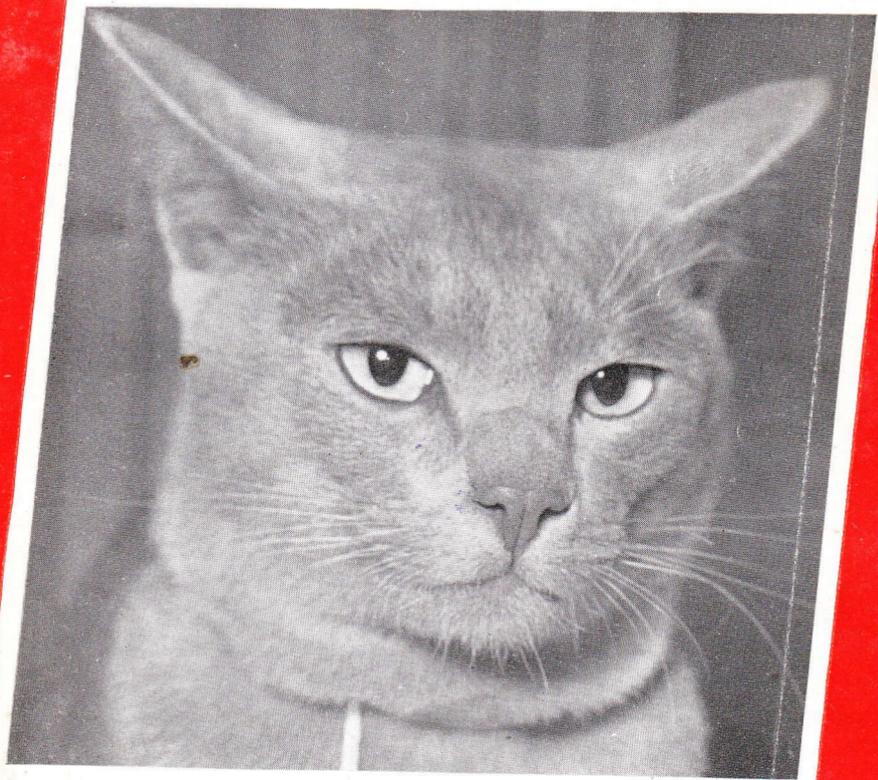


Our Cats

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ENTERTAINING
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"WE'LL GATHER LILACS . . .!"

From Mrs. E. Fisher, Somerset fancier, comes this fine picture of her PRAHA ALLEGRO AGITATO, bred by her and reported to be the only Lilac Shorthair male in England. She is hoping for an interesting event later on—a mixed litter of Lilacs and Lilac Points from this stud and her Blue queen Nadenka, both 1st prize-winners.—Photograph by Barratt's Photo Press.

OCTOBER 1955

1/6

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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. 7 No. 10

OCTOBER 1955

Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



We promised in our last issue to publish another picture of the up-and-coming Burmese variety. Here it is—of SEALCOAT BLUE SURPRISE and SEALCOAT KONYAK, litter brother and sister. Mr. V. Watson, Hon. Secretary of the Burmese Cat Club, has reported the appearance of a beautiful new blue Burmese which raises interesting possibilities for the future of the breed. The kitten on the right has the new colour. Photographer is Mrs. M. E. Smith, of Leicester, an enthusiastic worker for the Club and a leading Burmese breeder.

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A Pharaoh-like Devotion

By EDWIN T. BURROWS

HAVE you ever visited a ship of the Royal Navy in which no cat was borne upon the books? Of course you haven't! Be it a big, gaunt, vicious tom in a Bermuda-based frigate, or a soft, sleek she-puss who basks on the upper deck of a cruiser in Capetown, every ship's company will have its own "moggy."

That should not be taken to mean that a cat joins a ship by the expressed command of their Lordships of the Admiralty, as do lesser mortals. A cat is a singularly high-minded type of person, individualistic in the extreme. It cares not for the precise terminology of the Naval Discipline Act, the Articles of War, and all the other orders designed by the authorities in their infinite wisdom. It prefers to arrange the passage of its nine lives according only to the inclinations of its own feline mind.

A naval cat, desiring to change its place of residence, will spend many hours inspecting the various ships alongside the dockyard jetties. All sorts of factors have to be taken into consideration before the final choice is made; the degree of comfort offered by the cushioned mess stools, the possibility of a private hide-away with special reference to the proximity of the butchery and the personality of the butcher—pro-cat or anti-cat. Then it has to discover whether or not any other cat is carried as part of the complement and, if so, its sex. Lastly and most important is the necessity to "beware of the dog."

Having decided upon its future home, the cat will walk aboard. The fact that its presence might not be required

appears to make little or no difference to the cat itself, once it has made its decision. No doubt the thought does not even cross its mind. A cat has seen fit to join a ship and there's an end to the matter.

Cats, cats, cats. They criss-cross my naval comings and goings as often as a kitten's claws have criss-crossed my wrists. There was H.M.S. *Consort's* animal for instance. Across twelve thousand miles of ocean they transported their cherished cat, from Devonport to the Korean coast. At each port of call it would go ashore to stretch its legs, but it never failed to return aboard until the day when the ship called at Singapore on the homeward voyage. There it disappeared, never to be seen in H.M.S. *Consort* again. Many of the ship's company suspected foul play, as the fame of this cat as a mouser had spread throughout the Far Eastern Fleet, and it was well known that a certain submarine's crew had previously endeavoured to entice the cat aboard just before sailing time.

Line-ahead Formation

Then there was Airborne, a female of the species who for many years served in the aircraft carrier *Illustrious*. With the fixity of purpose that is a cat's most treasured quality, this tabby, whenever the weather was suitable, would arrive on the flight deck marshalling a squadron of kittens. These she would lead in line-ahead formation to the forward end of the deck, and there instruct her family in the art of cleanliness.

Nothing would move her from this position. A fighter patrol taking off

ten feet above, or a catapulted aircraft streaking past on her flank claimed none of her attention. To the frantic shoutings from the flying control platform on the ship's bridge, she would merely turn a quizzical face for a moment or so, and then return to the more important business of keeping her kittens in order.

Like many other cats I had the pleasure of serving with, Airborne had her own personal hammock which was made for her by the ship's sailmaker. During her confinements and nursing weeks, this hammock, by the personal permission of the commander, was allowed to remain in position night and day, action stations included.

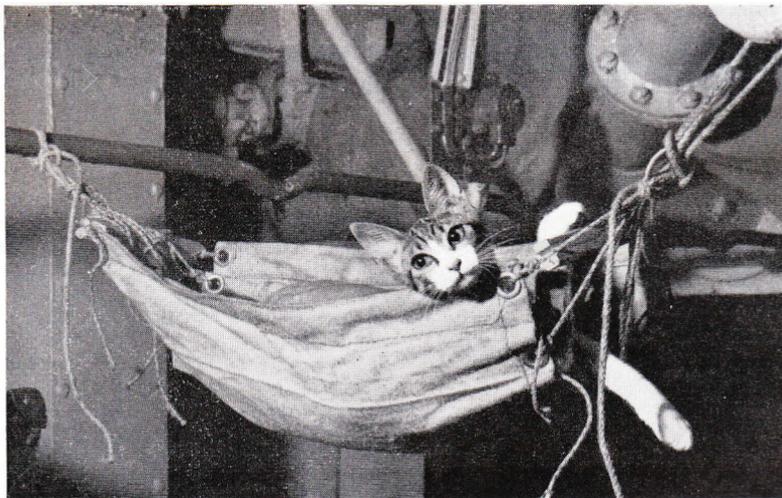
As far as I can recall, Airborne was mentioned by name on only one of the many official notice boards, but that was the all-important one labelled "Abandon Ship Stations."

Such is the Royal Navy's almost Pharaoh-like devotion to cats. And it

is so very understandable. Like no other animal, the cat imparts an aura of home and domesticity to the barest mess-deck. From the slow, dignified flexing of each paw to the final arching of its back, the cat epitomizes lazy comfort and well-being.

There is one in my office as I write. A large tabby, full of condensed milk, lies curled up in my in-basket. Sublimely unconscious of all the worries and problems written upon his paper cushion, he lies there and yawns at me, whiskers sweeping round in a magnificent arc.

Maybe he has known in his time all the excitement of an Oriental mouse-hunt, or perhaps he has voyaged only with the Home Fleet. But of the past and the future he hasn't a single care. Like all the British sailors he has ever adopted, home is where he finds it. He is happy, so who am I to question him?



Inflammation of the Bowels

By M.R.C.V.S.

NON - SPECIFIC, non-infectious inflammation of the bowels (enteritis) may be caused by various bacteria but *not* by a specific virus. It also may be caused by irritant poisons, heavy worm infestations and particularly by repeated doses of vermifuges ; chills, foreign bodies, impacted bowel, distemper, etc.

It sets up bouts of colic, depression, loss of appetite, some vomiting, thirst and straining to stool. The motions are usually diarrhoeic, may be coated with slimy mucus, or may be blood-stained ; whilst the temperature will range between 102° and 104° F.

Most likely there will be tenderness of the abdomen when it is palpated between fingers and thumb.

The simple treatment of mild enteritis (accompanied by diarrhoea) would be the administration by mouth of such tasteless powders as bismuth carbonate, tannoform, kaolin ; or a mixture of bicarbonate of soda, bismuth and prepared chalk. These would be finely powdered, equally mixed and tipped inside the cheek in small oft-repeated doses, immediately washed down by a spoon or two of milk or water.

These by their inhibitory action upon microbial invaders, or by their astringent effect upon the intestinal mucous membrane, considerably lessen the production of toxins and gases and tend to reduce the offensive nature and odour of the evacuations. More specific bacteriostatics for the intestinal tract are, of course, the chemotherapeutic drugs or sulphonamides (popularly known as

M & B), such for instance as Thalazole, Sulphamezathine, sulphathiazole, etc. These drugs are obtainable only on prescription and when simple remedies have failed to be effective it is time to call in a veterinary surgeon who would prescribe and administer appropriate drugs in correct dosage, and who might indeed upset the diagnosis tentatively arrived at by the owner.

Tablets of these drugs may be finely powdered, and either tipped inside the cheek, followed by a little milk, or be made into a soft paste with margarine or butter, and be smeared over the teeth, lips and paws. Pussy will soon lick it all up.

In resistant attacks, the veterinary surgeon may even have to give intramuscular injections of penicillin. Whether this antibiotic was proving effective or not against the condition would soon be manifest after a few doses.

For the relief of pain, straining and sickness a useful remedy is benzocaine, 2 grains in a capsule, given by mouth three times daily.

As regards the maintenance of nutrition and strength, it is probably wiser to withhold food for 24 hours, with the exception of white of egg in water ; then to go on to a light and easily digested diet such as boiled sole or plaice, and later raw minced beef and milk. To treat the cause (if known) would help to dispel the effect.

SPECIFIC INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS, also called cat-plague, infectious gastro-enteritis, and panleucopenia. It is *not* to be confused with feline distemper.

Infectious enteritis is a dread disease of the domestic cat, caused by an ultra-visible virus and fatal often to the extent

of 90 per cent. It is true that recent advances in therapy have reduced this mortality somewhat; and of course it is now possible to immunize kittens against ever contracting it. Cats of great sentimental or intrinsic value should certainly be inoculated; and all others indeed are equally entitled to this humanitarian procedure.

One attack of the disease confers a natural immunity if the victim is lucky enough to survive it. Those living for 3 or 4 days have a chance of survival. Generally, however, the cat dies within 24-36 hours of the first noticeable symptoms.

This is why treatment must never be delayed and also why quack remedies and advisers should be taboo.

Distressing Symptoms

The symptoms are fairly typical and appear suddenly. In the writer's experience the first noticeable symptom is vomiting which, together with the suddenness and the early death, often leads people to believe their cat has been poisoned. Appetite is lost early and emesis continues; there are great depression and later prostration, the cat sitting motionless with head down and quite usually seems to prefer to sit anywhere than in its bed—mostly in the sanitary tray.

Temperature is high at first (up to 105° F.) then rapidly falls, the cat becoming cold, listless and dehydrated. There are weak plaintive cries, obviously of pain, and very soon there is collapse and death.

The vomiting is reflex as the stomach itself is often quite unaffected. It is not uncommon to find constipation throughout; and if diarrhoea occurs it is the writer's belief this is due to a secondary microbial infection, possibly by coliform germs.

In contrast with distemper we find there are no catarrhal, pharyngeal or pulmonary symptoms and no oculo-

nasal discharge, all of which are so characteristic in that disease.

When enteritis occurs in a cattery or is suspected, the very strictest measures of isolation and disinfection must be carried out. Isolation of the patient includes isolation of its attendant, and the exclusion of flies and rodents. These can very easily carry infection from a sick cat to healthy ones, or from one cattery to another. The incubation period seems to lie between 2 and 6 days.

As for treatment, a veterinary surgeon must be called in, and he will probably administer one of the more powerful antibiotics. Few, if any, other drugs have any effect on the disease. Dehydration and collapse must both be combated, as the surgeon will direct.

When sickness can be allayed, or if it abates, one may commence the administration of Benger's Food suitably prepared. Egg albumen in water is also very useful. Both are sustaining and cause no vomiting. Liquid proteins can be injected into the rectum whence they are absorbed—if given very slowly and at blood heat.

Warmth—a Warning

The cat must be kept very warm by hot water bottles and blankets in a warm dry room, or can have an electric fire directed upon it from some distance away.

Never put a hot-water bottle next to the cat's body. It *must* be underneath a piece or blanket, etc., as if a cat is made uncomfortably hot it will become very distressed and leave its bed.





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.



VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

READING in your July, 1955, issue Mrs. Joan Thompson's interesting feature "Just Fancy," her reference to Sydney reminded me that as Chairman of the North Eastern Counties Cat Club, I have been very remiss in allowing so long a period to elapse before writing to tell you of my recent visit to Australia.

I spent a very interesting holiday there, starting in November, 1954, and returning home at the end of March this year. I lost no time in getting acquainted with the Federal Cat Club of Australasia, which has its headquarters in Sydney, and enjoyed a very pleasant evening in the company of its members. The Club Secretary, Mr. Don Burling, and his attractive wife entertained me to dinner at a later date at their home. I was charmed with their beautiful pedigree Chinchillas.

I enclose a copy of the *Cats' Digest*, which is the monthly publication of the Club. On page 3 there is an account of my visit to the Club and you will see that they made a special effort on my behalf. I was quite overwhelmed at such short notice (two days only) to have such a wonderful reception from representatives of so many Clubs, and to meet so many grand people prominent in the Australian cat world.

Unfortunately, I was not able to tell them very much about cat clubs in England as I am a newcomer to this fascinating field of activity. But I think I may say truthfully that I made

many friends who seemed to be very entertained and anxious to meet me again. They sent many kind messages to Mrs. Thompson, who has evidently made a very good impression, and though I have never had the pleasure of meeting this lady, I hope to do so one day, and hope you will convey to her all the messages of goodwill that were sent her.

Unfortunately I was not able to keep all my promises to visit the various catteries, due to my stay coming to a close, but I did manage a day with Mrs. Burnage, the Chairman of the Federal Club, and received wonderful hospitality from her and her husband, and was delighted to meet the famous Ch. Rex and her other prize Chinchillas. I also met Mrs. Donmall, the vice-President of the Southern Cross Cat Club, and was almost converted by her to become a Siamese cat addict!

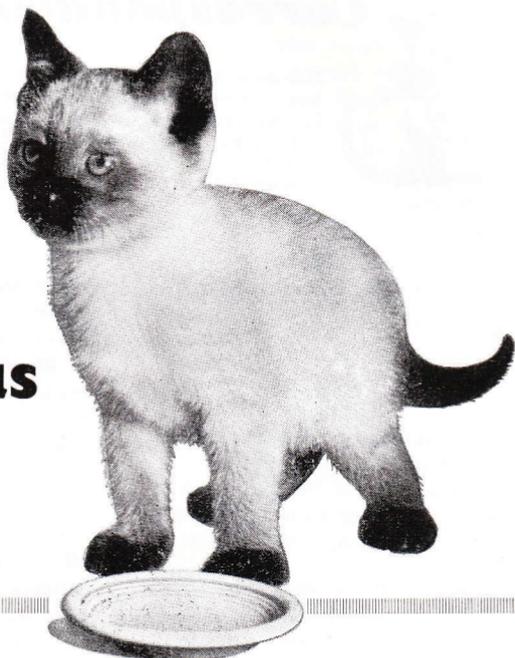
Later on, during a short stay in Brisbane, I visited the Brisbane Cat Club, and attended a very interesting meeting presided over by the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Betty Doulis. As usual, though I had attended the meeting with a view to getting information on how to run a successful club, in no time they had me on the platform talking about cats in England. Again I enjoyed wonderful hospitality at the homes of several of the members.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable experience, and I learnt a good deal, and will always carry happy memories of the cat lovers of Australia.

Mrs. J. M. Knapp,

Marton-in-Cleveland.

Protect
against
**Feline
Infectious
Enteritis**



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

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

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BRAND

**FELINE INFECTIOUS
ENTERITIS VACCINE**



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PINK CATS

Are you able to tell me anything about "pink" cats?

On holiday recently in Italy, visiting Fiesole, we spoke to a white cat and noticed that his legs and fur had a decidedly pinkish tinge. We were amused at this but thought it may be attributed to something rubbed into his skin. However, later on, just near Assisi, we saw another cat which looked white, but on stroking him there was no doubt at all this time—his face, legs and fur were pink.

Mrs. E. A. Glenny,
Hanworth, Middlesex.

AS GOOD AS A MEAL!

To suddenly stop getting OUR CATS would be like having to go without breakfast. It would not be fatal, of course, but much pleasure would be missing.

I have enjoyed your publication for some time now and have gotten quite a bit of knowledge from the various articles you have printed. So many of your English bred cats are so very lovely that it is sheer pleasure to gaze at their pictures. Besides, it keeps me very busy studying genetics, so that I, too, might breed animals to compare with yours. I breed Persian kits, Black, Cream, Reds and Torties, with Torties being my present ambition.

It is wonderful, too, to find news of American shows and breeders and bits of club news. I am a member of the Garden State Club of New Jersey. This sort of thing is the paste that cements our relationship.

Congratulations on a fine publication. Well worth waiting for it to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Long may you print!

Mrs. Mel Siskind,
E. Hempstead, New York, U.S.A.

HELP NEEDED

Can any reader please advise me? I have a beautiful little Siamese queen 12 months old, Margaretic Mei-Mei,

who to all intent and purpose is in perfect health. She eats well, plays and seems perfectly happy—but she leaks!



The little Siamese lady who "leaks!"

She is not a dirty cat and I have had advice, tablets and injections from three veterinary surgeons, but to no avail. Wherever she sits she leaves a little wet patch the size of half-a-crown. I am in despair and would do anything to help her.

Mary Bostock,
Lee, London, S.E.12.

RETAINED FOR REFERENCE

I have been a subscriber to OUR CATS for several years and having derived so much pleasure from it, I feel I should write you.

Not only have I enjoyed the many pictures of the excellent cats and the articles of general interest, but I have benefited from the many articles regarding breeding, illnesses common to felines and advice regarding their care. I started my cattery four years ago,

with no advance knowledge of cat breeding, and every article is read and catalogued for future reference.

Mrs. Marianne Talasnik,
San Diego 13, California, U.S.A.

SANDY THE PARK CAT

The enclosed photographs were taken by me recently in Egerton Park, Bexhill-on-Sea. They show Sandy and his home in the entrance to a disused air raid shelter.

The notices on the door give a clue to his history. They read :

- 1 To Visitors—I am the Official Park Cat and have lived here winter and summer for over 12 years. I am fed daily by the kind people of Bexhill ; R.S.P.C.A. keep an eye on my health. I am happy and content. I love the pigeons, all animals large and small and how I wish all of us would do the same. Then the world would be so happy. Let's try.
- 2 This notice enlarges on the above.
- 3 To all whom it may concern. I am all right and have a nice home with food and bed every night and do not wish to be " put to sleep."
- 4 I am rather old and can only eat cooked meat or fish, particularly cooked rabbit.

SANDY.

James Higham,
Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.



Sandy, the Park Cat, is seen (top picture) enjoying an al fresco meal. Underneath is Mr. Higham's picture of the entrance to Sandy's home in the disused air raid shelter, with the notices on the door.

All fanciers should read

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Reproduction

By A. C. JUDE

Our popular contributor on genetics responds here to the many requests he has received—mostly from novice breeders—for more information about the various aspects of reproduction. This is the twelfth article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

A CONSIDERATION that applies to the males of all domestic animals is that slowness of service is by no means necessarily an indication of infertility. It is true, however, that they are often associated, and notably so in animals which are too fat, or alternatively, in those which are going back in condition.

The best condition for breeding in males is a hard one produced by sufficient exercise to work off surplus fat, but favouring the retention of nitrogenous substances and vitamins. Far too many stud animals are kept in too close conditions. Exercise, and room to exercise, are essentials. It cannot be sufficiently stressed that with the male, as with the female, a rising condition is always more conducive to the proper discharge of the reproductive functions than a falling one.

Various drugs—opium, strychnine, cantharides, yohimbine, etc.—are sometimes used to increase the sexual desire of animals that are slow at service. Some of these act as irritants to the sexual organs, temporarily increasing the blood supply in these areas. While their employment in moderation under certain circumstances may be beneficial, their use in general is not recommended, as they are excitants that will ultimately

depress rather than increase the breeding-powers of the animal on which they are used.

Decisions for the use of any preparations of this nature must be left entirely to the veterinary surgeon attending. It is felt that considerable damage within a fancy can be caused by the use of drugs in any form. It is noticed that where the habit within a fancy increases, the amount of "difficult" breeding and losses increases in proportion. Especially in the case of males, only the fittest should be used, and by this we mean the naturally fittest. All others should be ruthlessly discarded from the breeding pen.

"Unsettled" Queens

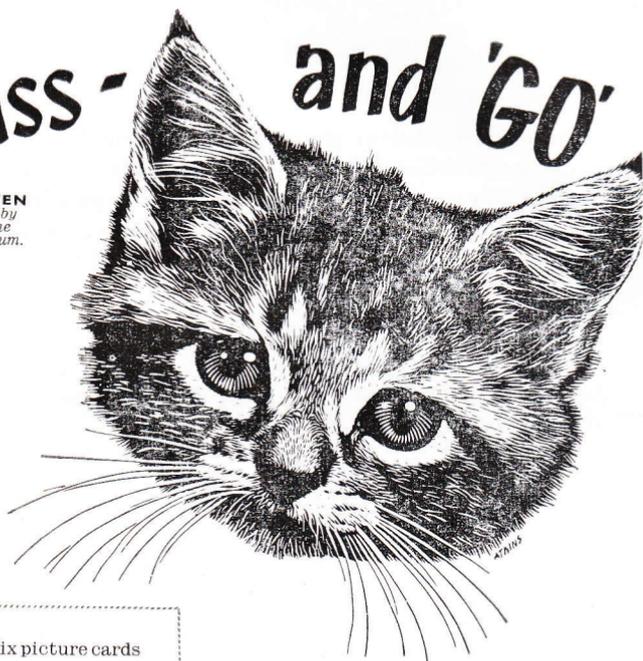
Slowness in service is sometimes physical in nature, due to strange surroundings, or to the nature of the control to which the animal is subjected. Males are in best condition for service a few hours after they have been fed, when they are more active than directly after a meal. It is sometimes noticed that queens who may have travelled some distance and who are introduced into fresh surroundings for their mating will become temporarily infertile.

It is said they have "gone off call" upon arrival, and have failed to breed. This however, is usually only a temporary result, and full fertility can generally be restored by favourable treatment in the way of diet, surroundings, and a

Puss - and 'GO'

TABBY KITTEN

—from photo by
Ylla, from the
Red Heart album.



FREE—six picture cards of lovely "Red Heart" cats in exchange for 6 Red Heart labels. Send labels with your name and address, in **BLOCK** letters please.

Your cat can't get the nourishment it needs merely from scraps, catsmeat and cods-heads. They're not a *balanced* diet. But "Red Heart" is fresh fish with liver and cod liver oil—in the right proportions, appetising, clean! Feed "Red Heart" and see *your* cat 'full of Go'!



RED HEART Cat Food

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generally soothing process. Under no circumstances should such a queen be forced or left with the stud unattended. If a supposed mating does occur, this may lead to misunderstandings, or even cause dangers which could have been averted.

It is of great importance that the male should be used regularly. It should not be used too much at one time or too little at another. It should be remembered that prolonged periods of disuse may be as injurious as over-use, since an undue accumulation of semen in the generative passages may result in back pressure and deleteriously affect the spermatogenetic capacity of the testes and possibly also interfere with the functional activity of the accessory sexual glands. The first ejaculation after an enforced long rest, has usually a high proportion of dead sperm, and it is therefore best to give a second mating in such cases.

Sterility Test

A stud animal may be capable of service and yet may be suspected of sterility. A test may be carried out by observation under the microscope of a small drop of its semen. Semen can now be tested not only for number, but also for the vitality of the sperm. The extent to which the semen turns acid to delicate reagents when kept at room temperature is an indication of its vitality. Tests of this sort can be made by veterinary or animal research institutes.

It is possible that any deficiency in spermatozoa may be a result of in-breeding. When deficiency is only temporary, as often happens, it is more liable to occur in early and in later life than in the middle period. With young males, it is distinctly inadvisable to allow service to occur too often, even though the service is fertile, as frequent service, when performed too early, is likely to result in the under-growth of the sire, and to impair its breeding capacity in

later life. Young males are most liable to suffer from under-feeding and over-use, whereas old males suffer from over-feeding and under use.

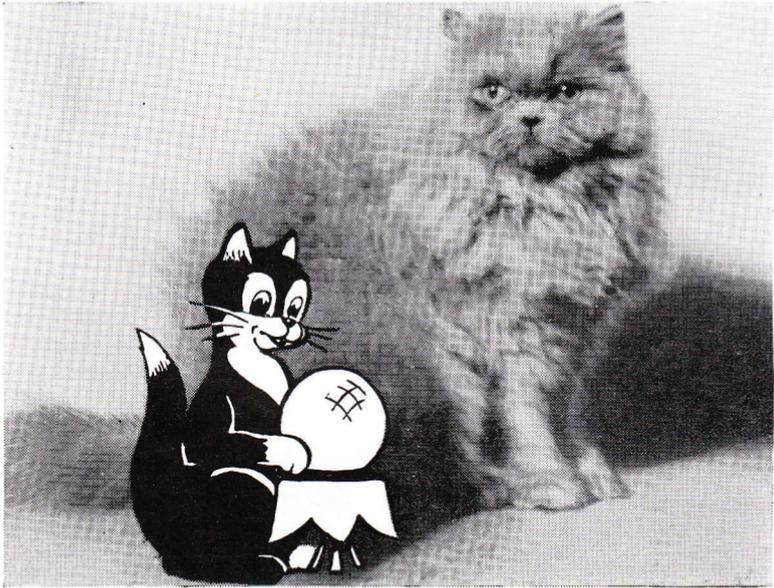
The age to which males are capable of breeding varies with the method of management adopted, and no hard and fast time can be stated in any species. It is only after the progeny of a male are seen and used in breeding themselves, that his breeding value is known, and an animal that survives this test may be kept as long as he is capable of producing good stock. The progeny will decide the future value of a stud. The chief requirements for continued good service are regular distribution of service times, regular and continuous exercise, and the prevention of excessive fat accumulation.

Effects of Castration

Various methods of castration are used which consist generally in the complete removal of the testes. Another method used in the case of some animals is the crushing of the spermatic cords in two places. This does not involve removal, or call for much skill, but quite often it leads to atrophy *in situ* probably owing to interference with the blood supply of the organ.

Castration not only ensures that only those specially selected will be used for stud purposes, but it also tends to improve some of the characteristics of the animal concerned. The later in life the castration is carried out, the less is the effect on those characters.

Mrs. E. Wilson, a Plymouth reader, writes to the *Sunday Express* as follows : " Can any cat lover tell me how to prevent my old cat sitting in the middle of the road ? Cars pass within inches of him. It makes no difference. He is not deaf. I am so afraid he will cause an accident.



TIBBY LOOKS INTO THE FUTURE

"I can predict a rosy future for my friend Tina," says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. "I don't really need to be a fortune teller—all I have to do is to look at Tina and I know that she'll be a champion."

Ladybay Tina is a beautiful Blue Persian, who actually owes her life to Tibs. Until she was six weeks old she was very delicate and her owner had to feed her with glucose and cream every two hours. Then she was given Tibs regularly—and she's never looked back!

Her owner, Mrs. Bradley of the

Ladybay Cattery, 20 Holme Road, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, told Tibby that she believes that Tina is one of the finest cats she has ever bred, and is convinced that the lovely coats and excellent condition of all her prize-winning cats are due to the regular use of Tibs.



*Famous
breeders
say —*

TIBS

10d. and 2/-

KEEP CATS KITTENISH

“Blues” in Name Only

By P. M. SODERBERG

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

ALTHOUGH the first pedigree cat I ever owned was a Longhaired Blue, and that was way back in 1927, it was a long time before I could summon up any real interest in this breed, chiefly, I think, because to me colour is so important in my general appreciation of a show cat.

That does not imply that I appreciate cats only from what I can see with my eye because temperament and character are of even greater importance than any show qualities, but when it comes to pedigree cats one has to be concerned with show points, and to my mind colour is something which either makes or mars a Blue if type is there to start with.

It was type which first attracted me to Blues, plus the fact that at a show some thirty years ago I saw a cat whose name I do not remember but whose type was excellent, her eye colour brilliant and her coat that most attractive lavender-blue, all of which together for me make the perfect Longhaired Blue.

Over the past few years I have bred several Blues who have done well on the show bench, but I have not really been satisfied with any of them because I have not produced the colour I wanted and certainly I have tried hard enough and shall still go on trying.

That several of these cats have become Champions, and have also upon occasion been Best in Show, is proof of their quality when compared with other cats of the same breed, so perhaps I ought to feel

satisfied. The fact remains that I am not, and I should like some of the big breeders of Longhaired Blues to do something. I doubt if I shall ever achieve what I want and would consider almost perfect, because as I want to keep several breeds at the same time for the interest it gives me to do this, I am unable to concentrate on breeding Blues. In fact, I shall only keep one breeding queen at a time.

Those breeders who keep several queens can deal with this problem if they will take the trouble, and the object of this article is to persuade them to do so.

None of the Longhaired breeds shows better type than Blues, and probably it is only a few of the Creams and Blue-Creams that can equal them in this respect.

Their Failings

As I see it, and, of course, I may be wrong, the main points about the type of the best Blues is a short face with width between the ears, plus a neat, cobby body with bone of good substance. So many of the Blues I have seen excel in these qualities, but fail in other respects.

Size of ear is often disappointing, for although the ears are set well apart with real width of skull, the ears themselves are often inclined to be open, too pointed, and in many cases not as small as they might be.

Eye colour also varies very considerably, and perhaps some judges have in the past been too influenced by brilliant eye colour and have not penalized a cat for other defects as much as they might have done had they not been so impressed by this brilliance of eye.

I well remember Cyril Yeates saying to me some years ago, "I always find it difficult to pass over a Blue with big, round eyes of brilliant colour, and I always have to make myself go through the Standard step by step when I come across a cat of this sort." There has been no better judge of Blues than Cyril Yeates.

But it is when one comes to coats that I am so often disappointed, for so few breeders have succeeded in solving the problem by producing cats in this breed with light and really blue coats combined with deep orange or coppery eyes. Occasionally a pale-coated cat with remarkable eye colour does turn up by accident, but I for one would not admit that the coat was blue. Most of these unusual cats are grey and almost an ash grey at that.

On the other hand, there are many dark cats with good eyes as one would expect, for it is natural that there should be an association between pigmentation of coat and pigmentation of eye.

Something Lost

Actually, I only know two breeders who consistently turn out what I would call lavender-blue cats, and even they seem to have lost something in this achievement, although both are successful exhibitors. If I could only combine my good qualities with their beautiful coat colour, I should be very happy, but over the last seven years I have not succeeded on one occasion. If I have got the colour of coat I wanted, and it may not be the shade that everyone desires, I have only produced kittens which were good but certainly not "flyers." It has been the cats with the darkish but solid coats which have done the winning.

The Standard of Points asks for a coat which is uniform in colour right down to the skin, but when one gets an opportunity of looking at the fur near the skin, it is usually obvious in cats of medium colour that the undercoat is far too pale, and in light-coloured cats may be almost white.

For my part I should like to see breeders concentrate on colour and type of coat. I cannot see any valid reason why the excellent qualities of modern Blues should not be combined with these other qualities which are so important.

Best Fail in Coat

Has there been too much concentration on type and too little effort to get a cat that is honestly blue with the colour carried right down to the roots of the hairs? There are many breeders with far greater experience than mine who could give the answer to this question. The coat should be neither too harsh nor too woolly, yet some of the best Blues fail in quality of coat.

A real Blue is such a beautiful cat that it is a pity to allow it to become a battleship grey which never saw a splash of the blue brush.

Even if it took me a long time to appreciate Blues, I certainly like them now, but I should like to see them better and not standing still or, even worse, going back. I am convinced that the danger is real and not imaginary.

A small girl brought a cat for treatment to the Jarro Dispensary of the P.D.S.A. Whilst a small cyst on its leg was being treated it was noticed that the girl seemed very uninterested. So careful instructions were given by the officer in charge: "Tell your auntie to apply a weak solution of iodine to the affected part twice daily—night and morning." To make sure that the girl had taken this in she was asked to repeat it. After some hesitation she said: "Please, sir, I must tell my auntie to give the cat a 'good hiding' night and morning."



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

OVER 350 exhibits were presented to the fifteen judges officiating at the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club Championship Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on September 23rd.

Unfortunately, after nearly four months of glorious weather, it rained heavily the night before and on the morning of the Show. It cleared up before mid-day but the rain had an effect on the "gate" which was not so good as anticipated.

Cheers for the many sporting breeders who travelled so far to attend as spectators. Among these I noticed Miss Bull, all the way from Cheshire, Mrs. Douglas from Devon and Mr. and Mrs. Pullen with Pauline from Steyning near Worthing. Many lovely exhibits graced this, the first Championship Show of the season, so eagerly awaited and so enjoyable.

First of all, appreciative thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dunks who so capably managed it and who so willingly gave up many social engagements for several weeks to devote themselves to the work which the organization of a London All Breed Ch. Show involves. The judges were busy until mid-afternoon as usual and how casually we take their services which so often mean a considerable sacrifice in not showing their own cats and kittens which may be at the top of their form. However, they all looked very cheerful and carried on with their usual aplomb.

Now for some of the awards: Best Longhair Exhibit in Show, Mrs. Joan Thompson's Blue Longhair male Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous by Miss Langston's Ch. Dylan of Allington; Best Longhair Kitten, Mrs. Crickmore's Blue female Thiepval Enchanting by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous; Best Longhair Neuter, Mrs. Trevor's Chinchilla Arctic Snow; Best Shorthair Exhibit, Mrs. Waldo-Lamb's Burmese Chinki Golden Goddess by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee (she made history by being the first Burmese to achieve this honour in England); Best Shorthair Kitten, Miss Ann Codrington's Seal Point Siamese Watermill Trinkabella by Spotlight Troubadour; Best Shorthair Neuter, Mrs. Hooper's Seal Point Siamese Premier Behenta Yu Phin by Salewheel Simkin.

Among other outstanding wins were Major and Mrs. Rendall's Best Siamese with their Blue Point Siamese male Missellfore Ryken by Missellfore Kryki; 1st and Ch. to Mr. Richard Warner's

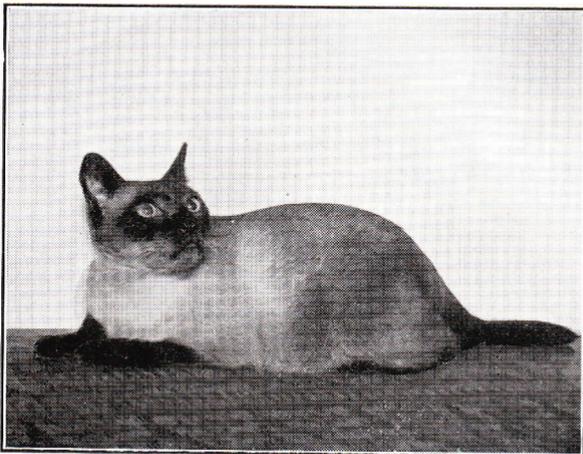
Miss J. Elfram
of "Birkendale,"
73 Taylor's Lane,
Sydenham, London,
S. E.26, writes :—

"My sister and I have been using Kit-zyme for our two Siamese cats for several years now and we find them excellent. Their coats are perfect and their general health very good.

The elder cat, La Tosca, a seal point, was taken by the R.S.P.C.A. from a house where she was unwanted and badly ill used and passed into our care, some six years ago, at the age of eighteen months. Her nerves

were in a bad state and she was thin and in very poor condition altogether. She is now well, happy and beautiful, and Kit-zyme has helped considerably to make her so. Our younger cat, aged three years, is Banchor Blue Ermytrude, one of the famous Banchor Blues and never ails, I'm glad to say, but her appetite is very small, so again Kit-zyme tablets are invaluable.

Both cats love Kit-zyme and will always come at once if we shake the jar and call 'sweets'. We were, for some years, Secretaries for the R.S.P.C.A. and, although we retired four years ago, we still handle a number of animals and we find that most cats love the 'pussy sweets'."



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Seal Point Siamese male Spotlight Troubadour by Bynes Romeo ; 1st and Ch. to Miss Worbey's Seal Point Siamese female Mopeing by Ch. Prestwick Penglina. In a class of twelve Abyssinians Mrs. Borst's Ambalynx Beau was 1st and Ch. Best British Neuter was Brigadier Rossiter's Silver Tabby Premier Bellever Silver Carnelian.

In Longhairs, Mrs. Fawell had a field day with 1st and Ch. to her Red Tabby Ch. Barwell Pedro by Ch. Hendon Lysander, 1st with her Red Tabby kitten Barwell Rex and 1st to his Tortie sister Barwell Rio by Ch. Bourneside Black Diamond. They were also first in a class of nine brace.

Congratulations to Miss Sheppard on completing her Championship with her Cream male Widdington Winterset ; to Mr. Wood on 1st and Ch. to his Blue Cream Bluecroft Crinoline and to Mrs. Beedell 1st and Ch. to her Brown Tabby female Magyar Petyes.

Longhair Winners

It was very nice to see Miss Lelgarde Fraser exhibiting again and winning 1st and Ch. with her lovely Tortoiseshell Verity of Sunfield. Mrs. Newbigging was 1st in Red Selfs with Syke Ruddy Glow. Congratulations also to Miss Langston 1st and Ch. with her Chinchilla male Tich of Allington and to Mrs. Lamb on completing her Championship with Finetta of Allington both by Ch. Flambeau of Allington.

Mrs. McLeod won 1st with a lovely Chinchilla male kitten Rab of Thame and Miss Bridges with a good female Spindrift Susie. Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd with three Blue daughters of Bayhorne Adam. Mr. Owen Jones came 1st with a Blue male kitten Sheepfold Astra in the younger class and Mrs. Joan Thompson 1st with Octavian of Pensford in the older class. Mrs. McVady was 1st and Ch. in Blue females with Gaydene Genevieve by Ch. Gaydene Rudolph, the latter so sadly and recently lost

through urinary blockage. Mr. Russell's brace of Blue Point Siamese kittens must have been exceptionally nice to win in a class of 16 Any Variety Short-hair Brace with Ruselon Fernishena Za and Ruselon Fernishena Zi by Ch. Fernreig Zyn.

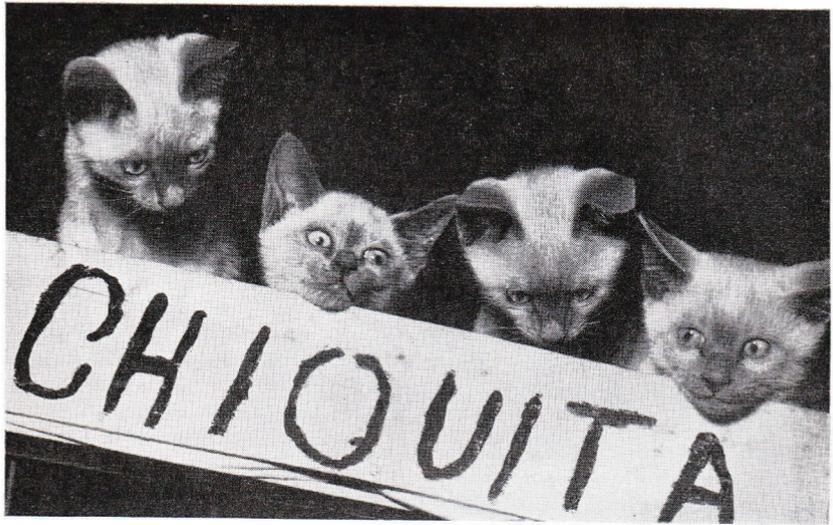
Visitor from Belgium

We are always pleased to welcome visitors from abroad. Mr. Van Leeuw had business engagements in England so he arranged his visit to coincide with the Show. He was impressed with the quality and quantity of the exhibits and the general air of good management and orderliness. His wife unfortunately could not accompany him but we hope to see her in the near future. She has always been a cat lover but never really intended to breed them until she purchased a Cream male kitten for a pet named Pitt de la Persane from Madame Chody of Brussels, who was giving up cat breeding for health reasons. This young cat was exhibited at Antwerp last November and was Best Exhibit in Show.

The sequel is that they have become really interested and have purchased a Blue-Cream wife for Pitt. Melody of Pensford arrived on August 6th and the next day they wrote : "Melody has taken possession of our house as if it had always been her property. As she is not afraid in the least of our Alsatian, who loves cats, we think that you also have a dog who is fond of cats."

Actually Melody had never seen a dog larger than my neighbour's White Pekinese and never been in contact with one. Handling kittens from birth and their being accustomed to domestic noises and freedom is conducive to a calm equable temperament.

Two members of the Club's Committee were regrettably unable to be with us—Mrs. L. Price (Chairman) and Mrs. Barron ; the latter "baby sitting" with an overdue, expectant mother cat.



A prize-winning family of Siamese babies from Norway.



Serafino

DIDOU DE LA LEZARDIERE, belonging to Mme Pierre d'Autremont, Blue Longhair daughter of Ch. Int. Myowne Gallant Homme, was Best in Show at Vichy, France, in July last,

From Mr. F. W. Pearce of Sydney, Australia, comes more news as follows :

" I have just returned from Brisbane, Queensland, and had a lovely time. The Royal Exhibition (equivalent to our Royal Agricultural Show) held their Show in August and it included a cat section, the first for 25 years. I was invited to make the awards.

" They had 66 exhibits, very creditable for a start. They have some very lovely Siamese and two fine litters were shown. Miss Williams took a team of Siamese and Miss Cawley a team of Longhairs to help out and they were well received. I had an easy time, no Challenge Certificates, no specials, etc. The cat section was a great draw, in fact, a sensation. When it opened they had to have a sergeant and two constables regulating the crowd eager to see the exhibits. On the last day of the Show, Saturday, August 20th, I was invited to give a talk on cats and club matters, etc., and did so in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. Afterwards we had a quiz. They are a wonderful lot of folk, have a nice little Club, a very energetic Executive and being full of enthusiasm intend to hold a Club Show soon."

" We are looking forward to seeing Mr. E. J. Lonsdale back from his world travels. What a pity he was not in London in July to see the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show."

Show in Norway

Mrs. Svenningsen, President of the Norwegian Cat Club, sends news of the Show at Trondheim. She reports : " The cats and kittens were for exhibition only. We travelled by train which took nearly twelve hours as most cats do not like flying. We had no judging but the public were allowed to choose 1, 2 and 3. Owing to the long expensive journey we selected only 45 exhibits of different varieties for the Show to add to those belonging to

residents at Trondheim.

" In spite of warm summer weather and week-end trips to places elsewhere we had a very good gate, about 5,000 visitors. The newspapers made a great fuss of us, publishing pictures and describing the cats. A reporter (who has much to learn about pedigree cats as you will observe) described Mrs. Saether's Blue neuter Foxburrow Firefly thus :—" This huge cat sometimes has red eyes and sometimes blue (He had heard about Siamese eyes and was evidently confusing them). The coat is mighty long and bluepointed. He has a huge frill of long hairs around his neck, raising his tail as a mighty broom. He looks like a Pekingese with his small ears and very short little nose. It is a must to allow yourself to gaze at that cat."

" Mrs. Svarstad's sweet little Cream kitten Stefi Av Bjornebo won the title Miss Trondheim. She is a grand daughter of Baralan Challenger. Number two was an Abyssinian, Snorrehus Fennimore, a daughter of Nigella Fern. Number three a Blue-Cream daughter of Baralan Challenger. Among the runners-up were the Blue Pointed Siamese family by Chichuita Fil Slottet ex Ch. Banchor Blue Thor. So you see the old English stock is everywhere ! Our next Show is our International Championship one at Oslo, on the 14th, 15th and 16th December."

American Champion

The Cat of the Year in U.S.A. is announced in the September issue of their *Cats Magazine*, and is pictured on the cover. He is Dr. and Mrs. V. Van Zele's Chinchilla Male Triple Grand Champion Kerry Lu Ramon of Casa Contenta. This outstanding cat is the first to achieve America's supreme honour for two years in succession.

Opposite Sex Cat of the Year is Mrs. Howell J. Mueller's Shaded Silver Female Grand and Double Champion Flagstone's Play Girl.

An excerpt from an article presenting 1955's All Americans states: "Ramon and Play Girl gained their honors by facing in cat shows throughout the country hundreds of other top show cats, and then, in the opinion of highly qualified judges being rated as superior, first in their own breed and color, then against the other highest ranked cats in the show. The All-American computations show that each met and defeated far more cats than the second closest male and female."

An analysis of the rewards for the nine years since it was instituted reveals that 5 Blues, 3 Chinchillas and 1 Black have won the All American title "Cat of the Year." All were males with the exception of Mrs. Merald Hoag's Chinchilla female Grand Ch. Arlingtons Sensation II in 1953 and the same owner's Blue Female Grand Ch. Dixi-Lands Felice of Nor-Mont in 1949.

Best Opposite Sex Cat of the Year have been 3 Seal Point Siamese, 2 Blue Point Siamese, 1 Blue Longhair, 1 Blue-Cream, 1 Shaded Silver, 1 Orange-eyed White, all females except Miss Verner Clum's Blue male Grand and Double Champion Moonbeam of Gaylands, the only imported cat to achieve the honour (bred in England by Mrs. Machin), and Mrs. Revington's Orange-eyed White male Ch. Dixi-Lands White Historian II.

A "Cat Show Calendar" informs readers of 4 shows in September; 8 in October; 10 in November. There are 5 on November 12th and 13th but hundreds of miles apart, New York, California, Long Island, N.Y., Missouri and Texas. Many lovely photographs of All American winners in some of the breeds make the September issue of *Cats Magazine* very interesting.

How They Start

It is always interesting to hear why cat lovers started breeding them. Frequently it is because a male kitten has

been purchased for a pet and after some weeks, or months, is found to be a female. This was so in my case and by then one is usually too fond to part.

Miss Statman, of Cricklewood, however, commenced cat breeding from choice and her letter speaks for itself.

"Some time ago," she explains, "you asked me to let you know how I started breeding Blue Persians. Well, it was definitely the hard way. I thought (as no doubt every novice does) it so simple. One just bought a little queen, mated her when the time came and then sat back whilst she produced adorable Blue kittens. In actual fact things worked out quite differently. I certainly bought my little queen and in due course had her mated but all she produced 4½ weeks later was metritis and she had to be spayed. Priory Manetta is now nine and a dearly loved perfectly happy pet

Not Discouraged

"As it takes a great deal to discourage me, I blithely bought another female kitten and waited eagerly for her to call. She duly called, but to get her mated to a Blue pedigree cat was quite another matter. After she had twice visited four different studs and dear little Valleyend Vanessa was still unmarried and antagonistic to them, I acted on your advice and put a local mongrel, who had serenaded her, into the garden with her. I sat back expecting him to be murdered but oh no! Madam could not get to him quickly enough and one morning some nine weeks later lo and behold! I was the breeder of five little black and white mongrels! I was by now beginning to think it was not quite so easy. After that episode Mrs. Chappell at her next call managed to get her mated to Gathorne Gremlin but she only reared one kitten.

"After that she remained true to the same husband, Miss Montague's Robin of Pensford. Altogether she has had nineteen kittens by him and I have

reared every one. I kept some of her daughters and in one lovely litter she produced Anson Eros and Anson Easter Bonnet. With my small family of queens I thought the time had come to have my own stud (for use with my queens only). So I purchased a well bred male by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue ex Blue Angel, a daughter of Ch. Southway Crusader. It was before the new G. C. rule was passed so I was allowed to register him with my prefix and he is named Anson Periwinkle.

"He is a darling and almost a house pet. He has the sweetest disposition and so far is perfectly happy with his own little wives and no trouble at all. I have just been lucky enough to buy from Mrs. Denton her lovely female kittens Camber Helena Rose and her litter sister Camber Loveday who won so well at the Kitten Show in July. They are by Anson Eros and Camber Dulcie Suzette, a daughter of Mrs. Stephenson's Woburn Sunshine. Helena Rose is the palest kitten I have seen this year and Loveday now is almost as pale.

"It seems the lovely pale coats are fast disappearing and so many of the cats to-day are not really blue. It does seem such a pity. Anson Eros has a decided tendency to sire kittens with pale coats and I consider the breed badly needs them. What say you?"

Lovely All Day

Well! I agree with Miss Statman for it was partly because the average colour of Blues has deteriorated that I decided five years ago to breed Creams. For many years I had admired the way Creams, Chinchillas and Whites looked lovely in colour from morn till eve at our mid-winter shows when light often leaves much to be desired, whereas the Blues, especially the darker ones, need good strong daylight to look their best.

One of the Blue males who has a pedigree teeming with pale ancestors

is Mrs. Davies's Camber Algernon, living at Chalfont St. Peters, Bucks, which is not too far from London. He was awarded three Firsts and Second in his Open class at the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show, a good beginning for a 14 months old male in such distinguished company and competing with males who had the "finish" which being at stud gives them.

A few weeks ago I had tea with Miss Statman and it was delightful to see the happy domestic life her queens lead. Anson Periwinkle, although attentive was not molesting them and he is that comparative *rara avis*, a male who seldom sprays in the house.

Pleasures to Come

We are in the midst of the Show season and it is delightful to look forward to meeting our friends, comparing notes with them and to seeing their exhibits. It is up to us to support shows in every possible way and to encourage non-cat breeding friends to visit them. A London Ch. Show literally means an expenditure of hundreds of pounds and a good "gate" means all the difference between a profit or loss. Visitors attending their first Ch. Show are usually enchanted to see varieties they did not know existed and quite a frequent comment is about the serenity of the exhibits and how well owners care for them.

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Tailpieces

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



A SUBSCRIBER in Kuala Lumpur has kindly sent me a clipping from *The Malay Mail* dated last November. Although somewhat old it is interesting because it refers to the scarcity of thoroughbred Siamese cats in Bangkok and points out that the race-proud Siamese are becoming increasingly embarrassed because visiting foreigners seeking to purchase thoroughbred cats are unable to locate any. To help remedy the situation the Bangkok municipality proposed to hold a cat show. Its aim would be to "promote interest in true Siamese breeds" and the promoting committee's announcement added that Siamese cats are "cats with soft grey bodies and ears, and nose, tail and paws of a burned brown." Unfortunately I am without news as to whether the show was held or not.

Popular Dutch pianist Cor De Groot has a snow white cat with green eyes for his practice companion. Muskwa was a birthday present and whenever the maestro sits down to practice he curls up on top of the grand piano. Report says he has even been known to scratch an intruder who came too close to the player's flying fingers.

Judges at the 29th Exposition of the Internationale Féline de Paris on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd are Miss Kathleen York, Miss Evelyn Langston and Mr. P. M. Soderberg from England, Mlle. Lardsdotter from Stockholm and Mr. Braechmann from Brussels. Mme. Ravel tells me she is hoping to have a

record attendance to see a record number of entries.

Miss Ella Krieser, headmistress of the Albert Schweitzer School in Hanover, has founded a society for the protection of animals among children. New members promise solemnly: "I shall be a friend of animals, like Doctor Albert Schweitzer." They all know Schweitzer's exhortation to "Honour everything living: human beings, animals, plants." Miss Krieser, 77 years old and a peasant's daughter, conducts homes for animals in Hamburg and Hamm. She has twenty-five cats as "boarders."

The town of Marple in Cheshire has a fine new coat of arms which incorporates a grinning Cheshire cat.

On page 22 of our August issue we published a picture of Camber Alice Blue Gown and Camber Googie and wrongly described them as being bred by their owner Mr. Brian Richards, does of Cardiff. The "Camber" prefix does of course belong to Mrs. E. M. Denton, the well-known S.E. London breeder of Blue Longhairs. Sorry, Mrs. Denton!

Advertisement from the *New Statesman* & *Nation*: "Fallen Abyssinian cat, genuine hard luck story, must dispose of two Bohemian kittens, Mimi and Rudolph."

Scotland Yard has issued a warning to householders that with the ending of

Summer Time they should take special precautions to lock and bolt doors and secure all windows. To this I would add a warning to cat owners to see that their pets are indoors when darkness falls. Longer nights will inevitably mean more opportunities for thieves and thugs, including those engaged in the scandalous game of cat snatching.

"Can cats read?" asks a letter writer to the London *Evening News*. A small crowd, including two policemen and a roadsweeper, gathered in Eastcheap. It transpired that one of the numerous City cats had decided to have her litter of kittens. Most appropriately she chose a litter bin for the purpose.

According to a news release by the American Feline Society Inc., a sample report covering the dissection of 193 cats killed in highway accidents described the contents of their stomachs as follows: House meat 38.1%, young rabbit 25.6%, rat 11.4%, table scraps 6.9%, fish 2.7%, pork 2.4%, grasshoppers 2.4%, chicken 1.5%, bulk matter including cat food 1.8%, grass, herbs, hair and liquid 7.2%. The report adds: One notes the complete absence of bird meat or even feathers.

Daily Mirror interviewer Cassandra has written of his recent meeting with Charlie Chaplin at his home at Vevey on Lake Geneva. He asked Chaplin if he didn't miss some of the conveniences of the American way of life which he had enjoyed for nearly 45 years. "No," replied the famous film comedian, "with the exception of certain items such as being able to buy balanced-diet cat food and the high-speed diaper-cleaning services." Chaplin is working on a new film as he approaches his seventieth year.

I've been thumbing through a little catalogue which has arrived from our good friends at the Tyoh Cattery, Grapevine, Texas, U.S.A. Its title is

"Cat Stuff. Also things for cat people" and the cover carries a glamorous Siamese queen with a ribbon-decked tail, jewelled collar, veil and flowered headdress. There are only 16 pages but they contain about 50 illustrated items of useful and ornamental items for cats and their owners. Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hoyt seem to have thought of everything—even to the handpainted "Johnny seat" retailing at thirty dollars. The seat can be handpainted to customer's own specifications. Lift up the seat and you have a framed picture of your pet!

When a person receives a nasty cut or a dog-bite he usually gets it attended to promptly, which makes things easier for the doctor. The veterinary surgeon, on the other hand, is often brought an animal troubled with a badly infected wound—perhaps the result of a dog-bite which has received half-hearted or inexperienced first-aid at home. Often his patient is a cat which has returned home after a few days' absence with an infected wound which is quite beyond the well-meant but unpractised care of its owner. In either of these cases there is often a tough, yellowish layer of dead tissue and pus on the surface of the wound. Antiseptic lotions do not get beyond this layer and germs are able to breed unhampered beneath it. Now, as in human surgery, use is being made of an enzyme—which is a form of chemical ferment—to dissolve pus and dead tissue in the wounds of dogs, cats and horses, so that antibiotics or sulfa treatment can be applied to the infection as soon as possible. Varidase, as this enzyme is called, will undoubtedly reduce suffering for many pets and farm animals alike.

MICKEY



To Help Homeless Cats

By JOANNA MACKAY

THE life of a Hampstead cat must be something near to bliss.

It seems fair, therefore, for cat lovers in this "pussy" neighbourhood to make an effort to help the many unwanted and ill-treated cats all over the country. This they did at a bazaar and exhibition, held last month in aid of the Cats' Protection League.

More interesting to cat lovers than the usual bazaar features—literature stalls, fancy goods, sweets, raffles and tea, were some facts about cats and the League, given by Miss Kit Wilson.

Miss Wilson said that the cat population of the country had been estimated very roughly indeed at between six and seven million. Twenty-five per cent of these six or seven million cats were believed to be strays and another twenty-five per cent in bad homes or badly treated. It should be emphasized that the Cats' Protection League was not a body of cranks. (This seems important in view of some silly jokes about cat-sitting published recently.) They were sane human beings trying to ensure proper attention and a proper place in the world for an adorable animal.

The League now has a shelter in North London where there is no time limit for a cat's stay. Unhappily, anything up to three hundred cats a month have to be put to sleep. Some are diseased or untameable, but many could be found homes. Between three hundred and five hundred cats a month are dealt with. One day, it is hoped to have shelters all over the country.

Miss Wilson gave some interesting facts about rescued strays. Most settle down to family life quickly and are perfectly clean. There is an establishment, taking twelve at a time, where

they are sent to be house-trained. This is at East Grinstead. The League will pay for the sterilization of any cat, male or female, if a prospective owner is really unable to meet vet's bills.

More than one rescued stray has won prizes at a cat show. Recently Goodness, a female Tortoiseshell, belonging to Mrs. Gain, won two first prizes and went up for Best in Show at the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show. More recently a rescued kitten won at the Herts and Middlesex Show.

Needless to say, one of the objects of the League is the control of the cat population. They urge that this should be done by neutering and the painless, prompt destruction of unwanted kittens.

Reference was made to the "Tail-wavers." This is the oldest known name for cats. It was also used by the ancient Greeks for their cats.

Cats Never Jealous

There were two exhibitions at the bazaar. One was of Oriental dolls and an incredible Chinese wine cooler looking like a teapot, formed of a complex of pipes to give a fretwork effect. This was staged by Mrs. de Clifford who, as well as being Secretary of the Dolls' Club, is Vice Chairman of the London Area Committee, C.P.L., and Secretary of the Russian Blue Cat Club. She tells me that one of the objects of the Dolls' Club is to help other worthwhile causes. Also, there is a link between cats and dolls. Cats catch moths and moths destroy many valuable historic dolls. Mrs. de Clifford remarks that cats are never jealous of dolls. Dogs often are.

The second exhibition was of Japanese colour prints of cats. These were loaned by Mr. B. W. Robinson, a member of the C.P.L. and owner of a Siamese Tailwaver, named Tin. All the prints were by Utagawa Kuniyoshi, who lived from 1798 to 1861. They have been collected by Mr. Robinson, one by one from secondhand shops, since he was thirteen. He has never visited Japan himself.

Some were pictures of humans with cats in them. Others had the well-known cat-into-human or human-into-cat motif that enables cats to take off the human race so perfectly. A few,

dealing with the slaying of monster cats or scenes in plays, in which witches became cats, were terrifying. Others were tender or very amusing. I liked the "Animals in the Catering Business" with cats at the grill or the well-known actors (of that time, not the present) portrayed as cats.

Incidentally, all the cats seemed to be white, black and white or tortie and white, with the white predominating every time. The artist was well-known for his great love of cats. He kept ten or twelve and when he included himself in his prints, it was invariably with a cat on his shoulder.



"I am enclosing a photo of Ming, our big Siamese and me. I hope you will be able to print it. Ming is a neuter. I have a Siamese of my own. I call him Peter. His real name is Mingswyk Khan. He is two years old." So runs the note we received from 12 years old Valerie Cattermole, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

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.

Price for Persians

I have a litter of Blue Persians to sell. They are now twelve weeks old, but I do not know what price to ask for them. Would ten guineas each be too much?

The price that you can get for a kitten depends upon its quality, the sire and dam that were used to produce it, and finally upon how much the intending purchaser is prepared to pay. Ten guineas is a very good price and it is not everyone wanting a pet who is prepared to pay as much as this. On the whole it is better to advertise the kittens as being at a "reasonable" price and then judge from the reactions of the person who comes to buy. The price you mention is not exorbitant for a good kitten, but it may be higher than the majority of purchasers are willing to pay.

Lasting Immunity

If I have my kittens injected against infectious enteritis, will this give them permanent immunity against this disease?

Injections may be of several types, one of which at least only gives protection for a matter of a few weeks. You should consult your vet, for to-day a much more lasting immunity can be produced. There is no such thing as a permanent immunity, but the right injections reduce very considerably the risk. In addition, cats which have been correctly immunized are unlikely to die even if the disease does develop.

Fewer Smokes

At the turn of the century there were a number of Smokes whose names are still remembered and who gave a very good account of themselves on the show bench. Why are there so few now?

Smokes probably lost their early popularity because it was very difficult to breed a good one, and there was no ready-made market for any surplus stock which was not up to show standard. Since that time very few fanciers have taken up the breed and there seems to be no great enthusiasm for a revival of the Smoke except among these few stalwarts. While this condition continues, Smokes are found to be few and far between.

Worming Queens

Should queens which are to be used for breeding be wormed before they are sent away to the stud?

This is a difficult question and one which would be answered differently by a number of breeders were they asked. The point is that no cat should be wormed unless it is necessary. The difficulty is that it is sometimes impossible to say whether the necessity exists until a microscopic inspection has been made of the faeces. The safest plan is to consult your vet and then accept his ruling. If he thinks that worming is necessary, he will also provide you with the suitable remedy for a particular cat. That is important!

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CH. PURRING TOM KITTEN. Massive young Silver
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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 1955-56 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. The list may be revised from time to time as fresh information becomes available.

1955	Promoted by	Venue
5 November ...	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
11 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club	London
	(See displayed advertisement in this issue)	
26 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
7 December ...	*National Cat Club	London
1956		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club	Derby
31 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
11 February ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Epsom
11 February ...	*Lancs. and North Western Counties Cat Club	Manchester
25 February ...	East Anglian Cat Club	Venue to be fixed

* Denotes show with Championship status.

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(Continued overleaf)

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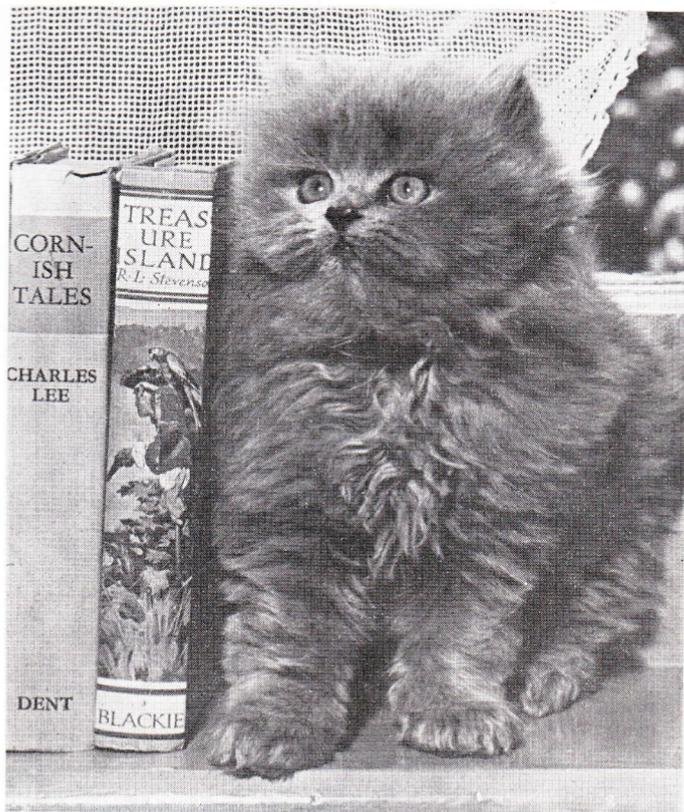
INQUIRIES FOR STUDS and Kittens to:

Mrs. Kathleen R. Williams, 53 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey. Tel: VIGilant 1389



Myra Bartlett.

Two of the luckiest cats in theatrical circles to-day are those belonging to Mr. George Rose, the versatile actor now appearing at the Lyric Theatre in "My Three Angels." Selborne Choisy (nicknamed "Prince Felis") and Senor Lopez are respectively a lithe Abyssinian from Mrs. Foxwell's cattery at Gastard, Wiltshire, and a handsome Siamese who is the son of Holmesdale Chocolate Soldier and Tatiana. Mr. Rose has "a third angel," a fine Tabby, but he didn't show up for his picture.



Surrey and South London Picture Service

A bookish young fellow is BROUGHTON SWEET WILLIAM. He won Best Blue Longhair Male Kitten for Mrs. I. P. Hughes, of Cheam, Surrey, at the recent Kensington Show.



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SCO-RUSTON RAVISANT (Blue Persian) sire Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas, dam Scolalisa. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

CH. REDWALLS JACK FROST (Chinchilla) sire Ch. Foxburrow, Tilli-Willi, dam Redwalls Snowstorm, prizewinner every time shown 1948/52. Fee £2 2s. and carriage.

STARKEY NUGGET (Cream), sire Malmary Tafeteace, dam Fairham Gillian, prizewinner every time shown. Fee £2 2s. and return carriage. Only registered queens accepted to any of the above Studs.—Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., Danehurst, Old Lane, St. Johns, Crowborough, Sussex. Crowborough 407.

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THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SIAMESE CAT, by Kathleen R. Williams, contains all you want to know about Seal, Blue and Chocolate Pointed Siamese. Based on the author's experience and knowledge acquired during 20 years of breeding, nursing, exhibiting and judging. 10s. 6d. post free from F. B. Williams, 53 Grange Road, Sutton, Surrey.

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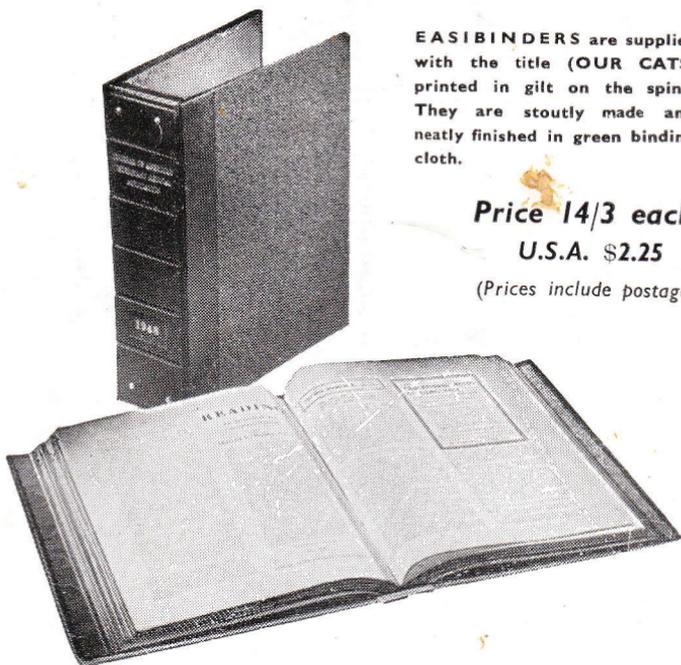


“ Who’s dat up dere saying
‘ who’s dat down dere ’ ? ”

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