in fact every two or three years something new is added. For example, honoring the Odd-eyed White Persians and the Chocolate Pointed Siamese as point winners was probably one of the high-lights not to mention the Russian Blues and the Burmese. By changing the by-laws to accept these breeds it was felt the result would be a greater encouragement for breeders to try for better stock.

Nora Andrews cannot remember when she first became attached to the feline tribe. Always they have been her pets and always she has loved them, be they pure blood or alley cats. She has owned just about all of the standard breeds and has bred and raised Siamese and Persians. At this time she has only Persians, which seem to be her favorite. I tried to pin her down as to the name of the best cat she ever owned but she has had quite a few and it is hard for her

to decide. Inverness Lochinvar of Sunny Knoll was one of her very fine Smokes. At one time there was a lovely little queen went Best in Show and her kit was the Best in the Kitten class.

One of the present top-notch males at Sunny Knoll is Nani Lei King, a three-year-old Champion and well on his way to higher honors. There is also a Silver queen quite worthy of mention named Sunny Knoll's Susan. Susy girl has made some very nice wins and we will hear more of her in the shows this season. However, there is one item that the breeders do not know about, a fact that has been kept out of print for a very good reason. It concerns a Silver male that will cross swords with the best pedigree felines on record when he goes before the judges this year and then there will be more honors added to Sunny Knoll's long record.

Fourteen Years a Judge

Judge Andrews is not an importer in any sense of the word. She believes in bettering the best that we already have here in America and with that serious intention in view has plowed a straight line to prove it.

Looking at Mrs. Andrews, it is hard to believe that there is so much dynamic energy stored up in such a small person. She has been an All-Breed judge for the last fourteen years in all parts of America and Canada. In most any city you mention, if there is a cat club associated with C.F.F., you can very safely say Nora Andrews has judged there.

It seems to me she is a bit partial to Smokes, Silvers and Blues and the Seal Point Siamese if they are good, but then she really likes all cats, including

domestic Shorthairs, and sincerely believes that we have some truly beautiful domestics in our shows. She loves to judge, loves to handle cats.

I asked Judge Andrews for her definition of a good show manager. Her answer was quite to the point, proving that her psychology was sound. I quote: "A good show manager must first of all have patience, a pleasing personality and executive ability. The manager should understand thoroughly the rules of the

Federation and the club under her management and direction. She must be available to answer intelligently any question that comes up, be cordial to all entrants and guests of the show and be able to keep the show running as smoothly as possible for everyone concerned."

I asked if she did not consider a good gate the most important item in show promotion. She replied by no means is it the most important phase of a show.



William A. Rexrode

Mrs. Norah Andrews

President of the American Cat Fanciers' Federation.

A fine entry of good cats will always make a gate as a general rule and further added that very few people realized that the proceeds of the gate helped to pay the expenses of the show and that the public at large did not know the cost of an attractive show.

Judge Andrews's attitude toward the novice breeder is one to be copied. She states that the Cat Fanciers' Federation welcomes all novices. She says that all officers do everything possible to encourage them, and that she personally goes out of her way to make novices feel that they are wanted and needed. She claims that a "pet" breeder with only one cat may at some time become a famous breeder.

A Lady of Many Parts

Her hobbies are many. Gardening is one and I happen to know that she was awarded a silver medal for the Yard and Garden Contest (Class B), promoted by the New York Herald Tribune. Class B means that the garden must be over one acre. She is also an artist and make no mistake, her pictures are good, so good that she has had several exhibitions of them. Added to her many other nice accomplishments is music and remember that no one graduates from the New York College of Music without hard work and special ability.

Mrs. Andrews's home is a vast estate on Long Island. Here the Andrews family raise all kinds of thoroughbred and pure-

bred animals, poultry and fancy birds which have won all over America.

Silas H. Andrews, husband of our Nora, is an International judge of poultry and is as well known in his line as Judge Nora. Each of the Andrews is regarded by a large number of people as tops in authority. Judge Nora is also a special consultant to the Coast Fisheries Division of the Quaker Oats Co., Wilmington, California, and her photograph was recently displayed in a full page advertisement in *Life Magazine* of "Puss in Boots" cat food.

Judge Andrews's value to her Federation is not documentary hearsay. She acts more as a balance-wheel, and is known for her intense loyalty. Her professional caution has not stunted her popularity either as a breeder or judge. I have been present at many meetings where she presided and never yet have I seen her fussed or jittery. There is an executive decisiveness about her poise that is unshakeable. I have always found her cool, calm, gracious and very direct in her unassuming manner.

I think Mrs. Andrews is truly a perfectionist. One of her most delightful traits is her ironic sense of humor. This quality alone sets her apart from other judges—and make no mistake—she is peacock-proud of her cats. Many years will turn into yesterdays before Judge Nora Andrews retires from the Cat Fanciers' Federation.

BILLIE BANCROFT.





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Paws across "The Pond"

From BILLIE BANCROFT (American Associate Editor)

MOST of the Federation and Association members are preparing for the two big shows that are first up—meaning the Penn State Cat Club in Philadelphia and the Garden State Cat Club who will have their show in Newark, New Jersey, just across the river from New York. Already there is much excitement regarding the judging visit of your Mrs. A. Vize from Banstead, Surrey. Yesterday two airmail letters arrived from Wisconsin—almost as far away from New York City as London—asking if Judge Vize is as good as charming Judge Yorke. This, of course, is hard for me to answer but I'll bet dollars to dough-nuts that Miss Elsie G. Hydon, herself a world-famous judge, would not have invited Mrs. Vize if she had not been outstandingly good. My answer to those two letters is: "By all means come on to Garden State."

* * *

I have been talking with Judge Nack of Philadelphia. She tells me that the wee kit sent to her from England was absolutely tops and if she herself had picked this particular kit from the litter, she could not have been better pleased. I understand that she did have a difficult time getting it away from the plane officials. They all wanted to adopt it and during the journey out it was very spoiled as to feeding and personal attention. When "Nick - Nack" is pleased over anything she tells the world.

* * *

Two of the big problems that seem to be bothering breeders is getting the Frost Point Siamese accepted as a class and more stringent rules regarding the Abyssinians. Last season there was quite a bit of acid criticism regarding

the markings. I talked with a very well-known breeder who has had years of experience with the Abys. and she tells me some truths that all breeders should know. America is gaining quite a following in Abyssinians. There are three of our top-bracket breeders who have made a reputation with them here in the eastern part of America. They are Mrs. Jane Stackhouse, Judge Doris O'Connell and Mrs. Judy Smith. In the extreme western section there are quite a few who have specialized in this particular breed. I hope to tell you more of them later.

* * *

Another moot point that is disturbing a few breeders—and I do mean a few—is the Blue-Smokes. I interviewed a Smoke breeder as to her opinion and reaction regarding this class. She scoffed and hooted at the very idea, emphatically informing me that there is no such animal. As I've never been interested in Smokes I can't agree or contradict. Only thing I can think of is—it would seem rather curious to find a Blue-Smoke listed in our shows. Surely they should go in the A.O.C. class?

* * *

Several letters have reached me from our English cousins regarding our Silvers. No, very definitely no, we do not prefer the dark Silvers. They must measure up to our show rules and classifications. We do have some very fine specimens over here. The various Associations and Federation differ a bit in classification but the objective seems to be the same. I have seldom seen a larger than small average Silver. Their bone structure does not measure up to the Blues, for instance, and I'm one of

those breeders who prefer a good-boned animal as well as the other points.

* * *

Miss Anne Metcalf, assistant editor of *Cats Magazine*, tells me she is the owner of a litter of six Siamese babies and she thinks she will stop work and just stay home and look at them ! (No, Anne, we could not spare you away from the magazine).

* * *

An old racket is cropping up again. Some artist or photographer who is trying to make the cover of some well-known magazine, contacts a breeder and wants to sketch or photograph her cats. The owner doesn't get a line of publicity, let alone any financial remuneration. The point is stressed that the owner is getting the *honor* (?) of having her cat's pix on the cover. The artist or photographer will collect anywhere from three to five hundred dollars—yes, even more in some cases—while the poor breeder goes to all the trouble of taking her cats in to be pictured. I know what I'm talking about. This has happened several times. Once in particular, I remember, the photographer collected twelve hundred dollars from the editors of a prominent magazine. The owner was given her expenses for taking the kittens to the studio—something like eleven dollars. Twice this season I have been contacted for my cats to be on the cover of a famous magazine. I hope my letter in answer burned them properly. I have had the racketeers posted with the Crusaders.

* * *

A new book hit the American market a few days ago. My personal opinion is that it is a "Bible for The Fancy." I have read many, many books but this one tops them all. It is called "Cat Care," by Leon F. Whitney, D.V.M. (*Country Life Press, Garden City, Long Island, New York. Price \$3.95*). I am not attempting a review but there are sections that make the book a MUST

for the average breeder. The author is a man for breaking precedent in no small way. For instance, he suggests that female cats should be called "cattas" and forthwith calls them just that. (Remember when we called our males "kings" ? That was not in my time—but many older breeders tell me it is quite true). Dr. Whitney is quite a man, top veterinarian and dog breeder, runs the largest clinic for pets in the East and is well known for his research work at the Yale Medical School. He acknowledges assistance from such top-flight breeders as Mrs. Blanche Warren, Casa Gatos Cattery, Idyllwild, California. Illustrations include Abyssinian Double Champion Raby Nefertari—an import—(on cover), a Peke-faced Red Tabby, Pineland's Pepper Pot, owned by Mrs. Robert Treat, Connecticut, and the Grand Champion Black Persian owned by Mrs. Frances Herms, Terrytown, New York. Anyone who has ever seen this Black boy will not forget him. Mrs. Walker Johnston also has her Grand Champion Leilani's Pettepointe in the book's illustrations and last but not least there is Mollie Brennan's Tortoiseshell Victory Belle. There are other pictures—all definitely good.

British Railways have just issued a booklet with illustrations by Fougasse to 50,000 members of their staff who handle livestock in the course of their duties. In some respects it is an admirable and useful little guide but we found the section devoted to small animals quite inadequate. All it has to say about cats is : "Must travel in strong boxes, ventilated by holes, or hampers from which they cannot escape. They are naturally nervous when travelling and often mew. This is not necessarily a sign of ill health. On no account open the box or take the cat out as it will certainly escape—and take some catching." Elementary, my dear Watson !

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.

Stud Service

Recently I telephoned to a well-known breeder to ask if I could send my queen who was calling to her stud cat. She replied that she could not take her and thus the queen went unmated. Is it usual for breeders to refuse the services of their studs?

No stud owner wants to refuse a visiting queen, but she knows that it is a great mistake to overwork a stud. No doubt when you telephoned the stud was fully booked for the time being and had your cat been mated you might have been disappointed. The thing to do is to get in touch with the stud owner some weeks before your queen is likely to call and to make all the necessary arrangements. If the breeder knows that your queen is likely to arrive, she will bear this fact in mind when taking bookings for the stud.

Bad Breath

I have an ordinary cat who is now eight years old. He is most affectionate and has become a great pet. Unfortunately his breath is so unpleasant that I do not like his habit of rubbing round my face. Is there anything I can do?

Of course there is something that you can do, in fact, in all probability you should have done something about it years ago. Persistent bad breath is a sign of serious digestive upset or bad teeth, but the trouble is much more likely to be dental. Open the cat's mouth and look at his teeth. The sight may probably

shock you, for it will not be surprising if you find decayed teeth and others which are covered to the crown with brown tartar. Both signs are common when there is unpleasant breath. If teeth are the trouble, and that seems to be most likely, let the vet. see to them. Some teeth may have to be extracted, others scaled. A sound mouth usually works wonders.

Hair Ball

At times my Blue Persian cat becomes very constipated and refuses to eat and has to be tempted to take any food at all. After she has eaten at these times she is sick and vomits a long roll of what looks like felt. What is the cause of this trouble?

The felt-like roll is matted hair which has collected in the cat's stomach as a result of the natural habit of cats to clean their coats by licking. This often leads to the formation of a hair ball which, if left too long, can produce a stoppage of the bowel. The trouble can be largely avoided by careful grooming which should be carried out daily when a cat is moulting. Even so some hair will be swallowed and it is a good plan with all long-haired cats to give one teaspoonful of liquid paraffin on food once a week. Few cats object to this remedy when given with meat. Should the condition become aggravated and unresponsive to home treatment you should most certainly take your cat for an inspection by the vet.

I am shortly going abroad to live in Bahrein and I want to take my two

cats with me. I am flying out by Comet and wonder whether it would be kind to take my cats also by air.

There is no cruelty involved in taking cats by air, for if they are in suitable boxes they will not be affected by height because airliner cabins are pressurised. Whether you will be able to take your cats on the same plane as you travel yourself is a matter you will have to settle with the airline. They are accustomed to dealing with the transport of animals and will tell you how to arrange things. There are several firms which specialise in the transport of animals both by land, sea and air, but, as a first step, approach B.O.A.C. Your cats may find the Persian Gulf as difficult to tolerate at first as you will yourself, but if they can find shade they will soon become used to the heat.

Popular Inn Sign

What association can a cat have with a fiddle ? I have several times come across an inn called "The Cat and the Fiddle," but I cannot find any reasonable explanation of the title. Is there one ?

There is a simple explanation which is based on the aptitude of the English for corrupting foreign expressions to their own uses. The inn name really means "The Faithful Cat," a name which is easily understood. In French this would be "Le Chat Fidèle." The French word for "faithful" easily became "fiddle" and there you are. It's a case of believe it or not.

Troubled by Fleas

Particularly during the summer months I find that my Black cat acts as host to a great many fleas. We live on a farm and she can wander about where she likes. Is there any safe powder which can be used ?

All cats have fleas from time to time and these little pests are at their worst during the summer. When a cat lives

on a farm there are so many more chances of picking up fleas that during the summer the cat should be carefully groomed every day and a safe powder should then be rubbed into the coat at least once a week. This will not make certain that there will be no fleas at all, but it will ensure that they do not become legion. If you buy an insecticide which is prepared specially for cats, your cat will come to no harm. There are several firms of repute which market such powders.

On Starting a Stud

I am thinking of keeping a stud cat, a Siamese. As I am a novice I should be glad if you would tell me how many times the stud should be allowed to mate a visiting queen.

If you are really a novice I should first get in touch with any well-known breeder of Siamese who lives near you. Before you embark upon stud work, do make sure that your male is good enough for the job. Only an expert can tell you. It would also be wise to go to a stud owner who has a number of visiting queens so that you can see what stud work entails. You may not be so keen after that, but you will see how the experienced breeder sets about the task. Only one mating is necessary, but most stud owners like to allow two about twenty-four hours apart as this often makes sure that the queen does not have to be sent back again. It must be emphasised that stud work is not easy and the "know-how" only comes from experience.

Frederick James Gallagher, a 17-year-old youth of Hayes, Middlesex, was jailed for two weeks and ordered to pay costs for cruelty to a cat. Police evidence revealed that Gallagher said that he "thought the kitten looked thin" as it ran after him. So he put it down a drain !

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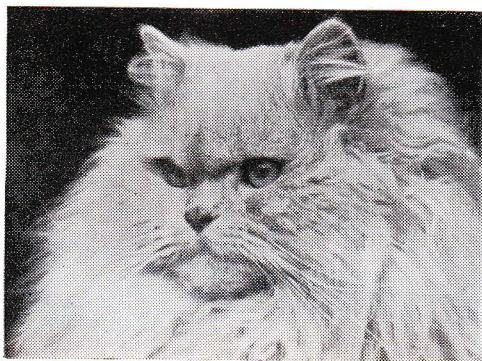
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CAID DE CHIRAZ, a sturdy six-months'-old Black Longhair, bred by the Paris fancier M. Marcel Guinard from Mme Gay's Ubert du Bosquet ex Rezza Ophelia, was the pick of the Best Litter at the Cat Club de Paris Exhibition in Les Mureaux in May last. As Blacks are rare in France, this fine youngster is expected by his new owner, Mme Rule, to improve the representation of his breed at future Continental shows.

Cat Club de Paris Show

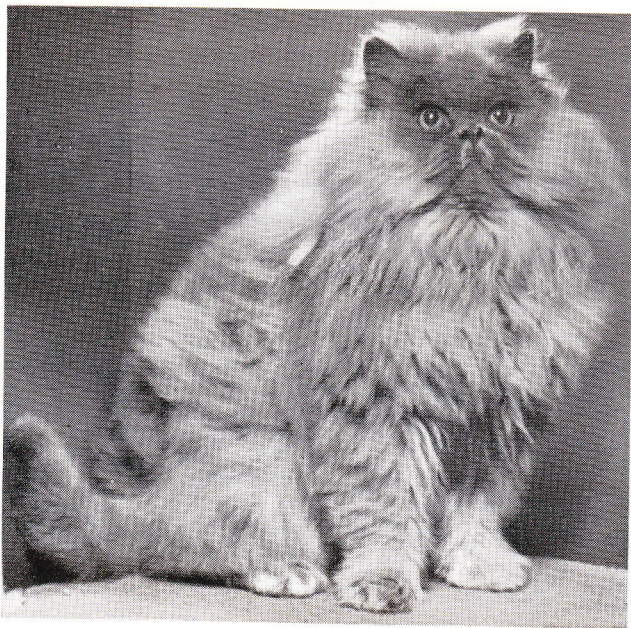
THE 27th International Exhibition of the above Club was held at the Hotel Continental on 23rd, 24th and 25th of last month. Mrs. A. A. Vize, who was one of a trio of guest judges from England, writes :

What a wonderful Exhibition ! The Cat Club de Paris certainly know how to present their feline pets in artistic settings. The cream painted pens are mostly lined with quilted white satin ornated with exquisite flowers and ribbons. In the judging ring are ordinary pens and these are constantly sprayed with a pleasant smelling disinfectant. It is to these pens that the stewards bring the exhibits entered in their respective classes. I must say this is a very pleasant way of judging as one is able to reserve one's energies and concentrate on the

exhibits. And although the old brain gets a trifle tired after three days of it, one is not physically exhausted as after one of our one-day London shows.

I was very happy to be with Miss Kathleen Yorke and Mrs. Speirs and was overwhelmed with the marvellous reception we received from our French contemporaries. The quality of the exhibits was on the whole very good, particularly that of the winners. I judged Blue Longhairs, Blue-Creams, Smokes, Red and Brown Tabbies and Tortoiseshells.

The 1st in Blue Males was Yewhatch Anson, a British cat bred by Mrs. Burns, excelling in type, colour and full of quality. The females were led by B'Nicole de Novaggio, who was bred in Switzerland from Souvenir Mignonette,



CHAMPION MYOWNE GALLANT HOMME was voted "Mr. Europe" at the recent Paris show. This photograph was taken when he was two years old, just before he was sold by his breeder, Mrs. Vize, for the record figure of £150 to Mme Mariana of Paris.

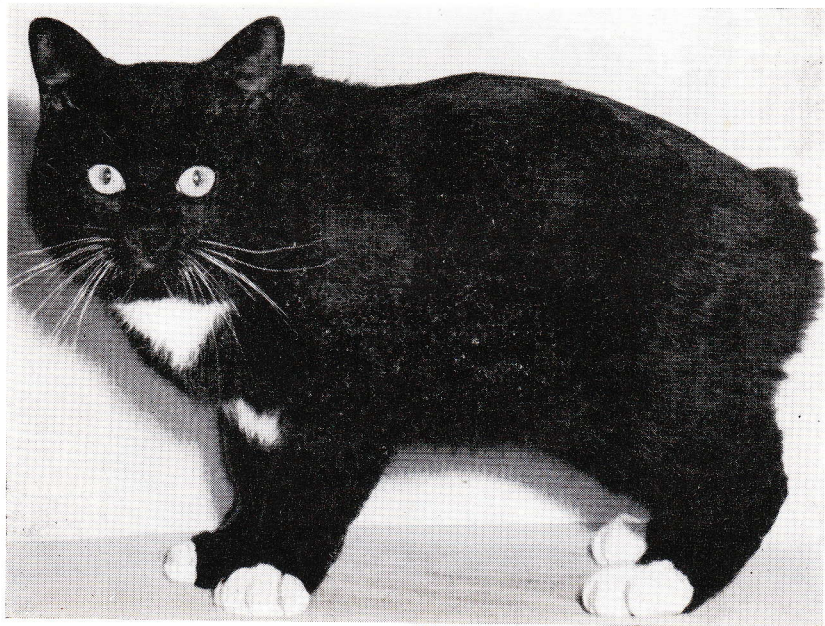
a British-bred dam, and sired by my stud Ch. Astra of Pensford. It was this sire, with the co-operation of Trenton Verity, who produced the sensational Ch. Myowne Gallant Homme, who has repeated his English success of being Best Blue Male and Best in Show in three different countries, Italy, Switzerland and France consecutively, thereby earning the title of International Champion. He was styled "Mr. Europe" by the newspapers of the Continent.

It was interesting to note that the best Blue male kitten was sired by Yewhatch Anson and Gallant Homme. Harpur Periwinkle, bred by Mr. Dugdale, was the dam of the best Blue female kitten.

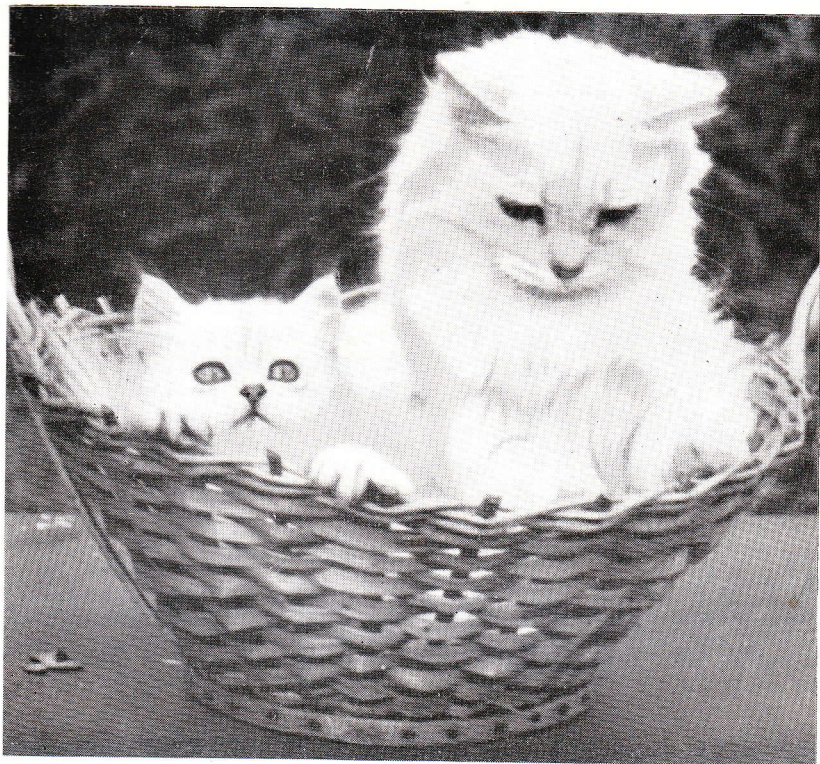
All the Smokes, Tabbies and Torties were European bred. I noticed in the catalogue that Bourneside Black Tulip

and Bourneside Black Knave, 1st and 2nd respectively, were children of Ch. Astra, so "the old man" is truly represented on the Continent.

I thought that Gallant Homme was looking really at his best. He still adores publicity and being photographed and he recognised my voice after a while. Here's a funny about him—to conclude with: When only three weeks' old I showed him to some non-cat breeding friends of mine who remarked on seeing his little Peke face with eyes almost as big as his head, "Is that a freak? I suppose you will have to put him down, as you call it?" My answer was non-committal, even when one of them said "Don't have him destroyed, I'd rather you gave him to me!" And now "the freak" has been voted "Mr. Europe of 1953"!



America is noted for the quality of its Manx. Here is one of the best—**DOUBLE CHAMPION TYOH DER CAPTAIN**, bred by Mrs. Annabel Hoyt and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Webb, of Dallas, Texas. "Hugo," as he is called, is a black-and-white male with striking copper eyes and he was a Double Champion before he reached his first birthday.



The proud Chinchilla mother is SOPHIA OF ALLINGTON, who was exported by Miss E. Langston to Miss Leire, of Oslo, Norway. With her is her first daughter (an only one) Betty av Solglott, born in March last. Both are registered with the Norsk Racekatt Klubb.

A scheme to reduce the number of strays in the Hove (Sussex) district has been started by the Animal Sanctuary Charity, which was officially established in August by Miss Nancy Price, the celebrated actress. It is called the Pets' Protection Service. Owners fill in a registration form giving details of their pet and provide a photograph. A second form is completed for use in the event of the owner's death or illness. Miss I. M. Wormull, the Secretary of the Service, which is free, hopes that the scheme will put a stop to the mysterious disappearances of many cats in the district.

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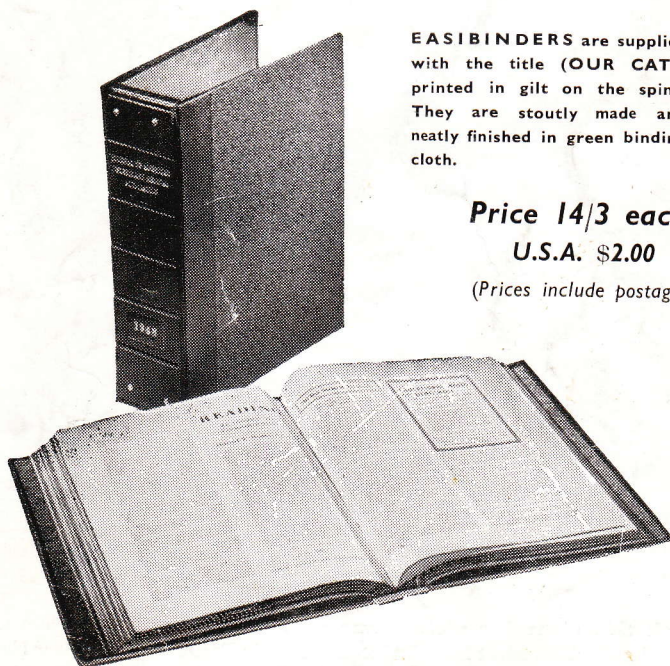
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