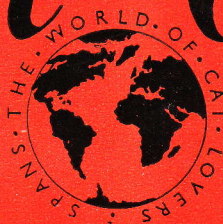
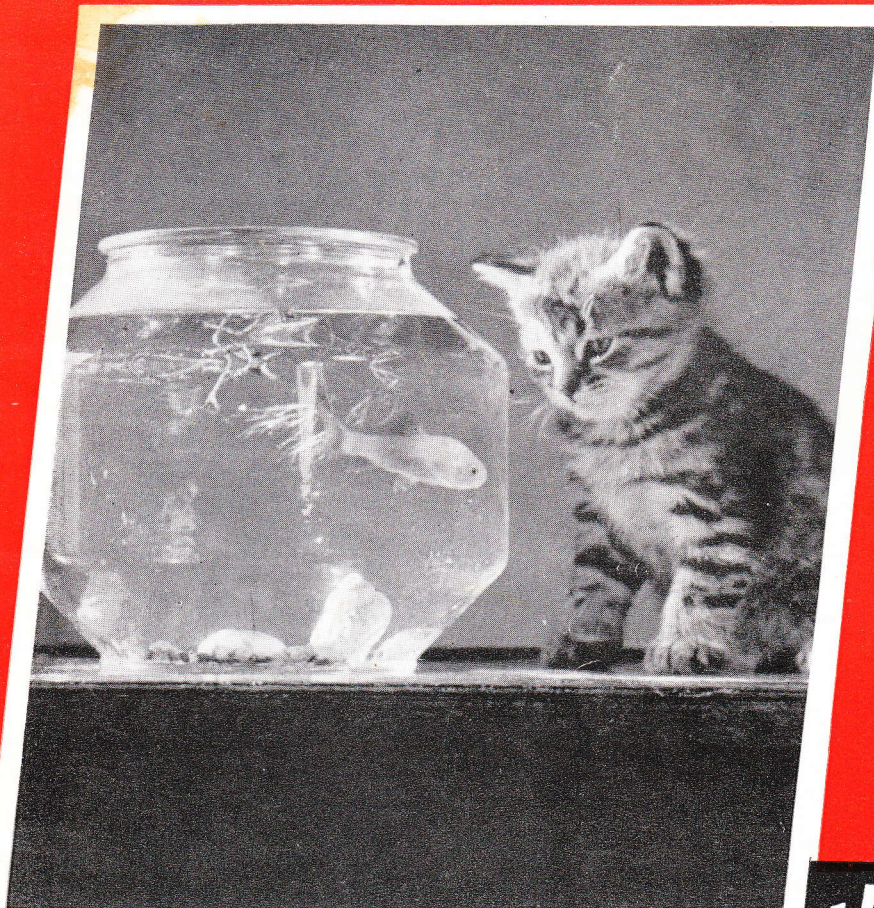


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



A PISCATORIAL PUSS
Photographed by Arthur Cook

JULY 1956

1/6



**Full of fish — full of meat
The food that all cats love to eat.
Oh, isn't it a pity that
All kittens don't get Kit-E-Kat!**

Every cat needs Kit-E-Kat every day, because it's a complete food . . . fresh white fish *and* herring plus meat, as well as extra vitamins and minerals!

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**All cats love
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FRESH FISH AND MEAT — COOKED AND READY TO EAT



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.

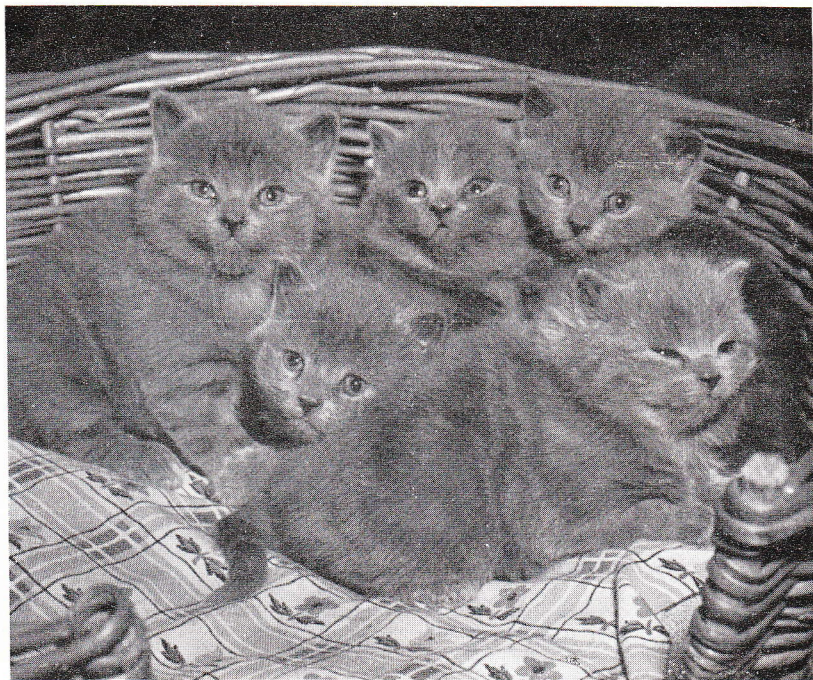
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Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Surrey & South London Picture Service

A litter of bonny British Blue kittens bred by Mrs. Phyllis Hughes, of Cheam, Surrey.

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 fixtures for the 1956-57 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1956	Promoted by	Venue
28 July ...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club ...	London
6 August ...	Urmston Show ...	Flixton, Lancs
22 August ...	*Herts. and Middlesex Cat Club... ..	London
1 September	Preston and District Cat Club	Preston, Lancs.
8 September	Kentish Cat Society	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
26 September	*South Western Counties Cat Club	Paignton, Devon
6 October ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
9 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club	London
20 October ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
7 November ...	*Croydon Cat Club	London
24 November ...	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
24 November ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Epsom
24 November ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club	Leeds
4 December ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
15 December ...	*National Cat Club	London
1957		
5 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club	Nottingham
22 January ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W.C. Cat Club	Manchester

*Denotes show with Championship status



NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Our subscription rate has been raised with effect from 1st March from 17s. 6d. to 20s. for 12 issues post free. The new rate for readers in the Americas is \$3.25 instead of \$3 for 12 issues post free.



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Havanas Past & Present

By E. VON ULLMANN, F.Z.S.

“THE best and most definitely coloured A.O.C. cat I ever saw was Mrs. Davies’ Sin Li, a deep self-coloured chocolate brown cat. He was supposed to be one of three Swiss Mountain Cats imported to this country, and he was a most handsome and interesting animal. Unfortunately he died young, leaving no progeny.”

(*Frances Simpson,*
“*The Book of the Cat,*” p. 234)

“Colourbreeding is a most fascinating pursuit; but, unfortunately, the average cat fancier lacks the patience to follow it out to a satisfactory conclusion. There is no doubt that by judicious crossbreeding new colours could be produced and I think that they will be produced in time. I have

seen a chocolate brown cat and a yellow cat with black stripes, and no doubt they will appear again.”
(*ibid.*, p. 344).

These two passages were written nearly 60 years ago. The cat described in the first quotation has presumably the honour of being the first Havana to be mentioned by name in the cat literature.

It is, however, surprising that self-brown cats have not been taken up by cat fanciers long ago, like their counterparts the Blues, of which we have to-day three established varieties, the Blue Longhair, the British Blue and the Russian Blue. Chocolate coloured cats, longhaired and shorthaired, must from time to time have appeared since the unfortunate “Swiss Mountain Cat” died and it is open to conjecture whether bad luck, insufficient knowledge of the laws of inheritance or the above quoted “lack



Keystone

The author with her home-bred Shorthaired Havana ROOFSPRINGER PERIWINKLE, a fascinating combination of rich brown coat and bright green eyes. Baroness Edit von Ullmann, a keen student of genetics, is a daughter of Baron von Ullmann, formerly an official at the Finance Ministry in the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She holds a law degree, works for a solicitor in London and lives on a converted coal barge moored in Paddington Basin, which is part of the Grand Union Canal. It is on the barge that she conducts her cat breeding experiments.

of patience " have been responsible for the absence of self-coloured brown cats from the show bench since the turn of the century.

Fifty odd years went by before Frances Simpson's prediction was put into practice by a few experimental breeders, who deliberately set out to breed Havana coloured cats, without ever having seen one, using for their raw material Siamese, Russian Blues and alley cats.

Longhair Next

At the Herts and Middx. Cat Club Ch. Show in 1953 a Havana male, Elmtower Bronze Idol, was shown by his breeder Mrs. I. Monro Smith, of Reading. Like his predecessor of many years ago, he was entered in the A.O.C. class and much admired. He fortunately survived to sire some excellent progeny and there are to-day few Havanas who lack his name in their pedigrees. The kitten shown in the photograph is his grand-daughter.

Shorthaired Havanas are now being bred by a number of fanciers and can be seen in many of the cat shows. A well-known and knowledgeable breeder is working to produce a longhaired strain of the same colour which will no doubt make its public appearance in due course.

Not a Sport

Havana cats, whether shorthaired or longhaired, breed true when mated to their own kind. They are not a "sport" but a colour variety like Blues or Creams. Having once been established they will eventually take their place amongst the recognized breeds which, but for the premature death of the "Swiss Mountain Cat," they would probably have held since the early days of the Fancy.

The present-day Havanas, having been bred from carefully selected, healthy stock, are easy breeders and good mothers and we have no fear that they might disappear again for half a century

or more. Having for their ancestors, besides Siamese, Russian Blues and genuine English alley cats, they are, in spite of their short silky coats, well able to stand our climate and are enjoying outdoor exercise as much in winter as in summer.

As we watch our brown kittens playing in the sun, we cannot help feeling elated at the thought of having that re-created lovely colour—"in time."

(Author's copyright reserved.)

SHOPPING IN SOHO

A young and observant letter writer to the London *Star* newspaper here describes her experiences whilst shopping to find "a nice middle piece of haddock" for her cat.

"I am 13 and here is my account of a shopping expedition in Soho's Berwick Market.

"I guess I was dead lucky to time my visit to the fishmonger at the precise moment the poor man reached the end of his tether and literally made the fish fly.

"To the wizened little woman he screamed: 'Look what you've done to my fish.' I looked. On the slab lay a cod, cut into three.

"The tail and the head he held aloft: 'You women, you drive a man mad. A fish has a head and a tail. Right? But you don't want heads and tails. You all want a piece out of the middle. Right?

"'I give you the middle but then you're not satisfied. It's too dear. So you walk off and leave me with my fish ruined. Who wants the heads and tails when you've finished with them, eh? Go on, clear off the lot of you.'

"I had intended asking for a nice middle piece of haddock.

"I fled.

"As I go to the market every day to buy fish for our cat, Micky, I think it would be wise if my letter was signed—*Soho Observer.*"

Legion of the Lost

By KIT WILSON (*Second Instalment*)

IT is estimated that 25 per cent of the cat population of Britain can be counted as strays. Another 25 per cent, although supposed to have homes, are unwanted and uncared for. Of the other 50 per cent, one third are working cats on farms, docks and warehouses, while the other two thirds are well loved pets, and, as the cat population is thought to be about 6,000,000, it is not difficult to work out the numbers.

Sometimes one hears breeders say that it is a bad year for kittens. Everybody in animal welfare wishes that the same could be said about the stray cats: they always seem to be prolific breeders.

To give an example of this: statisticians have worked on the prolificacy of cats, and they proved that two cats, of course of the opposite sex, can, in the course of ten years, even allowing for a reasonable amount of mishaps, attain the remarkable figure of 26,000,000 descendants. These figures were so astounding that they were checked and re-checked but found to be correct. Therefore unless promiscuous breeding is checked there must of necessity be more and more unwanted cats and kittens.

Every animal welfare society all over the country destroys thousands of cats and kittens yearly. Although every endeavour is made to find good homes by some of the societies these are only a drop in the ocean in comparison with those destroyed. The Cats' Protection League issue, as one of their regular propaganda pamphlets, a post card

with pictures of a kitten, a cat and a stray cat with the slogan: "Remember the kitten is *"YOUR"* choice. *YOUR* cat's welfare is *YOUR* responsibility. Do not add to *OUR* responsibility."

Another formidable problem is that of the domestic cat gone wild; these constantly add to the ever increasing army of strays. For example, consider the cats on the bomb sites, with their underground passages and cellars, catacombs caused by the falling masonry and jungle of rural undergrowth of grass and flowers. It cannot even be estimated how many families are born. For years these sites have been the only home for the progeny of bombed-out cats and for the other strays who have migrated there. Every year they multiply, and through this multiplication, which is greatly inbreeding, the kittens become more and more diseased.

Fight like Fury

Although well fed by office workers and other kindly disposed people, they are quite wild and it is impossible to get near much less catch them. Even the smallest kitten fights like a wild fury if picked up. Even if they can be caught it is very seldom that they can be rehabilitated, so they remain "domestic wild" until such time as the site has to be cleared for rebuilding. Then, one can only hope that their fate is quick.

The same multiplication table applies to dock and warehouse cats. In one granary warehouse on a railway siding in North London there are known to be some fifty or sixty cats and kittens, many of them in a deplorable state. In desperation the workers sent an S.O.S. to the North London Branch of the

C.P.L. who are doing their best, but it takes hours and even days of patience with a humane trap to catch even a few. As these cats are caught they have to be chloroformed in the trap before they can be transferred to a lethal box, for their claws and teeth will penetrate the stoutest of gloves.

Unless you have seen these cats as I have it is impossible to visualize their condition, and the difficulties which confront those who are trying to catch them. Mothers rear their families under piles of bales of hay and straw, some die under them, others get loaded on to the trucks and are carried away to another part of the country where they add to the strays in that district, and of course some remain to increase. How often one hears it said that cats can look after themselves and keep alive by hunting rats and mice. What utter rubbish this is! The domestic cat hunts for sport, not for food. True, their wild cousins hunt to replenish the larder, but years of domestication has lost our household cat the habit, added to which a mouse to a healthy normal cat is about as much use as a sausage to a man.

Dock Scroungers

Another little matter overlooked by "the cat can look after himself brigade" is the fact that a half-starved cat has not the abundant energy needed to hunt. Dock cats fare a little better than most of the cat colonies; they at least get an allowance of milk, and in such an enormous food store there are always some unconsidered trifles to be had for the scrounging. Here again, like the bomb site and railway siding cats, the dock cat is fast deteriorating through constant inbreeding, although fresh blood is introduced by migrating strays who always invade existing cat colonies.

The rehousing problem, as in the case I referred to last month of Bunnybear, is another cause of strays. In practically

none of the flats being built by the Councils are pets allowed, and no provision is made for those families who have them, their disposal being left either to the owners or to animal welfare societies. I suppose one of the saddest tasks of the animal welfare worker is the collection of these pets and to witness the grief shown by many families at parting with often old and much loved pets. Opposed to this, there are also the "couldn't care lessers." Off they go to their new home without a thought for the animals they are leaving behind to fend for themselves.

Misery in the Markets

In every market and cheap livestock dealer's during spring and summer, kittens are offered for sale for a few shillings, sometimes even for a few pence. It has been known that kittens packed in pigeon baskets have been offered for as little as ninepence each. Attractive picture postcard kittens change hands with no enquiry with regard to their sex. Females are often passed off to the unknowing purchaser as males. In one case which was brought to my notice one of these was taken back to the dealer, who was quite unabashed, and remarked "Blimey, what a bargain you've got. If I'd known that it could have changed sex as easy as that I'd have charged a lot more"!

If the sex is not discovered all goes well until the kitten enters cathood, then, when the toms serenade throughout the night or the cat shows signs of having loved "not wisely but too well" it is—if the owners are kindly—usually taken to the nearest clinic to be destroyed. But if its only use had been as a living mousetrap, when one cat is as good as another, it may be either turned out or even deliberately lost. Kittens, too, which cannot be easily disposed of are sometimes sold for a few pence to the small pet shops in the mean streets,

(continued on page 10)

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

By M.R.C.V.S

Mrs. M., of Glasgow, writes : Our Siamese cat—a spayed female 20 months old—will sit for hours on end tearing at her claws until they all have fringes, like little fingers. She has unrestricted freedom of a large garden with rough gravel and cement paths. The moment the claws have worn even she starts again biting and pulling at them. She will eat only fish and will starve rather than accept a change in her diet. Does this account for the habit ?

M.R.C.V.S. replies : It would appear there is an irritation of the toes which may be caused by one of a number of parasites. I think you might try a drop or two of Otodex around the irritated parts once daily for about three days. Prevent it from being licked off by applying a small light finger stall for an hour or so. Eating fish should not cause this habit. Cats are notoriously creatures of habit as regards their food. Those who prefer fish or are used to fish will frequently refuse meat or any other kind of food. Even a different kind of fish may be rejected. Otodex may be ordered through Boots the chemists.

* * *

Mrs. J., of London, writes : I should be grateful for your advice on the problem of my little British Blue queen, born in April last year. She started to call in January this year and after she had called on three occasions I had her mated to a B.B. stud. Four kittens were born in the Spring but two died within the first ten days. My main headache is that the queen calls regularly every fortnight and this means that there is very little time when she can be allowed the complete freedom of the house and garden. I can manage to keep her shut up in a spare bedroom, but it seems very cruel. I am wondering if there is any hope that she may call less frequently when she is older ? Many friends have told me that their queens call at intervals of six or seven weeks—I should

find this bearable. The kittens are merely a hobby as far as I am concerned and I do not wish for more than two litters a year. I spoke to my vet on this problem but the reply was rather vague. I do realize that there can probably be no hard and fast rule. If I thought that the queen was likely to go on calling every fortnight for years to come, I think I must have her spayed as I do not wish to keep her confined for about half the year.

M.R.C.V.S. replies : There seem to be two remedies to this problem. One is the removal of the queen's ovaries and the other, hormone injections, which your local veterinary surgeon would advise you upon and carry out. The latter method however has no permanency and would not be so certain and lasting as ovariectomy. The reader has either to decide on one of these remedies or let Nature take her normal course.

* * *

Miss J., of Bristol, writes : Can you give me some advice about my Blue Cream, who is just over 12 months old ? In May she had her first litter of six kittens. They were a week old when the mother grew ill. My vet said she had a septic uterus, also mastitis, and advised me to get rid of the kittens, just keeping one to draw off the milk. My cat is recovering nicely now. But do you think this trouble will recur and can you advise me as to any precautions I can take ?

M.R.C.V.S. replies : I do not think there will necessarily be any recurrence of the same trouble at the next pregnancy. You should watch her carefully at that time and if she shows any symptoms get veterinary advice without delay. You might notify your veterinary surgeon as to when she will kitten and let him guide you.

Readers who would like "M.R.C.V.S." to deal with their veterinary problems should write to him c/o OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope when a direct reply is preferred.

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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Miss Yorke's Australian Journey

Writes another great page in Cat History

WE referred in last month's issue to the visit of Miss Kathleen Yorke, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, to Australia and New Zealand, where she has been judging at shows and meeting as many cat folk as possible. News has now come through to us of the great success which has attended this goodwill tour and of the excellent work our "First Lady" has done for the good of our respective Fancys. Many new friends have been made and public interest in feline affairs has been quickened over an area of great potentiality.

A Grand Show

And now for the promised news of the trip. First, from Miss Yorke herself, whose airmail letter runs: "Had a lovely flight to Sydney and a grand show June 1st and 2nd, the biggest the C.F.A. of Australia has held. Many of the winning cats were Australian bred, a number through well-known British stock. The Siamese (winning S.P.) have behind them Doneraile Afka Khan, Lindale Simon Pie, Mystic Dreamer, Holmdale Southwood, Prestwick Pertana, Oriental Silky John. Mrs. Finch owned the winning S.P. male and Mrs. Helsham the female, which was Best Shorthair in Show. These two cats have on both sides many of the above names and on the dam's side there are five or six generations back to cats imported from Siam, so Mrs. Finch tells me.

"Broughton Miranda was bred by Mrs. Hughes and is owned now by Mrs. Vize. Miranda is sired by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous out of Ashdown Blossom, and was my Best Blue. She is very good; is dam of Best Blue Kitten sired by Ch. Astra of Pensford, owned by Mrs. Vize. Miss Young, of Sydney,

showed some lovely Blues and Chinchillas. Best L.H. exhibit in show was a beautiful Chinchilla male owned by Mrs. Cains, Ch. Julian of Ellington, sired by Ch. Rex of Chatsworth, both well-known Australian-bred cats.

"I was very pleased with a good Black sired by Ch. Bournside Black Turvey out of Sarisbury Miriam. She is Myowne Noir Magic and is owned by Mrs. Vize. I was impressed too by some Blue-eyed White kittens bred and owned by Mrs. Mason, who has been breeding these and Chinchillas for many years. Her Chinchillas go back to Mrs. Kate Newton's well-known Cobweb of Correndon. Mrs. Newton had lovely Chinchillas some years ago but has not been breeding them for some while now.

"Miss J. Williams won Best S.H. Kitten with a charming Seal Point Siamese and also won well with her Chocolate Point kitten and a Ch.C. with her Chocolate Point female. I brought out the C.P. kit for my Best S.H. Kitten but gave my vote to the S.P.

"Mr. and Mrs. Chandler came 600 miles from Melbourne with some of their cats and won Ch.C. with their Blue Point male Ch. Misselfore Tyran Print, a handsome cat. His daughter Eastern Blue Nymph won Best B.P. She is a lovely queen owned by Mr. and Miss Mantle.

"More news follows after the Auckland Show on 15-16th June."

The Social Side

By the same mail we received the following interesting account of Miss Yorke's itinerary in New South Wales from Mr. Fred Pearce, Australia's senior judge. He writes:

"I have been Miss Yorke's driver since she arrived on May 28th and we have done 800 miles, having "a

look-see" at the country. She arrived 7 a.m. and our Cat Fanciers' President, Mr. E. J. Lonsdale, Secretary Harry Wynne and myself met her at Kingsford Smith Airport and drove her to the Hotel Metropole, her H.Q. while in Sydney. On the Tuesday Miss Yorke was interviewed by Radio Roundsman Bill Weir, 2GB Station, and it was on the air at mid-day. Later we drove out into the country, Camden, etc., and visited the Menangle Park Rotolactor where they milk 950 cows in 2½-3 hours.

"That evening Miss Yorke attended a reception in her honour which was attended by a large gathering of executive and members of all clubs, plus visitors. Mrs. Henry, Secretary of the new Brisbane (Queensland) Club attended but the team of visitors from Melbourne did not "make" it. Miss Yorke was introduced to each visitor and then officially by the President. Later she was presented with a koala bear with a baby, a gift from members, a china kookaburra and posies of flowers. Mrs. Henry was then invited to speak after Miss Yorke had expressed her thanks for the welcome and gifts. Then followed a welcome supper, a cat quiz and general conversation.

"With the exception of June 4th, when the President arranged for Miss Yorke to attend Randwick Races, long trips to the country have been the order and all popular tours have been taken in.

I saw her arrive and yesterday drove her to the airport to see her departure for New Zealand, where her first of three shows is on June 15th-16th. I feel sure she enjoyed her stay and I certainly enjoyed being her driver and guide. Miss Yorke is a grand lady, easy to entertain and very interested in all she sees.

"Regarding the Show which Miss Yorke judged here on June 1st-2nd, it was a very successful fixture, our only trouble being a wet chilly day. She and her helpers were presented to His Excellency the Governor, Lord Northcott, who was shown the exhibits. Miss Yorke was taken by me to see the working sheep dog trials and was lucky to see the chief prize winners in the lovely merino sheep, including the champion ram, later sold for 5,000 gns. There were also dogs, poultry and birds on show but time did not permit a visit to all the sections. I am sure Miss Yorke will tell you about her trip to the koala bear farm and what a very naughty emu did to her "stetson."

"Well, the old Cat Fanciers' Association have again been lucky to entertain a grand English lady—our second English lady judge—and we are very grateful to our New Zealand friends and that fine old campaigner Robert Marshall for the privilege. Another great page has been written in Australian cat history (the first by Joan Thompson) and we are very proud and happy about it. Cheerio!"

LEGION OF THE LOST

(continued from page 6)

often much too young to leave their mothers, unable to lap easily they usually die a miserable death as most of these places are a hot-bed of disease. Or they are deliberately dumped and it is amazing the ingenuity used in disposing of the poor little things.

In one case I had to deal with, four kittens only a few days old were posted through the letter box of an empty house; happily they were found before it was too late, for in these days of housing

shortages prospective tenants are constantly in and out of any empty house. Another little game of which there has been quite a considerable number of cases lately, is to pack the kittens in a box and dump them on the counter of a shop just before closing time, or leave them on a park bench. The barbaric method of drowning still, alas, persists. Boat dwellers are nauseated by the number of cat corpses which float by, and in the country when middens and cesspits are emptied they tell their own pitiful tale. What is the answer to this problem?

(to be continued)

CLUB WORK IN LANCASHIRE

During the last two years a number of new cat clubs have been formed, most of them with a view to encouraging a more local interest in cats. This is a very good thing for the Fancy for undoubtedly the general public are showing a greater interest in cats than ever before.

The Southport Cat Club held their show in conjunction with the Southport and Ormskirk Agricultural Society, which last year decided against holding a show. The S.C.C., therefore, did not have a fixture in 1955. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Ness, who worked so hard at the 1954 show, hope it will not be long before they are able to hold another. Meanwhile



Southport Journal.

**ANUBIS wearing his collecting
regalia.**

they have not been idle and meetings have been held during the winter months, including a Brains Trust which was attended by 50 people. A competition for the Best Kept Shop Cat created great interest, the winner being a 15-year-old named Dusty.

Another active worker—and for a very good cause—is Anubis, the pet cat of Mrs. Freda Lindsell, the Secretary of the Club's Strays Committee, which has found homes for a number of unwanted cats. Anubis, whose picture appears on this page, was himself a stray. Now he is a fine fellow weighing 17 lbs., strong enough to stand the strain of heavy contributions in the money saddles which he carries on special occasions, the contents of which are devoted to ease the lot of less fortunate felines.



LETTER TO STUD OWNER

Esteemed Miss,

Last June my woman has become a Siamese kitten with family tree from a pet shop. Since we possess her she has adulterated very much as we have the Delicatessen Shop on the corner and plenty food of the best is given to her.

We have remarked your Milton's peculiarities, they being noticed outside the newspaper shop, with great exuberance because we had no presentiment that a Siamese cat male so near us could be.

Permit me to convey my lady cat to your barge as soon as she is running hot. Please also inform me if it necessary would be to bring the note for Milton's use simultaneously or after kitties drop.

I remain in honour your,

X.Y.Z.



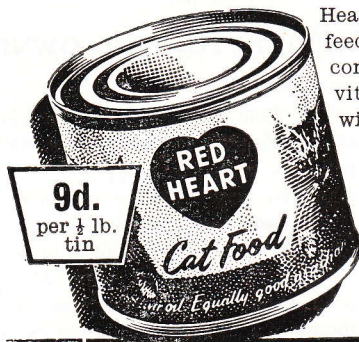
**Let's have
a squint!**

SIAMESE CATS—

from a photo by Ylla from the Red Heart series.

Though experts say we shouldn't squint, many of us DO! But we can still recognise a good thing when we see it.


The very name Red Heart sets us purring. Feed Red Heart (no trouble, no preparation) and you feed your cat the finest food there is . . . containing all a cat needs for health, vitality and a glossy coat. Fresh fish with liver and cod liver oil.




RED HEART

Cat Food

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Tailpieces



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

A 60-YEAR-OLD keeper at the London Zoo, Mr. W. A. Swain, bravely entered the cage of a serval, one of the biggest of the African wild cats, to rescue a baby thrush. There were gasps from a watching crowd as he unlocked the door to go in. Congratulations followed as he caught the fluttering fledgling and safely made his exit. "It was nothing," he said. But, I am reliably informed, a serval can be a very nasty handful.

This month's query from our Crazy Cat : Do pussies get piles upon cold tiles.

American humour note : A cartoon strip in a popular magazine shows a man in pyjamas descending stairs holding a cat which he plainly intends to put out of the front door for the night. Little boy, however, has left a wheeled toy on the stairs. Man steps on it, drops cat, lands foot of stairs and slides out of the front door. The cat pushes door shut and returns upstairs.

In a newspaper interview Eartha Kitt, the coloured American singer and actress with personality plus, revealed that she is particularly fond of cats because she likes their personalities. She has two black kittens in her Mayfair Hotel suite and these she proposes to take back with her to America to join the five cats already installed in her apartment. Said Miss Kitt : "The only way to *teach* people to live together is to *make* them live together. It's like my cats. When I introduce these

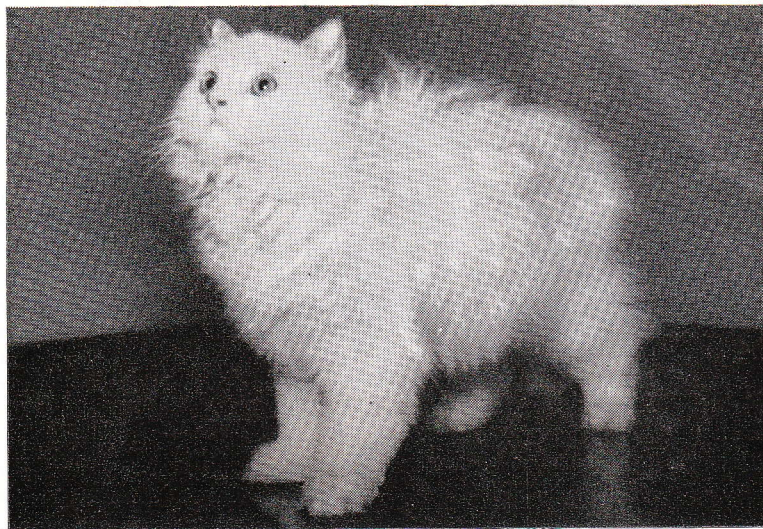
kittens to the other cats, I shall lock them all up in a room together and let them sort it out."

A fox cub is being brought up with a cat and an Alsatian at a Stapleford Abbots (Essex) farm. And at a country spot not so very far away a cat has been attacked by a hungry fox.

Professor L. P. Pugh is puzzled and perplexed. He is the new President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and holds the chair of veterinary clinical studies at Cambridge. The problem that baffles him is the scarcity of young people entering the profession. The prospects are terrific, he says, and infinitely better than in human medicine.

News comes from Australia that millions of mice are over-running towns and farms in central New South Wales. Police reports refer to destructive hordes that are destroying food stocks, eating their way into refrigerators and even chewing the registration stickers off car windscreens. Mice are even beginning to eat each other and in one small town the local butcher hasn't sold an ounce of cats meat for weeks. The cats are said to be growing tired after an orgy of killing mice.

Here's an interesting item from Mrs. Patricia Listoe, of Midlothian, Illinois, U.S.A. She has written to say that she is the owner of a siring Blue Cream male. He was a year old last month and a litter by him is expected during the present month. He is not a good type



“I MISTOOK HER FOR A POWDER PUFF”

says Tibby, the Tibs reporter

“I couldn’t help thinking how pretty Dalmond Diamond would look on a lady’s dressing-table! She’s so white and fluffy — and she’s not only decorative — she has a Challenge Certificate to her credit.”

Dalmond Diamond is a beautiful Orange-Eyed White Persian, bred by Mrs. M. E. Dallison, of 5, The Sycamores, Hersden, near Canterbury. She has a very good record — best kitten in the National Cat Club Show in 1954, and best long-haired cat in the Kentish Show of 1955.

Mrs. Dallison, who breeds only Orange-Eyed White Persians, gives all her cats Tibs Tablets regularly. She says that Tibs are an *absolute essential* for keeping cats in her lovely cattery in perfect condition.

11d. and 2/3d.



Famous
breeders
say—

TIBS

KEEP CATS KITTENISH

apparently but as Mrs. Listoe philosophically puts it "you can't expect a freak to be outstanding."

The current issue of *The Cat*, official journal of the Cats' Protection League, reveals that last year over 26,000 cats and kittens were put to sleep at the home which is run by the D.S.P.C.A. Their local representative adds that "the cruelty in this city (Dublin) would have to be seen to be believed."

My own local newspaper reports upon the activities of a gang of cat thieves in the Camberwell (S.E. London) district. Many losses have been reported to the police and pensioners have put notices in shop windows appealing to the thieves to return the cats. So many cats have disappeared in one area that a local cat lover (Mrs. Emily Boys, a hospital nurse) has been pushing warning notices through letter-boxes. "The disgusting activities of this gang make me feel sick," says Mrs. Boys.

Miss Rachel Parsons, the 68-year-old eccentric who was recently found murdered at her Newmarket home, was a great lover of animals. She kept over 20 cats on her estate, and is reported to have spent thousands of pounds on the purchase of racehorses which never raced because they were overfed. The daughter of Sir Charles Parsons, inventor of the steam turbine, she inherited £840,000 when he died in 1931. An employee has been arrested and charged with her murder.

The annual report of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reveals some alarming facts. In 1954 there were 27,790 complaints of cruelty reported to the Society and 872 people were convicted. But in 1955 there were 28,128 complaints and 1,052 convictions—and fifteen men were sent to gaol. Only one woman figured in

this analysis of horrible deeds so men can be rightly blamed for almost all the cruelty inflicted upon helpless animals. Men like the fiend at Peterborough who put a cat into a small dustbin three parts full of water. He put the lid on and went off for a cup of tea. When he came back the cat was still struggling and clinging desperately to the rim of the dustbin with its claws. So the fiend of Peterborough just had a look and put the lid on again. Makes one wonder what kind of people we really are, doesn't it ?

Here is a property advertisement from a national newspaper. Rather nicely phrased, don't you agree ? "£1,995 freehold will buy Brockley Res. (early enough to avoid Victorian excesses, but in fine fettle) of Art Lecturer and Operatic Broadcaster. 4 bedrms., 2 rec., mod. b. & k. Decor of taste : of course. All sunny. Garage. A gdn. as lovely as it is long ; ablaze with bluebells, lilac, laburnum and peonies. Siamese cat might elect to stay if he (it ?) approves of new owner. View Whitsun."

From the President, Mme. G. Guidon, of Vincennes, Seine, France, I have received news of the formation of the Union Nationale des Associations Felines which counts among its present members l'Association Feline de France (recently formed club with headquarters in Paris), Le Cat Club de Centre (includes members of provincial clubs) and Le Cat Club du Bourbonnais, another provincial club. Its purpose is to organize national and international cat shows, conduct research and to encourage breeding to recognized standards, and to work for the protection of neglected and cruelly treated cats on a national basis. Mme. Guidon explains that through the Union Nationale many experienced cat folk will be brought together on a friendly basis and a start was made with the promotion of an International Exhibition at Vichy early this month.

Roy Ward Dixon, English-born quick-fire spellbinder on Canadian commercial T.V., has arrived here and will shortly be seen on English screens. His particular line is a sort of "Double Your Money" programme in which the contestants start earning cash by quizzing the quiz-master. They take their dictionaries and throw the toughest words at Mr. Dixon. If he can't spell them, up goes the contestant's prize. The longest word Mr. Dixon has encountered so far has 60 letters, something to do with higher mathematics. The word which stumped him recently was "Miaow"—it cost him a thousand dollars.

That newsy little item about cats you have seen in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just been reading... will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope? Cuttings from overseas publications will be specially welcome. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKEY



SNORREHUS FENNIMORE, proud winner of the Abyssinian class, female, at the Stockholm Show. She was bred by Mrs. Schmidt of Stockholm and is now owned by Mr. Nordane of Oslo. We learn that this variety is on the increase in Norway.

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Artist enamelled in natural S.P. colours on solid silver	31/- each (U.S.A. \$ 4.50)
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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 twenty-first article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.

IT has been suggested that we might include in this series a little about lethal genes in general.

This condition is divided into three groups : (1) the lethal genes which cause the death of the individual in which they occur in a homozygous state, though in a heterozygous state they may have no seriously harmful effect ; (2) the balanced lethals ; and (3) the sub-lethal genes.

The cause of death in the case of the ordinary lethals is probably the inability of the organism to perform some of its vital functions in the absence of the normal allele of the mutant gene. Two categories of lethals can be distinguished—dominant and recessive. A dominant lethal alters the phenotype when heterozygous but kills it when homozygous. A recessive lethal has no observable effect when heterozygous but kills when homozygous, just as a dominant lethal does.

One of the first cases of a lethal gene in animals was found in the yellow mouse. It was of the dominant type ; its expression in the heterozygous animal being due to a dominant allele of the agouti gene. Yellow mice are invariably heterozygous—they do not breed true, but regularly produce young of a different colour in addition to those which are yellow. When yellow is mated to yellow,

a ratio of two yellow to one black may be obtained. This is a modification of the usual Mendelian ratio of 3 : 1 in which the expected homozygous dominant (yellow) individual perishes at an early stage of development, and only the two yellow heterozygotes survive. Yellow mice are bred for and accepted by the fancy, so here we have a hybrid which within a fancy is considered desirable.

Another dominant lethal in mice is the black-eyed white. Heterozygotes have extensive white areas of a characteristic pattern in their coat ; homozygotes are completely white, but with black eyes. They sometimes survive for a few days after birth, and then die of apparent malnutrition. The black-eyed white of the fancy then, is again a hybrid, but is considered a desirable and therefore bred for.

The Dwarf Gene

In rabbits, an interesting case of a dominant lethal is found in the dwarf mutation. The heterozygotes are of reduced body size as compared with their normal litter-mates, being about one-third smaller at birth, and retaining this disparity in size throughout life. These usually attain full sexual maturity, but if mated one with another produce one in four young which are homozygous for the dwarf gene and perish a few days after birth.

These homozygotes are less than half as large as normals, and are unable to

suck effectively, apparently because of a too short upper jaw. They remain active for a few days and then die of starvation. This gene probably operates through reduced activity of the pituitary gland. A similar but non-lethal dwarf mutation of the mouse is known to act in this way. Dwarf mice (homozygotes) which are undersized and sterile may be made to grow to full size and to reproduce by grafts of pituitary glands from normal mice, or by injections of the secretions of such glands. A case of "dwarf" in cats is reported in my book *"Cat Genetics."*

Anæmic Individuals

It has been found that most lethal genes are recessive. A good example is the lethal gene of rats, anæmia. This gene when heterozygous has no apparent harmful effect, as carriers of anæmia are vigorous and produce large litters. But in the homozygous state, it causes death at about two weeks after birth, through increasing deficiency of haemoglobin in the blood. Soon after birth, anæmic individuals can be distinguished by their paler colour. Though they may get an ample supply of milk from the mother, yet their growth is retarded, so that at about 10 days of age they are only one-half or one-third the size of normal litter-mates. The paleness of body has increased to take on a jaundiced appearance, and in a few days they die. This condition occurs in other animals too, including the cat.

The situation becomes interesting when two different lethal mutations occur in the same chromosome pair at closely adjacent loci, as indeed they may. This relation is known as one of "balanced" lethals. If lethals "a" and "b" are each fatal only when homozygous, then heterozygotes bearing "a" in one chromosome of a pair and "b" in the other will be viable and fully normal (if both lethals are recessive), or of a distinctive type (if one, or both are dominant).

Such heterozygotes will also be true-breeding, producing only living offspring which are heterozygous like their parents. The expected zygotic output of such heterozygotes would, of course, be $aa + 2ab + bb$, but the homozygous combinations, aa and bb , are, by hypothesis, lethal, so that only heterozygotes will survive. These will constitute only 50% of the expected population, and in mice, where among mammals this situation has been most exhaustively studied, a reduction of average litter size from eight to four has actually been observed, and the stage in development at which lethal embryos perish has been determined.

Balanced lethals of mice have been studied at considerable length. The case involves mutant genes which produce a shortening of the tail or, in extreme cases, complete taillessness. Three different mutant alleles of a gene for normal tail development are apparently involved, any one of which is lethal if homozygous. Mutant T^1 is a dominant lethal which in a heterozygote with normal tail T produces a short-tailed phenotype TT^1 . The other two mutant alleles t^0 and t^1 , are recessive lethals and so have no visible effect in heterozygotes with normal tail Tt^0 and Tt^1 . But in heterozygotes with the dominant lethal, they enhance the effect of the latter to complete taillessness T^1t^0 or T^1t^1 . In this case of abnormality and that of similar nature in the cat, there is much in common.

Sub-lethal genes will be discussed in our next article.

(To be continued)

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ELLA B. MARTIN
Herons, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,
Essex, England



In the Siamese World



An exclusive contribution by KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, breeder, judge and show organizer of many years' experience and Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club, which is probably the largest specialist cat club in the world.

JULY, 1956 ! For exhibitors, breeders and all who are interested in cats, this is an exciting month for the first show of the 1956-57 Season will be held in London on the 28th when the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club present their fixture. What a show this is! Since my husband, Capt. F. B. Williams, organized the Festival for Cats Show in 1951, the K.K. & N.C.C. Show has become one of the highlights of the season.

July is a lovely month for a show. It is daylight when one gets up in the morning and it does not matter so much if one gets home a little late for it is warm both indoors and out, so that one's exhibits can have a scamper in the garden before settling down for the night.

With the opening of each show season, as a show manager, I am inclined to look back and wonder. Will this year be as good as the last ? It is a far cry since the first post-war club show was held in Lime Grove Baths Hall in 1946 and, until 1951, this was the venue for most of the shows. The Festival for Cats helped to create a much wider public interest so most of the Clubs moved their fixtures to the Royal Horticultural Hall in Westminster. Although this

hall was more expensive, until 1955 clubs have been able to pay their way. Now, in 1956, all costs have increased and I wonder if the time has not come when some other attraction such as a Cat Photographic Section should not be included to attract a still wider public. We cannot afford to stand still. If we are to continue our progress we should, I think, examine carefully our show "set up" with a view to a more realistic approach to show problems in the light of the changed conditions.

* * *

The Siamese Cat Club Tea Party, which is usually held in June, has become quite an institution. Members look forward to this "get together" when they can bring their friends and enjoy talking or hear somebody else talking about cats. The party held last month attracted a record attendance. The successful "Any Questions ?" feature is dealt with elsewhere in this issue by one of our guests.

This month there is not time to include more than an item or two from letters. First, one from U.S.A. The Empire Cat Club is sponsoring a new

club in New York City. Mrs. Barbara Alloy, the President, writes: "The objects are cat rescue, adoption and an educational programme. It was suggested to us by cat columnist Henrietta Hitchcock. It is called the Gotham Cat Club and is unaffiliated with any national movement." Although it has been in operation only a few months it has already 200 members. May the good work prosper.

The Empire Cat Club Show is to be held on January 10th-11th at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, which news item wings my thoughts back to the Empire Show, 1950, when I met Mrs. Alloy in New York. We hope to see her in England in the not-too-distant future.

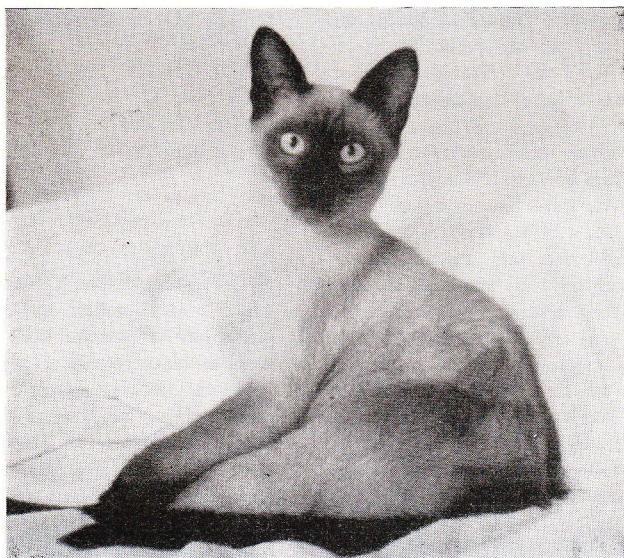
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Miss L. Rowland wrote some time ago: "Do you think cats recognize pictures as anything other than pieces of paper? I showed Peter an excellent larger-than-life close-up of a Siamese cat's face. He growled, put up his

back and ran from it and it was quite a while before he calmed down." Cats do definitely recognize pictures of their kind, but not colours. I had a very real drawing of Ch. Salewheel Royal Rose framed. It was on a settee when one of our cats jumped up. She stiffened, slowly approached, sniffed at the pictured nose, gave it a pat or two, and lay down beside it. Miss Rowland is a keen photographer. She very kindly sent me some photographs taken at the Siamese Show. The cat shown here is Peter, who enjoys walks around the block late in the evening. "Even on cold evenings he insists on dragging one of us out," says Miss Rowland.

* * *

Mrs. Helen Porter has lately acquired Mrs. Tancock's Ch. Chatwyn Silhouette. We were having a cat chat and from her I learnt of the most perfect toilet tray for your pets. It is made of plastic, 13 in. by 13 in. by 5 in. deep and is obtainable from Woolworths.



PETER, the Siamese pet of Miss L. Rowland of Colliers Wood, S.W. London, who enjoys his evening constitutional.



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.

Midland News

THE first issue of the Midland Counties' Cat Club News Sheet sent free to members has arrived. It is edited by the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. O. M. Lamb, and is not intended as a rival for our well known cat periodicals but in the words of the editress its purpose is "to bind together the members of this Club in a band of companionship and mutual interest and affection for the welfare of the cat." As the object is not to make money a nominal charge of threepence a copy monthly will just cover the cost of production.

An item of news of particular interest to intending exhibitors is the publication of the names of judges who will officiate at the Club's Ch. Show on October 20th at the Friends' Institute, Birmingham. Cream and Blue-Cream breeders will have the pleasure of Miss Evelyn Langston judging these varieties. We think of her as inseparable from her

beautiful Chinchillas and Blues so when she consents to judge it is usually for these breeds. On this occasion she will also "do" the Blue females and in addition Blacks, Whites, Tabbies (except Silver Tabbies), Torties, Tortie and Whites, and Foreign Premiers. Another happy choice is Mrs. Cattermole for Blue males and Miss Sheppard making her debut as a Blue judge by officiating for the Blue kittens. Mrs. M. Turney will make her bow as a judge for the Chinchillas, Silvers, Smokes and Colour Points.

In a short article entitled "Support Your Shows," Miss Kit Wilson reminds us of the great cost of organizing our Championship Club Shows and that it is up to us to support them in every way.

Herts and Middlesex

Which brings me to a show that merits your special consideration. It is the Herts and Middlesex Championship Show on Wednesday, August 22nd, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, organized by Mrs. E. Towe. The Club would have preferred a date at least a month later but the hall authorities had no dates available in September so it was a case of August or no show. Longhair kittens are very late arriving this year but a number have been born late May and in June, so it is hoped that many of these will be exhibited.

In August, stud cats and brood queens are just beginning to think about something other than paternal and maternal duties, and owners are sometimes reluctant to show them unless they are in full pomp. But a good cat looks pleasing all the year round and those Longhairs which excel in type come into their own on these occasions. Very few, if any, will have coats long enough to enhance their good points and modify their bad ones so exhibitors will be taking a sporting chance.

Sandy Temperatures

In the days when Sandy Agricultural Society organized a Championship cat section, always on the last Thursday in August, many lovely cats made a preliminary canter there and their owners had reason to congratulate themselves on their attaining a Championship certificate without the fierce competition they had to meet later.

In every respect this Ch. Show is being held under infinitely better conditions. One's enjoyment of Sandy Show depended entirely on the weather as it was held in marquees. Oh! those scorching hot days when the interiors of the marquees were like ovens; or the humid rainy days when it was like a Turkish bath!

Having risked those conditions we should rush to enter for the H. and M. Show although it is taking place in August.

A little reminder: only fully paid up members are eligible to compete for Club trophies and specials so will all those who have not paid their subscriptions kindly do so to the Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. B. Barron, 54 Sweetcroft Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

Mrs. Price, Chairman of the Club, invited a few friends to tea on June 8th. Her Siamese queens were very gracious to her visitors and "lapped up" our admiration and fussing. It was lovely to see them disporting themselves in the

house; after weeks of sunny weather it was rather a chilly showery day so they were not tempted to come with us into the garden, and what a garden! Mrs. Price specializes in irises and they were at their best; exquisite shades of blue, purple, lavender, bronze and loveliest of all I thought, a rich salmon pink. Ignorant of the refinements of shape and form in this lovely flower I am afraid we "fell" for colour but after she told us of some of the finer points we became aware of faults previously unknown to us.

I was so glad she agreed that if the garden is big enough and cats always have liberty they do not run riot in it or do any real harm. Seed beds are a temptation but they can be covered with wire netting; in any case a few decapitated plants are well worth the joy of seeing cats chasing butterflies and enjoying our summer sunshine. Winter comes all too soon and cats are so weather conscious, it has to be just right for them to really enjoy themselves.

Mrs. Barron's young Cream male Paul of Pensford has sired his first litter. Her Cream queen had a litter of six, and her Blue-Cream Hendras Pepita, winner of two Challenge Certificates (bred by Mrs. Nash) five kittens, two Creams and three Blues, although she thought one of the latter might turn out to be a Blue-Cream.

The official list of shows issued by the Governing Council can be obtained gratis from the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. This gives the date, venue and show manager of all those fixtures approved by the Council for the season 1956-1957.

Cats on Commercial TV

On June 22nd one of Mrs. Hughes's British Blue Shorthairs, a charming little fellow, two spritely Siamese belonging to Mr. Kirby-Smith and one of my

Cream Longhairs went on I.T.V. in the programme "Treasure Chest."

We arrived early at the Hackney Empire for a few rehearsals for the afternoon's half hour programme. Our item was allocated four minutes during which Mr. Beverley Nichols and Mr. James Norbury handled our kittens and discussed cats. We have had the pleasure of seeing the former at many of our shows and his references to them in his books and articles are delightful, especially in "Merry Hall." This book has vivid memories for me because on one of the most humid and languid days coming through the tropics on my way home from New Zealand in 1953 I spent all day in my cabin, minus lunch and tea, reading it, a beguiling way of making the heat endurable.

That "Technical Hitch"

The rehearsals went according to plan and the kittens were angelic. Considering they had never seen each other before and they were faced with television cameras and all the personnel needed for them, as well as personalities rehearsing for other items in "Treasure Chest" their behaviour was remarkable. Unfortunately when the live programme was about to be transmitted there was a technical hitch causing a delay of thirteen minutes so cuts had to be made in the dialogue, which was a pity. Mr. James Norbury, also a cat lover by the way, and Mr. Beverley Nichols have such a delightful approach to cats and the kittens were so confident, but during the live transmission they were more restless and my kitten insisted on walking in front of the others and almost eclipsed them owing to his long coat. We ourselves did not appear.

Cats have never before attracted so much publicity and we have never had so many up to date books giving information on the rudiments of breeding, although some of them are by persons who are unknown as breeders and

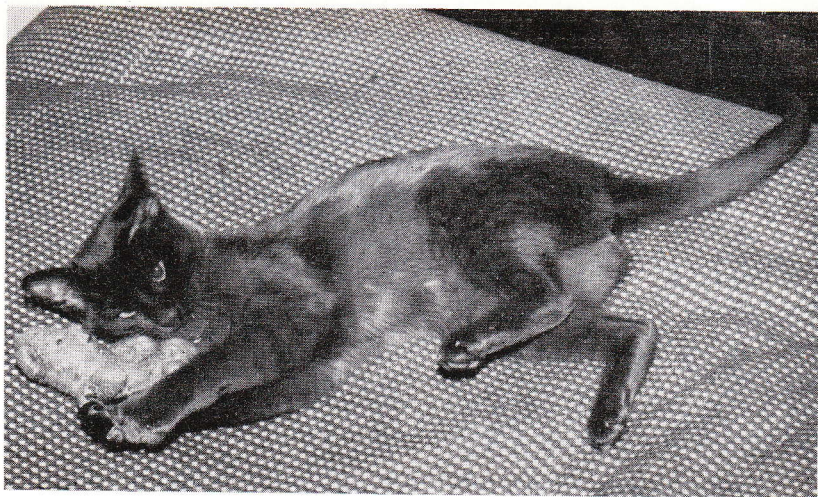
exhibitors, and one wonders how much of their writings is founded on practical experience. Now that the outstanding winners at our shows are being televised it is invaluable propaganda for our pedigree cats and will improve the status of them all.

Siamese Tea Party

Mr. Kirby-Smith is an enthusiastic newcomer and a devotee of Siamese. He purchased Watermill Surah by Ch. Killdown Sultan from Miss Ann Codrington and it was two of Surah's kittens which appeared on I.T.V. He attended last month's Siamese Cat Club's Annual Tea Party and this is his lively account of it.

"What a pity you had to miss the Tea Party. In spite of a long list of apologies over 100 members (an all-time record) sat down to a pleasant gossip over their cups after spending more than an hour trying to 'Beat the Panel' by posing all manner of questions on cat management to a team of experts comprising Mrs. Duncan-Hindley, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. K. R. Williams and an anonymous veterinarian (surely her name could have been disclosed at a private club meeting!) under the good humoured chairmanship of Mr. Soderberg.

"To me, the most interesting question was one concerning the apparent increase in miscarriages—although the panel was doubtful whether the increase was, in fact, only in the number reported or in the percentage of cases, bearing in mind the great increase in the number of breeders these days. We were told that it is unlikely that this malady is a result of excessive inbreeding as it affects household cats as much as pedigreed aristocrats and that is not akin to contagious abortion in cattle, as it has been observed to afflict only one or two out of several queens kept in the same cattery. Attempts have been



The top picture shows Burmese SABLESILK SHANI (Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee x Chinki Yong Kassa), bred by Mrs. M. E. Smith and owned by Miss King of Scarborough. Below appears the Burmese kitten KACHIN MANATEE, bred, owned and photographed by Miss Jennifer Watson, of Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire, who also took the picture of Shani.

made to isolate the bacteria or virus responsible but so far these have been unsuccessful although I gather Burroughs Wellcome Laboratories have been asked to carry out some research into the matter.

"Hormone treatment was suggested as a possible panacea for this and other ills, but my own vet tells me that the profession is very divided in its opinions as to the effects, dosages and administration of this comparatively new branch of medicine.

"We also heard erudite replies to such questions as: 'Will over-typing in Siamese lead to loss of intelligence?' The reply 'No! A prize-winning exhibit must still have breadth between the ears and therefore brain capacity.'

"'Do cats suffer from diabetes?' 'Yes, and they can be treated with daily injections of insulin—but it is not really fair to subject the patient to such treatment.'

"'If a cat brought out for Best in Show is unmanageable should the second be brought out instead?' An emphatic 'No! But it is probably the steward's fault that the cat is awkward!'

"'Why do cats eat grass?' and many other questions too numerous to mention.

Difficult to Handle

"Many well known personalities were present and I thoroughly enjoyed my first Siamese social occasion. Mrs. K. R. Williams is to be congratulated on organizing a very successful afternoon—it was, in fact, her birthday, which I hope she enjoyed as much as I did."

One item which I should have commented on if I had been present and that is "It is probably the stewards' fault if a cat is awkward." In my opinion this is rarely the case. Cats who are "temperamental" usually repeat the display at several shows if their owners are not sensible enough to keep them at home, or the cats themselves are banned from exhibition.

At each show they would probably be judged by different judges and handled by different stewards so it is not fair to blame the latter. Any judge who has seen a steward bitten by a so-called temperamental cat would hesitate to give it more than one or two more chances. Quite apart from this is the fact that such cats upset other exhibits.

A Berkshire Party

Another tea party I was unable to attend, this time owing to the long and awkward journey and the size of my kitten family (all of whom except one Blue will be departing to new homes shortly) was the party given by Mrs. J. M. Newton, Hon. Secretary of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Tortie and White, Blue Cream and Brown Tabby Society at her home, Moultsford Grange, near Reading. It has a lovely secluded garden leading down to the river. Mrs. Hughes tells me it was a very enjoyable day and the weather perfect, just the day for a swim or a trip on the river but they contented themselves with "looking over." Thirty guests attended and after a mighty tea and appreciative thanks to their hostess, they departed.

It is very kind of Mrs. Newton to organize this annual affair for so many guests and to invite all the Society's members. Many are unable to attend because of the distance but those who are able to go always enjoy themselves.

Burmese News

Mr. Watson, of Matlock, Derbyshire, tells me that his Burmese female Sealcoat Gay-Binti, Best Shorthair Kitten at Notts and Derby Championship Show, has been exported to Switzerland. She is the first Burmese to enter that country.

"We were very happy indeed," he writes, "to hear that Yin Yin, one of our Burmese, was flourishing with the Kirby Smiths. We hear from them occasionally and gather that they like her. We are

very glad because we broke all our rules and let her go to them earlier than we normally let kittens leave home so that she could be there for Christmas. My daughter, Jennifer, and I called on them on Boxing Day on our way back from taking one of our Siamese queens to Mrs. Warner to be mated and we were astonished and delighted at the way Yin Yin had already dug herself in.

"Mrs. Smith mated Blue Surprise to her own Bimbo who has none of Darkee's blood in him. All the kittens were brown which lends some support to our view that the blue factor comes from Darkee. Mrs. Smith has a delightful and rather unusual photograph of the family at home, that is, Bimbo, Blue Surprise and the kittens all comfortably settled down in a warm box.

More Blues Appearing

"There now is news of two other blue Burmese. Mrs. Waldo Lamb mated her Ch. Chinki Golden Goddess (a litter sister of Chinki Golden Gay who produced the first blue Burmese) to her own male Lamont Patrick. Goddess is a daughter and Patrick a son of Darkee and out of four kittens two are blues so the theory seems to be holding. They are now over four months old, very fit and Mrs. Waldo Lamb says that they are most attractive looking kittens. Quite a few of Darkee's offspring have been mated back to Darkee this season and I would guess there is quite a good chance of more blues appearing. It is interesting that the three so far produced have all been females.

"I think I have said before that I think Burmese are amongst the toughest of cats and carry their age better than most. Our Ch. (U.S.A.) Laos Cheli Wat who is well on the wrong side of ten years old has just presented us with two kittens; the father is Casa Gatos da Foong (Daffy) who is of about the same age as Cheli. The kittens are only a

few days old but look very nice and we are hoping that one of them will be good enough to keep to preserve Cheli and Daffy's line."

Winner in Austria

Mrs. Hirschmann tells me that Mr. Werner Bierhoff's Blue male Ch. Paragon of Pensford was Best Longhair Cat in Show at the Ch. Show in Vienna, Austria, in April and was awarded his first International Championship. His photograph appeared on the cover of OUR CATS (August, 1955). He is exactly the same breeding as my Octavian of Pensford who was pictured in the March issue this year.

Commercial TV recently put on a film showing the birth of four kittens by a stray tabby known as Mrs. Tabitha Twitchett. The happy event took place at the home of Mr. Stuart Gelder, Joint Secretary of the Blue Cross Society. Shortly after the showing of the film a little girl made a plea over the telephone: "Please can I have one of the kittens?" During a subsequent programme Mr. Gelder revealed that the Blue Cross series for children had been the means of finding homes for 150 cats and kittens.

Says the *Sunday Dispatch*: "A pet cat which has had a total of 300 kittens and is still having them at the ripe old age of 24 has caused a few raised eyebrows in the cat world." The prolific queen is Tiger belonging to Mrs. Evelyn Bush, of Leytonstone. Says Mrs. Bush: "She has kept it up for years. We've been overwhelmed with kittens and I've tried to find good homes for most of them." Says a surgeon at the Royal Veterinary College: "It's pretty rare, although not unheard of."

Breeding for a Champion

By A. HARGREAVES, F.Z.S.

IN the winter months, when our cats sometimes take a rest from family affairs and lie curled by the fire, or sit contentedly on our laps, the animal-owner relationship is at its best. Callings, matings, kittens are all forgotten.

Then the cat starts rolling, and all the events connected with breeding begin again. Sooner or later the first litter arrives ; and, when we watch the contented mother with her young, we no longer remember the peace and quiet, and say, "How lovely they are. How nice to have kittens about again" ; and the novice may say, "Some are sure to be champions."

There is more chance of breeding a champion by a carefully worked-out mating than by an indiscriminate one. When choosing a suitable stud, we ought to know at least what winners he has sired, and if possible how many of his brothers and sisters are of show standard. It is also important to know if there is nervousness or bad temper in his strain, and if his kittens are viable. This information is difficult to obtain in a non-utility breed ; but, without it, there is some risk of both still-born kittens, and also those who do not settle easily either in a new home or in a show pen.

The inherited qualities that go to make a prize winner are a combination of factors derived from the parents, just as colours are. In order for them to be inherited, it goes without saying that they must be there to start with. You cannot make a suet pudding without suet. If you use margarine it will be a pudding of different texture. But the factors are

distributed partly by chance and do not always turn out as we expect.

Have we not all said at times, "If only I could take this kitten and change her tail for her brother's, and her eyes for her sister's she would be perfect." ? Well, Nature sometimes puts all these good qualities together for us, and when that happens there is your champion. Nature can also add hardiness and a sweet temper, and there is something better still. But we must help by trying to provide the necessary material to be worked upon.

Ferrety Show Cats

A well-known judge recently wrote that Siamese resembling "undersized ferrets" were appearing at the shows, and that "sickness was no substitute for type." In the Greek text of Aristotle there occurs a word which his translators have sometimes rendered as ferret or weasel, and sometimes as cat. This confusion was partly due to the fact that all three catch mice ! Let us make sure there is no such confusion between these animals at cat shows ! A good second prize medium-sized brood queen, with lots of room for her kittens, which are always born alive, and lashings of milk to feed them with, is a better possession than the glory of owning a "champion ferret."

Go back beyond Aristotle and the fourth century B.C. to the cat first domesticated by the Egyptians, and mainly confined to the Nile valley, till about the first century B.C. This cat, when introduced into other countries, mated freely with the local wild cats, and

formed the ancestors of the domestic cat of to-day. The dog is the oldest domestic animal, the cat being domesticated some 3,000 years afterwards. The cat is therefore a comparative newcomer into our home circle, and if turned out, easily reverts to the wild life of its ancestors.

To remember this gives us a better understanding of our cat's behaviour, especially when there are kittens. The ancestors of our cats were solitary animals. They gave birth to their young in caves, crevices and holes in trees. It seems improbable that other cats were near and if one dared to come too close, she would be sent flying by the mother cat who would defend her abode against all intruders.

Our cat of to-day still looks for dark, safe, quiet places to produce her family. So, if we prepare a bed for her let it be one that fulfils these requirements, or she will look for something of her own choice. My first Siamese made a nest for

her kittens behind the water tank in the linen cupboard, and lined it carefully with handkerchiefs. Since then, I have tried various types of boxes. The most suitable one has an opening at the end of one side, just large enough for a cat in kitten to go in and out, and with a piece of wood at the bottom of the opening to keep the kittens in for the first two or three weeks.

The box is large enough for the cat to lie at full length with her family, and high enough for her to sit up in. A hinged lid makes it easy to inspect the kittens and change the bedding. This bedding consists of a piece of "hard-board" under a piece of sponge rubber sheeting, both cut to fit the box. These are placed in a pillow tick with the open end safely pinned underneath so forming, a washable mattress of adequate softness, which can not be scratched away. The box is placed in a dark place, and from the time the queen is shown it until

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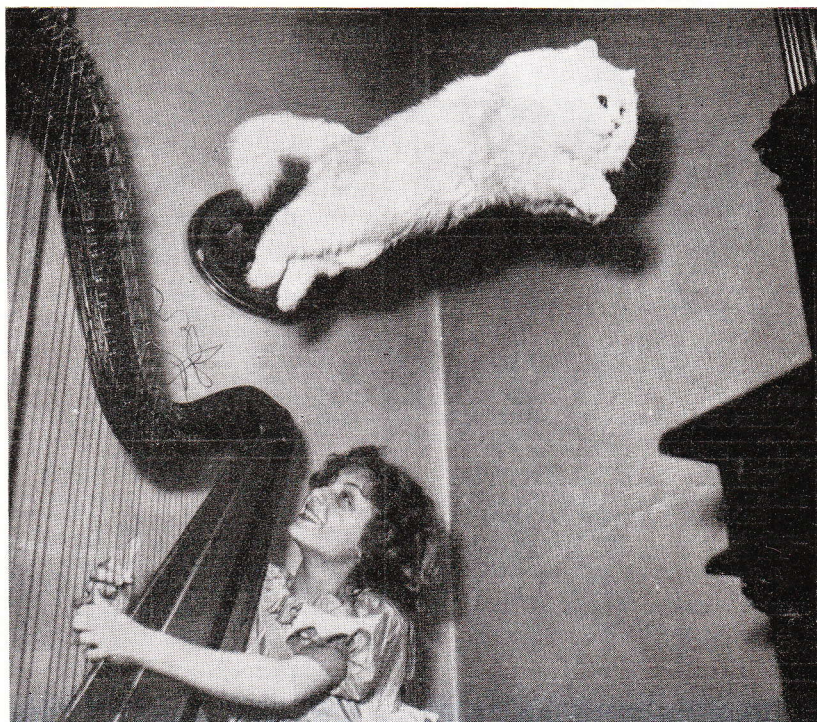
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after the kittens arrive, it also contains newspapers for her to tear up. Too much can be removed when labour starts, but the right amount often saves the bed from soiling. My queens are usually given an egg nog when the kittens have all arrived, and after that go back to normal diet.

The cat is not a pack animal like the dog, and if anything upsets its usual routine it will become an individualist. It is, however, fairly adaptable and will settle down in a cattery, and be reasonably sociable with other cats, provided all its wants are supplied. Some cats become spiteful to their friends who are in season. Like humans, they dislike in

others what they do themselves from time to time. The smell of a cat in milk, or the sight of another's kittens may annoy them if they are influenced by their wild ancestors. Other cats may have an extra amount of maternal instinct, and steal another's kittens. Cats who are specially sociable will sometimes share their kittens and give and take in a friendly way.

We should remember that the cat is one of the most recently domesticated animals and study and treat each one as an individual. It will then respond to us in the best way, by giving its affection and rearing the kittens we desire.



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A 9-year-old boy admitted at Willesden Juvenile Magistrate's court that he had tied a string round a cat's neck and towed it behind his bicycle. Then he poured paraffin over the cat and set fire to it. The boy was remanded for a medical report. The cat survived the treatment and is expected to recover in course of time.

"Le Chat" is the title of a new work for breeders written by Mme. M. Ravel, who is so well known on the Continent

as legislator, show organizer and judge. Priced at 750 fr., and obtainable from Crepin-Leblond & Co., 12 Rue Duguay-Trouin, Paris 6, this book of 184 pages is packed with interesting and helpful reading which is certain to help the cause Mme. Ravel has so much at heart.

Mrs. Josephine Cattermole, founder member of the East Anglian Cat Club, has loaned her Siamese Mingswyk Ming to star in the local production of "Bell Book and Candle," the comedy about witchcraft that featured Rex Harrison and Lili Palmer when it was staged in London's West End. The discovery of Ming ended a fortnight's search for a suitable cat.

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OTODEX

which combines an anti-parasitic, antiseptic and local anæsthetic

SOOTHING, SAFE AND CERTAIN

Bottles 2/- and 7/6 (post 4d. and 8d.)

SKIN DISEASE

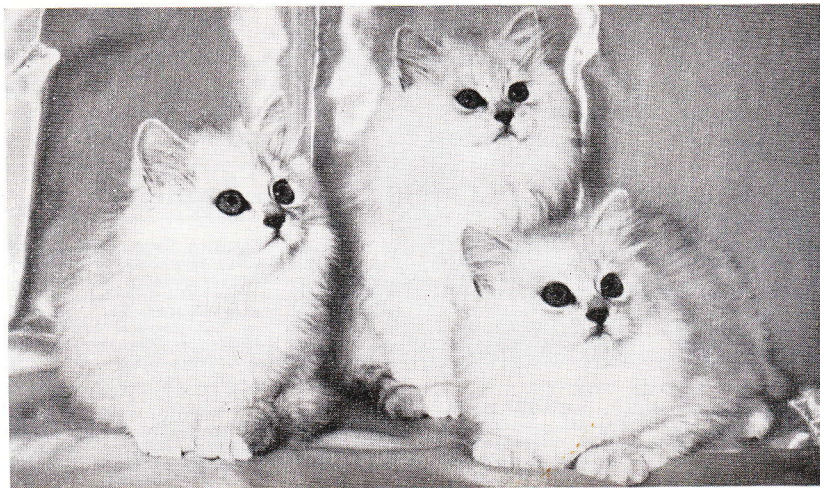
of a non-parasitic nature, so rife and often seasonal in cats, can be rapidly cured by

STRENOL ECZEMA CREAM

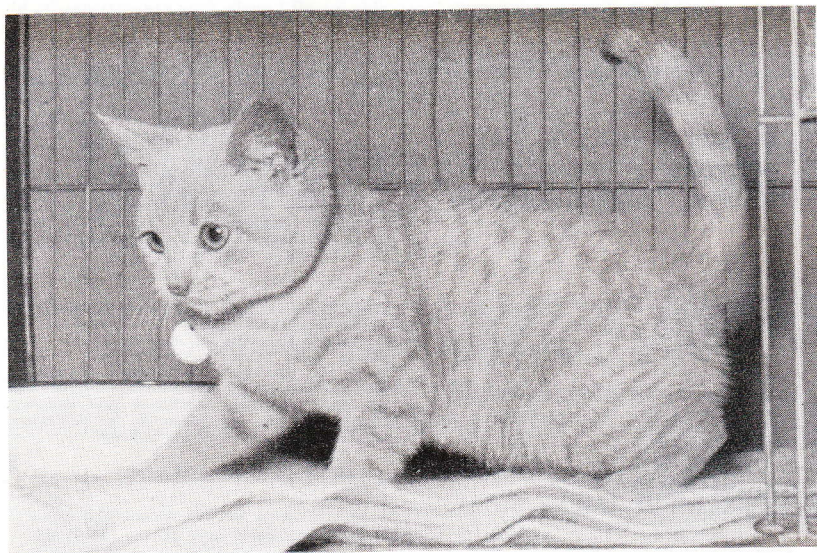
an outstanding and well-tested remedy. Quite safe if licked.

Pots 2/- (post 5d.)

Strenol Products Ltd. 54 St. Gabriel's Road, London, N.W.2



In last month's issue we published a picture of Ch. Bonavia Feather, imported Chinchilla belonging to Miss M. M. Haswell, of Sydney, Australia. Here we present three of her lovely daughters by Ch. Rex of Chatsworth. One went to New Zealand, one is in Melbourne and the third is staying home in New South Wales.



G. M. Mudle.

PRAHA-RINTY, Cream Shorthair male kitten bred by Mrs. E. Fisher of Combe Down, Somerset. He was a prizewinner at last year's Southsea Show and his owner hopes he will turn out to be a successful stud.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the 1st day* of the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Use of Box No. costs 1s. extra.

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BOURNESIDE CATTERY, Aitken, 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey. Tel.: Burgh Heath 2754. CH. BOURNESIDE BLACK DIAMOND (Black Longhair). Fee 2½ gns.

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AT LOW KNAP Siamese cats are boarded in ideal conditions and cared for by Dr. and Mrs. Francis who love and understand them. Prospectus and photographs on application. Halstock, nr. Yeovil.

A SMALL NUMBER OF CATS BOARDED IN PLEASANT COUNTRY SURROUNDINGS

Kindness, comfort & good food

Inspection invited

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LAKE DISTRICT CANINE HOTEL

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Dogs and Cats boarded under ideal conditions, always open for inspection.

Home of the well-known Dojere Miniature and Standard Poodle.

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Puppies usually for sale

All enquiries, owner KATHLEEN DOHERTY
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Miscellaneous

THE TAIL - WAGGER MAGAZINE, the monthly British Dog Magazine for dog owners and dog lovers everywhere. Fully illustrated and complete with informative features and instructive articles. Annual subscription 14s. (inc. postage) for twelve issues.—The Tail-Wagger Magazine, 356-360 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

WHO WANTS A CATNIP MOUSE? The herb inside this cloth mouse creates sheer ecstasy and promotes healthy exercise. Send 1s. 6d. (P.O. or stamps) to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

CAT HARNESES, as televised, Furniture-saving Clawboards, Baskets, lovely Show Blankets, Kittens' Playthings.—Collier, Manor House, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset.

PEDIGREE FORMS, excellent quality, suitable for all breeds, four generations, 2s. 3d. per dozen from OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

Books

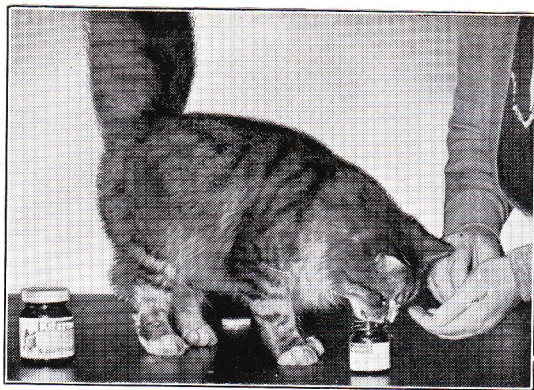
CATS BETWEEN COVERS, by Sidney Denham, the only complete guide to books about cats, with an introduction by Sir Compton Mackenzie, 7s. (U.S.A. \$1) post free from H. Denham, 37 Canonbury Square, London, N.1.

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.

Do you know any cat lovers who would like a specimen copy of this Magazine? If you will kindly send us the names and addresses (in confidence) we will then be pleased to do the rest. What, for example, about those people who have just bought your last litter of pedigree kittens?

Miss O. Murgatroyd
of 29 Fernbank Drive,
Baildon, Yorkshire,
writes :—

*"I feel sure Kit-
zyme tablets are largely
responsible for keeping
my cat, Ti-gi, such a
healthy animal. He cer-
tainly is a wonderful
advertisement for Kit-
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TI-GI'S DAILY TREAT

Ti-gi begs for his daily treat—he can find the bottle and looks forward to the game of hide and seek—and is almost too impatient to wait for us to unscrew the lid. His antics need to be seen to be believed.

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KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .

It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

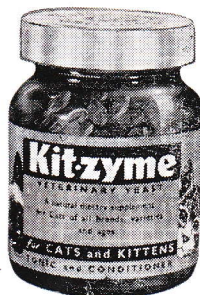
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Promotes resistance to: **LISTLESSNESS, FALLING
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