

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



*SALUTE TO SPRING*  
*Photograph by Dorothy E. Tyler*

MARCH 1957

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!

Kit-E-Kat is so easy and clean to serve, and there are several meals in every 9d tin.

**All cats love  
KIT-E-KAT**

FRESH FISH AND MEAT — COOKED AND READY TO EAT



# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. 9 No. 3

MARCH 1957

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.

Managing Editor :

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

Correspondent for Australia and New Zealand: Mr. F. W. PEARCE, 3/189 TRAFALGAR STREET, PETERSHAM, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

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**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

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*Myra Bartlett*

PRINCESS LALUME ("Lally") is perfectly at home on the dressing table as Tudor Evans makes up for his appearance in "Kismet," which enjoyed a long run at the Stoll Opera House, London. Lally, bred by Mrs. M. Mackenzie and now two years' old, was named after one of the cast of "Kismet." Mrs. Evans, whose photograph is on the table too, tells us that Lally thoroughly enjoys theatre life and one of her favourite tricks is to sing scales with Tudor when he is rehearsing. Tudor claims that she can actually do this in key, much to the astonishment of all who hear her.

## THE NEWEST CANADIAN

My name is Zarcala, from England you know  
A Colourpoint Longhair just come from a show ;  
I've ribbons and cups and prizes galore  
And now I'm in Canada hoping for more.

I've travelled in buses in London and Berne,  
I've flown to the States, Sto kholm and return.  
For Christmas I came and I flew all the way,  
'Twas six thousand miles and I came T.C.A.

My body is cream and my eyes they are blue,  
My points they are seal and I've long fur too.  
I'm just four months old and I hope you'll agree  
I'm pretty and cuddly and cute as can be.

I'm waiting and waiting, oh where can they be  
Has no one arrived at the airport for me ?  
Two nights and a day I have washed and I've sat  
In a little wee box, like a good grown up cat.

I can hear all the noise and the bustling around.  
Oh why don't they come ; I do hope I'll be found.  
Maybe if I cry, just a little you know  
They may come and notice me, then we can go.

And now I can hear them ; I'm put in a car ;  
The town is called Calgary—hope it's not far.  
But guess what they said when I'm put in my pen,  
“ Hi, welcome Zarcala, new Canadian.”

*These verses by D. Ann Borrett were inspired by the arrival at her home in Calgary, Alberta, of her English-bred Colourpoint Longhair import from the Richmond (Surrey) cattery of Mr. Brian Stirling-Webb.*



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# If you really want to get ahead, get a kitten



## MY DAY OFF by PETER BLACK

*Being an amusing account by the "Daily Mail's" well-known T.V. critic, an avowed cat lover, of his journey to the office with a kitten. We should perhaps explain for the benefit of readers overseas that the people mentioned towards the end of the article are prominent personalities in English television programmes. Reproduced by kind permission of Associated Newspapers Limited.*

THE vet has been on at me again for keeping my gentle tom cat, Oscar. "You know, it really would be kinder . . ." he says, dabbing a little antiseptic on his mauled fingers.

What he means is that it would be kinder to him.

Nearly all vets dislike treating tom cats; partly because toms are a rarity in these degenerate times, so that vets have few opportunities to practise on them.

But chiefly because toms are not more than two yards out of the jungle, revert to savagery with disconcerting speed, and are extremely well equipped to hold their own against anybody at all.

There is a great deal to be said about tom cats; but the simplest argument for them is that if there were none there would be no kittens.

We have just sent off the last of the three female kittens born to Alice in the autumn. I took her to London in a

basket and handed her to her new owner, a Mr. Murdstone; and I can state that in an age of gimmicks a kitten in a basket is undoubted champion.

Anyone who travels daily in a suburban business train knows the normal form; five a side, wan faces sheltering behind newspapers and cigarette smoke, eyes looking inwards, the individual soul withdrawn into the darkest corner of its burrow and wincing at the sound of a cough, a throat clearing that might preface an attempt to talk to it.

The kitten changed all this within five minutes. She sang, and reserve melted.

She tried to stick her head through the basket's bars, and mouths that had been set at twenty past eight turned unwillingly to ten to two.

She aimed futile blows at me, and all the time she sang . . . a song of doubt and sorrow, fear and mourning, helplessness and rage.

A fat, shabby man with a long upper lip and a cold whom life had taught to take nothing at its face value said : " A kitten, eh ? "

A thin woman with a red costume and yellow face asked : " How old is it ? "

" Eight weeks," I answered. A *frisson* of sympathy ran round the compartment.

Within ten minutes we were glowing like torches. Everyone, it seemed, owned or had owned cats, or dogs, or budgerigars. You could say what you liked, but there was something about cats. It was difficult to put your finger on it, but cats were deep, if you knew what we meant.

They took a bit of knowing, and some of us thought what a pity it was that they couldn't stay as kittens, so pretty and graceful.

Those with young children told how they wanted to give them a kitten for Christmas but that was the trouble with children, they didn't understand how to handle them.

## The Magic

Then the talk switched to cats in general to stories of cats who met trains every evening (except at week-ends, who brought in the newspaper, and followed you round like a dog ; to stories of more eccentric cats who liked toast and grapefruit and watched television.

When we reached Waterloo everyone said " Well, this it," and " Good morning to you," and dashed off in all directions, smiling and eager.

Wilfred and Mabel could not have worked the miracle. Beverley and Monica couldn't. Edana couldn't.

The kitten, by now exhausted and asleep, could and had.

In the office she sat on my desk fighting the keys of my typewriter, and turned tough executives into men and dads.

Later that day the magic was still hard at work. I went to meet Jean Dawnay,

whose publishers were throwing a party to assist her book.

I had intended to ask her about " What's My Line ? " but had no chance. As soon as I walked in with the cat basket Miss Dawnay began to interview me.

" What have you got in there ? "

" Well, it was a kitten, as a matter of fact."

" What do you mean, it *was* ? "

" Well, I brought it up to give away."

" Oh, how sweet ! Are you a cat breeder ? "

" Not on purpose."

" I think that's wonderful."

A dark girl said she thought it was wonderful too. A publisher's representative, who had been standing crossly on one side, broke in to say that Gilbert Harding had been sighted and Miss Dawnay composed herself to receive him.

But I could tell that she would much rather have stayed talking to me.

And this effect, mark you, was achieved by a basket which was in fact, empty.

I cannot help thinking that in all this there is a clue to the irresistible personality of men like Rubirosa. Obviously he keeps a kitten in his flat.



Only a baby but already a winner of Best Kitten show awards, ROSEMAR YUTANG, bred by Miss Marguerite Cobb, of Houston, Texas, was sired by American Grand and Quadruple Champion Dalai Jakki, who is descended from an English line of Siamese.

# 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-ninth article in a fine new and exclusive series to help and encourage our readers all over the cat world.**

**D**URING the time this series has been appearing, a very large proportion of letters from readers have dealt with various aspects of sterility. It may therefore be helpful if this subject is considered in a general way. Answers to the more frequent questions will be included.

Foetal degeneration is not due as a rule to bacterial infection, since it commonly occurs in animals in which the uterus is entirely aseptic. Neither is it due to an effect of over-crowding, since the uterus is an organ with great powers of distension, and the degeneration is observable in organs that contain relatively few foetuses; moreover, the arrangement of the dead and the surviving foetuses is not such as to suggest overcrowding, since several dead foetuses may be situated together in one part of the uterus, while another part may be full of living young.

The proportion of atrophic foetuses, however, usually increases somewhat as the number of ova shed at each heat period increases. In rabbits, in which foetal atrophy is common, a higher proportion atrophy at those times of the year when the number of ova shed is greatest, and the proportion of atrophic foetuses is also greater in domestic than in wild rabbits, the former shedding a larger number of ova than the latter.

Foetal degeneration may be due to a genetic lethal factor; that is to say, to a physiological condition or disharmony of organization that in some way or other

prevents the foetus from undergoing normal development. The existence of such "lethal factors" has been demonstrated in various animals, such as in a particular variety of mice, as well as in some plants.

It has been noticed that in some animals, there is a peculiar susceptibility to ill effects from inbreeding, the fertility being reduced, and it is not improbable that this result may be due to an accumulation of "lethal" or other detrimental genetic factors which are concentrated in an animal by the process of inbreeding (if these factors are already present), just as are the good qualities that it may also contain, and for which purpose inbreeding is chiefly practised. It is said that the Duchess strain of Short-horn cattle died out through sterility in this way, because of the detrimental factor which was concentrated (as well as the good points) by inbreeding.

## Fertility

In experiments in fertility and sterility I once used two different strains of mice on the above lines with like results. Not all strains, however, contain a detrimental factor, and in these, inbreeding can be practised with impunity. In rabbits, it has been shown that the foetal degeneration is due to an inherited, latent (or recessive) character, i.e., one that is hidden and does not appear until two such animals containing this hidden defect are bred together, when it then makes its appearance. For this reason,

if it is in the strain, it is much more likely to appear when inbreeding is practised than when an outcross is made. This is probably one of the reasons why inbreeding is often attended by reduced fertility. If the defect is not present in the strain however, inbreeding will not cause it, and may then be practised with good results.

In general, the character is a maternal one and not a foetal one, that is, it depends on the inherited characters of the mother and not of the young; females that have it will produce degenerate young no matter with what male they are mated. It is because foetal degeneration is recessive that the females of the first cross between two pure breeds are often more fertile than those of pure breeds. It therefore becomes obvious that those who intend purchasing females for breeding purposes should put as their first consideration, the absolute fertility of all females named in the pedigree, and enquiries to that end should be strictly carried out. Good looks cannot be enough under any circumstances.

### **Feeding is important**

It is exceedingly probable that nutrition plays an important part in regulating the size of the embryos and the degrees of development that they severally reach. Moreover, it is noteworthy that atrophy may set in at all stages of development, and that some youngsters, although they succeed in surviving to the end of pregnancy and are duly brought forth, yet are considerably below the average individual size and often die shortly after birth. Atrophy of the foetuses has been shown to begin in the blood vessels, which first become congested, and then break down. Foetal membranes may remain alive for some days after the embryos have perished.

The feeding of pregnant females is extremely important, and this applies equally to the feeding of mothers when

rearing their young. In both cases the owner is called upon to exercise a sound judgment. In the case of the pregnant female the object is to produce a litter the individuals of which will have obtained good average size at birth. Two factors are necessary for this. First, the female must be what is frequently termed "a good mother," i.e. her reproductive capacity must be good. Secondly, her feeding must be adequate. The food must be sufficient but not of a fattening nature.

### **Watch weight**

By a study of the female's behaviour and general condition the owner may be well guided. Under no circumstances should a pregnant female be allowed to become fat. Fatness is one of the greatest causes of trouble at all stages of breeding, and this includes many of the difficulties experienced at mating time. Provided all is well with a breeding mother, the size of the individuals in a larger litter should vary little from the size of the individuals of a small litter. Deaths from overlying by a nursing mother occur most frequently in the cases of "underweight-at-birth" individuals, lack of vigour being the cause.

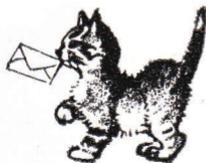
After the birth of a litter, the mother should be watched carefully regarding her weight. If with good feeding she remains just a little on the slim side, all is usually well. But if she becomes fat even though feeding is not excessive, it is usually a sign that the food is going to the building up of body rather than to production of an adequate milk supply. The cause is a genetic one and little can be done about it. It is likely to happen again with future litters, disregarding the fact that other males may be used, and the female offspring will likely carry the same tendency.

*(to be continued)*



## 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.



### Cure for Ringworm

In the October issue of OUR CATS a reader's letter stated that two pedigree cats were destroyed because it was said that ringworm was incurable.

There is a wonderful treatment for ringworm, which I have used with complete success. It is "Ringet," made by Fort Dodge Laboratories, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Treatment consists of a drop or so on the infected spot. No clipping, bathing, etc. is necessary. Treatment is simple and effective.

Cat owners may not be able to get this medicine in England; therefore, I will send a small bottle to anyone who requests it (as long as my supply lasts) because I think it is sad to endure all the worry about ringworm when such a simple, quick cure is possible.

I send greetings and good wishes to cat lovers everywhere.

MRS. D. R. TWEET

Box 31, Signal Mountain,  
Tennessee, U.S.A.

*(Many thanks, Mrs. Tweet, for your thoughtful and most generous gesture.—Editor.)*

### Cats of Korea

About a year ago I sent you a picture of Korean orphans which you published in OUR CATS. Since then I have acquired a Korean cat of my own and found out a little more about the local felines. Perhaps the little I have gleaned may provoke someone who really knows about oriental cats into writing a proper article. I know nothing of the cats of China and Japan, and my Korean observations are not anything like a thorough investigation.

The proportion of cats seems to have increased a little during the past year. They still fetch high prices on the market. The majority of Korean cats seem to be black and white, sometimes very attractive. Tabby and white are next most common. After that come the tabby, orange and white, orange and finally black. I have seen no tortoiseshells and few selfs. The typical cat of the country seems to be the black and white.

Twisted, kinked and stubby tails are common. But the heads seem to be well rounded and there is little or nothing to suggest what is called "oriental type" in England. However, my own Bernadette is as conversational as any Siamese. She keeps up a constant commentary on the day's doings with a very full-throated voice and I am told this is not in the least unusual for a Korean cat. Certainly, there is no oriental reserve about them.

Koreans regard the cat as useful, but artful and untrustworthy. Nevertheless, I notice that no Korean who visits me can resist the temptation to fondle Bernadette and they are very appreciative of her beauty.

Several former Korean artists have left very fine paintings of cats. In fact the 18th century court portrait painter Pyon Sang Byok—whose literary name was Hwajae—"Hall of Harmony"—was so addicted to painting cats that his cat pictures are treasured while his portraits are scarcely remembered. His contemporaries gave him a second literary name Koeyangi, which means "wonderful style" but is also a pun on the homely Korean word for "cat." His most



TIM

MRS. WAKEFORD of 12 Weymouth Avenue, Ealing, London, W.5, writes :—

*“I would like to say that I have found Kit-zyme excellent. Tim, my long-haired grey cat, had lived out of doors for several years before I took him in and looked after him.*

*“He had very bad skin trouble so I started to give him Kit-zyme and the tablets have helped him enormously. His coat improved and he is now a fine healthy cat and a wonderful advertisement for Kit-zyme.”*

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All cat owners are advised to keep a jar of Zemol in the store cupboard. Zemol, an actively antiseptic veterinary ointment (by the makers of Kit-zyme) is a safe and very effective way of treating minor wounds, cuts, burns, etc. Literature FREE on request.

famous pictures show black and white and tabby and white cats playing among pine trees.

FR. RICHARD RUTT  
English Church Mission,  
Korea.

#### **Intelligence or Accident ?**

Just Simon, my Cream Persian kitten, was three months old when he became the proud possessor of a red nylon harness and lead. Normally this used to hang on a hook at the top of the side of a rather old-fashioned sideboard, but time and again the lead and harness would be discovered upstairs or in some odd corner—anywhere but in the right place.

I'd often wondered how it happened till one day Simon himself strolled across the dining room floor in front of me, swaggered over to the end of the lead within his reach, took it in his teeth and with his eyes looking up at the harness part on the hook, he gave a sharp tug. The elastic sprang back, the harness jumped off the hook and Simon with a "there you are, see?" look on his face tore past me and headed for the stairs with his harness trailing behind him.

Now it's kept in the drawer as when we wanted to go walks he could never remember where he put it!

MISS C. G. NICHOLL  
Kingswear, Dartmouth.

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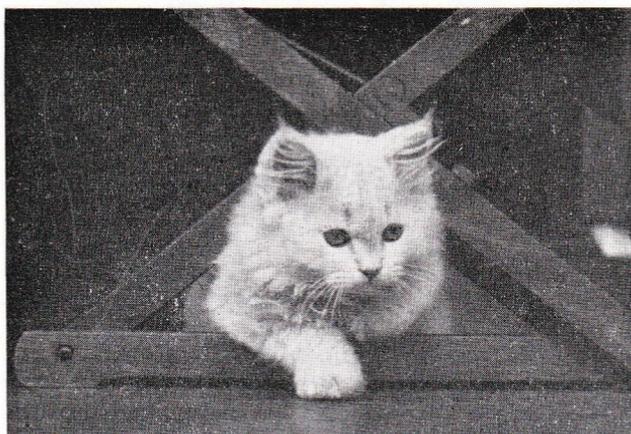
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And this is Miss Nicholl's JUST SIMON, the trickster, whose amusing antics are described in the letter reproduced above. Simon was bred by Mrs. Owen, of Kingswear, Devon, sire Ch. Dusty of Dunesk.

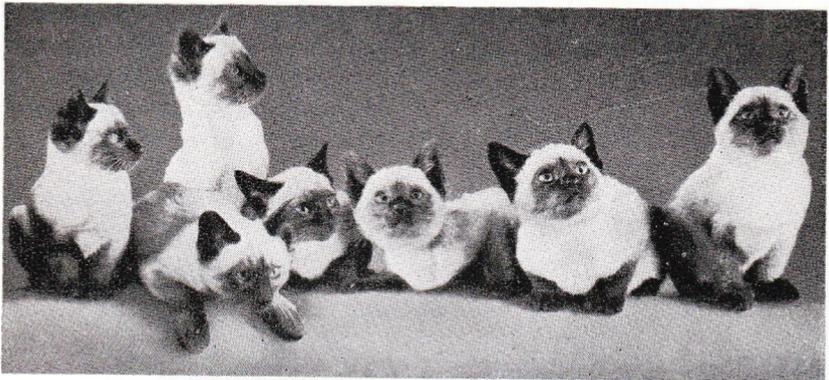
## A page for the proletarian puss No. 72



PERFECT BLISS !

*Reginald Waterson*

“ Please don't disturb me until tea time ”



*How many of them will you rear ?*

Normally — all of them. But suppose just *one* of your cats contracted Feline Infectious Enteritis ? You might lose the lot in a few days.

Be safe — have your kittens injected *before they are three months old* with Vaccine manufactured by Dr. Graeub of Berne. Consult your veterinary adviser who will be able to give you full advice.

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## Feline Fragments

### ***Correct Thinking***

By IVOR RALEIGH

WHEN a person first joins our Fancy, it may be stated with almost complete certainty that he does so because he loves cats and desires to enlarge his contact with them and with other cat lovers, within the framework of an organization developed for that purpose. For some little time after joining, the novice retains his original mental approach to the Fancy but after a period of time, varying from individual to individual, factors other than those which motivated his novitiate tend to creep into prominence.

Some of these new factors are most beneficial in their effects. Thus, instead of being satisfied to show, the individual may develop a great interest in a specific breed or breeds and devote himself thoughtfully and painstakingly to a programme of selective breeding, with the result that instead of being merely an exhibitor, he becomes a major contributor to the growth and excellence of his chosen breed in particular, and to the Fancy in general.

Other one-time novices develop, or perhaps merely adapt existing gifts for organizing to the particular needs of the Fancy. These qualifications are of great importance, and without them we would never have attained our high level of progress. The people in this category become prominent members of committees, show managers and other essential "backroom boys and girls" of the Fancy. Very often, people show qualities in both of these categories simultaneously.

Last, but by no means least, certain individuals become the judges of our cats. The best of these judges are people with a great knowledge of certain breeds and a highly developed quality, partly natural and partly acquired, of being able to "see" a cat both as a fine animal and as an exhibit within the specific parameter of values known as a Schedule of Points.

These three categories of persons form as it were the basic skeleton around which the large body of breeders weave their tendrils of hope, endeavour and aspiration until the whole intricate network is transformed into the Fancy which we know to-day.

### **Bad Losers**

Regrettably, at least in this context, we are only too human, with the result that many of us at times commit acts, say words and think thoughts which have a destructive influence upon the very organization which means so much to us. I have heard people cast the most serious aspersions upon the ability and even the honesty of judges when the latter have given their cats a low placing. I have heard the same people eulogise the same judges when, on another occasion, their cats have won under them. I have heard exhibitors decry the efforts of show managers when their cats failed to do well at a given show and I have heard the same people extol the virtues and organizing ability of the same show managers at subsequent shows, where their cats did particularly well.

Sometimes, since we are all imperfect, people in the Fancy will do or say something harmful and, in such cases, one is too often tempted to rebuke them openly or try to "get one's own back" in a more subtle way. A little thought will show the futility of such an attitude, for the simplest way to make persons dislike you is to prove them wrong.

With a little effort and patience you can correct wrong thinking in others in such a way that they are left with the impression that they have done it themselves. To give an example: I once heard a University student attempt a clumsy explanation of a mathematical concept to a group of people in a club. His explanation was quite incorrect and yet, was given in such a cock-sure manner that I was greatly tempted to

tell him that he was talking rubbish. Mastering my impulse I took him to one side and told him that while there was a lot in what he said, a more general explanation was, etc., etc. The young man quickly saw where he had been wrong and generously thanked me for my advice.

I feel sure that, had I followed my first impulse, he would have argued the point for hours and finished up by hating me for showing up his lack of knowledge in front of people whom he was anxious to impress.

What a wonderful Fancy we could have if each of us made a habit of thinking before he spoke and if we could learn to desire everyone's happiness as if it were our own.

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## STOCKHOLM SHOW REPORT

Stockholm Kattklubb International Championship Show on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of last month (writes Miss M. L. Rodda) where Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Svenningsen and myself were judging, was a very enjoyable event. It was well organized and attracted a large number of visitors. All who have been to Stockholm on a judging assignment will be aware of the hospitality and kindness shown to us during our visit.

We made an early start on the Friday, judging at the pens as we do in England. The public were not allowed in the hall that day. This gave us time to get most of the exhibits judged on the first day. Best Exhibit in Show was Ticko av Amur, a Siamese. The Longhairs were well represented in most breeds. Best L.H. Adult was Ch. Vigilant Jonathan, Blue C.C.C.I.B. winner owned by Frk. R. Larsdotter and bred by Mrs. Pullen. Other C.A.C.I.B. winners were Int. Ch. Vansirkens Maxim owned by Fru M. B. Zetterlund; Int. Ch. Violaine de Nice owned by Fru E. Axelsson, both Golden-eyed Whites; Int. Ch. Tassita av Frey,

a Blue-eyed White owned by Fru Anna-Bella Akerman; Ch. Bircotte Modest Maidie, a Blue bred by Miss Sherlock and owned by Fru P. Lakshoel; Ch. Widdington Wintersohn, Cream bred by Miss E. Sheppard and owned by Fru I. Tingwall; Int. Ch. Broughton Primrose bred by Mrs. Hughes and owned by Fru G. Sorvik-Janson; Int. Ch. Cheri av Barbarossa, a Red owned by Fru I. Tingwall; Ch. Drevvikshofs Blaklint, a Blue-Cream owned by Fru I. Tingwall; Int. Ch. Derry de Padirac, a Brown Tabby owned by Fru B. Axelsson.

Best Black was Black Mollie av Menlo owned by Fru G. Wickbom. Another C.A.C. winner who became a Champion was the Cream male Gleam of Pensford, owned by Fru Westerlund and bred by Mrs. Joan Thompson. Best Kitten, a Cream baby, was Fru Westerlund's Krokholmens Jill.

My grateful thanks to my efficient stewards Mrs. Magnusson, Frau Kirsten and Frau Schulte.

M.L.R.

# **The Pussychiatrist**

By T. W. W. BARTRAM

"THAT cat," observed Howard the American in a sympathetic but horrified voice, "needs to see a pussychiatrist."

The Robinsons looked at Fatima with a new censoriousness. It was true she was behaving peculiarly, but they were so used to this that they had hardly noticed. At that moment she was lying rigidly on her back, forepaws folded on her chest, hindpaws crossed, tail tucked between hindpaws. Her black and white head (she would have doubled for half the cats in Cornwall, except for her spotted tail) lay back on the carpet but every so often she raised it, peered up with large glittering eyes at each person in turn, and then rested it again for further meditation. Did other domestic cats, the Robinsons wondered apprehensively for the first time, behave like this? Perhaps there was something in what Howard said.

Mr. Robinson took Fatima next day for a visit to Miss Tabb. Miss Tabb was a wise old lady in her late seventies. She had never thought of calling herself a pussychiatrist, but she lived with eight or nine cats and knew a lot about them. In her younger days she had written novels, so maybe she knew a lot of psychology too.

Fatima and Mr. Robinson plodded up the long drive to the old house of which Miss Tabb occupied a wing. They were delayed by playing hide and seek,

but eventually caught sight of Miss Tabb taking a walk on the terrace. And she, in turn, caught sight of them. In a scene recalling Betsy Trotwood she shouted shrilly, "Nancy-y-y-y! Tigress!" and a tocsin sounded from a cupola on the house roof.

At previous meetings with Miss Tabb, not on her home ground, Mr. Robinson had found her quite abnormally rational. Now he began to ruminate. Fatima might be a funny cat, but to be proclaimed a tigress, and at a distance of two hundred yards! What was the alarm bell for—to summon gardeners bringing chains and muzzles? Cat on shoulder he approached Miss Tabb.

She greeted them cheerfully. The "tigress" cry was soon explained. Tigress was an old and wild cat of hers who did not like newcomers of her own species. The house bell was rung to draw Tigress safely indoors; Tigress associated the bell with fish. And now, said Miss Tabb, how was little Fatima? "Let me look at her."

Fatima put out her tongue, not to say ah but to lick the tip of Miss Tabb's nose. This sort of ceremony Miss Tabb did not discourage, but she had a disinfected handkerchief ready and as soon as she thought the affectionate cat wasn't looking she rubbed off the salute, as it were. Fatima was evidently very well? "Ye-e-es," Mr. Robinson said. "She's well *physically*." He feared he was on the frontier of the

ridiculous. But Miss Tabb took the implication seriously. "More needs she the divine? But cats have quite a different morality from ours, you know. Not like dogs. The mere fact that she steals, or even scratches . . ."

"It's not that she does anything wrong," Mr. Robinson said. "It's just that she—she's odd. We never really noticed it until yesterday, and then a friend of ours pointed it out. She's always doing funny things. And then she's so independent. Of course she has the company of the family, but as our friend said, the agonizing thing is that she seldom seems to like other cats except for the room they leave behind them. Their very caterwauling makes her look quite bilious. Do you think it's all to do with her tail?"

### **A vast subject**

Fatima, on Miss Tabb's shoulder now, shook her sides. They walked slowly along the terrace, Miss Tabb trailing a walking stick which one of her own kittens stalked as it bobbed through the wet grass, and when they came to a low arch formed by two broken tree trunks, they dodged underneath it and Fatima leaped on to the trees and back with precision to Miss Tabb's shoulder as she straightened again. Coming to some grass-grown steps the two ascended slowly in the direction of a smell of coffee, and then Miss Tabb spoke.

"This is complicated," she warned. "Has it ever struck you why human beings are more catty, in the accepted sense, than cats? The reason is that they're less catty than cats in the true sense."

Glancing at him, she tried again.

"A cat is seldom what we call catty," she said, "in other words venomous, except when her own position is threatened. The opposite to humans, who are most often catty about things that don't concern them. Why is this? Because proper cattiness—not the human sort—springs from independence."

Miss Tabb sighed. "It's a vast subject," she said, "little touched on, except I believe by Aldous Huxley. That wise man Professor Riesman has explained that a few human beings remain "inner-directed" whereas most are now 'other-directed'; but what about cats?"

They had arrived at the coffee. Miss Tabb paused with a biscuit half-way to her mouth and proclaimed: "The cat fascinates this modern age because the cat, almost alone, remains inner-directed. Unlike those clucking hens over there she is herself, and her values are her own."

In friendly confirmation Fatima seized the pussychiatrist's biscuit. Miss Tabb took another, unsurprised.

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### **A Reminder !**

This Magazine is now available in the United Kingdom *on a subscription basis only*. Rates are 20s. for 12 issues or 10s. for 6 issues, post free. Orders and remittances should be sent to OUR CATS (Subscription Dept.), 14-16 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

Subscription orders may, if preferred, be placed with your local newsagent or bookseller.



# Tailpieces

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



THE local council for Yiewsley and West Drayton, Middlesex, have decided to grant official recognition to Nigger, a fine black male cat who has kept the municipal offices free from vermin for thirteen years. Any veterinary fees will be met out of the rates and when he gets too old for the job there will be security for him in the form of a pension. Nigger will also get free food and lodging in the surveyor's department. One of the councillors explained that the cost to the ratepayers will be infinitesimal—only about a 2,500th part of a penny each.

A snippet which a Canadian reader has kindly sent me from *The Calgary Herald* runs: "A Long Island man, told fish make good fertilizer, went out and caught a mess of porgies (local fish, I presume!) and buried them around his plants. Next morning his garden was literally torn apart. Neighborhood cats sniffed the soil-permeating odors and had themselves a feast."

Another amusing little story comes from the West—not quite so far West this time, from Pembrokeshire, to be precise. Mrs. Dorothy Clavier, who lives near Haverfordwest, writes: I had rather a rude man on my doorstep the other day. He started off: "They tell me you have Siamese kittens for sale. How many can I have?" Me, staggered: "Why do you want them?" "I wanna breed 'em, and I want as many as you can let me have. It'll be cheaper that way, won't it?" I had recovered by this time, so I quietly asked: "Would a hundred day-olds suit you for 5 gns. the lot?" Mr. Clavier took over at this

stage and quietly led the man down the garden path and acquainted him with some of the facts of life.

Mr. Gordon B. Allt, F.Z.S., staunch supporter of the Fancy for many years, has had the distressing experience of losing three of the oldest inhabitants of his Danehurst Cattery, at St. Johns, Crowborough, Sussex. They are (1) Sco Ruston Ravisant, Blue Longhair stud and the last surviving son in this country of Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas to be at stud. Bred by Mrs. Gaymer, he sired excellent kittens, including Ch. Danehurst Black Prince, now in America; (2) Oxlip of Sunfield, a Cream queen bred by Miss Mollie Gabb, one of the foundation queens of Danehurst cattery and dam of Ch. Danehurst Sherriff, now in Canada; and (3) Nova Fenella, Cream queen bred by Mrs. Axon. Mr. Allt writes: "You can imagine how I feel over this exodus, but age got the better of them and rather than wait for the inevitable pain to set in, I braced myself to the decision and had them put to sleep."

A veterinary expert reports that dogs in America are developing stomach ulcers which are caused by fears of traffic in busy streets, doubts about food and relations with other dogs. The same authority points out that cats are immune. "They have," he says, "the answer to modern life that eludes dogs and humans. They know how to relax."

Way ahead of the many club journals I have seen over the years from different parts of the world is *Cat World*, the representative of the Garden State Cat

Club, New York, U.S.A. The first issue of the first volume—for January/February, 1957—has reached me from the editors Lois and Robert Green. It consists of 22 pages of news, articles and special features and the four covers are devoted to excellent pictures in gravure, with an English-bred Blue Point Siamese Ch. Fernreig Zaru of Wu (now owned by noted judge and breeder Lillian King, of Nutley, New Jersey) occupying the place of honour on the front cover. An excellent balance is maintained inside the book and altogether it is a journal which deserves to have a much wider readership. Anyone interested should contact the editors at 6 Longview Road, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, U.S.A. *Cat World* will appear six times a year and the subscription rate is \$1.50, roughly 10s. 6d. in sterling.

An interesting case was recently heard at St. Ives, Cornwall, when the wife of a publican at Camborne, 15 miles away, was charged with the theft of Monkey, a marmalade and white longhair reputed to be the biggest cat in St. Ives. The defendant said she saw the cat in a doorway and it jumped into her car. The

defending solicitor reminded the Court of the rhyme about the cats of St. Ives and suggested it was reasonable for his client to assume the cat was a stray. The Chairman, imposing a fine of £5, said that cats in St. Ives are of considerable value to their owners. The rhyme referred to above runs as follows :

As I was going to St. Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives,  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits ;  
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,  
How many were there going to  
St. Ives ?

Have you heard about "the mere male" who walked into the toilet department of a large store and asked for some perfume called "Cats' Anger" ? His wife had asked him to get her favourite "Cassandra !"

And there's the harassed husband who said the only way to get any attention in his house was to miaow for it, whereupon he did so.

MICKEY.



*Keith Marshall*  
**Cream Longhair male HATHAWAY ANTONY ROLY, belonging to Mrs. Rowena Ross, of Longfield, Kent, keeps a paternal eye on his lively kittens by Bayhorne Sheena. Antony appeared in a television programme last December.**

Australia's leading judge sends

## **News from "Down Under"**

**We extend a hearty welcome to our new contributor Fred W. Pearce, of Sydney, who for so many years has been officiating at Australian and New Zealand shows. He will be sending us news items and photographs from time to time from his part of the world, where interest in the Fancy is steadily expanding.**

**T**HANK you, Mr. Editor, for inviting me to act as your scribe for this part of the world.

**I send you and your readers everywhere, a cheery greeting from the land of the Southern Cross. I feel sure New Zealand cat folk would wish me to include them in my first report but I have been unlucky in not receiving their letter in time. A wonderful country, wonderful people and lots of lovely feline stock.**

I shall do my best to keep you posted with items of news which I hope will be of interest to all.

Katoomba, that very popular and beautiful holiday resort up in the Blue Mountains, "kicked off" with the first show of 1957. The A. H. & I. Association has included a cat section for the past three years, which has become very popular. Approximately seventy miles from Sydney and with an elevation of over 3,000 feet, most exhibitors turn the Katoomba Show into a family picnic day. The weather was kind and the entry good but due to a very warm summer, quite a few of our aristocratic entries turned up in their singlets.

Following are the major awards:  
Best Persian Male Cat—Miss Haswell's Cheeri Debroyal; Best Persian Female Cat—Miss M. Turner's St. Chad's Platinum; Best Persian Kitten—Mrs. Yardley's Brighton Bluey; Best Persian Neuter—Mrs. Hicks' Delhi Beau Valet; Best Persian Litter—Mrs. Freeman's Shaded Silvers; Best Siamese Male—Mrs. Price's Talbingo Timberlane; Best Siamese Female—Miss Williams' Bluemead Anna Pavlova; Best Siamese Kitten—Mrs. Thoms' Gaye Yum-Yum; Best Neuter—Mrs. M. Finch's Dominic

Michiro; Best Siamese Litter—Mrs. O'Donohue's.

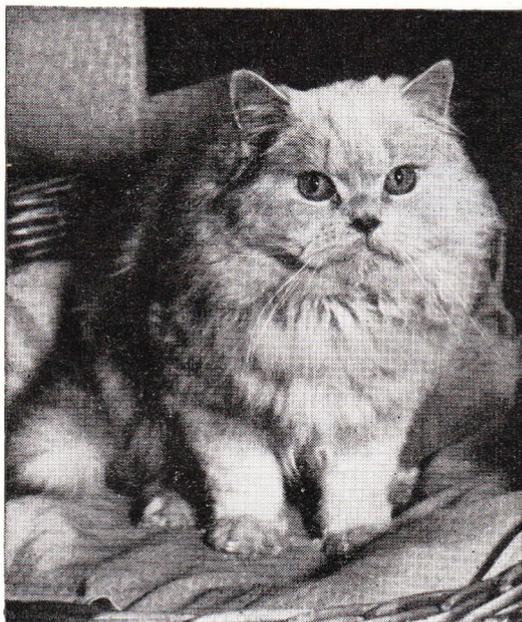
As the show season does not begin to buzz again till March, when kittens hold sway, I will send you next month a list of our Clubs, Secretaries, etc., so you may all get to know more about us and where we are located.

I have received word from Brisbane Club of the death of Mrs. Ford, a very highly esteemed member, who had recently purchased some very good stock from the other states, and would have been a great asset to the breeders in Queensland, particularly beginners. I was privileged to know Mrs. Ford, and felt the richer for having done so. I know how greatly she will be missed.

That Grand Old Man of the New Zealand cat world, Robert Marshall, has decided to "call it a day," and take a rest, after many years of valuable service. I am sure we shall all miss him and his great organizing ability and attention to detail. I feel sure he would appreciate a letter from cat lovers who care to write. He is just settling into another home, and I have not yet received his address for inclusion here. Mr. Pollock is the new Secretary of Auckland Club and Miss Menzies, O.B.E., is Secretary to the New Zealand Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

A new and much needed club has just been launched in Adelaide, South Australia. From details given me by the Secretary, Mrs. Gillman, I should say they are definitely "in business." We have sent them hearty congrats. from all members, and will be very happy to see their rapid progress, like Brisbane. More about them next month.

Cheerio and nice kittens!



## “WHERE’S MY TIBS?”

*“It was nearly Tibs-Time when I met Broughton Marvo,” says Tibby, the Tibs Reporter.*

*“He was quite impatient when I interrupted him — then we both had our Tibs together, and we parted very good friends.”*

Broughton Marvo is a beautiful pale cream Longhair, owned by Mrs. Aitken of 2 Commonfield Road, Banstead, Surrey and bred by Mrs. Hughes. He is a winner of many prizes and has sired winning kittens, among them Bournside Misty Twilight, a lovely blue-cream bred by Mrs. Aitken. Misty Twilight won at every show at which she appeared last year. Mrs. Aitken attributes much of her success in breeding to the excellent condition that regular Tibs Tablets give all her cats. They all love their daily Tibs — in fact one of her cats likes them so much that he has been known to empty the packet if left open!

Famous  
breeders  
say:

# TIBS

11d. and 2/3



## KEEP CATS KITTENISH



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

**M**RS. 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.

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### Up in Lancashire

FROM Mrs. Brittlebank, Hon. Secretary of the Lancashire and North Western Counties Cat Club, comes news of the Ch. Show which she organized on behalf of the Club on February 9th at Stockport. She writes :

“We were blessed with a fine day and the gate was a really excellent one. Altogether we had 220 exhibits and a splendid response from the household pet owners who brought along 34 cats and kittens, among them a real Tortoise-shell-and-White male who excited great interest.”

“Our President, Manchester Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Bancroft Turner, was with us the whole day and took the keenest interest in the proceedings. Later, we had the pleasure of welcoming the popular television personality and Superintendent of Manchester Belle Vue Zoo, Mr. Gerald Iles, who presented the rosettes to the prizewinners and entertained us with delightful anecdotes about

cats (large and small) and showed a wonderful collection of photographs of lions, tigers and leopards to the accompaniment of delighted ‘Oohs’ and ‘Ahs’ from his appreciative audience.

“The Best in Show winners were as follow : Best Longhair Adult—Miss Sheppard’s Cream male Widdington Winterstar who completed his Championship ; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Burrow’s Blue Borrowdale Blue Dawn ; Best S.H. Adult—Mrs. K. R. Williams’ S.P. Siamese female Ch. Tia Mia Trinket ; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Watson’s S.P. Siamese female Milori Anya ; Best L.H. Neuter Mrs. Molloy’s Blue Premier Moonraker ; Best S.H. Neuter and Best Neuter in Show—Mrs. Parker’s Purland Franjipani ; Best Household Pet Adult—Mrs. Learcy’s Smokey Joe ; Best Household Pet Kitten—shared by Mr. Harrison’s Mackerel entry and Mrs. Jones’s Dusty, who was an unwanted stray taken from the R.S.P.C.A. and given a good and loving home. The winner of Dusty’s rosette is displaying it in the windows of the R.S.P.C.A. shop to encourage others to adopt homeless cats or kittens.

“We were happy to welcome our judges and have them finish in good time, and very grateful to them for some of the difficult hours they put in during early afternoon when they had to force a way through the milling crowds. It was a happy show with several delighted owners who completed Championships with their cats. It was their last chance of this season and so much can happen before the next Ch. Show in September.



Identical subjects but with different treatment. Which do you prefer? The top picture with the dark background was taken by staff photographer A. D. McGuirk, of Berrows Newspapers, Worcester, and shows Queen Mumtaz with a bonny litter of nine Siamese Seal Point kittens by Pikha Shah Jehan. Breeder is Air Commodore F. J. Vincent, C.B.E., D.F.C., of Broadwas-on-Teme, Worcestershire.

The lower picture by Forest Photos is calculated to capture the hearts of all Blue Point enthusiasts. These five weeks' old babies, sired by Ch. Misselfore Ryken ex Sah Mutaira, were bred by Major and Mrs. J. C. S. Rendall, of Burley, Ringwood, Hants.

"The new Champions are:—Mrs. Aitken's Black Bournside Black Orchid by Ch. Astra of Pensford; Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh's Bayhorne Adam by Ch. Baralan Boy Blue; Miss Langston's Chinchilla Marella of Allington by Ch. Mark of Allington; Mrs. Moore's Tortie and White Asplin Lucetta by Derry of Dunesk; Miss von Ullman's Russian Blue Dunloe Vickie by Ch. Dunloe Domokoitch; Mrs. Dadd's S.P. Siamese male Sabukia Sir Galahad by Sabukia Scatterbrain; and Dr. and Mrs. Groom's B.P. Siamese male Nilgiris Blue Antonio by Ch. Fernreig Zyn.

"We are so glad the Governing Council has granted us Championship status for our next Show in 1958. We shall endeavour to make each one better than our last."

### Swedish Success

From Mrs. Judith Saether who rarely misses a Scandinavian Show comes news of the International Ch. Show at Stockholm, Sweden, on February 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

"Stockholm Kattklub held their usual successful fixture at Kungshallen, Kungsgatan. Situated right in the middle of Stockholm's main thoroughfare, it is an excellent venue. It was organized by Mr. Martin Hammar, the new President of the Club, with his new, and some of the old Committee members. A new feature of the Show for Scandinavia was that on the first day the hall was open only to exhibitors, judges and stewards so that all judging was finished on that day without anyone or the exhibits being harassed by the public. This was an innovation everyone appeared to approve.

"We were very pleased to have Mrs. O. M. Lamb from England to judge Siamese and Miss Rodda for all Longhairs except Chinchillas, which were judged by Mrs. Svenningsen, Norway, who also judged Abyssinians

and European Shorthairs. Mrs. Ulla Magnusson stewarded for Miss Rodda and I enjoyed stewarding for Mrs. Lamb very much. In addition, we were pleased to welcome three well-known personalities from Germany, Frau Thea Volkersen, Frau Schulte and Frau Kursten. We were disappointed that owing to veterinary restrictions we were unable to have any German exhibits. On Saturday and Sunday the public started milling in and that is the right word. Such crowds and such queues! Mr. Hammar told me later that on these two days almost as many people visited it as on the three days it was open to the public last year. The publicity was very well organized and this was helped by Miss Harriet Andersson, one of Sweden's young and very charming film stars, exhibiting her lovely Siamese neuter.

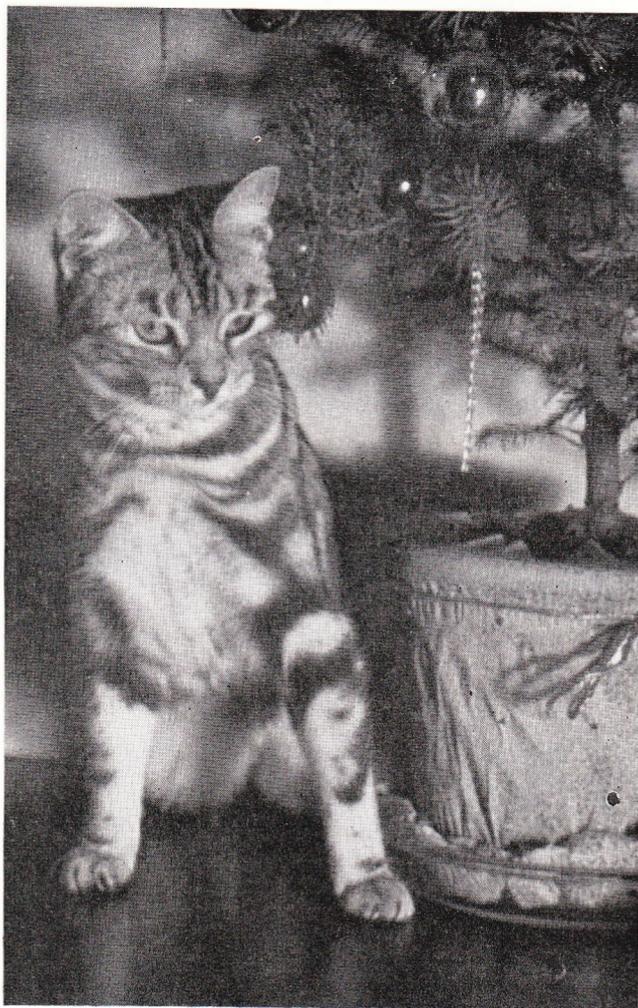
"On Saturday evening, the Club held a very enjoyable supper party at the Ambassadeur Restaurant. Altogether it was a very successful Show indeed and Mr. Hammar and his Committee received many congratulations.

### English-bred Winners

"The Best Longhairs were pure British bred—Miss Larsdotter's Ch. Vigilant Jonathan by Ch. Jewel of Dunesk (also Best Swedish Exhibit); Best L.H. Kitten a lovely Cream female Krokholmen's Jill, by Ch. Gleam of Pensford (who received his final at this Show) and Ch. Aviary Blossom.

"Best Exhibit was a S.P. Siamese male Ticko av Amur by the English-bred Ch. Sabukia Sinbad and Int. Ch. Exotic Fantasy, the latter bred by Mrs. Magnusson; Best Shorthair Kitten Ronnvikens Solitaire by Ticko av Amur; Best European Shorthair was Snobben of Leirtun, a Silver Tabby male bred in Norway.

"First in their respective classes for International Champions were Ch. Hazeldine Silver Rexi (male) and my female Ch. Lactitia of Allington, both Chinchillas.



**CH. SILVERSEAL SEKHMET**, Silver Tabby female by Ch. Silverseal Dazzler, was a consistent winner during the 1956/7 show season for Mrs. M. Thake, of Coventry, who is also the breeder.

"English-bred cats awarded C.A.C.I.B. in addition to above were the Blues Ch. Vigilant Jonathan and Ch. Bircotte Modest Maidie. The Creams Ch. Widdington Wintersohn and Int. Ch. Broughton Primrose ; Siamese Int. Ch. Morris Sable and Int. Ch. Pristine Petaling ; Abyssinian Int. Ch. Nigella Fern. Mrs. Björk's Blue-Cream Coptorn Liebchen by Myowne Caesar and bred by Miss Aitken was awarded her final Ch.

"Miss Rodda liked my Premier Foxburrow Firefly very much and as for Miss Posthuma, she was horrified that I had neutered him. When I told her that it had got to the point where I almost had a divorce on my hands due to Firefly's previous masculine habits, she told me that I shouldn't have thought twice about divorcing my husband. A cat like Firefly was hard to come by but there were always plenty of men! I was very amused. I had wanted to meet Miss Posthuma for a long time and we actually met at Daraks Ch. Show in Copenhagen a week after Stockholm which I will tell you about later."

## TV Stars

Mrs. Brice-Webb tells me she very much enjoyed her experience of being televised from the Birmingham T.V. Studios on February 7th in "Pet's Parade." Mr. Brice-Webb was one of the interested spectators. They took with them their Blue male Pennholme Pierre, their Blue-Cream Mayblossom and a Cream kitten Kirsty. Mr. Matthewson presented two Burmese, Mrs. Thake a Silver Tabby Champion, a S.T. kitten and Siamese. A very attractive White kitten bred by Mrs. Herod was shown by his new owner. They all behaved very well and the Studio staff were very intrigued to see pedigree cats at close quarters.

Oriel Ross, the actress, brought two non-pedigree cats in lovely condition,

Dodo and Farthing. The P.D.S.A. had a share in the programme and presented the owner, the vet who rescued it, and the cat which had been down a culvert 30 ft. deep for four days. It was eventually trapped in a steel cage with food inside lowered into the culvert, as it walked into it the door was automatically closed and puss was brought to the surface.

Another owner brought a L.H. Red Tabby acquired from the P.D.S.A., which their vet had been treating for an abscess. Mr. Anthony, the Superintendent of the Birmingham branch of the P.D.S.A., asked Mrs. Brice-Webb to give a talk on grooming and health and she did so with their resident vet.

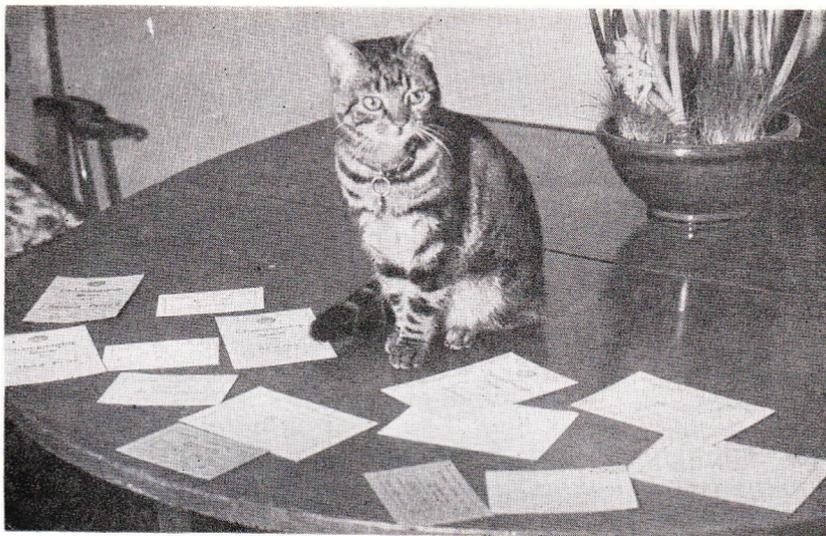
## A Successful Sire

On February 16th a long article appeared in the *Beeston Gazette* of an interview with Mrs. Brice-Webb at her home and comments on her cats. More valuable publicity for cats!

The progeny of Mrs. Brice-Webb's Pennholme Pierre had some excellent wins at the Notts and Derby Ch. Show in January. He sired the best Cream kitten—Mr. and Mrs. Champion's Sterling Biscuit, the Best Blue kitten in the six to nine months class ; Miss Peck's Sakkara Silver Symphony who was first in Any Variety Pairs with one of the same litter, Sakkara Silver Silhouette. Mrs. Clare Prince's Crowdecote Titchemo by the same sire was first in Blue Junior male or female, and first in Blue novice.

## Club A.G.M.

The Herts and Middlesex Annual General Meeting on February 20th was a very pleasant one. The main items of general interest to members were that Mrs. Barron's temporary appointment as Hon. Secretary was approved and confirmed. Miss I. Statman was elected Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Price was



*By courtesy of the "Wolverhampton Express and Star"*

**WHISTON TABITHA TWITCHETT, Brown Tabby Shorthair at eight months, with the fourteen prize cards she has won at three shows. Owner and breeder is Miss Ann L. Stubbs, of Penkridge. Sire Timothy Titus.**

## Brand's Essence is palatable nourishment that even the sick cat can rapidly digest



BRAND'S BOOKLET  
"Safeguarding  
your Pet"  
will be sent free  
on application to  
Brand & Co. Ltd.,  
Mayfair Works,  
Vauxhall, S.W.8.



WHETHER in real illness, or when a cat is just "off colour," Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. Cats will often take a teaspoonful when they refuse everything else. It provides the cat with the valuable meat protein it needs. And being partially predigested, Brand's Essence is rapidly absorbed with almost no strain on the system. It contains no added salt or preservative—cannot possibly irritate.

Whenever extra nourishment is indicated there's nothing better than Brand's Essence

As a nourishing stimulant at show-time or whenever the cat is subjected to strain; to build up the mother-cat; and as additional feeding for the kittens themselves from the age of three weeks, there's nothing better—or more acceptable—than Brand's Essence. And it's a rapid general conditioner.

## Brand's Essence

**BEEF • CHICKEN**

ected as Delegate to the Governing Council. An interesting announcement was made that under the auspices of the Club a Cat Conference will be held on May 8th at The Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, N.W.

A nominal charge will be made to cover the cost of the Hall and everyone interested in cats can attend. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Barron, 54 Sweetcroft Lane, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

### **National Club Meeting**

The A.G.M. of the National Cat Club was held in London on February 26th. It was well attended and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Brunton, had a satisfactory report to present. The Show at Olympia was a financial success and gratitude was expressed to the Hon. Secretary for her services on behalf of the Club and to Mrs. Pond (Show Manager) and to Mrs. Dunks for their fine work as organizers.

There was an interesting discussion about the domestic pet section which is again to be a feature of the N.C.C. Ch. Show at the end of November. To those of us who have been breeding cats many years this is not a new problem.

Before the war the late Miss Helen Hill-Shaw encouraged owners to exhibit them at Croydon Cat Club Ch. Shows which in those days were held at the Scarbrook Baths Hall, Croydon. There were many breeders even then who did not agree that non-pedigree domestic cats should be exhibited at a Ch. Show but they were so few in number that it never really led to serious discussion.

When the Crystal Cat Club held the third Show at Olympia in August, 1952, this section was widely publicized by a well-known firm interested in the marketing of tinned cat food. The result was an entry of over 200 non-pedigree cats and kittens. I judged nearly a hundred of them and many were very handsome and I commented in the September, 1952, number of *OUR CATS*

on their good condition. But I also added "The exhibition of these fine pets would only be practicable, in my opinion, in a hall such as Olympia, where they can all be accommodated in the huge gallery as a separate exhibition."

The number exceeded all expectations and again the desirability of having them was discussed but the owners of the pedigree cats were pacified as they were all relegated to the gallery far above and away from their own exhibits and, of course, this was not a Ch. Show organized under Governing Council rules nor was it anticipated it would be an annual event although many beautiful and famous cats were present.

### **Next Show Arrangements**

This proved to be the last of the shows at Olympia organized by the Crystal Cat Club which is now defunct, and as no attempt was made to encourage the exhibition of non-pedigree cats at London Ch. Shows, the whole question was in abeyance. It arose again in December last year with the National Cat Club Ch. Show under the aegis of the Governing Council but as the Show was at Olympia with its suitable gallery, and it was expedient—because the National Hall at Olympia costs over £300—to obtain as much publicity as possible, it was still not a really debatable subject and again we did not anticipate it would be continued in less suitable surroundings. But now the N.C.C. have announced their intention of returning to the New R.H.S. Hall, Westminster, and having this section on the same scale, and the same floor as their Ch. Show (no other space being available at this Hall). It will be interesting to see if the idea is agreeable to the majority of breeders of pedigree cats and kittens.

There are many aspects of the question. Championship shows owe their existence to the breeders of pedigree cats and it is on them that Clubs depend for their membership. A major London Ch. Show, especially the N.C.C. which has

attracted over 400 pedigree exhibits at its last four shows, appears to be as much as any Show Manager can adequately cope with and it is doubtful if there is a substantial increase in the "gate" when pets are included as obviously the public expect to see something different to the type of cat which they can see every day.

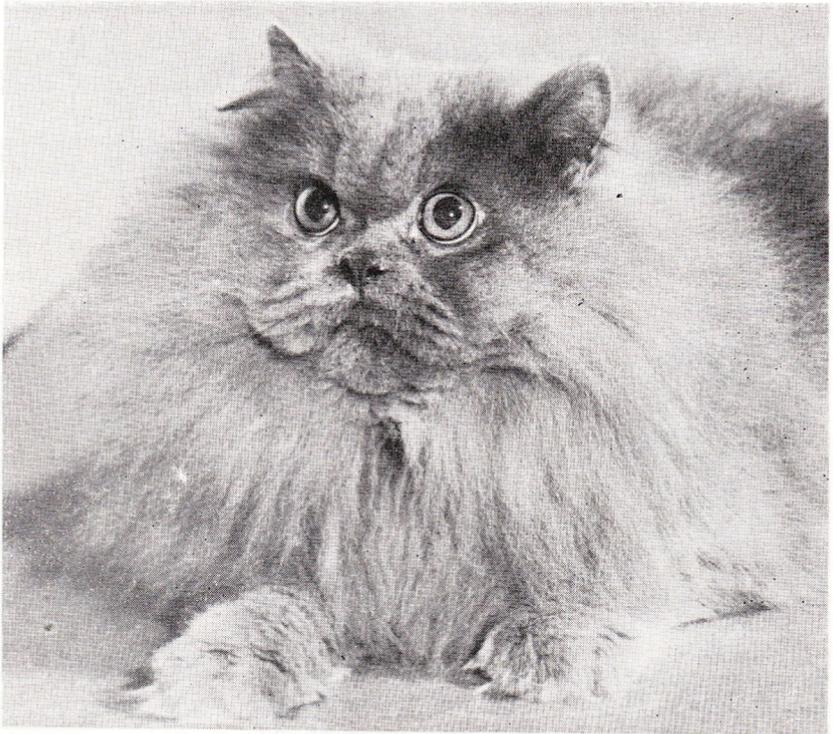
One wonders if we shall see in future some of the winners being advertised "First prize-winner at the National Cat Club Ch. Show" and the buyers imagining they own an outstanding show specimen? Let us hope that their prize cards will be distinctly marked "Domestic Pet Section" or have some wording which will convey that they were not competing in the Ch. Show.

The idea of having an exhibition for them is excellent but when it reaches

these dimensions, viz. about 200 exhibits, they become a show in themselves and unsuitable to combine with a London Ch. Show which already attracts a larger entry than any other. Under the aegis of one of the animal welfare societies such a show would have great possibilities particularly if it was held in early autumn, when the weather is more dependable, and on a date which did not clash with other cat shows.

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*Mrs. Joan Thompson will welcome news items and photographs suitable for inclusion in "Just Fancy" during 1957, particularly from clubs and fanciers overseas. Contributions—as brief as possible, please—may be addressed to her at 130 Wickham Way, Beckenham, Kent.*



**Introducing one of America's Double Champion Blue Longhairs. WIMAUMA PIERROT OF ZODA, by Wimauma Ahoy ex Pearl of Pensford, was bred by Mrs. Arvid Ohlin and was purchased by Californian fancier, Mrs. Z. R. McEachern, of San Francisco.**

## Cats in Paint and Print

By SIDNEY DENHAM

(continued from last month's issue)

IT has generally been agreed by experts that the parent of the domestic cat is the Bush or Caffer Cat (*Felis libyca*) which was domesticated by the ancients. It is equally confidently asserted that *Felis libyca* is untameable.

Mr. Maurice Burton, D.Sc., considered this apparent paradox in a recent article in *The Illustrated London News*, quoting a letter from Miss Evelyn Stephenson who, in 1914, had a Bush cat as a pet in the Belgian Congo.

It was caught as a small kitten still suckling by her native servants and she hand-reared it. At first a spitting fury, it became her pet, following her when called, visiting her in bed first thing every morning. Yet although devoted to her—when she became ill, Sammy established himself on her bed—he retained something of the wild. If she moved suddenly, Sammy would

strike at her with his teeth or grip her wrist, but never break the skin. He was afraid of nothing and even tackled that dangerous snake, the black mamba. He would disappear into the bush, but always came back.

Dr. Burton suggests that Sammy gives us a clue. Some wild kittens, taken young enough, may prove amenable to some domestication. With subsequent generations, more kittens would prove amenable to a greater degree. This must have been how the ancients domesticated the cat. And yet, as he points out, Sammy's behaviour is in keeping with that of the modern cat which "in spite of centuries of selection, is still not so much domesticated as allowing the human race to adopt it."

To be a cat-lover is now fashionable and as a result cats are the photographer's and publicity expert's great



**Browndreys Bluebell, bred by Miss E. M. Ellias, with her kittens Revel Blue Babbee and Revel Blue Zircon, bred by Mrs. D. L. Clavier. Blue Babbee was eventually exported to France where she became a Champion.**

"gimmick." A photograph of the latest starlet may or may not get into print. But have her hugging a cat, preferably Siamese, and the picture is sure to get in, presumably on the basis that editors feel male readers will be attracted by the starlet and women readers by the cat.

Cats have even invaded the field of fashion photography. A recent number of the glossy *Sketch* had six pages of fashion photographs, each one with a cat as well as a girl model. Five pictures meant to display the latest shoes showed only the legs of the model and a cat. The cat, a Siamese, looked wonderful. I don't remember noticing what the shoes looked like.



### A BILL FOR BOARDERS

The House of Commons—by 45 votes to 5—has approved the Second Reading of the Bill which will call for the licensing of all homes and boarding kennels for cats and dogs. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Home Office promised to help the Bill through Parliament but pointed out that it would place onerous restrictions on people who keep boarding establishments. The Home Office, he said, had received no complaints about this class of person.

Mr. J. Ridsdale, Conservative member for Harwich and promoter of the Bill, said that many owners conducted boarding establishments purely for profit with little thought for the comfort of the animals and little or no experience in looking after them. Many boarding houses are filthy with poor ventilation and lack of supervision and facilities for exercising the unfortunate visitors.

Arguments against the Bill brought out the point that if animal owners

are interested enough in the welfare of their pets they will take the precaution of seeing that the boarding establishment is well kept. One member asked: "Aren't we being a little ridiculous? If anyone wants to keep a boarding establishment for human beings, he can do so without the slightest difficulty, and yet if he wants to put up a cat or dog he has to get a licence under this Bill."

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## SUPERSTITIONS

*Extract from "Welsh Folk-Lore," by  
Elias Owen, M.A., 1896.*

THE cat was thought to be a capital weather glass. If she stood or lay with her face towards the fire, it was a sign of frost or snow; if she became frisky, bad weather was near. If the cat washed her face, strangers might be expected; and if she washed her face and ears, then rain was sure to come. A black cat was supposed to bring luck to the house, thus:

A black cat I've heard it said,

Can charm all ill away,

And keep the house wherein she dwells  
From fever's deadly sway.

Cats born in May, or May cats were no favourites. They were supposed to bring snakes and adders into the house.

In some parts the black cat was thought unlucky.

Never keep about thy house  
A white cock or black puss.

Cats are so tenacious of life that they are said to have nine lives, and witches were thought to transform themselves into cats.

A singular superstition connected with cats is the supposition that they indicate the place to which the dead have gone by descending or ascending trees immediately after the death of a person.

The Rev. P. W. Sparling, Rector of Erbistock, said one day that a parishioner met him and told him that his brother, who had lately died was in hell, and that he wished the Rector to get him out.

Mr. Sparling asked him how he knew where his brother was, and in answer the man said that he knew, because he had seen his brother in the form of a white cat descend a tree immediately after his death. On further enquiry, the man stated that since the cat came down the tree, it was a sign that he had gone down to hell, but if the cat had gone up the tree, it would have shown that he had gone to heaven.

I have heard it said that if a black cat leaves a house where a person dies, immediately after that person's death, it shows he has gone to the bad place ; but if a white cat it means that he has gone to heaven.

---

## DRAT THAT CAT !

By F. L. BEAVIS

“**W**HAT would you try to avoid if you were suffering from ailurophobia?”

This question baffled Anthony Carr, B.B.C.'s eighteen-year-old “Brain of Britain” for 1956 in a special edition of “What Do You Know?”

Mr. D. Martin Dakin, “Brain of Britain” for 1954, successfully answered: “Cats!”

Brahms, Mussolini, Alexander the Great and Julius Ceasar all suffered from ailurophobia.

If you can't go to sleep at night until pussy's safely indoors you're an ailurophile. You're in excellent company.

Sir Winston Churchill is an ailurophile. Swinburne, Victor Hugo, Mark Twain, George Washington, Abe Lincoln and Florence Nightingale were. So also were Mahomet, Luther, Cardinal Wolsey, Popes Leo XII, Gregory XV and Pius IX.

Bill Shakespeare might have been either. Nothing in his writings establishes him as an ailurophile and the evidence available is too scanty to prove conclusively that he was an ailurophobe.

If you're interested in etymology “Ailuros” is Greek for cat, “philea” Greek for love and “phobia” Greek for fear.

Trust the Greeks to have words for everything!

---

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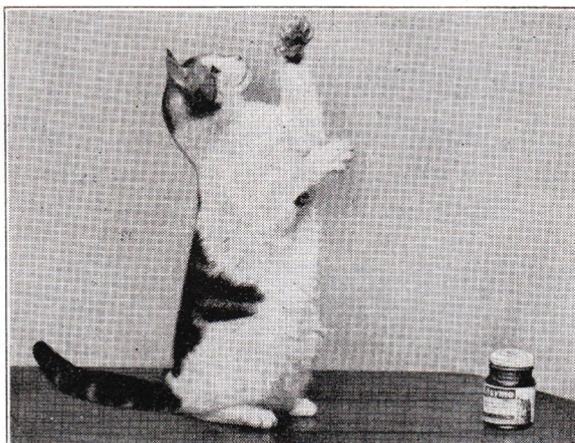
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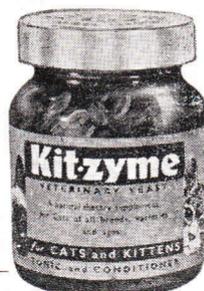
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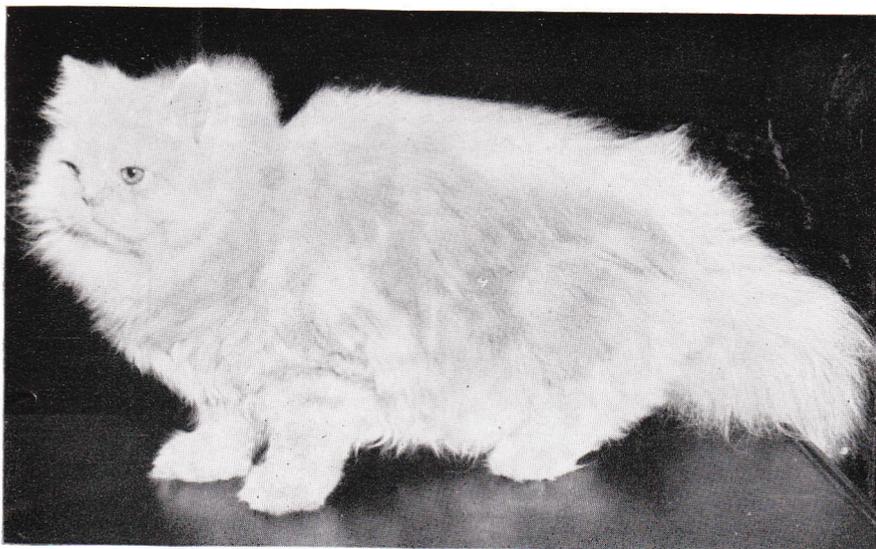
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