

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



"BOY" BECOMES A PREMIER

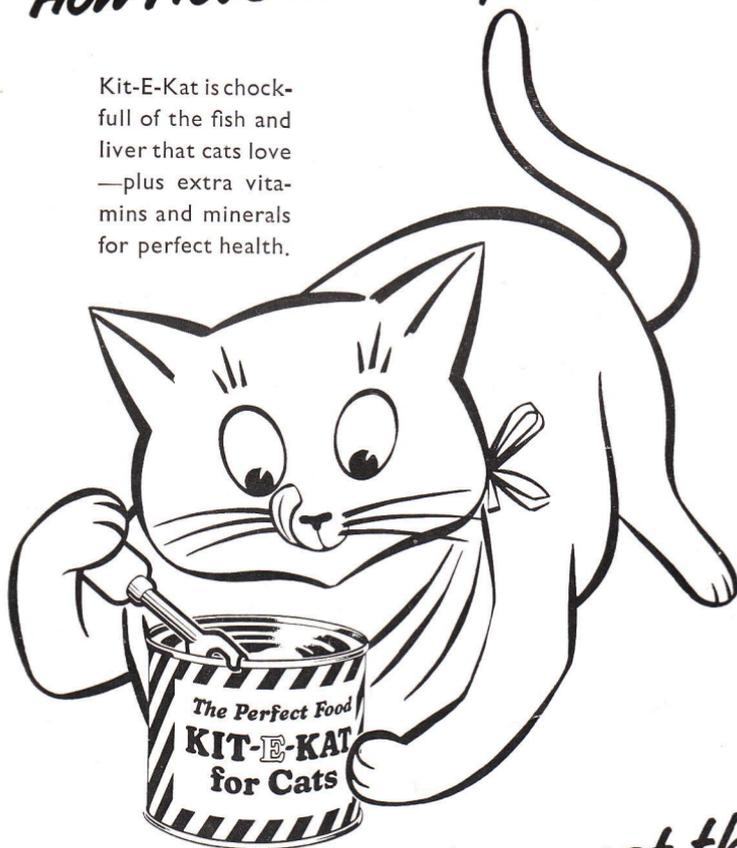
Pride of place in our picture is deservedly taken by SUKIANGA CINNAMON ("Boy" to his many friends), a Siamese neuter who won his Premier award at three shows last year—the Southern Counties, the Herts & Middlesex and the Siamese shows. Behind him is his half-sister SUKIANGA SILVER. Both cats are owned by Mrs. E. M. Walter, Kenton, Middlesex, and were bred by Mrs. Joan Varcoe, Otford, Kent.

MARCH 1954

1/6

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Our Cats

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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. 6 No. 3

MARCH 1954

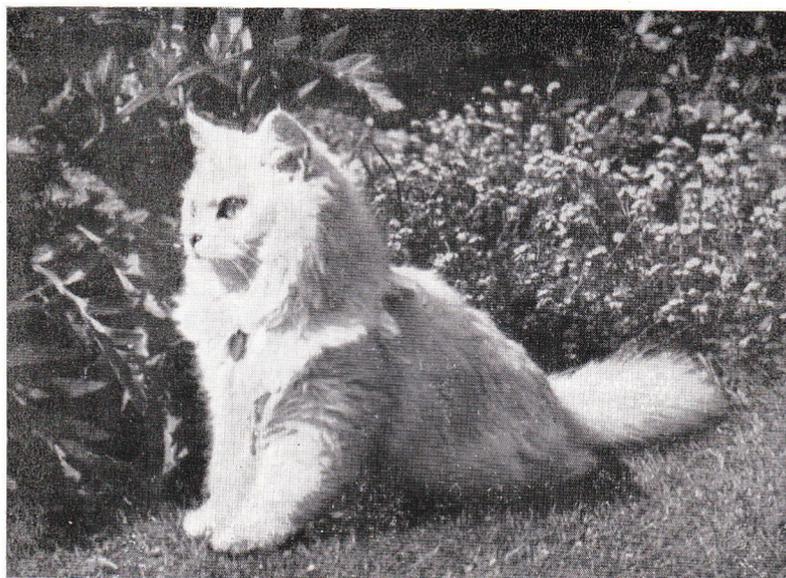
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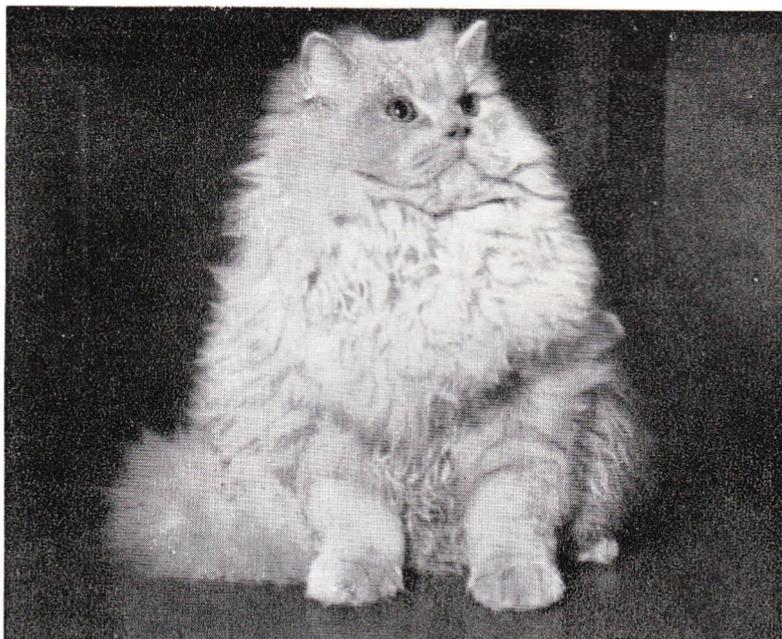
American Associate Editor :

MRS. BILLIE BANCROFT

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



This perky little Chinchilla HAZELDINE JADE GODDESS belongs to Master Brian Parker, of Rhinefield, Brockenhurst, Hants., who is one of the Fancy's youngest and most enthusiastic members. Master Parker's special distinction is in the field of White Shorthairs, in which variety he has exhibited a Champion for three successive seasons. Now he is hoping for a fourth Championship next season with Pinewood Powder Monkey, by Noxena and his Champion Pinewood White Heather.



Ellis Sykes

APOLLO OF PENSFORD is a kitten of some distinction who has appeared on TV. He was also Best Cream Kitten at three shows held during the season which has just ended. Apollo belongs to Mrs. Blanche Barron, Hillingdon, Middlesex, and he was one of a litter born to Mrs. Joan Thompson's Anchor Felicity, who was left in Mrs. Barron's care while Mrs. Thompson was fulfilling her judging engagements in Australia and New Zealand last summer.

 **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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The Handling of Cats

By M.R.C.V.S.

Our contributor, who must remain anonymous in order to observe the ethics of his profession, has specialized for many years in the treatment of small animals. The extent of this experience is reflected in his book, which is universally accepted as a standard work on sickness and accidents among felines. Look out each month for another instructive article from the skilful pen of M.R.C.V.S., who is available to answer veterinary questions submitted by our readers.

WHILST patience and consideration should be extended to every creature with which the veterinary surgeon has to deal, the cat, on account of its highly nervous temperament, becomes one of the most difficult and most exacting patients he has to treat.

His difficulties will therefore be enormously increased if any method is adopted of dealing with feline patients other than those which would be normally actuated by a real love for the creature.

Cats brought for examination or treatment are not infrequently wild-eyed and agitated, but only occasionally are they wicked or intentionally spiteful. They are not usually aggressive, but if they are frightened by noise, quick movements, or rough usage, they may then assume the defensive, often very effectively.

A stranger confronted with such a nervous cat should deliberately spend some time fondling and talking to the animal, endeavouring to gain its confidence and goodwill before proceeding to carry out any examination. On the other hand, such manipulation as is necessary, can frequently be effected, quietly and unobserved, during the act of stroking and fondling the cat.

Recognizing, as most people do, the great agility of a cat and its

readiness in strange surroundings suddenly to jump out of the receptacle in which it was brought and escape, one must release it slowly and with caution, and be prepared to counter at any moment a possible attempt to escape. But before opening the basket, therefore, it is wise to close all doors and windows. Cats have even been known to run up the chimney.

Protection of wounds

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties to contend with is that of ensuring that operation wounds or dressings will not be interfered with. The first condition which must be imposed in order to contribute to such a result is that our dressings shall not contain irritants; also that surgical and other wounds shall be rendered painless, and that itching be subdued.

To eliminate effectively the *cause* of wound molestation, it is imperative to render the wound and its sutures sterile and free from hair, grit, or other foreign bodies; it should be dressed with a suitable analgesic such as orthoform, benzocaine or chloretone ointment, etc. Thus, if the animal is not pained or irritated, it has little incentive to bite or scratch the affected parts.

As an alternative to this condition, we must apply some measure

of restraint such as is afforded by the application of a specially made coat ; by enclosing the hind legs (as high as the hock) in chamois leather stockings, stitched on ; by cutting the claws ; by protection of the part with bandages ; by affixing a broad stiff bandage around the cat's neck to minimize movement ; by applying extremely bitter and distasteful agents to the parts molested (such as powdered aloe) ; or, finally, by keeping the animal under the soothing effects of an hypnotic.

If the method of restraint is too severe, or too prolonged, cats will often refuse their food. Some cats will tolerate the presence of a modified Elizabethan collar around the neck, such a contrivance being constructed of a soft piece of leather about 3 inches wide and sufficiently stiff to stand out and get in the way when the cat tries to bite its body or scratch its head.

In concluding this short note on handling and control, mention might be made of the desirability to teach good manners, cleanly habits and sweet disposition ; and this must all be undertaken at the tender age, when the character has not yet become moulded.

Consistent kindly treatment will imbue cats with confidence in mankind ; teasing or neglect will make them spiteful, unfaithful or indifferent. Their behaviour in after-years will depend upon the discipline meted out to them from the beginning.

READERS' PROBLEMS ANSWERED BY M. R. C. V. S.

From a Canadian reader : *Last spring I bought a kitten from out of town. He had on arrival a thick yellow pus discharging from his eyes, ear mites and worms. I got him all cleaned up, keeping him separate from my*

other cats at all times until he was completely well. But—every kitten I've had since seems to have been able somehow to contract the eye trouble. Even before the eyes are open at 10 days they are full of this discharge and the kittens die. There is no discharge from the nose and they have excellent appetites but don't gain an ounce and just fade away. The adult cats seem immune. I wonder if there is anything I can get to clear this trouble up. I had our vet. over but he is strictly a large animal doctor and knows little about cats. I have been bathing them with boracic acid powder and warm water.

Answer : The first kitten mentioned evidently came out of a dirty home and from an infected mother. There is an acute purulent conjunctivitis of the newly born, known as "Conjunctivitis Neonatorum," and it is particularly common among kittens. In some years it has seemed impossible in some catteries to rear a litter of kittens without this very objectionable occurrence being manifested. If you employ a veterinary surgeon who is used to the ailments of the dog and cat, he will probably vaccinate the queens some weeks before parturition, and so prevent the disease in the offspring. In addition, penicillin injections to mother and kittens would be most valuable.

This is not a case for amateur therapy. As far as ear mites are concerned, you will find in this issue an advertisement for *Ōtōdex* which without doubt will completely cure that in about three applications.

Spayed or Not ?

From an Ashtead (Surrey) reader : *I recently found a stray kitten estimated to be about six months old. I took her to the vet. to be spayed. On collecting her later in the day I was told that the operation could not be done as on opening her the vet. could find nothing to take away. He found no evidence to suggest that she had already been spayed. I should be glad to have your views on the following points : (a) Is it likely she will have kittens ? (b) Will she call but have no kittens ? (c) Will she neither call nor have kittens ?*

Answer : It is hardly conceivable that a female cat should be born without any ovaries. Possibly the operator was unable to find them because of a mass of fat obliterating all view. The ovaries of a kitten are very small, and they can on occasion be very illusive. As no operation was completed, it is practically certain she will come in season and have kittens in the usual way unless you separate her from the males. There is, of course, the possibility that the cat had been already spayed, and that the operation scar was not discovered.

Suspected Arthritis

From a Diss (Norfolk) reader : *Is there any treatment for arthritis in cats ? I have a 7-year-old tom cat—only a mongrel, but very dear. For about four years he has jumped rather carefully down on a forepaw and in addition has had it bitten in battle several times. It became septic and I bathed it with warm water to which I added Dettol. I also had the vet. and it responded temporarily to penicillin but he said he thought it might become arthritis and it has—with a slight bend in the joint. He now walks on three legs except when he puts it down at feeding times. He has Kit-Zyme tablets and is fed on rabbit, fish and bread and some milk and I give him occasional courses of Ral Evapo tablets. He gets patches of eczema at times for which I have now tried dusting his coat with Lorexane. He weighs 13 lbs. and is in good condition but I think sometimes his paw aches a bit and I wonder if you could suggest anything.*

Answer : The treatment of arthritis lies principally in the administration of the time-honoured anti-rheumatic drugs, notably the salicylates, chief of which is aspirin. Even traumatic arthritis can benefit from the administration of aspirin. Infra red rays or other radiant heat directed to the part also gives relief; but it is doubtful whether a lasting cure of arthritis can ever be effected. It seems by no means certain that your cat is a subject of this complaint. Septic conditions are well treated with penicillin ;

but the trouble here might well be some complication of repeated bites ; and there are several. If your cat is an uncastrated tom, then the first measure is to have him neutered and put an end to much of the fighting. So far as eczema is concerned, Lorexane is useless as that is essentially an antiparasitic.

Guard Against Rickets

From a Surbiton (Surrey) reader : *My recently acquired Siamese kitten has a very marked bony prominence which is I think the base of his sternum. Is this a sign of weakness or likely to cause any trouble in the future ? At present the kitten seems perfectly healthy and active.*

Answer : Any opinion offered, in the absence of an examination of the cat, is given and must be accepted with reserve. If the prominence actually is the sternum, then it may be due to some congenital deformity, not affecting the general health of the cat ; or the prominence may be accentuated by a lack of surrounding fat or muscular development. See that your diet sheet is one calculated to guard against rickets.



An article by A. S. Forrest in *Tit-Bits* cites examples of the psychic faculty of animals. One of these relates to the pets of the late Mr. H. Robinson, a King's College lecturer. When their master was taken seriously ill the three animals, two cats and a Pekinese, maintained a vigil outside his bedroom, scarcely moving and refusing the food that was brought them. Suddenly, all three rose as if moved by a common impulse and went downstairs where the rest of the family were waiting. The pets had apparently known at the precise moment when they ended their vigil that their master had died.



Tailpieces

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



WRITING in *Fur and Feather* Miss Evelyn Langston, the well-known Longhair breeder, gives details of a preventive for bladder trouble, which causes the death of so many male cats. The dose is one 2-gram tablet of sodium citrate daily dissolved in a little water and added to milk. Barley in some form is also very good. Male cats who lack proper exercise and are fed on too concentrated a diet are prone to bladder stoppage.

An outbreak of cat stealing is reported to have broken out in the West Kensington district of London. A dozen pets have disappeared from two streets and residents have grown suspicious of strangers near their homes after dark.

When Mr. Abdullah Hamzadi left the Persian Embassy in London to join his country's delegation to the United Nations he let his house to the English actor John Loder and told him: "I don't mind what happens to the house so long as nothing happens to Snowball, my Persian cat." An international incident was feared later in Kensington when Snowball was reported "vanished."

"You should see the transformation as the door closes when my husband leaves for work. The cat leaps up on to the table and the dog fairly sprints from his basket to the fire," says a newspaper correspondent.

Miss Irene Castle, the famous American dancer, made an offer to let herself be bitten by a rabid dog to prove her

theory that it would not be fatal. It was an attempt to secure the reversal of an order that thousands of cats and dogs in Chicago must be inoculated against rabies. The president of the local Board of Health is said to have rejected the offer.

Imagine the tragic scene at the home of 70-year-old Miss Alice Melsome at Selsey, Sussex. Half the house has gone and heavy seas are pounding away at the rest. Then suddenly a great wave swept over the house and brought a crisis. When the wave receded only a corner of the home was left. Miss Melsome watched the collapse from the surf, waded out, called together her five cats and walked away. Later she was arranging her furniture in a two-room shack not far from the ruins of her former home.

Belinda is a handsome cat who belongs to Sir Thomas Kendrick, Director of the British Museum. When Sir Thomas commented on a report that a rat had been seen in a Museum store-room and that a librarian had been frightened, he added with a sigh: "Belinda is a good cat at heart, but lazy, I fear."

Sixteen-year-old Stephen Cesarano and his sister Mrs. Gloria Scanlon made plucky but unavailing attempts to save the lives of three cats when fire broke out in their Brixton, (S.W. London) home. The pets actually belonged to a widow who was out working at the time of the outbreak.

MICKEY

A page for the proletarian puss No. 42



John G. Rimell

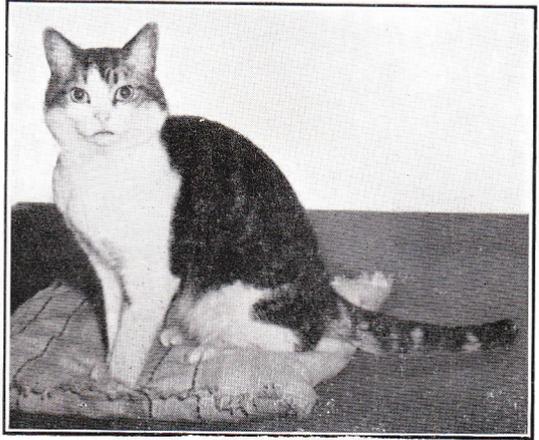
105—NOT OUT!

This remarkable old lady with her white pet cat Peter is Mrs. Caroline Beale, of Wallington, Surrey, who has just celebrated her 105th birthday. A message of congratulation from H.M. the Queen hangs on the wall behind her. Mrs. Beale, who still sometimes goes to church by bus or car, thinks that parents of to-day "don't trouble to teach their children good manners and courtesy and they don't set a good example."

“We almost had him put to sleep . . .”

MRS. E. M. S. of Crown Street, Reading, Berkshire, writes :—

“We have had Stephen, our 6½ year old cat, since he was only six weeks of age. He was never a lovable cat but he climbed trees and roof tops and seemed perfectly healthy until he was about four years old. Then he developed abscesses all over his head, neck and face and his eyes were all blood. That eased up a little but he then seemed to become paralysed in his hindquarters.



STEPHEN

We have always had a cat but never had one suffer as Stephen did. It was distressing to see him trying to drag about after being such a climber. The treatment he was given did him no good at all and several times we almost had him put to sleep . . . but we kept hoping he would be better. It was then that someone recommended Kit-zyme.

For about eighteen months now, Stephen has had the tablets regularly, eating them like sweets, sometimes six a day. He has got lovable, his legs and back are better and he is clear of abscesses.

We love him so much that I felt I must write this letter to tell you how grateful we are.”

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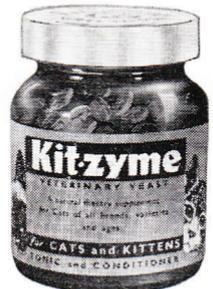
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In the Siamese World



This is the first of a new series of features for devotees of the Siamese breeds which we hope to be able to present in alternate issues for a long time to come. Our contributor is KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, breeder, judge and show organizer of many years' standing and now Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, which is probably the largest specialist cat club in the world.

TO Siamese enthusiasts the outstanding event of the year is undoubtedly the Siamese Cat Club Championship Show. This season the Show was held for the first time at the Royal Horticultural Hall. This venue provides a delightful setting and found great favour with both exhibitors and the public alike. The winners were Ayredale Erica, exhibited by Miss M. Mitchell, Best Female and Best Exhibit ; my Bluehayes Foxy, Best Male, now a full Champion ; Dr. and Mrs. W. Groom's Banchor Blue Titania, Best Female Kitten and Best Kitten ; and Miss J. M. Gardener's Leaver Sultan, Best Male Kitten.

These exhibitors (with the exception of myself) are comparatively newcomers to the Fancy, which is heartening, for it shows that all have been selective in breeding or buying their stock. In a year that has not produced a great number of outstanding cats, it is interesting to note that quite a number of youngsters are coming along—Mrs. Foxwell's Selbourne Pantherina, Miss Lant's Beaumanor Terry Too, Mrs. Watson's Milori Lili, Mrs. Priston's Pristine Bamboo Boy, Mrs. Udall's Bluecroft

Benjamin, Mrs. Matthewson's Fernreig Zaru, Mrs. Ramsay's Regency Minerva, Mrs. Varcoe's Sukianga Golden Hind, Miss von Ullman's Martial Milton and Mrs. C. Cornish's Wee Chang are a few that come to my mind.

From U.S.A. comes news of Broundrey's Tamara and Foxburrow Roger. These kittens were purchased by Mrs. Sayre Combs when she visited England in October. Tamara went home with her to Kentucky. Roger was met in New York by Mrs. Virginia Cobb from whom I hear he has now settled down.

Mrs. F. Walters, when in the States with her husband recently, visited Mrs. Combs. She tells me they had a wonderful time. Whilst they were away their cats stayed with Dr. and Mrs. Francis who specialize in boarding Siamese. The cats returned very fit and well ; Susan immediately started calling ! How our Siamese play us up !

I have been assisting in rather an unusual hunt. Mr. John Appleton's Edward of Fleet died on January 26th, aged 17 years. Edward was bred by Mrs. Cox Ife, his sire being Wanlele Huang Chow. The search was for a

kitten of the same breeding, and so the hunt began. The only one of which I actually knew was a year younger, Mikado of Fleet, born 1938, owned by Hettie Gray Baker, who wrote me about "Mike" over a year ago. Mike was taken to the States at 4½ months by an executive of 20th Century Fox Films. Two years later he was given to Hettie Gray Baker, I quote: "and he has been the delight and prop of my household ever since." After several false leads and much delving into stud registers and the like, the search was successful and a kitten has now been obtained. Mr. Appleton is naturally delighted with his success, and it will be interesting to compare the difference in 17 years breeding.

Mentioning U.S.A. leads me to a more recent departure from our shores. Mrs. M. McCartney of Rhode Island, has purchased Mrs. O. Ramsay's Hymers Minerva, Best Seal Point Kitten at the Siamese Show, who should give good account of herself in U.S.A. Mrs. Ramsay has Minerva's sister, Hymers Letitia, bred by Mrs. Russell of Canterbury.

Verses to Venus

Siamese often inspire their owners to write verse. The poetical inspiration of a student nurse which I received a short while ago—is expressed in the following ode to her kitten:—

VENUS DE MILO

Oh! Venus divine
 Thou art all mine,
 Your slanting eyes
 Like heavenly skies
 Have seen us,
 Oh! my Venus.
 Your sweet masked face
 Looks down on our race.
 Slender form and tail so dark
 Against the sunlight does mark
 And to your voice we hark
 Oh! Venus mine
 You are divine.

J.E.P.

Apart from poetical inspiration—one often hears of close association between humans and felines. In some cases it has proved a major factor in the restoration of health. The introduction of a Siamese kitten brought a marked improvement to a young patient, who had been ill for some years. The improvement continued with the growth of the kitten. It was, therefore, decided to breed from her. The patient is now comparatively active, and very grateful to her cats.

In a lesser degree, I recall a friend telling me that whilst in the "depression stage" of recovery from influenza, her cats brought their toys to her bed, placing them near her, asking her to play, almost saying: "Now come along! Make an effort! We will help you over the black spot."

Darker after Spaying

Several correspondents write that they are perturbed by the dark colour of the hair which grows on the area shaved by the vet. when a cat has been spayed. For those of you similarly placed, there is no need for alarm, this is quite usual, and after the natural moult the colour should return to normal.

Twice this year, I have had calls from owners of lost cats. In the first case the cat was missing for some days. It was found that she had got into an unused outhouse. Although reasonably well when released, she had lacerated her pads trying to get out. The other was missing for rather longer, and eventually turned up at his old home 40 miles away, when a neighbour got in touch with the owners. Do look in little used outhouses if your cat is lost.

All cats are great companions, you and I are naturally prone to think Siamese are just a little more intelligent than others. This, I think, is as it should be, don't you?



Cats in Paint and Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

Sidney Denham is the author of "Cats Between Covers" and with Helen Denham collected the exhibits for the "Cats Through The Ages" Exhibition of pictures, ceramics, books, etc., in London last year. Under the title "Cats in Paint and Print" he will write regularly about cats in books and the arts and will welcome interesting items from readers or answer their questions.

KATE O'BRIEN, the novelist, told in *Time and Tide* recently of her cat Kelly who is a devotee of the B.B.C.'s Third Programme. Kelly, "black, silky, square-set and small" is three years old and first displayed his interest in serious programmes last spring when throughout a performance of *Le Cid* by the company of the *Comedie Francaise* he sat on a copy of *Radio Times* gazing at the wireless and purring contentedly. Then Miss O'Brien began to notice that he would hop on the stool where she keeps her *Radio Times* and purr, but only for certain items on certain programmes. If she switched on the news or Radio Eirann Kelly would jump down quickly.

Kelly listened and approved of John Gielgud in *The Tempest*, listening attentively all through and simply going out in the interval like any other listener. He has no use for talks as such, but he likes music, instrumental or vocal or dramatic dialogue, and Miss O'Brien records she has not the heart to turn off what he is approving, even if it fatigues her. Not long ago he became exasperated because she switched off in the middle of *Lakme*.

"So far," Miss O'Brien concluded, "these noises that delight him have been of a very good kind, by our standards, well worth listening to. And I have recorded nothing of this cat's listening

that is not true to what I have observed. Yet Kelly is, thank God, a very ordinary, greedy cat."

A note in the following week's *Time and Tide* said that Miss O'Brien who lives in Ireland had to travel for a few months and was looking for someone who liked cats—and the Third Programme—to "sit in" with Kelly and *La Grise*, her tabby.

* * *

In the *Spectator* Jenny Nicholson wrote in January of the death of Dante, the cat whose home was Keat's grave in Rome. He died of F.I.E. which has swept Rome, killing it is estimated, one-third of the domestic cats.

* * *

Did the present cult of the cat originate in a literary joke? This is the suggestion of "Morus" (Richard Lewinsohn) in his book, *Animals, Men and Myths*, recently published by Gollancz. Morus seeks to answer the question how and why the cat won for itself a very special place in modern civilization which is no longer founded simply on its skill as a vermin exterminator. Until less than a century ago, although there were individual cat lovers, the general attitude was that the cat's place was the kitchen.

Morus suggests that with the discovery of bacteria and the development of the idea that cleanliness was next to godliness, the cat, the most obviously clean animal of all, rose in social status. It got credit from public health authorities in the war on the proved disease carriers and became eligible for polite society.

“ On these general premises was based the new feline aesthetic which spread out from Paris towards the end of the 19th century and became an international fad . . . the cat became the symbol of Montmartre night-life.” In older literature, it had been the tough Tom, as in Puss-in-Boots and Kater Murr, that has been admired. “ Now cats became feminised. The cat was thought of as a tender female thing and infinitely coquettish . . . Kitty found her Homer in Colette.”

Steinlen, says Morus, created a new feline type with long, slim legs. He was a friend of the song-writer Aristide Bruant whom he met in a café called the Chat Noir. The “ literary joke ” was that the symbol of the black cat caught on, becoming a model for modern literary cabaret and the name of a magazine which attracted all the young Paris artists.

Steinlen's Famous Book

This interpretation of cat history is put forward as part of a much wider argument about the relationship of Man and animals. Ingenious as it is, not all the facts seem to fit. Steinlen's famous book of cats appeared in 1898. The rise of cats in the social scale began very much earlier, in England as in France. Jules Husson, friend of Chardin, Manet, Lambert and other artists, published *Les Chats* under the pen-name of Champfleury in 1870 and it had a success in England as *The Cat, Past and Present* in 1885.

The cult of the show cat was established in England twenty years before the Chat Noir became the symbol of Montmartre. Moreover, is it not possible that Steinlen found the inspiration for his “ new feline type ” with slim body and legs in the Siamese and Abyssinians being imported and bred at that time ?

(To be continued next month)

NONPAREILLE SIAMESE

At Stud :

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(Sire : Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo
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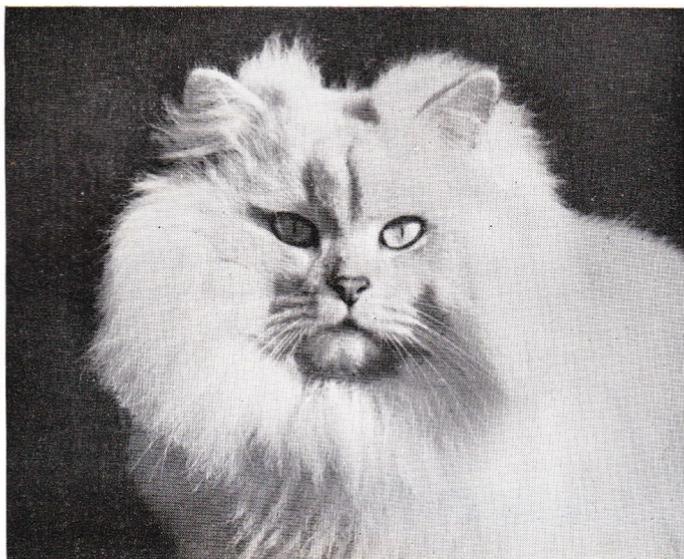
Large size - - 6/6

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From Mrs. V. Osburn Peterson's Beverly Serrano Cattery, at Buena Park, California, comes this photograph of lovely CH. BABE LE ROY OF BEVERLY-SERRANO, one of America's most successful studs.



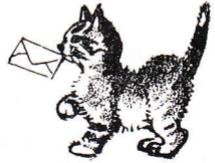
Photo Sérafino

CAPRICE DE MARTAINVILLE, son of Yewhatch Anson ex Janina, Best Kitten at the Exhibition held by the Cat Club de Paris in October last. The owner of this promising Blue is M. Esteve, Boissy Saint Leger, France.



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.



GOOD FOR THE TEETH

You might like to bring to the notice of your readers a useful hint on feeding. It occurred to me the other day that so few people seem to know about a very handy cat food in the form of dried meat crisps, which my animals adore and in fact prefer to fresh meat.

This food has to be chewed, which is very good for the cat's teeth. It is obtainable from Pike & Tucker, of Bristol, and perhaps it is not too much to hope that the makers will place an announcement in OUR CATS.

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

FROM MRS. ANNE VIZE

I had intended to write you a long letter of my activities here in Canada and of my visit to Detroit Cat Show, but unfortunately I have received a cable from England to say that my husband has been taken ill and that I must return as soon as possible. Since then I have been occupied in trying to get a reservation and am hoping to sail on the *Queen Elizabeth* on 6th March,

The snow has prevented any long journeys, being many feet deep in parts, and as the houses are very warm one is tempted to hibernate. I did stay a week with relatives at Spencerville, about 400 miles from here, and from there visited Ottawa. The House of Parliament there is a truly wonderful building and reminded me quite a bit of Westminster.

The two-day show held in Detroit by the Detroit Persian Society Inc. & Windsor (Ontario) Solid Color Cat Club was the 32nd Championship All-Breed fixture. There were 200 exhibits and

among the winners there were a number bred from imported sires. I was pleased to see Ch. Rosalie of Allington, owned by Mrs. John Warwick, a splendid type queen and one much adored by her owner.

I would like to give you more details of the Show but I am too unsettled to concentrate. But I would like to say what a wonderful welcome I had and how much I enjoyed staying with Mrs. Myrtle Shipe, the Secretary of C.F.A. It was at her kind invitation that I went to Detroit and it was whilst I was there I received the bad news from home. I was very sorry to have to cut short my visit to such a charming person; she was kindness itself and went out of her way to make my short weekend a happy one.

Mrs. Anne Vize,
Exeter, Ontario, Canada.

FROM A REGULAR "READER"

I am enclosing our money for subscription to OUR CATS for another year.

We are sorry for the delay, but I was bitten through the hind inside toe by a rat and had to have it looked at by a vet. They put Dettol on it and I do feel much better for it. I thought it was dreadfully painful and squeaked every time someone came into the room. Then I made the mistake of springing into the air after a ball, so it was no use getting anyone to listen again. They only said "Nonsense." I enclose a rhyme all about it. If you have room in the Magazine, please print it.

What we like best in OUR CATS are the advertisements for Kit-zyme. With kind regards to you all, I am, for the Countiesmeet Cats.

REVENGE

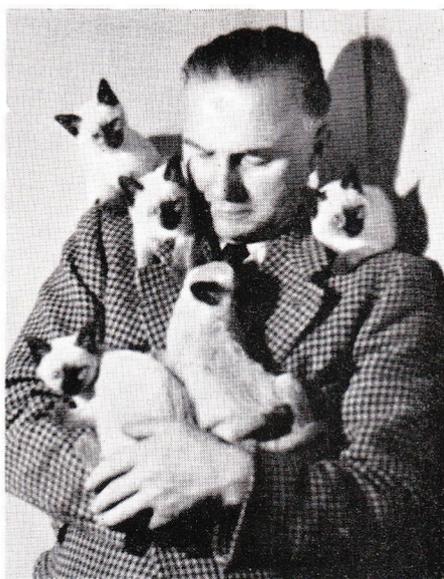
I only put my paw into a rat hole
of a rat I thought I'd eaten days ago.
But there must have been another
It must have been his brother.
He was waiting there
and bit through the toe.

Will you put a little Dettol
on the bite, please.

For I don't want to be poisoned by a rat.
Then I'll go straight back, and sort him,
And I'll stay there till I've caught him.
So he needn't think
he'll get away with THAT !

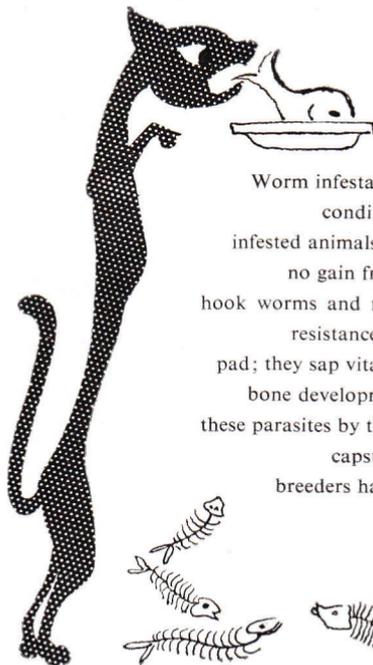
Yours respectively,

Jimmy James,
East Anstey, Devon.



Air Commodore F. J. Vincent, of Woking, Surrey, with a home-bred litter of Siamese by his stud Pikha Shah Jehan ex Queen Mumtaz.

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.



is your pet ravenous yet thin?

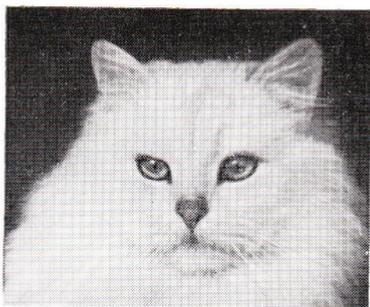
Worm infestation is probably one of the most common conditions from which dogs and cats suffer and infested animals often have a ravenous appetite but show no gain from their feed. In young growing animals, hook worms and round worms cause anaemia and lowered resistance to such infections as distemper and hard pad; they sap vitality and check healthy growth and sturdy bone development. Your pet can be completely freed of these parasites by the simple administration of NEMA worm capsules. Veterinary surgeons and dog and cat breeders have used this proved Parke-Davis product for over 25 years. Ask your Chemist about NEMA worm capsules!



Every inch a Princess

At the Danehurst Cattery, Old Lane, St. John's, Crowborough, Sussex, Mr. Gordon B. Allt's superb cream Persian Ch., Danehurst Princess, obliges with a pose that befits her regal name.

And on the right, not to be outdone, is Chinchilla Ch., Redwalls Jack Frost, another equally famous member of this well-known cattery.



Mr. Allt, whose cats are bought by customers from all over the world—particularly from Canada and the U.S.A.—is a firm believer in the 'One Tibs a day' rule. He knows that cats find the liver flavour irresistible, whilst Tibs satisfies completely the normal vitamin A and B requirement.

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Trials of the Novice

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

FROM time to time I receive letters from novices in which they bemoan the fact that they have all possible trials and troubles with their cats and yet are not in a position to deal with them.

The thing that strikes me most in the majority of such letters is that the troubles which are enumerated at great length are, in fact, of no serious consequence at all.

It rather seems that beginners believe that once they have bought a good kitten—and presumably paid a good price—from then on the art or science, or perhaps both, of cat breeding, should be a matter of plain sailing.

The keeping and breeding of all animals is a case of ups and downs, and it does not matter how experienced the breeder is, sooner or later troubles will arrive, and often at times when they are least expected.

The difference between the novice and the old hand is that apart from a difference in knowledge there is also a wide divergence in valuational perspective. That may sound somewhat highbrow, but it isn't really. It just means that a minor ailment in a pet cat is regarded as of little consequence by the expert, but the same thing is a major tragedy to the inexperienced.

This can be illustrated by a definite case. Quite recently I received a letter in which the writer stated that a three-months kitten had suddenly developed diarrhoea. The kitten survived all right, but the drastic treatment meted out to it might well have killed a kitten of less strong constitution. The stupid part of the whole business was that there was no proof that this particular kitten had ever suffered from diarrhoea at all. One

loose motion may presage worse things to come, but it does not necessarily mean that the kitten is a victim of diarrhoea.

I should like to stress the point that one symptom rarely makes it possible to diagnose any specific disease except in one case out of a hundred. And it is just in this respect that the novice goes astray. From lack of experience he jumps to conclusions, but finds it hard to believe that they are not always the right conclusions.

"Too Many Cooks"

So now let me give what I consider a piece of sound advice for all novices. Have a medicine chest if you like, but let it contain the simplest of remedies and those for complaints which could not be regarded as serious. If your cat is really unwell, call in the vet. and let him do the real doctoring.

Another pitfall for the beginner is a too wide search for help from too many people. If you want advice from someone who ought to know the answers, by all means ask for it, but don't ask a number of people and then try to equate the answers you receive, for you may find that the result is just nil, so contrary are the instructions you receive. That does not mean that the people who are trying to help do not know what they are talking about.

What actually happens is that they explain carefully what they have found to be helpful with their own stock. It is by no means easy to give any novice advice either by letter or telephone for, as in the case of human kind, the doctor does expect to see his patient before he can diagnose and prescribe a cure.

A most important thing for the novice is to develop a "stock sense" and that is

by no means easy to acquire. Generally speaking it is an inborn intuition. That does not mean that the observant and keen animal breeder cannot by experience develop a quality which is similar if not actually the same.

One of the most remarkable breeders I ever knew was a bird fancier who could sense that something was wrong with a particular bird before there were any outward signs of trouble to the less experienced eye. The result was that he could often prevent disease or at least minimise its effect before the bird was really ill. The result of this was that the mortality rate of his pets was extremely low.

With cats one can also develop this sort of extra sense which causes one to realize that all is not well with a particular animal although there is nothing definite on which to place a finger and then to say, "This is what is wrong."

Cat Periodicals

Only last week I received a letter from a novice deploring the fact that there is so little written material to help the beginner and asking that more should be provided. Up to a point I do agree that more could be written to help the novice, but I would also add a question, "Where?" My knowledge of the financial side of the running of periodicals dealing with animals is very limited, but I strongly suspect that those who do publish such literature do not grow fat on the profits. Editors and publishers would be only too happy to increase the size of their magazines provided that they could increase their circulation and thus cover the additional costs. But, by and large, animal fanciers are not great buyers of periodical literature dealing with any particular animal.

Another point to remember is that many of the most expert cat breeders do not wish to become journalists. They are always ready to help with their advice, but the dreary task of sitting down to write an article on a particular subject so

appals them that they never make a start. The more's the pity, for many of them have long years of experience behind them which, if put into the written word, would be both informative and interesting.

There are a few good old hacks about who can turn out an article month by month. Perhaps you know one of these. If you do, I suspect I do, too, and I can assure you that he never feels that he has written the last word on any subject.

Know Your Pets

To conclude, I think that a piece of advice I ought to give to any novice cat breeder, or merely cat owner for that matter, is that he should learn to know his own pets. They are individuals with particular characteristics, and if you learn these you will be in a position to know better when things are not quite right. If the time comes when you can see these slight alterations in normal behaviour, you are on the alert for anything that may go wrong. But should your suspicions prove correct, do be reasonable and don't rush full pelt into drastic remedies whose effects you may not know.

If you have a queen and you know when she is about to come into season before the stray tom down the road knows, you are at last developing "stock sense." By then you are no longer a novice.

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My Exports for 1953

By ELLA B. MARTIN

NOW that we have turned into a New Year, I find it interesting to "turn back the pages" and to remember the various cats and kittens that I have selected for overseas breeders over the past twelve months.

The year 1953 started off with a rush of Manx orders. Having already sent Laxey, a very beautiful Tabby kit to Dr. J. Melton, of Dallas, Texas, and Kernish, a little jet black female, to Mrs. Bochlow, their arrival was, I think, responsible for the departure of the following kittens, all of which went at various intervals during the early part of the year: Manx Maiden, Dhoon Snowflake, Monarina, Braddan Betty, Ben-my Chree, Bellabeg Beau, Pet o'Peel, Veg Veen, Michael o'Man and Millish o'Man. These Manx kits were all from the Isle of Man and all spent some days with me prior to departure for U.S.A.

What delightful kittens Manx are! Dhoon Snowflake (owner Mrs. Lovett, Dallas) stayed here a month before she left me and she was absolutely charming. She has won well for Mrs. Lovett at a recent show, and I hope will turn into a good breeder. Mrs. Hoyt has Braddan Betty. She sent me a lovely picture of her, taken after her arrival. She was looking in very fine shape. Betty was a prize winner at one of the I.O.M. shows which I had attended, and she had her full quota of real Manxiness!

Veg Veen and Millish o'Man were both red tabbies bred by Mrs. Kneal of Douglas. Mona Minx and Texas Queen were their dams, and it is interesting to note that these two mothers (mother and daughter) had in turn held the Island Cup for Best Rumpie in Show.

Orders were also received for Silver Tabby and Blue-eyed White Manx, but it was not possible to get these of a

quality high enough for export. While any number of very good type parti-coloured kittens are available, it is really very difficult to get the solid colours without any white markings, and when the latter are available, it is often necessary to take them at a very tender age. It is general practice in the Island to part with the kits as soon as they are weaned; very sad, but very true, and again, with just a few exceptions, the parents are seldom registered, and often the sire is unknown.

Siamese Travellers

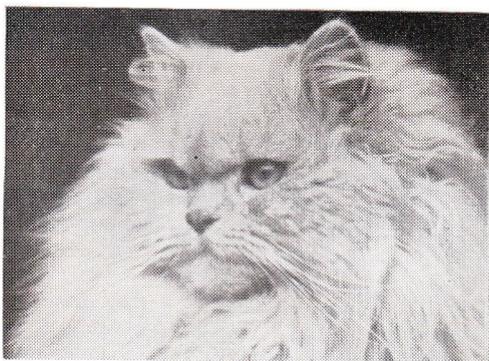
In January, Lt. and Mrs. Beaver, Albany, Georgia, ordered a Blue Pointed Siamese male to be a future husband for the little Bintang female I had already selected for them. This female was bred by Mrs. Davison, and the male sent was Mrs. McPherson's lovely Banchor Storm. He had an unfortunate journey due to peculiar delays en route, and Mrs. Beaver had an anxious time after his ultimate arrival. But he made a good recovery, and it is a disappointment to me that Storm has not yet appeared on the bench. He was an exceptionally typey kitten when exported.

Mrs. Dobyns, of New Orleans, received Inwood Shooting Star, and was joined later by my own Lemling Pym. Star was a daughter of Inwood Lou, mother of the famous Inwood Shadow, and a letter from Mrs. Dobyns tells me that she is delighted with both kits. At about this time, on behalf of Mrs. McGregor, I sent Inwood Sky to Norway, and for Miss Langston, Serena and Faustino went to Mrs. Ohlin of Westerley, Rhode Island. Mrs. Ohlin was thrilled with the kittens, and they made the journey without any trouble or ill effects.

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

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The next consignment was the most difficult I have ever handled. Wong and Jupiter were sent to Dr. Bibby, New Zealand. Dr. Bibby had left England earlier in the year, and the cats were left in the capable hands of Dr. and Mrs. Francis, at their Siamese "hotel" at Halstock, Somerset. Instructions were that Wong had to be mated prior to departure, and shipped if possible to reach New Zealand before the kittens were born.

Having shipped a good number of cats and kits to Australia, I am not so concerned to get the fastest ship, but to get the line that I know will give the kits the very best attention. This is not, as a rule, the fastest line. Mrs. Francis was more than helpful in co-operating, and luck was with me. I got the cats on board and they arrived one week before the kittens were born. Their condition was absolutely first class and Wong (bred by Mrs. Francis) had six perfect kittens.

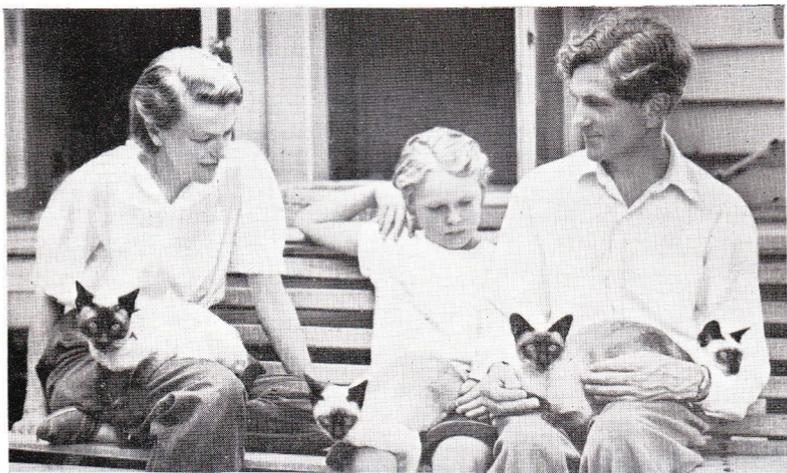
The ship's captain had become so attached to the two that he placed an order for a kitten with Dr. Bibby, and took possession of it on his next trip. It had been Dr. Bibby's wish that the cats should have everything in the way of

extras and comforts for their long voyage, and a crate of rabbits went on board and also a supply of fresh eggs for Wong. No doubt these all helped to keep the little pregnant puss well up to the mark in health. As Mrs. Francis wrote to me later "It was all a masterpiece of organization"!

Mrs. Buckley's Hook Chocolate Hero was the next of my exports. He went to join Russell Middleton's big cattery in Dallas. I believe Mr. Middleton has just given up breeding Chocolate Points and that Hero has recently changed hands. He was a very good kitten and I hope he has held well to type. His sire was Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama.

On behalf of Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb, Sayam Simba was sent to his friend, Mrs. Lucas Combs of Lexington, Kentucky, and his Briarry Sumach (C.P. by Suchard) to Mrs. Wendall Thompson, of Ossipee, New Hampshire. Mrs. Antoinette Sexton imported Prestwick Pengscylla and Holmesdale Kym to add to her well-known Frostland cattery in Arcata, California.

In October, Miss Sheppard requested me to send her Widdington Soloman off by ship from Southampton. I managed



Here is a happy picture of English Siamese exports comfortably installed in their new Australian home with Mr. & Mrs. John Reed, of Heidelberg, Victoria. The two adult cats are Holmesdale Krishna and Holmesdale Rose, both bred by Mrs. Gunn and exported by Mrs. Martin. The kittens are two of Rose's first litter.

to wangle a pass to get on board and see to Soloman's comfort personally. I spent half-an-hour with the ship's butcher, and was very interested to see the kennel arrangements on board S.S. Mauretania. It is so satisfactory to hand over written general care instructions and written feeding chart, etc., to the butcher. I left knowing that the kitten would be in very kind hands. He went to Miss Sheppard's client, Mrs. Dorothy Holmes, of Chelmsford, Mass., U.S.A.

The next kits to leave were Mrs. Statham's lovely Chocolate Point Beuchat Lynn and Mrs. Matthewson's Fernreig Zaru. These two went to Mrs. Lilian King and she was so pleased with both that she ordered two more. I later sent to her Holmesdale Caramello and Mr. Bigg's Quesi Giocoso. Mrs. King has already shown Lynn, and I understand that he has now got his Championship. Mrs. King's cattery is in Nutley, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Mrs. Aitken asked me to attend to the shipping of Bournside Black Wrack, and he made a record trip to Miss Branch, of Barbados. Unfortunately he arrived soaking wet from head to tail, and it transpired that his drinking bowl had

not been removed during flight. This was very disappointing, as he was in such beautiful condition when Mrs. Aitken and I left him with B.O.A.C. at the airport.

In November, Pristine Bamboo Boy (breeder Mrs. Priston) went to my client Mrs. Vaughn, Norwood, Rhode Island, and he stepped out of his carrier as if he had just been in it for a little sleep! In addition to being so elegant, "Bambie" has a gay disposition, and has found a secure place in Mrs. Vaughn's heart.

The year ended as it began—with a consignment of Manx. Mama and three daughters, Manxland Lavender, Iris, Myosotis and Dhu, joining Mrs. Betty Youngman's famous Manx cattery. And here I must record my gratitude to Mr. Kerruish, of the Isle of Man, who so kindly helped me to get this little family and vetted them before they were sent off to England.

My best wishes go to all these cats and kittens which have passed through my hands in the course of the past year. I think of them very often and it is always a delight to have news of them. To their owners overseas, I wish "Good Luck, Good Showing and Good Breeding!"

BACK NUMBERS

We frequently receive inquiries from readers here and overseas as to the availability of back numbers of this Magazine, which is now in its sixth year. For the convenience of those who may wish to obtain odd copies to complete their sets we give below details of the present stock position. An asterisk against the date indicates that we have fewer than six copies of this particular issue.

1949. January, February, March, April, June*, July*, August, September, October, November, December.

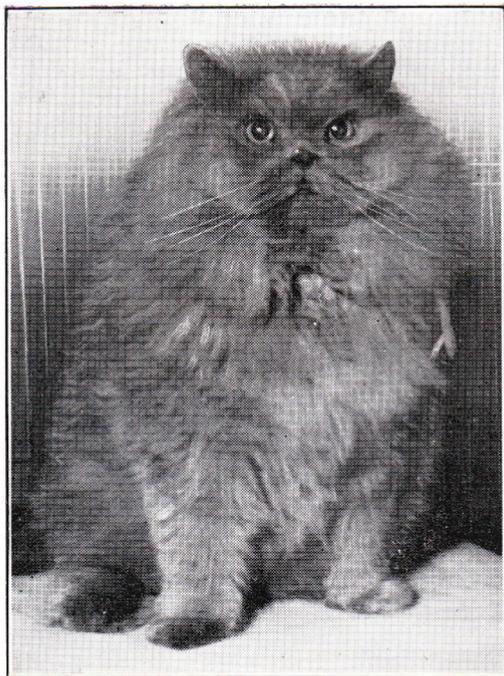
1950. January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November, December*.

1951. February, March, April, May, June, July/August, October, December.

1952. February*, March/April, May*, June, July, August, September*, October, November*, December.

1953. All 12 issues except February.

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Sport & General

FINE WIN BY NOVICE FANCIER

The most surprised and delighted exhibitor at the recent Southern Counties Show was unquestionably Mrs. M. B. Meadows, a novice breeder of Siamese from Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincolnshire, whose entry RAMILLEY POOH BEAR was voted Best Exhibit in Show. An exquisite and typey little female by Shalford Simon ex Ramilley Honey Belle, Pooh and her brother Simonson were born in May 1952. In an interesting letter to OUR CATS, Mrs. Meadows revealed the difficult time she experienced in rearing the two kittens and acknowledges the help she obtained from Mr. P. M. Soderberg's book on care and management. She purchased Simon and Honey, the parents, with a view to breeding top quality Siamese and it was a great blow to her ambitions

(continued at foot of next page)



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.

Season's Last Show

ONE of the coldest days of the winter greeted the Golden Jubilee Championship Show of the Southern Counties Cat Club on February 2nd at the Royal Horticultural Hall. There were very few absentees among the exhibits and the gate was excellent, due no doubt to the advertising in the daily press. However, I heard afterwards from a number of the "regulars" they were unable to come owing to colds, and a natural reluctance to "turn out" in the bitter wind.

Mrs. Speirs managed the Show with her usual attention to detail and the Committee were delighted with its success. Mrs. K. R. Williams has managed all the Club's other post-war

shows and each one has been a financial success, praise be, because it has enabled the Southern to book this expensive show hall.

Over 362 exhibits made a grand finale for the last Championship Show of a brilliant season, and one which appears to have been very free from infectious illness. Best Exhibit in Show, Ramillee Pooh Bear, a Seal Point Siamese female by Shalford Simon, was bred by a novice, Mrs. Meadows of Lincolnshire. (The story behind this fine achievement is told on another page of this issue). Best Longhair Cat was Mrs. Crickmore's Ch. Thiepval Snowcloud, a wonderful win for a female nearly seven years of age.

Best Longhair Kitten award went to Miss Langston's Chinchilla male Fidelio of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington; Best Shorthair Kitten, Mrs. Ferguson's Seal Point Siamese male Sayam Narayan by Ch. Prestwick Penglima Pertama; Best Neuter, Brigadier Rossiter's Pr. Bellever Silver Carnelian; Best Longhair Neuter, Mrs. Minter's Hendon Orlando. The rosettes for these major awards were presented by Madame Ravel who kindly came from Paris to judge.

(Continued from opposite page)

when Simon was killed on the road before his first kittens were born. Then Honey developed internal trouble which necessitated having her spayed. Mrs. Meadows continues: "Pooh and her brother have brought me some compensation. Unfortunately, after four years of breeding and just as I am beginning to see some worthwhile results, we are moving soon to Baghdad. I shall take my five Siamese with me and continue breeding. It will be interesting to see how the cats fare in Baghdad. My hardest task as a novice breeder has been the finding of good homes for my kittens. Since we moved into the country I've been horrified at the harsh treatment country cats have to suffer."

An excellent idea, especially for breeders unable to be present, was that on payment of 1s. a list of the first four winners in each class was posted the day after the Show.

Mrs. Dadd's Seal Point male Sabukia Scatterbrain by Ch. Killdown Jupiter was awarded his second Challenge certificate. In Blue Longhair males Miss Langston's Ch. Dylan of Allington won again. He was remarkably sound in colour for early February. In Blue females Mrs. Douglas's sweetly pretty pale queen Ufcombe Sunrise by Mrs. L. Davies's Gem of Pensford was the winner. Mrs. Mayne's Cream male Redwalls Bath Oliver completed his Championship.

28 Blue kittens made a brave array with the consistent Thiepvál Paragon and Bayhorne Decima first again in their respective Open classes. Miss Page presented two newcomers by Ch. Thiepvál Wanderer, Woburn Sunray being first and Sunbeam second in the 3 to 6 months class. The first prize winners among 44 Seal Point Siamese kittens were Mrs. Ferguson's male already mentioned, Mrs. Varcoe's Sukianga Golden Madonna and Mrs. Udall's Blue Cross Ballerina. Mrs. Dallison's lovely Orange-eyed White Longhair Ch. Dalmond Damarette was awarded her fifth consecutive Challenge certificate and Mr. F. Tomlinson awarded her first in the Champion of Champions class.

This Show always has nostalgic memories for me as it was at the Southern I first exhibited in 1925 a Blue named Juno of Pensford. Even after all these years I remember vividly the excitement and delight. On the present occasion I had entered but did not take my Blue male Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. For such a young cat he has achieved all that one could wish for and I remembered the late Mrs. Slingsby's remark about exhibiting youngsters: "One can take a pitcher to the well once too often."

We owe our Show Managers a tremendous amount of gratitude for all

they have done to promote the wider appreciation of cats by organizing our shows so capably. I never leave a show without a feeling of appreciation for their services, whether I have judged, exhibited or enjoyed myself as a spectator. Blessings on all of them for all they do for their fellow Fanciers.

Herts. & Middlesex

The Annual General meeting of the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club on February 24th was delightful. No nominees were suggested for G.C.C.F. Delegates or Committee and it was obvious everyone present was well satisfied with the management of the Club. It required some courage to found a new Club in 1947 and organize a Show when the Fancy was struggling to its feet after the tragic War years. However, they have won through and the Chairman, Mrs. J. L. A. Price alluded with satisfaction to the fact that the Club now has a balance on the right side. Mr. Dunks (Honorary Secretary) bravely consented to this position when its finances were "shaky" and credit is due to him for all his hard work to make it solvent; also to the enthusiastic Committee and their bright ideas.

The meeting closed with tea, cat chats and an interesting address by the President, Miss Kit Wilson, on animal welfare and the good work of Our Dumb Friends' League with, of course, particular reference to its work on behalf of unfortunate felines. I was in sympathy with her when she stressed the importance of urging owners to neuter males and spay females when they intend them for pets, especially when they are of little value for breeding purposes.

R.C.T.B. & B.T.S.

The A.G.M. of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society took place in London on March 2nd. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Mrs. J. M. Newton, announced that the Club had 124 members and the

balance at the bank was approximately the same as last year. Over 40 Club spoons had been awarded and classes guaranteed at all the Championship Shows. Only about a quarter of the Society's members were present, probably due to the cold day and a heavy fall of snow but it was an agreeable meeting which closed with the usual tea.

"Abby" Devotees Assemble

The preliminary notices sent to the 101 members of the Abyssinian Cat Club were informative and made the A.G.M. especially interesting. They included a letter from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. W. Basnett, a list of Abyssinian cats and kittens exhibited at the 1953-4 shows with the order in which they were placed by the judges; the names and addresses of members and the usual statement of accounts.

The A.G.M. on March 3rd was a pleasant meeting. Mr. Basnett was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Delegate to the G.C.C.F. and Mr. Sidney Denham Chairman; a happy choice as both have done so much for the variety. Mr. Basnett pointed out the War nearly eliminated Abyssinians but they have regained their rightful place and are showing every sign of improvement. But it is a variety in which faults reappear and to eliminate them will probably require some years.

The News Sheet edited and circulated by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Denham has always been a source of pleasure and interest and incidentally a source of expense to them as it has been entirely voluntary. In future, however, it will be issued to those who register with Mr. and Mrs. Denham at a cost of 5s. per annum. This enjoyable meeting closed with tea and the usual exchange of views and news.

The lovely catalogue of the Empire Cat Club Ch. Show held on February 4th and 5th at the Hotel Belmont Plaza, New York, has been sent to me by the

second Vice-President, Mrs. Albert Alloy. It is the size of our weekly illustrated papers and printed on excellent paper. I liked the whole page advertisement of Mrs. Alice Buchanan with an attractive photograph of a child nursing a Siamese, and its line drawings of the same variety, especially the one with a kitten perched on a post with the caption: "Scratch pole trained." A number of Siamese bred in England were exhibited and Miss Agnes Rand's Astras Morris Amanda by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo and Morris Una bred by Mrs. Richardson became a Double Champion. Her half sister Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Roose's Morris Annabel of Millbrook came second to her. There were two British bred Seal Point males in the Open class, Briarry Mata Pan and Silken Pedro of Bridle Trail, but this class was not marked. The Longhair section gives a general description of the all-round perfection to be aimed for in its varieties. The Shorthair section contains a detailed scale of C.F.A. points for Siamese, Abyssinians, Manx and other Shorthairs.

A Magazine from Denmark

The March issue of the Danish magazine "Racekatten" edited by the President, Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth of Copenhagen, depicts some interesting photographs. Mrs. J. M. Newton, who appears holding a lovely Longhair, will be judging at the Ch. Show on March 19th, 20th and 21st at Grundtvigs Hus. Mr. Etienne Braeckman, from Belgium, will judge Siamese and other Shorthairs, and Mr. Konrad Hirschman from Germany will also judge. Pleasant memories were evoked at the group of Mr. Karen Smith, Mrs. Poulsen, Mrs. Lorentzen and Mrs. Runsunen holding Int. Ch. Morris Sable, Int. Ch. Twinkle of Pensford, Mascot of Pensford and Princess Pussy of Jorna. Two other lovely photos were Sarisbury Aphra and a pair of Chinchillas bred by Mrs. Hacking.

And Another from Norway

The Norwegian journal "Vare Katter" is also very attractive with its red cover and photograph of two Tabby kittens in black and white. The diagram of the variation in five types of tabby markings is most interesting and familiar to everyone who has observed Tabbies. Bircotte Modest Maidie, bred by Miss Sherlock, looks sweet as she stands up perkily in her pen after her triumph at the Oslo Show.

Mrs. Svenningsen, the President, edits this journal which I am sure represents a tremendous amount of work.

I doubt if cats have ever before had so many journals and books devoted to them. I remember when some of the senior members of our Fancy prophesied that each of our three post-war cat periodicals would have an early demise, but the most recently published OUR CATS is in its sixth year, and its circulation still going in the right direction, particularly overseas. The other two periodicals also appear to flourish and then we have our official organ *Fur and Feather* which has been in existence for decades.

A Welcome Service

Mr. and Mrs. Dunks with their new venture, "Animal Services," have started something which we really needed. How reassuring for owners living in the provinces to know their cats will be met by someone reliable and conveyed to their destination, or to any other railway termini if they have to cross London. We all want to expedite the journeys of queens travelling to be mated and the delays nearly always occur when owners live far from London and cannot convey them from one station to another.

Mrs. Dunks will also take kittens to be speyed or neutered and make arrangements for their travelling to any part of the world. This entails knowledge which she is rapidly acquiring. For example, although one can send cats or kittens by air to many countries one cannot do so to Australia or New Zealand,

the reason being, I believe, that the plane touches down in countries where rabies or other diseases exist which might be communicated to humans. One cannot even have an animal flown on the seven hour non-stop journey across the Tasman Sea from Australia to New Zealand but the reason for this I was told was because the facilities in the planes are not suitable. The alternative is the 4 or 5 day voyage by ship.

I did hear of one kind breeder "baby sitting" when a queen was just about to have her kittens and her owner had an important engagement. I did not ask Mrs. Dunks if she would do this but both she and her husband are sincere cat lovers and "Animal Services" has already won appreciation and gratitude.

In last month's notes on the Notts. and Derby Show, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kitchen's winning Seal Point Siamese female Maharan Perki was incorrectly referred to as a Blue Point. The winner among Blue Point females, also a Challenge Certificate winner, was Mrs. A. Hargreave's Laurentide Corona.

The early part of this year is expected to see the opening of the first P.D.S.A. Dispensary in Australia. Other expansions of this fine service are under consideration now that the uncertainties created by the findings of the Parliamentary Committee on Licences (Veterinary Surgeons Act 1948) have been resolved.

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OUR CATS MAGAZINE
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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.

On Catgut

I read in a newspaper some time ago a letter from a cat lover protesting against the use of cat-gut for stringed instruments and suggesting that its use put a premium on cat killing. Is not this a mistaken idea ?

Catgut is not made from the intestines of the cat, and never has been. Actually, the word is said to be a corruption of "kitgut," "kit" being an old-time word for fiddle. Catgut is manufactured from the intestines of sheep and sometimes goats which have already been killed for food.

When is a Kitten ?

A kitten ceases to be a kitten according to show rules when it has reached nine months. Does this mean that a kitten over nine months is an adult ?

From the age groups given for kittens at shows it certainly looks as if a kitten suddenly becomes adult at nine months, but, in fact, this is not actually the case. A cat at nine months is still a kitten, and for most breeds is too young to produce a family. Some Siamese, however, are exceptionally precocious in this respect. By the age of nine months a kitten has not finished growing. A Siamese might be three-quarters full grown at nine months, a Longhair usually reaches the same state of physical development at twelve months. Cats are normally fully grown between fifteen and eighteen months. Perhaps nine months should be regarded as the beginning of adolescence.

Material for Trays

In a flat it is often difficult to obtain earth for a cat's sanitary tray. What is the best material to use ?

Perhaps the best material depends upon your circumstances. If you are always about the flat and can empty the tray as soon as it has been used, newspaper as a filling has much to recommend it. If you do not want to clear up several times a day, peat moss is absorbent, but quite a lot will be scratched over the floor. Recently a stone-like substance was advertised in OUR CATS. This was very efficient, was easily swept up if it got on the floor, but its weight made carriage rather expensive. Some cat owners use white sawdust which is not too difficult to obtain but has its disadvantages with Longhaired cats. Why not try the lot and see which you like best ?

Litter Limits

How many litters is it safe to allow a queen to have during any one year ? Should she be allowed to mate every time she calls ?

Normally most queens can rear satisfactorily two litters a year, but to expect a queen to do more is certainly asking for trouble. If you work it out, roughly nine weeks covers the period of gestation with another eight weeks to rear the family. Thus three litters would account for about fifty-one weeks in the year. No queen should be kept breeding all that time or the kittens will lack stamina because the queen herself becomes run

down. No, two litters are enough for any queen, and many queens produce better kittens if they have only one family a year. Thus the answer to the second question is: No, a queen should not necessarily be mated every time she calls. Twelve weeks after the birth of a family is soon enough for the next mating. Let us hope that during the winter the queen will not call at all.

Registration

I recently sold a kitten to a fancier in the U.S.A. who has now written to ask if I will send the registration numbers of the cats in the pedigree back to the great grand-parents. How can I obtain these numbers?

When kittens are sold abroad, it is usual to provide with them a certified pedigree obtained from the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. Registration

numbers of Longhaired cats can be obtained from Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, Secretary of the G.C.C.F., 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey, and in the case of Siamese from Mr. K. J. Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey, the Assistant Secretary. There will be a small fee of half-a-crown for this service.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

This is the busy period of the year for subscription renewals. Will readers therefore please help us to economise in office work and record-keeping by responding promptly to the first application for renewal? Any change of address should also be notified promptly.

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Bo'sun Afloat Again

Being a further—and probably the final recording of the adventures of our Sailor Siamese by DEE BLACKBURN

ONE day I saw Bo'sun on the garden wall very much intrigued with something below. "Intrigued" is an understatement. He was positively drooling. On investigation I discovered Wellington in the adjoining garden obviously giving Bo'sun a lesson on how to catch a pigeon—prize pigeons no less—from the coop in which Bo'sun had the hectic experience I recounted in last month's instalment.

I called quickly to Skipper George who managed to save the poor bird with only a slightly damaged wing. George claims it must have been Wellington's second catch as his tummy was carrying a suspicious looking bulge and he seemed in no hurry to kill his prey. We're convinced he was trying to show his timid cousin how it was done. Bo'sun, of course, being a bit of a sissy on land was most impressed by the display and much annoyed at our interference.

While Wellington was with us, Bo'sun lost his sweet and affectionate manner toward George and me. He resented the fact that we babied him and appeared not to want any attention from us in Wellington's presence. Only at night when lights were out would he even pretend he knew we existed. We can't help but feel he feared ridicule from his independent cousin.

Every day I used to put the two of them in my large market basket and take them down to the rocks where we bathed. What fun they had!

Some time after Wellington joined us our servant came to us with the news that she overheard the man next door saying that ten of his prize pigeons were missing and that my cat must have eaten them. My cat? If he only knew what *my* cat thought of pigeons. However, the servant added that the man threatened to

put poison around on the ground to prevent the loss of any more. Woe is me!

Wellington and Bo'sun were once more confined to their long leads in the garden. As soon as George could get to see the man he offered to pay for the missing pigeons, and begged him not to be so rash as to poison the cats—particularly as one didn't belong to us. Our neighbour then confided that only two were missing actually, the other eight apparently had flown to another farm close by to get away from the danger, and he was sure they could be coaxed back. He wouldn't accept any money in payment and assured us that he wouldn't dream of poisoning our cats.

When we knew there was no more danger, we let the boys off their leads—but from then on they never left the garden. We think they didn't realize their leads had been removed!

When George's mother visited us from England, Wellington made another conquest! The first morning after her arrival she woke up to find Wellington's head alongside hers on the pillow. From then on he alternated nights with the cook and Mrs. Blackburn. We're sure Wellington thought she might be another cook and wanted to show no partiality in that direction.

When Wellington's holiday was over it was a very sad Bo'sun he left behind. He was so lonesome when his pal departed. He looked and called for him for several days. As often as possible we'd take Bo'sun to visit Wellington at his own home and then there was always a grand reunion.

Fortunately, we were soon to go aboard again to live. The day finally arrived. We sailed Mary Hillier to the little cove near our villa and when all our gear was once more aboard we took Bo'sun down

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[Continued on page 36]

to the shore. When he saw our dinghy he squealed with delight—jumped some five feet into it from the beach and kept mewling to be off. When he saw Mary Hillier swinging at her anchor his enthusiasm knew no bounds.

He could hardly wait to get alongside—and then leapt aboard—a dangerous distance—dashed below making the most peculiar sounds—sounds we had never heard from him before. He hopped up on the berths and rolled over and over again looking at us with the most pleased expression that could only mean “It’s wonderful to be home again!”

This is the Life

Cousin Wellington was completely forgotten and Bo’sun became his dear affectionate self once more. There is no doubt that he loves seaboard life and is a much more contented and happy animal afloat.

He was delighted when we set sail for Palma. When we brought the ship alongside the quay for mooring he made no attempt to go ashore as he usually does when we make port. Nor did he leave the ship for some four or five days thereafter. He’d had enough of the land.

And now we are in Algiers, North Africa. We’re moored out on a buoy and Bo’sun is as “happy as a bug in a rug.” We take him to the Club Restaurant occasionally for meals and there he is presented with the choicest bits of chicken, lobster, steak and fish with the compliments of the manager to Monsieur Chat—meaning Mr. Cat.

Algiers is one of the most fascinating and exciting ports at which we’ve called. We love it. All the Arab men are dressed in typical Sheik of Araby robes and turbans—and the women wrapped up in yards of white drapery with their heads and faces completely covered except for one eye.

The city of Algiers itself is unbelievably modern in spite of the old world appearance of its large Arab population.

The French have done wonders here industrially and agriculturally. The farm produce is like nothing I have ever seen. Everything is in great abundance and variety. The irrigation plants and artesian well projects are an engineer’s dream. The climate now is exceptionally mild and we can still have our daily dip in the salty sea although it is almost Christmas.

Last week some friends of ours on the *M/y Starlena* arrived here from Palma. One of their guests who had never seen Mary Hillier asked if he might have a look below. As I was busy on deck at the time I told him I would join him in a minute or so. He went below but was back on deck in a split second saying “Good Heavens, what is that animal you have?” I answered, “Only our Siamese cat, why?”

His Appetite Changes

He said when he got into the cabin Bo’sun was asleep on the berth. Upon waking and seeing him he reared up on his hind legs, let out a soul-piercing growl and made ready to spring. Of course, George and I laughed, but the man said it was no laughing matter—that he’d feel pretty sorry for anyone who cared to tarry longer after seeing such an exhibition. The man was quite serious and obviously frightened.

We eventually formally introduced him to Bo’sun. He couldn’t believe such a wild and ferocious looking beast could actually be the sweet-tempered animal he subsequently discovered Bo’sun to be. That is the third time we have had evidence of Bo’sun’s watch dog tactics, so George and I feel we have an excellent protector in our baby who isn’t afraid of men, but terrified of pigeons.

For some unknown reason, Bo’sun’s appetite and tastes have changed remarkably since we’ve been in Algiers. He likes dumplings (suet dumplings), steamed pudding with treacle and—wonder of wonders—peaches and cream! There must be something in the North African air!

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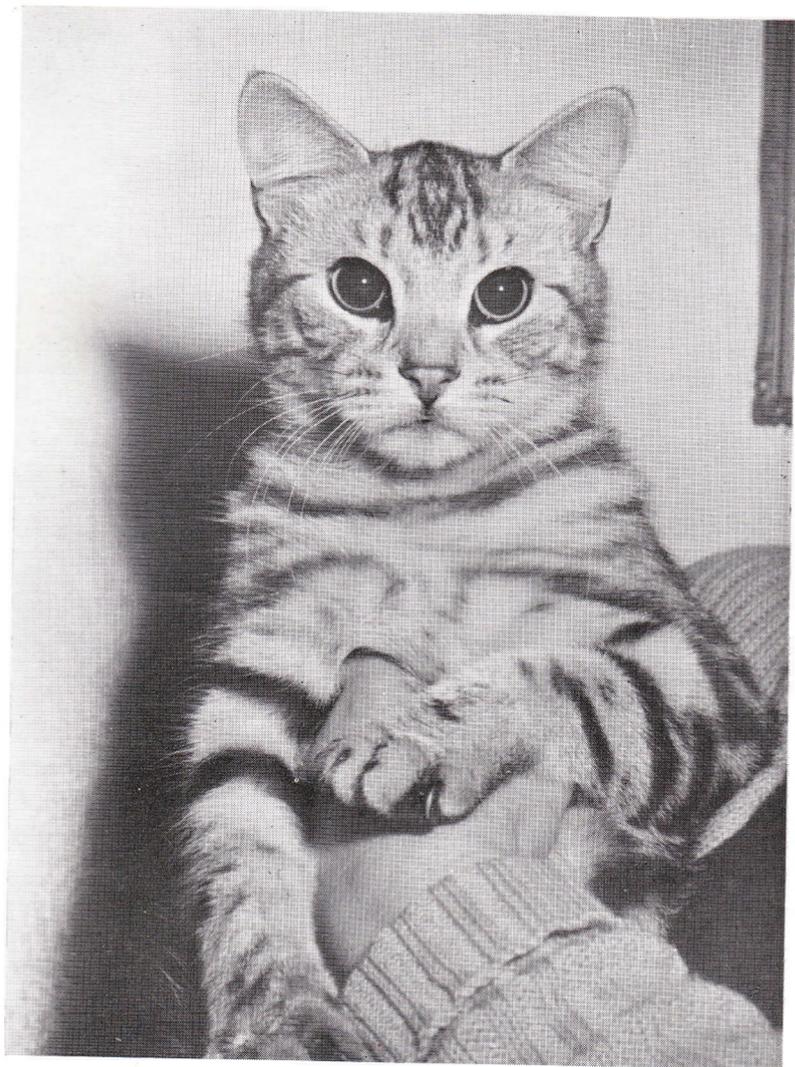
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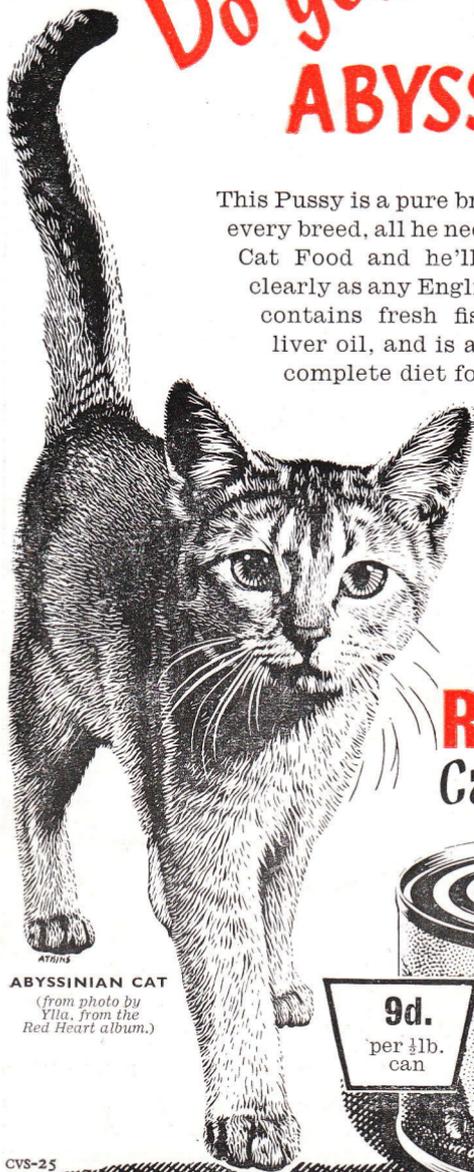
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