

Our Cats

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INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



Bill Dennett

THE MILK SUPPLY IN DANGER!

JANUARY 1958

1/6

Protect
against

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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.

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

Published every month with the best possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is :

- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats ;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats ;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common interest between cat lovers in different parts of the world.

VOL. 10 No. 1
JANUARY 1958

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

WE REACH DOUBLE FIGURES !

WITH this January issue we enter our tenth year of publication. This is a notable milestone for any small and unsubsidized periodical to attain in the difficult times through which we are passing and before I turn my back on it I would like to thank all those wonderful friends and contacts who have helped, encouraged and sustained me over the years.

The task of producing nearly 4,000 pages of features and pictures devoted in one way or another to the cause of the cat has never been completely simple and straightforward, faced as I am with the major distraction of having to earn a living in another sphere of professional activity. The job would have been quite beyond my compass without the aforementioned help and encouragement because for me there is always a limit to spare (save the word !) time and for the Magazine itself a limit to the production and distribution costs it can shoulder.

The other day—while the turkey was cooking—I spent an interesting couple of hours flicking through the pages of the back issues of OUR CATS and in looking over our subscription lists. I was cheered not only by the state of progress revealed but also by a feeling of conviction that the Magazine has achieved the job it set out to do without the slightest deviation from its original policy. In my very first editorial (written in December, 1948) I said :

“ Interest in cats, their breeding and management, has never stood so high. Surely then it is time we had in this country—the home of the best stock in the world—a worthy publication which not only reflects in a general way this widening interest in the British

Cat Fancy but also works for the well-being and the better understanding of our friend and companion, the Cat."

"OUR CATS is an independent journal. It will be free therefore to control its own destiny, to give help and encouragement where it is needed and to be critical when such a course seems desirable. It will at all times endeavour to be impartial and to ensure that there are "fair shares" for all. The test will always be: Is it a good article of general interest or is it a good picture?"

You mustn't conclude from all this that it has been "roses all the way." It hasn't, and even to-day there are far, far too many people in our Fancy whose interest is painfully shallow, whose only concern is their own and nobody else's cats. On the more pleasant side of the picture we have the growing number of enthusiasts who recognize the purpose of the Magazine and are eager to help in our task of raising the status of the cat along international lines.

Regretfully, I have to admit that most expressions of this keenness come from overseas. A short while back a lady in Australia wrote to ask me if we could supply a set of every issue of OUR CATS to a pair of novice fanciers. "I can think of no better gift," she added, "that would put them on the right road and help to keep them there." Even more recently I was made an honorary member of the Purple Sage Cat Fanciers of Southern Nevada, U.S.A., as a token of recognition of the Magazine's work for our Fancy over the many years. It is such thoughtful and kindly gestures as these that help one to keep going—straight ahead.

How you can help

If, by now, any of you are asking "How can I help?"—here are some simple answers. If you are already a subscriber, you can save us time and trouble by responding promptly when renewal time comes round. We can no longer afford to send out copies after the expiration date with the expectation that renewal instructions may eventually be forthcoming.

You can recommend the Magazine to your friends and customers. We are always prepared to send out specimen copies to genuine cat lovers and any names and addresses supplied will be treated with the utmost confidence.

You can send us short features and photographs, also news items clipped from your local newspapers and magazines. This request applies particularly to readers overseas. Finally, breeders can use the Magazine to advertise their studs and stock.

A Happy New Year to Cat Lovers Everywhere! I am hoping to hear from many more of you during 1958.

EDITOR.

Cats and music

By EDYTHE NOTT

DO cats like music? Without the slightest hesitation, I say "Yes." I asked a friend of mine her opinion and she laughingly replied: "Well, if you call their own caterwauling music, they certainly seem to revel in it!" But that answer fails to disprove *my* view, for all animals—including humans—get a thrill from listening to their own voices, however harsh and unpleasant they may sound to others!

I have owned many cats in my time, and from experience find that most of them do appreciate music, although in varying degrees. When I speak of "music" I refer to real music, not just noise. As a rule, they respond to the old classical composers—such as Mozart and Haydn—and in a good many cases prefer strings, particularly the violin.

A few of my cats have ignored the radio completely—it made no difference to them whether a lullaby was on the air or a raging storm—they just slept on. But they are the exceptions, for the majority of cats become uneasy if quiet, soothing music is replaced by some turbulent piece; they suddenly awake and stare at the radio, flick their ears and usually walk out of the room.

Some are attracted by singing. When I was practising, my cat would often jump on my lap, rest his paws on my shoulders and try to look down my throat. He evidently enjoyed it, for he purred loudly all the time and frequently repeated the performance.

Years later, when my daughter took up singing and as usual started her daily practice with exercises, Ricky, a little tabby, was somewhat distracting—although amusing—by his deplorable want of good manners! He would gaze at her

with utter contempt; with tongue stuck out and a suggestion of a sneer on his face, he would say quite plainly: "Now what do you think you're trying to do?" Then he would scratch at the door to be let out where he would stay until he heard the strains of a song or aria being sung. There ensued more scratching from the outside, and with tail straight up, he would sail into the room, condescendingly sit on a chair and watch her with close attention.

One of my daughter's arias was "*Dove Sono*" from the *Marriage of Figaro*. Ricky obviously associated it exclusively with her, as one night, when he heard it on the radio, he was startled and extremely puzzled. His eyes became tense with incredulity and he twisted his head from the radio to her several times, then across at me as if inquiring: "Whatever is the matter? There's something uncanny going on here." At last he sprang onto her lap, fixed his eyes on her mouth and waited expectantly.

Devoted to Mozart

She started to sing the aria; in a flash he jerked his head back to the radio and seemed more bewildered than ever. Finding no solution to this strange enigma he finally gave up, curled round on his cushion and was soon asleep.

Boetie, my pompous, black and white cat, who does me the favour of living with me, is devoted to Mozart and, somehow, seems able to distinguish his music from other composers. If a Mozart programme is on the air, he will recognize it from the bottom of the garden, come walking sedately into the lounge, make a few happy squeaks—he is almost dumb—settle down comfortably and give himself up to the serene, graceful music.

Janie, a big ginger cat, was intrigued with the language question. English or Italian he took as a matter of course, but German coming over the air agitated him to such an extent that on one occasion—"Der Schmied" by Brahms, was being broadcast he stood in front of the radio, lashed his tail, thrust his head forward and hissed and growled at it, thumped on to the floor, then

bounded out of the window and disappeared among the shrubs in the garden. It was hours before he returned, and even then the unpardonable offence was not forgotten.

I am quite sure that those cats who are privileged to share the radio with us humans enjoy many hours of bliss, and would like to say: "Thank you, B.B.C."



Giancolombo, Milano

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

OUR CATS is published monthly and closing date is the 25th day of the month preceding the month of publication. MSS. and photographs submitted will only be returned if accompanied by fully stamped and addressed envelopes. Photographs should preferably be of the glossy type with sharp details. A stamped addressed envelope should also be enclosed where a reply is required to some general enquiry.

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Yearly Subscription Rate is 20s. for 12 issues post free (U.S.A. and Canada Three dollars 25 cents). Single copies 1s. 8d. post free. Subscription Department: 14-16 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

Reproduction (No. 10)

By A. C. JUDE

This popular series of monographs has brought added interest to breeding operations throughout the cat world and has helped fanciers by supplying information concerning both inherited and all other factors. Each article has a direct bearing on the genetic basis for the likenesses and differences between cats.

MY post frequently contains letters which clearly indicate that the writers have joined the Cat Fancy since the beginning of this series of articles. Because of this I trust that older breeders will realize the necessity to repeat some of the matter already dealt with.

In the series, which has been running for a little over three years, most aspects of reproduction have been covered. I have tried, as far as is possible, to avoid the use of many scientific terms, but the inclusion of some is essential when dealing with such a subject, but all employed have been fully explained when first used.

Whilst the geneticist will never claim that his knowledge will produce for certain a first prize winner to another breeder's third or fourth, a knowledge of this subject is of the greatest help in breeding operations—in the production of new colours and the possible improvement of present ones, in the elimination of undesirable characters, in crossing and out-crossing, for, whilst many things can be influenced to a great extent by the art of the breeder, by nutrition and by general management, all the primary characters such as colour, size, coat length, etc., are inherited, the male and female parents being equally responsible for the make-up of the individual. Except in cases where "sex-linkage" is known to exist, crosses produce

identical results whichever parent bears a stated character.

All animal tissues are made up of innumerable cells, each of which contains a tiny body called a nucleus. In these nuclei there are a number of rod-shaped chromosomes which are arranged in pairs. The number of these chromosomes is always the same in a species, but differs between species. These cells, nuclei and chromosomes are not visible to the naked eye, but can be clearly seen under a microscope. Across the width of the chromosomes lie at specific points, the genes which give rise to a particular factor or character. Genes for similar or alternative characters always lie at the same position on both individuals of a pair of chromosomes so that each ordinary cell has two genes for a character.

When, however, the reproductive cells are produced, that is spermatozoa (spermatozoon singular) by a male animal or ova (ovum) by a female, they are formed by an equal division of the parent cell, one chromosome from each pair passing into each of the new reproductive cells. When a spermatozoon enters an ovum (and never does more than one so enter), fertilization takes place, and the resulting embryo will have the same number of chromosomes and genes as either of its parents, but exactly half will have come from its father, and half from its mother.

At present, there are two approved hair-types in cats—"short-hair" and "long-hair." If approved by the

Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, "rex" type of coat will be additional to the two other hair-types just mentioned. All these differing hair characters can be reproduced on any existing *breeds* of cat, so that in future we may have three types of coat—"short-hair normal," "short-hair rex" and "long-hair." In that case it may be that in the Governing Council's Book of Standards, these will all be preceded by an authoritative description of what constitutes the required version of the three terms "short-hair normal," "short-hair rex" and "long-hair." The emphasis being on the fact that these are merely coat-characters and not *breeds* of cat.

Results of crosses

If a long-haired cat is mated to another long-haired cat, each of the youngsters will receive two genes for long-hair, one from the father, and the other from the mother, and will, therefore, be long-haired. Similarly if two pure short-haired cats are mated together, all the youngsters will be short-hair. And similarly in the case of rex-coats.

If, however, a pure short-haired cat—that is one having two "doses" for short-hair in its ordinary cells—is mated to a long-hair, all the young will be short-haired. It is possible that some may be rather more silky in texture and the length of the coat possibly show a very slight increase on that of the short-haired parent, but to all intents and purposes each individual in the resulting litter would be short-haired and not a long-hair. Thus it is said that long-hair coat and short-hair form an alternative pair of characters, and that the latter is dominant to long-hair, which is recessive to short-hair.

These youngsters (known as the F_1 generation) will, however, have one dose for long-hair from the long-haired parent as well as one dose for short-hair from the short-haired parent, the former being

hidden by the dominant short-haired gene. If these cats are bred together they will produce youngsters of three kinds. On an average three quarters of the F_2 (or second filial generation) will be short-haired, and the remaining quarter will be long-haired like the long-haired grand parent. These last, if mated to a long-hair, will breed true for the long-hair character in all cases.

The short-haired kittens, however, will be of two types which would be indistinguishable by examination from one another, but would be found to be different in their behaviour as breeders. Two out of every three of these would be like their parents, and would produce both short-haired and long-haired young in the ratio of 3 : 1 when mated amongst themselves. The remaining third would be found to breed true for short-hair and would resemble in its genetical constitution its short-haired grandparent.

Recessive factors

If a cat is bred by the union of two cells each containing the gene for short-hair, all the germ or reproductive cells produced by such a cat will contain that factor, and the cat is said to be pure or homozygous for short-hair. In other words, such a cat, mated to its like, will always breed true to short-hair, or when crossed with long-hair will give only short-haired young in the first generation. Thus, all animals showing a recessive character must be homozygous for that factor. In simpler language, a cat requires a "double-dose" of a factor to breed true, whilst a "double dose" is necessary before a recessive character can become visible.

When a long-hair is crossed with a pure short-hair, there is a union of two unlike germ cells, and the cat is said to be heterozygous or impure for short-hair.

The above shows clearly how recessive coat or other recessive factors may be established or transferred to any of the *breeds* or colour varieties. The process

is simple, to rule, and definite. An example is the transferring of the long-hair coat character to the Siamese breed. As already said, the rex coat-factor is recessive and therefore is just as easily transferred.

Let there be no mistake about "rex" in cats. This is simply and solely a hair character. It has no connection at all with any particular type, colour, or breed. It is not a breed in itself and

therefore does not need a standard, for the standards of all breeds are already given in the G.C. Book of Standards. If accepted by the Governing Council all that is necessary is a description of the "rex" type of coat as compared with "normal short-hair". There should not be any restrictions to type or anything else. It is not necessary and would not be fair to breeder fanciers as a whole.

(to be continued)

SLAPS ON THE BACK

DURING the course of last year we received a number of nice letters of appreciation from subscribers all over the world. We thought you might like to see a few samples, so here they are :

"I wouldn't be without your **Magazine**. I enjoy every **issue**. We have seven cats in our home, four of them being adult part-Persians. The others are three kittens born to the office "mascot" which we were unable to place in good homes. We have a plumbing and heating business in town and didn't think it fair to leave the kittens there with their mother. They would have been fed and sheltered but the risk of traffic was too great and too they would have had no place to play except among the pipes and fittings! Besides these, we have a coach-dog and a canary.—From Mrs. Ezra Mason, Pontiac, Michigan, U.S.A."

"I have just completed reading the numbers of **OUR CATS** for 1950 and 1951 and am awe-struck at the way in which you have maintained the standard. Your magazine is absolutely first class.—From Rev. Herbert N. Lovemore, Western Province Cat Club, Cape Province, South Africa."

"Thanks for the renewal reminder. I certainly do not want to miss any issues of this Magazine which I read from cover to cover. I think you are publishing a very fine magazine. Congratulations, and may continued success be yours. My only regret is that I cannot attend some of the English shows and meet even a few of your great cat folk. What impresses me is the genuine love for cats which you people in England have.—From Mrs. C. E. Skilling, Manasha, Wisconsin, U.S.A."

THINK OF A FRIEND !

Perhaps some cat loving friend who would welcome a copy of our SPECIAL GREETINGS NUMBER (December, 1957) . . . 80 pages of wonderful pictures and features.

Copies are available for dispatch to any part of the world—U.K. 2s. 4d. each post free. America 40 cents. Instructions should be sent to **OUR CATS, 14/16 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.**



Photograph by Mrs. T. J. Quinn

"I wonder if that's the missus?"

Purely Purrsonal

By IVOR RALEIGH

Being some impressions from "a looker-on" which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

IN reporting the National Cat Club's Show last year my chief complaint was that an event staged at Olympia required the touch of a professional showman and not that of an amateur; however talented. The great financial success of this year's show amply demonstrated the truth of my remarks. Freed from the threat of a financial fiasco and reduced to a familiar scale, the show managers produced a masterpiece in applied economics and the experience thus gained should serve them in good stead next year, when they once again attempt the Olympian heights.

Apart from being highly successful from a monetary stand-point, I feel that this year's Show failed to achieve the purpose for which to my mind, cat shows should be run. On three occasions I attempted to see the cats and had to give up each time. One just could not force one's way through the crowds which thronged the far - too - narrow spaces between the rows of pens. It is certainly good for the Fancy to have its shows well attended and I feel sure that the overcrowding experienced this year will not be repeated next year in the spaciousness of Olympia.

Many people in the Fancy do not like pet cats to be shown at the same time and particularly, not in the same hall as pedigree cats. Most of those who feel this way are adopting rather a snobbish pose. After all, the Fancy does well to further public interest in cats as a whole. Contrary to popular opinion, the inclusion of pet cats in no way increases the

risk of infection and, from my personal observations, the condition of the pet animals was at least as good as that of their aristocratic brethren. On the other hand, there are those who believe that pets should be excluded because the purpose of the show is to encourage the breeding of pedigree animals and not to exhibit the sort of cat whom one can see sitting in any doorway. Whether I agree with this view or not, it is at any rate a valid one.

* * *

It is high time that someone in the Cat Fancy had the courage to utter a strong protest against the unfeeling exhibitors who repeatedly show cats which are temperamentally unsuited to the atmosphere and noise of the show. One such cat fastened his teeth hysterically into the sleeve of a judge's coat at the Midland Show in Birmingham. The demented animal could not be made to let go and the sleeve had to be cut away to free the unfortunate judge. The same cat was brought to the National Show and again bit one of the judges who handled him. Surely, the Governing Council, a body one of whose functions is to ensure the welfare of cats, could pass a rule to save cats from being overshadowed to a point of nervous breakdown ?

* * *

One of the points which invariably strikes me about the Siamese Cat Club's Show is the high ethical standard of the manner in which it is organized and conducted. With this fact in mind, I cannot but agree completely with the

opinion recently expressed by Mrs. K. R. Williams, the Club's Show Manager, on the subject of self-coloured Siamese. Experimental breeding should have and has an important part to play in the future and well-being of the Fancy, but this does not mean that every variation in physical markings should merit a new breed number. Breed numbers should be reserved only for those variations which have a great deal to recommend them and a Siamese cat bereft of the beauty of its characteristic markings is surely something which ought not to be encouraged, and should be considered merely as an interesting, if somewhat useless experiment. One might as well try to develop a rose whose only virtue is its lack of scent ; a pursuit singularly devoid of ethical excellence.

* * *

The repeated showing of Champions has long been a bone of contention in the throat of the Fancy. Champions should not and never will be excluded from

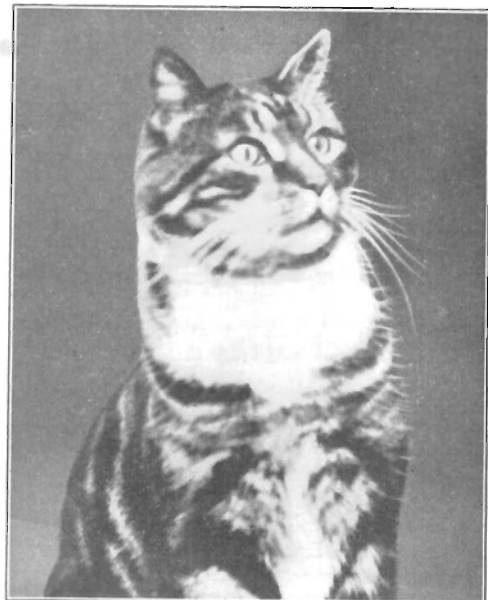
competition in open classes. There ought, however, to be a fair number of side classes from which champions could be excluded and I agree with Mrs. Joan Thompson, who feels that this is a matter for show managers rather than for the Governing Council.

* * *

A young veterinary surgeon who also happens to be a particular friend of mine, recently told me off for using the word "vet" in one of my articles. "This abbreviation," he said, "shows a lack of respect for a profession which is on a par with that of medicine." To my friend, I now say that his attitude is understandable but wrong. The vet usually works twice as hard as a doctor and for a quarter of the money. Without him, our Fancy could hardly exist and when we refer to our "vet" we use the term not as an abbreviation but as a diminutive ; a word of esteem, gratitude and affection.



WALMUR PRETTIKIN, Mrs. M. Gaskin's handsome Blue-eyed White female at six months old. Bred from an Orange-eyed female Myrwal and Lotus Atlas, Prettikin is the result of six years' breeding efforts to produce one of her kind.



JIMMY

MRS. D. GEARING,
of 101 Gore Road, London,
E.9, writes :—

“ Recently I had occasion to take my cat, Jimmy, to a Veterinary Surgeon for attention to an injury and the excellence of his coat and general condition was remarked upon. Great surprise was expressed when I said that Jimmy’s age was nearly eleven years.

Jimmy is a great pet and well cared for, but a lot of the credit must go to his regular dose of Kit-zyme which he certainly regards as ‘ sweets ’.”

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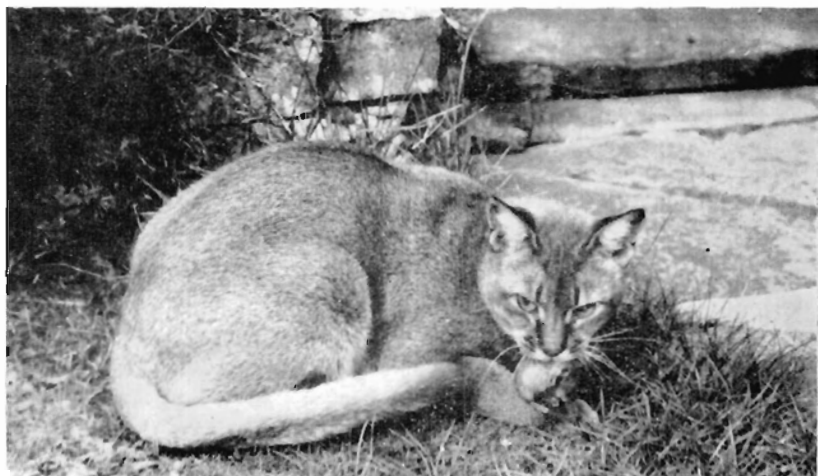
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ADRAH SABA ("Prim"), the author's Red Abyssinian with a mouse.

Red Abyssinians

By DOROTHY WINSOR

MOST people know what an Abyssinian looks like ; few have seen one of the rare Red Abyssinians.

Here is a photograph of Prim (Adrah Saba)—a normal Abyssinian in all but colour. She is a deep, copper red, ticked with a darker red, and shading almost to terra cotta down the spine line and base of ears. Her long, slender legs and underparts are pale orange velvet ; she has the coveted cream throat, and her heels and tail tip are chocolate brown. Her pads, of course, are pink instead of black. Her coat is finer and more close than the other Abyssinians, and has a more silky quality, with a soft sheen.

She is a little heavier in build, with a broader head and face ; in fact, she differs in type much as a Blue Point Siamese differs from a Seal Point. Whether this difference is peculiar to Prim, or common to all Reds, I don't know ; I have had no opportunity of comparing her with others.

She has not, perhaps, the subtle, ethereal charm of a normal Abyssinian, but she has a vivid beauty all her own. Abyssinians in general have a chameleon-like trick of harmonizing with their surroundings. In the sun, the red undercoat glows through and lights up the whole coat ; in the shadow, they lose all colour and become shadows themselves. I have noticed this particularly when taking Wanda, my oldest Abyssinian and the only one who can be trusted without a lead, through the wood ; as soon as she passes into the shadows she turns from ruddy-gold to a neutral fawn, merging into the background of decayed leaves until it is difficult to find her.

I have had a few bad moments when, after turning my back for a second or two, I found she had apparently vanished and only when she moved in answer to my call did I realize she was pretty much where I had left her. Prim, on the other hand, stands out against any background, with a brilliance nothing can

dim. When calling the cats in at night from the wired-in garden, I leave Prim till the last ; she can't vanish as the others do. Even in the dusk, she glows like a flame, seeming to gather to herself all that is left of the light.

When Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Denham came to see us in the spring, they remarked on Prim's resemblance to a puma, and suggested that these Reds might be called Puma cats. Like all Abyssinians, she is a great hunter, and this resemblance is most marked when she is stalking her prey—her long, slinky body flattened to the ground, powerful haunches quivering for a spring. One would think that her striking colour would make concealment impossible and lessen the chances of a kill, but actually she catches more than the others. Once caught, it is quite impossible for me to get the bird or mouse away from her ; she only lets go when it is dead and of no further interest.

Dive bombed !

Only once did she meet her Waterloo ; she seized a fledgling blackbird which had fallen from a nest in the hedge, and was mobbed by four adult blackbirds ; they dive-bombed her with such ferocity that she fled to the house in sheer terror, to take refuge under the kitchen table !

She was bred by Mrs. V. E. Major, from her Ch. Kreeoro Sheba and Bruerne Achilles. The other two kittens in the litter were normal. There has been some speculation as to the origin of these Reds, of whom a few crop up from time to time ; but one can only guess. Miss Wrightson was kind enough to trace back the ancestry of each of the great-grandparents of Sheba and Achilles which must have been a colossal task.

In Sheba's remote ancestry, Mr. Brooke's Self Red appears four times, and a male named Pharaoh, who was bred by Sir W. Cooke and may possibly have been an albino, twice. In Achilles' pedigree, Mr. Brooke's Self Red appears

eight times, Pharaoh nine. No one seems to know anything about this Self Red or what breed of cat he was—whether a Red Abyssinian, or an ordinary red cat with no markings, who was used to enrich the colour. He does not appear to have had a name, and beyond him there is a blank.

A popular choice

Sheba, by the way, had one red kitten in every litter from Achilles. It does seem, therefore, that the red gene is carried by both parents.

Prim's kittens, from my two studs—Merkland Negus and Nigella Kym—have all been normal, with black ticking and pads, but unusually deep and rich in colour, with cream throat and a distinctive fineness and silkiness of coat. Mated to an all-red stud, I understand she would have an all-red litter. I would very much like to try the experiment, but unfortunately she is too nervous to send away.

Some day perhaps I may be able to get a red male of my own, and so lay the foundation of a new and very lovely breed—23a perhaps ? From the selling point of view, I think they would be a success. I have had a good deal of experience with red kittens—my chestnut tabby, mated to Negus, always had one or two delightful little reds in her half-breed litters, and these were usually picked out first by prospective owners.

Most of them thought the reds were prettier and more distinctive than the others ; more than one gave the reason "Then I'm sure of it's being a tom !" This belief, that all "gingers" are males, seems to persist ; and they can't trust the breeder for sexing kittens !

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Kindly help us to save on office work by renewing your subscription promptly on receipt of the first application.



Mrs. Revington with her Blue Longhair Gr. Ch. Dixi-Land's Salute.

American Profile No.2—by Blanche Wolfram

Mrs. John H. Revington

TO see the many lovely cats that appear in the shows throughout America one wonders who the persons might be who were initially responsible for forming the foundation of all this beauty. One of the persons instrumental in advancing the cause of the show cat is our beloved and respected Mrs. John H. Revington of Bristol, Tennessee. One of the most highly regarded names of the American Fancy is that of Dixi-Land which has proved its value by the many times it appears in the pedigrees of cats. It will be very many years before "Dixi-Land" disappears from the ancestry of countless numbers of feline generations.

Mrs. Revington is untiring in her efforts to help all who seek her advice and wherever she goes she will be found to be deep in conversation, endeavouring to help others help their cats. Her wonderful knowledge of cat breeding is constantly being taught to not only novices, but to established breeders as well and all who have received her advice have profited from it.

In her role as judge, one can detect a deliberation of each cat to evaluate its finest points, in order to reach decisions of fairness to all. Her services are always in demand and wherever she goes, one can be certain that the winners richly deserve all the honours she bestows upon them.

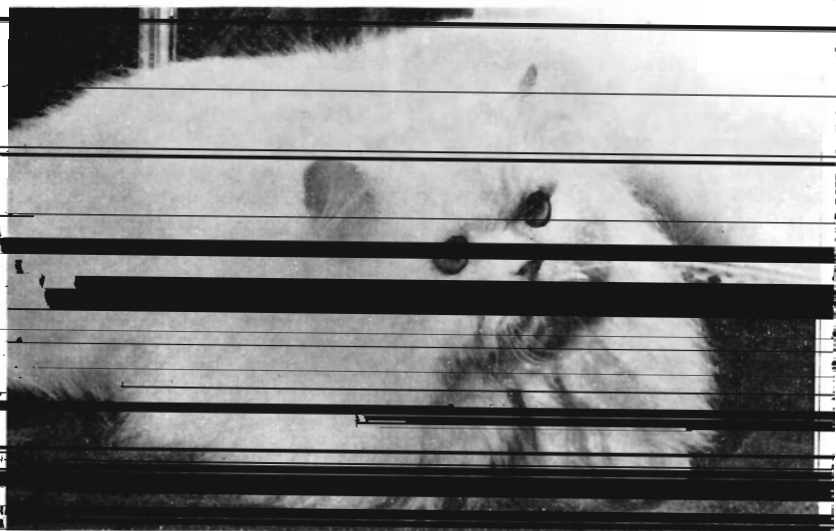
Mrs. Revington's interest in cats began early in life. As a child she was

ness Margaret Rose. This was
spectacular queen who won
Cat awards against the
region. She was the dam

called in

eye: absolute soundr
h

Rose : grand-sire o



American Cat-of-the-Year, Gr. Ch. Dixi-Land Sir Gai of Normont.

Mrs. Revington believes in her heart that the English breeder, Miss Evelyn Langston, known the world over for her beautiful Allington Blues and Chinchillas, is the person to whom she owes the most gratitude for helping her on the way to becoming one of the most successful breeders in America.

In her opinion the most important step to good breeding is the study of the standard so you will know what to aim for. Buy only from reliable breeders for a really honest breeder will not only tell you about the good points of her stock but will point out the faults as well. You in turn must learn the good points and the bad points of your own stock, for no matter how excellent you may think your cat is, it may meet a better one and this will help you to go down in a sportsmanlike manner. It is nice to win but you must always be a good loser.

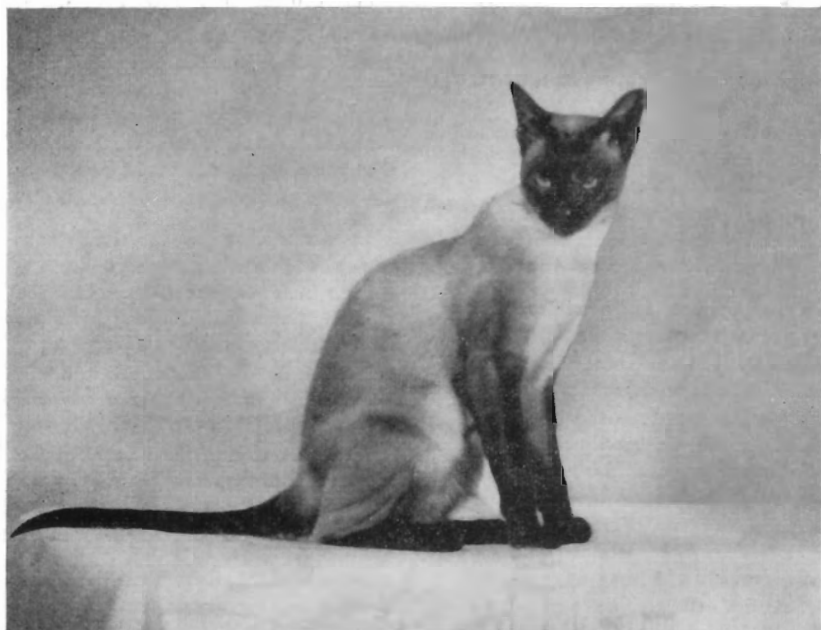
She believes that perfect health is essential to show success and to gain this you should feed proper food with plenty of variety; keep them clean and see to it that they get plenty of sunshine and exercise. Handle them with love and tenderness at all times and remember also, good grooming adds to their beauty.

In her estimation, the Fancy has come a long way since her beginning and will go much farther if everybody will abide by "the Golden Rule." It is her hope some day to see fungus completely eradicated for she believes this to be the one thing that discourages young breeders. She believes that everybody should work together to stamp out this scourge in the cattery.

With a hope and a prayer, Mrs. Revington sends her best wishes to readers of OUR CATS that they may always have the best of luck and good fortune in their endeavours to produce cats of outstanding beauty and quality.



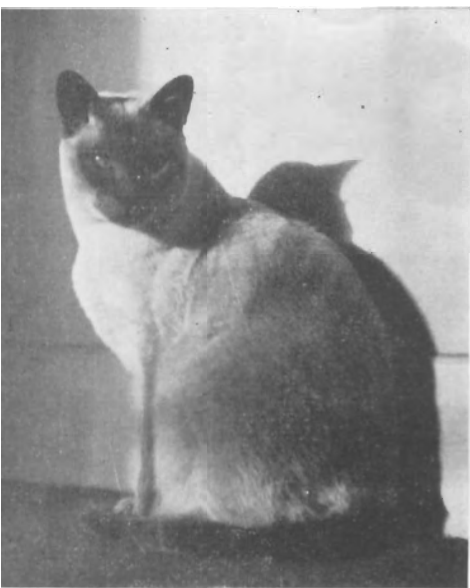
Four amusing studies in languor by photographer K. Space. Received from Francis Dickie, of British Columbia, Canada.



Here is a picture that should delight all Siamese lovers. It presents Mrs. Linda Parker's fine young Seal Point male LINDALE PROUD GENTLEMAN, sired by Lindale Simon Pie ex Proud Maxi, the same breeding as a number of the successful "Causeway" Siamese.



And here's another to charm any cat lover! This young Abyssinian TRANBY SITRA belongs to Mrs. Helen Potsiadlo, of Western Germany, and the photograph was taken by her husband CWO L. A. Potsiadlo.

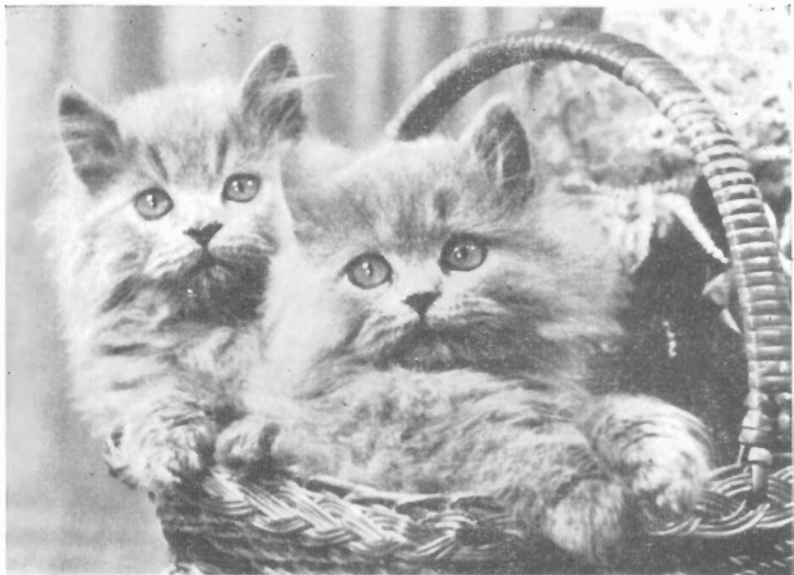


Sedate aristocrat above is **RENNIKS MUFFIN**, Blue Pointed Siamese, whose owner Mrs. Charles Vivian, of S.W. London, supplies the evolution of his name from Muffin—Muff-Tuff-Tough Cat. This suits a mood, not shown in Charles Vivian's snapshot when an enemy strays into Tough Cat's territory!

Blue Persian at 21 months **ENOMENE DU BOSQUET**, bred by Mme. M. A. Gay, well known Swiss fancier, with his owner Frau Dr. Ruth Jenny Grey, of Basle.



KILLINGHALL RED IMP, Red Tabby bred by Miss G. L. Hardman, has been a prizewinner in two successive years. Bred from two Champions, he is now owned by Miss D. F. Arton, of Malvern, Worcestershire.



“A BASKETFUL OF BLUE BEAUTIES!”

“They’d got their eyes on the Tibs packet when I took this snap,” says Tibby, the Tibs reporter. “They knew what was good for them already!”

At her Eireanne Catterie in Chalfont St. Peter, Mrs. Marlowe breeds beautiful Blue Persians, and her kittens have won many prizes all round the country. This photograph shows Eireanne Silver Bell and Eireanne Danny Boy when they were kittens . . . and very Tibsical kittens they were! Mrs. Marlowe has given all her cats Tibs . . . one a day . . . from weaning age onwards. She finds Tibs indispensable for encouraging good bones, good teeth, good condition and shining coats.



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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 personal-
ities, both human and feline.

A Crowded National

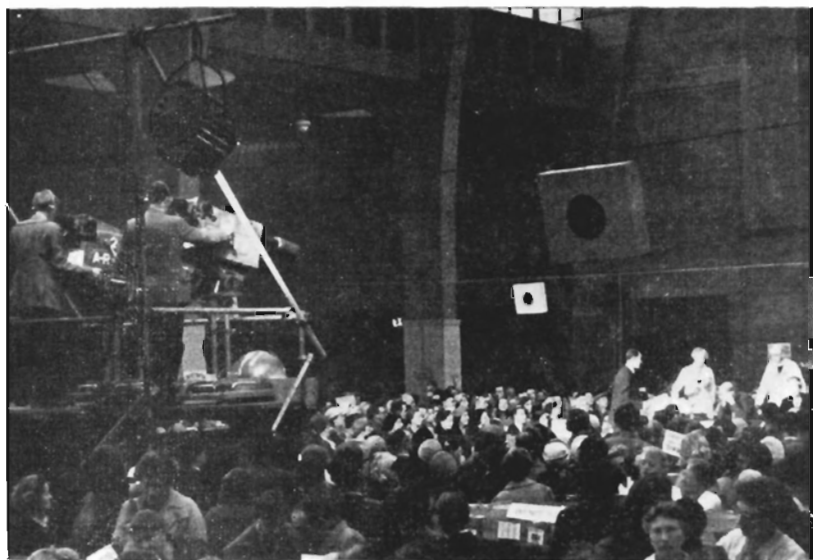
A **C****H****E****E****R****F****U****L** sunny day greeted the 61st Championship Show of the National Cat Club at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on 28th November. 511 pedigree cats and kittens were present and 74 kittens in the litters. In addition there were 227 pet cats.

Although the large New Hall was engaged, the general opinion was that it was much too overcrowded and the unsuitability of any London hall except Olympia for a Championship Show, plus over 200 domestic pets, was clearly demonstrated. An even more important consideration is the added risk of infection, when so many exhibits are assembled on one floor. At Olympia, where the domestic pets can be segregated in a gallery well above the valuable pedigree exhibits, the idea is tolerable although it is an innovation which many

breeders would be opposed to if it were suggested for other London Ch. Shows. Many are asking : Do the public really go to a Championship show to see the type of cat they can see walking about the streets ?

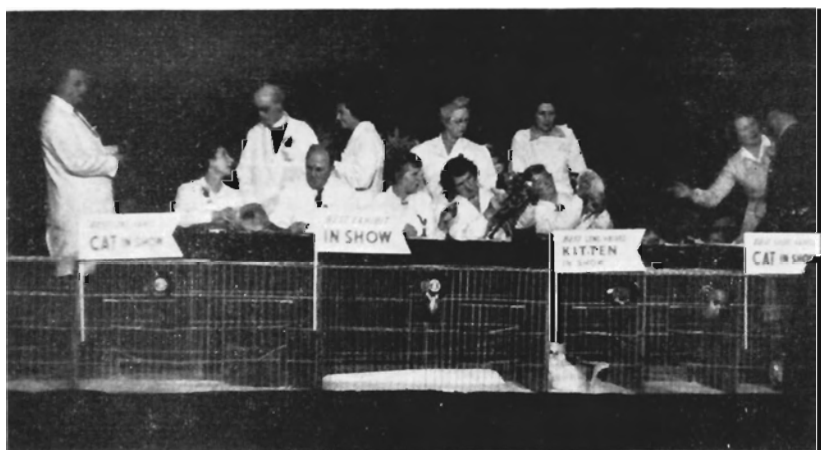
By all means encourage owners of domestic pets to exhibit them but not in conjunction with London shows where pedigree exhibits should be the alpha and omega, especially nowadays when these fixtures attract such big entries. No doubt among their owners someone with ability and enthusiasm could be found to organize a show on their behalf, especially as so many experienced breeders, exhibitors and personnel wise in the details of management would be willing to advise and help.

The Hall was milling with owners and spectators directly it was open to the public and the gate must have been an all-time record for a show held under Governing Council rules. The publicity was excellent on ITV and BBC Television and many excerpts appeared in the Press prior to the day. For the Show Manager, Mrs. Grace Pond, who had the herculean responsibility of organizing it, one can have nothing but admiration and gratitude, and to Mr. Pond who was a tower of strength with the clerical work and on the day, praise be. Others who deserved medals were the judges and their stewards. After 12.30 p.m. they had the arduous task of finishing their judging amid the Ohs ! and Ahs ! of admiration and comments of the general public



Commercial television at the National Cat Club Show

Hugh Smith



Hugh Smith

National Show panel of judges are looking for the best Shorthair Kitten while Show Manager Mrs. Grace Pond is explaining a point on the right of our picture. The Best Longhair Kitten can be seen in her cage of honour.

which they appeared to accept with sang-froid.

Needless to say, there were many lovely exhibits and the principal awards were: Best Longhair Cat—Mrs. Crickmore's Blue Ch. Thiepval Precocious; Best L.H. Kitten—Miss E. Langston's Chinchilla Extase of Allington, by Ch. Mark of Allington, an exquisite female appearing at her first show; Best L.H. Neuter—Miss Davis's Smoke Slapton Damon by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo; Best Shorthair Adult—Mrs. Dunn's Blue Point Siamese female Coohoy Pin Up by Champion Milori Oberon; Best S.H. Kitten—Miss Robson's Silver Tabby Culverden Jeremy by Silverseal Antony Rowley; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Montgomery's S.P. Siamese Daybreak by Ch. Killdown Sultan.

Longhair winners

There were fewer Blue L.H. adults than usual and several of the Blue male Champions were not entered, notably Ch. Lavengro of Dunesk, Ch. Dylan of Allington, Ch. Bayhorne Adam, Ch. Harpur Romeo, Ch. Thiepval Pedro. I entered Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous but decided not to take him when I heard the previous week that over 800 cats and kittens would be present. He has never been immunized and has escaped unscathed from all his shows but this one was obviously a greater risk.

The winning Blue male was Ch. Thiepval Paragon, litter brother to Ch. Thiepval Precocious. Mrs. Dyer's Slapton Seretse by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo was the winning Black male and in females Mrs. Beedell's Ch. Sarisbury Saccharissa. In an amalgamated adult class of Orange-eyed Whites, Miss Bull's lovely Decbank Wildrose was first. Other Challenge Certificate L.H. winners were: Cream males—Mrs. L. Davies's Champion Oscar of Pensford; Cream Females—Mrs. King's Startops Baby Bunting; Brown Tabbies—Miss d'Hymbercourt-Malone's Magyar Onara; Red Tabbies

—Miss Lelgarde Fraser's Hendon Alastair; Chinchilla males—Miss Langston's Ch. Fidelio of Allington; Chinchilla females—Hon. Mrs. Haden-Guest's and Mrs. Turney's Bonavia Marietta; Tortoiseshells—Miss Lelgarde Fraser's Ch. Variety of Sunfield; Tortie and Whites—Miss Grace's Ch. Gracefield Polyanthus. In Blue-Creams, Mrs. Barron's Ch. Hendras Pepita was awarded her sixth Ch. Certificate.

Congratulations to Mr. Stirling-Webb on breeding the first Colourpoint Champion, Briarry Gohar by Kala Sabu ex Bubastis Georgina. She is a lovely little cat and well worthy of the honour.

Ch. Thiepval Precocious was 1st in the Champion of Champion L.H. class and the winning stud cat judged on progeny was Ch. Mark of Allington.

There were some very lovely Blue kittens among the 31 entered. The first prize-winners in the four Open Classes were Mrs. Cradock's Gallony Spun Gold by Ch. Lavengro of Dunesk; Mrs. Brunton's Wildrosebud of Dunesk by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and in the six to nine months classes Mrs. Joan Thompson's Regina of Pensford by Ch. Octavian of Pensford and Mrs. Stephenson's Ashdown Robin by Ashdown Nuthatch. Miss Sherlock, scored in Black kittens with her trio by Bircotte Giftocrissa, the first being Bircotte Quinta. In an amalgamated class of Blue-eyed and Orange-eyed Whites, Mr. and Mrs. Gaskin's welcome Blue-eyed Walmur Prettikin was first. She is the direct descendant of Ch. Lotus Atlas, the latter bred by Mrs. Cattermole, so well known for many years for her Whites, especially those with blue eyes.

In Cream kittens Mrs. Jewell's Sunnyvale Topazalite and Miss Bull's Decbank Mimosa by her Cream male Beamsley Sunbeam were first. Congratulations on Sunbeam completing his Championship at the S.W. C.C.C. Ch. Show at Bristol on December 17th. He is by Berrett Casanova and a very well bred male excelling in type, which is so often the

case, when Cream males have a large majority of pure bred Blue ancestors.

In Chinchillas, Mrs. McLeod's Tarquin of Thame and Miss Langston's Francis of Allington; in Torties Mrs. Grave's Springfield Maid; in Blue-Creams Mrs. Pearson's Pilgrim Pucelle and Mrs. Hutching's Startops Spangles were worthy winners.

It was good to see a large class of ten Colourpoint kittens and an indication of how much this new variety is increasing in popularity. Mr. Stirling-Webb's Chatelaine Al Hakem (a male by the way) bred by Mr. Kirby-Smith was first. Mrs. Nash's lovely first-prize litter of four Creams by Ch. Widdington Winterset were much admired and I understand all were sold at the Show except one going to France.

As usual in Shorthairs, Siamese far outnumbered all other varieties. Mr. and Mrs. Glover had a wonderful day. Congratulations to them on their firsts with two lovely exhibits—Southwood Marcus in the Open Class of 19 S.P. males and Sans Souci Coppelia in the Open Class of 20 females. It is a very rare honour for one exhibitor to win both Open Classes in this most competitive of all varieties. Both are now Champions; a splendid achievement.

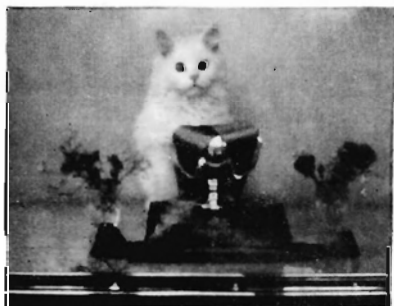
Fifty-six S.P. Siamese kittens, 10 B.P.'s, 7 C.P.'s, were almost a show in themselves. First prize winners in S.P. Open Classes were Mrs. Lowe's Tarden Tomkin by Beaumanor Terry Too; Mrs. Pocock's Pussinboots Lambkin by Southwood Marcus; Mrs. Michael's Harazard by Ch. Bluchayes Foxy and last but not least Mrs. Varcoe's outstanding winner in a class of 23 females, Silken Babroubadour by Ch. Bluchayes Foxy. In B.P.'s the awards went to Mrs. North's Chilton Cantiro (by Laurentide Comet), and Mr. Richard Warner's Spotlight Blue Mermaid by Ch. Clonlost Yo Yo; and in C.P.'s to Mrs. Clarke's Craigiehilloch Charita (by Sloppy Joe).

The entry of six Burmese adult males and ten females indicates how popular

this breed has become, and that no breed requires stimulus in the form of subsidies if it really appeals to breeders and they can easily dispose of kittens. Mr. and Mrs. Watson's American bred Burmese males distinguished themselves as sires. Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee sired Mrs. Charles's winning male Autumn Haze also the second Mrs. Hooper's Kathoodu Kim. Ch. Sablesilk Bimbo, a son of Casa Gatos Da Foong, sired the winning adult female Mrs. Pocock's Sablesilk Mouse. Ch. C. G. Darkee sired second and third in this class.

Mrs. Harmer's Chatwyn Terah and Mrs. Menezes Tranby Sophis were the best Abyssinian entries, and in Russian Blues the winners were Miss Rochford's Dunloe Silvervitch and Miss von Ullman's Dunloe Vickie. Mrs. Thake's Silver Tabby female Silverseal Pussy-willow looked well and had a nice win in an amalgamated class.

The other S.H. Open Adult Classes had three or fewer exhibits. The winners were: Whites—Mr. Parker's Walnur Scamp; Creams—Mrs. Johnson's Jezreel Cream Solitaire; Blue-Creams—Mrs. Hughes's Ch. Broughton Jane; British Blues—Mrs. Johnson's Jezreel Jake; Red Tabbies—Miss Hardman's Killinghall Red Monkey; Brown Tabbies—



The letter which accompanied this little snapshot from New Zealand ran as follows: "I am enclosing a photo of one of my pedigree Persians called Snow Flake who won a cup and two ribbons at a pets' parade at Wellington. She was 5 weeks 6 days but in the photo she is a bit older. I am 13 years old and I breed Persians, cream, blue and white, soon other colours." Dianne Patterson, Linden, Wellington."

Miss Stubbs' Whiston Tabitha Twitchett. The first and Premier British Neuter—Mrs. Stuart's Culverden Gerard; and Foreign (except Siamese)—Miss German's Premier Dunloe Pavlovitch. The Champion of Champion S.H. was Miss Galpin's Silver Tabby Ch. Silvo of Blagdon, and first in Premier of Premiers Mrs. Montgomery's S.P. Siamese Pr. Purland Som Phong. It was a really wonderful show of pedigree cats and kittens.

Some of the domestic pets were comely and the majority looked well cared for although it was disconcerting to hear one owner confess her cat had been out all night and only returned just in time to bring him to the show.

Danish successes

It was pleasing to hear that the International Championship Show of Racekatten Cat Club in November (organized by the President Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth and her Committee) was very successful. The venue, Tivoli's Concert Hall, must be ideal and although two out of the three days had some rain spectators numbered over 10,000.

The list of prizes was an imposing one and occupied eleven pages of the catalogue. They originated from England, America, Canada, Scandinavia, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy, and were thoughtfully offered so that almost every cat awarded a major honour, such as winning its Open Class, received a special prize. No doubt they were similar to those Miss Kathleen Yorke and myself had to award when we judged in 1952 at Copenhagen and some of them were lovely, Royal Copenhagen china, crystal vases and gold and silver medals.

English-bred cats and their progeny acquitted themselves splendidly. Best Exhibit was Mrs. Brita Axelsson's (Secretary of F.I.F.E.) Blue female Champion Thiepval Enchanting by Champion Foxburrow Frivolous and

Champion Thiepval Precocious. She also was awarded one of six C.A.C. I.B. for which only Champions are eligible. Four of the others were a White L.H. male, Ch. Candidus av Smedsbo by Ch. Gleam of Pensford; a Blue-eyed White male Ch. Pierre De Trouville by Ch. Zam du Bosquet; Cream female Ch. Drevikshofs Sabina by Cheri av Barbarossa; and the Abyssinian Snorrehus Clarissa by Heatherpine Pharoah. The sixth one was not marked in my catalogue but might have been one of the Siamese Champions.

Mrs. Rudy Eisenhuth writes that the Red Tabby male, Hansi von Askanien, which came from Germany, owned by Mrs. Waltrand Müller and bred by Mr. Werner Bierhoff from Int. Ch. Paragon of Pensford was very lovely; also the Chinchilla male Ghodadad van der Nychorst by Ch. Robespierre, bred in Holland by Dr. Doeksen. Both were awarded Challenge Certificates.

Other English bred stud cats who sired many first-prize winners were the Blue male Int. Ch. Vigilant Jonathan, the Cream Ch. Mascot of Pensford, the Chinchilla Feste of Allington and in Shorthairs Siamese S.P. Int. Ch. Morris Sable, Siamese B.P. Int. Ch. Banchor Blue Thor; also Ch. Salveen Blue Jack; Abyssinian Ch. Nigella Constantine. Mrs. Dunvald won the 3 to 6 months S.P. Siamese kitten class with Exotic Gossamer, a daughter of Milori Bon Viveur, the kitten bred in Sweden by Mrs. Ulla Magnusson. Our Dr. Groom

Thinking of ? ? ?
an Import

Specializing in making individual
selections of English show winners
for overseas breeders.

ELLA B. MARTIN

Herons, Boreham, Nr. Chelmsford,
Essex, England

bred the winning Burmese adult Nilgiris Bura Turea by Casa Gatos da Foong.

As these notes go to press news arrived of the recent successful Ch. Show at Frankfurt on Main, Germany. It was pleasing to see successes by British exports. Some details of these will be in next month's issue.

Freedom for queens

Our thoughts are winging forward to the Spring. Already the daffodils are peeping through. Our queens are giving signs that their thoughts are on matrimony and we ourselves are looking forward to their kittens, a perennial pleasure that never seems to pall. Some of our Longhairs have been losing their coats since mid-December but in spite of that they should have a bloom on them, both males and females. This is essential if they are to produce robust kittens.

Some breeders consider that pregnant queens need little extra food but this is an opinion I have never endorsed. My queens have complete freedom and when they are in kitten and they begin to sit by the larder door or take a special interest every time I go to the refrigerator. I believe that's the time to give

an extra meal. Normally, they have Scott's Midlothian Oat Food for breakfast, a substantial mid-day meal and supper. When they are in kitten and there is a noticeable increase in appetite about the third or fourth week of pregnancy, I give dinner at mid-day, a tea-time and a late evening meal. When queens are carrying a small litter, e.g. two or three kittens, there is often very little increase in appetite; nature adjusts their requirements.

Unless I have a young flighty queen who careers about the garden climbing trees, etc., I never shut pregnant queens up if they wish to go out. It is the exercise they take which keeps their muscles in trim to bring their kittens into the world easily when the time arrives. Naturally, however ideal their life, complications arise from time to time, so it is never wise to leave them at the time of parturition.

One thing I have felt concerned about in recent years is the crisis decision to have a Caesarian operation directly labour is at all prolonged. It is an operation I would only consent to when a veterinarian was quite satisfied that normal birth was impossible. In an average confinement a queen will give



Blackpool Gazette

A "Tailpiece" paragraph in our October issue referred to the two Siamese neuter pets of Mrs. F. W. Parker, daughter of Alderman Joseph Hill, who was Blackpool's Mayor in 1951-2. Here are Franji and Suki with some of their show awards. They both enjoy their walks in the park and sit up like dogs, especially when rabbit is on the menu. It is interesting to record that Mrs. Parker officiated as Mayoress during her father's term of office because of her mother's illness and her right hand still doesn't function properly after the strain of so much handshaking at official engagements.

birth to her litter in from two to about four hours from the time she commences labour but it isn't always as simple as this. She may produce some of her kittens, settle down and after many hours complete the birth.

The classic case was probably the late Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam's S.P. Siamese pair who were born with an interval of two days between. They were aptly named Forethought de Listinoise and Afterthought de Listinoise. No doubt it saved Miss Wentworth-Fitzwilliam an immense amount of worry that the queen gave no signs that she expected another kitten.

In some text books the period of gestation is given at less than 63 days. This causes novices much worry as they begin to expect their queen's kittens about the 60th day and the time seems endless before they arrive.

I have kept statistics for many, many years and I have usually found that queens have their first litters more or less to time, viz., 63 days. After that the period varies from 63 to 68 days counting from the first day of mating. Just occasionally my queens have had normal confinements on the 69th day, but I much prefer kittens arriving to time as so often much overdue kittens are extra large and prolonged confinements ensue.

These figures apply to Longhair cats and may vary slightly in Siamese and Shorthairs although of course the normal period of gestation for all varieties is 63 days.

Best Wishes to Cat Lovers everywhere for their Happiness and Success this year.

SHOW AT ANTWERP

The show organized by Les Amis du Chat at Antwerp in November (reports guest judge Mrs. M. Mackenzie) was well organized and attracted a large number of exhibitors from France, Switzerland and Belgium. Mme. de Kesel made her debut as show manager. The Blues, Blacks and Whites were well represented and of excellent quality. Best in Show was Mme. Esteve's Fayedolly de Bois Clary. Blue males were represented by Int. Ch. Caprice de Martainville, Int. Ch. Dragon Bleu, Enamonado de la Villebrion, a worth son of Myowne Gallant Homme and so

very like this departed Champion. In Blue females, Letertre's Autumn Flower of Dunesk and Mme Guidon's Winsome of Dunesk were runners-up to Fayedolly. In Creams Briault's Ch. Emir de Lune annexed a C.A.C. Cream kittens were disappointing. In Blue Creams Mme. Van Leeuw won with Melody of Pensford. Other winners were Chaussebourg's Int. Ch. Banco de Martainville (Black), Mme. Cuny's Favourite, an excellent Golden-eyed White, Mme. Rietjen's Daniel d'Ardoye (Silver Tabby), Mlle. Coste judged the Shorthair section.

To fanciers overseas . . .

Panel advertisements in our DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS (Longhair and Shorthair sections) are not confined to members of the English Fancy. Indeed, we shall be only too pleased to see the Directory develop along truly international lines. The largest bookable space is a double panel (either down or across the page) and all announcements must conform to our usual typeset style. Full details of rates, etc., will be gladly supplied on request to any of our friends overseas.



Tailpieces

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



REFORT has it that Dan, ship's cat of the London liner *Uganda*, is booked for a life ashore. He ate the captain's canary!

"Good Companions," a new fortnightly series about pets (especially for the younger people) has begun an early evening run on B.B.C. Television. The first programme, introduced by Peter West, was televised from Dr. Barnardo's Garden City at Woodford Bridge, Sussex, where every one of the twenty cottage homes has its pets. One wee laddie shares his bed with a mouse!

An interesting relic of the past came to me the other day from Miss Gwendoline Sladen, who has for many years achieved such splendid success all over the world with her Manx cats bearing the Stonor prefix. It was a copy of *The Westminster Gazette* for 20th July, 1899, brown and falling to pieces with age. Miss Sladen explained that she came across it while "turning out" a bureau which belonged to her late mother. The *Gazette* of those days was a 4-page newspaper costing a penny and this particular issue carried editorial items referring to the prospect of a peace settlement with President Kruger, the re-trial of Captain Dreyfus and the sacking of shop girls because they returned from holidays with sun-tanned hands and faces! But on page four there was an item of special interest to cat lovers. It referred to the visit of Queen Victoria to an al fresco fête in Bagshot Park on behalf of the restoration

of the local parish church. During the afternoon she was presented with a Blue Persian kitten by the National Cat Club. To quote the report: "Meanwhile the Queen had noticed with her usual thoughtfulness that her Scotch and Indian attendants were being rather overweighted with packages, and another boy messenger was called, to whom, amid injunctions to 'carry it carefully,' the wicker kennel containing the kitten was entrusted"

The omission of an ampersand in Mrs. Joan Judd's greetings announcement in last month's issue is regretted. Had it appeared in its proper place it would have served to make it clear that Siamese *and* "Havana" cats are bred at her Crossways Cattery at Tockington, near Bristol, and *not* "Havana" Siamese.

A champion "taker-inner" of stray cats is Mrs. Stella Cotton, of Tonbridge, Kent, who lives by herself in a large house. She never refuses a home to a stray who needs one and at present she has about a dozen "boarders." Mrs. Cotton says that with pets in the house it is impossible to feel lonely. Looking after the unfortunate is her hobby and local cat lovers who know of her interest often go to her for advice. For nothing concerning cats is too much trouble or too uninteresting for Mrs. Cotton.

Within the last few weeks a new home for lost and starving dogs and cats has been opened at Portobello, Edinburgh. It is claimed to be the most modern accommodation of its kind in Great

Britain. Facilities include 75 dog kennels and 100 cat kennels and the boarding charge for cats is from 2s. 6d. per day.

When Sir Winston Churchill, who has just celebrated his 83rd birthday, received the Freedom of Margate at his London home, he recalled the occasion in 1953, during the Conservative Party Conference in Margate, when a stray cat crept into his car. It was taken back to London and named Margate. Sir Winston said that Margate was now living at the home of Capt. Soames, some ten miles from Chartwell.

A letter writer to a popular periodical tells how a friend left his breakfast bacon cooking on a very low gas while he attended to some jobs in the garden. On returning to the house to see how the breakfast was doing, he found the bacon had vanished and curled up in the frying-pan, sound asleep, was his pet kitten !

For eighteen days a cat was locked in a house without food or water while its inhuman owner went off into the country hop-picking. A neighbour saw it clawing at the window and the sorry details were revealed at the Dudley (Worcestershire) police court when Sarah Holt, aged 42, was sent to prison for a month for causing the cat unnecessary suffering.

Mrs. J. A. Kinst, Californian owner of a Siamese, had good reason to be upset when her pet was sick on a newly upholstered ottoman after a feed of a proprietary food described as "fish sticks." The ottoman was badly stained and subsequent correspondence with the makers of the food revealed that a dye was included that would stain the same as any technical product or dyestuff. Which all serves to underline the firm personal conviction I have held for many years that the best food for cats and kittens doesn't come out of a tin or a pack and that the old-fashioned feeding methods are the best. I know too that many of the leading breeders share this view.

Information has reached me concerns ing a special cod liver oil for pets which has just been put on the market by British Cod Liver Oils Ltd., who manufacture nearly half the world's supply of the oil. The introduction of the new product is particularly interesting in view of recent research which indicates that cod liver oil may be effective in preventing and curing tuberculosis in humans and also in checking coronary thrombosis. The oil, in its new pack for pets, is retailing at 1s. 3d. for a small bottle and 1s. 11d. for a 6 oz. bottle and the recommendation is 2 teaspoonfuls to each pound of food for cats and dogs.

The editorial of the current issue of *The Animal World* (the official magazine of the R.S.P.C.A.) comments on the problem of dealing with the vast numbers of homeless, unwanted and stray cats. Unlike the dog (I quote), the cat can adapt herself to a semi-wild state. For this reason, the Society is not in favour of collecting semi-wild cats for humane destruction, unless they are ill, injured or in a suffering state. Unwanted cats, particularly young males, are often placed in new homes by the Society ; last year 12,206 were so placed. Neutering and spaying would help to reduce the number of strays and efforts are being made to educate the public to the need of these operations and the humane purpose they serve.

That newsy little item about cats you have read in your local newspaper or in the magazine you have just put down . . . will you be kind enough to clip it out and post it to me in an unsealed envelope ? Cuttings from overseas publications are particularly welcome, but senders should bear in mind that we cannot reproduce direct from pictures in newspapers and journals. Original photographs are necessary. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

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News from "Down Under"

HERE we are again with a New Year ahead of us that is full of good promise and cheerful prospect for the future of our Fancy.

My first item of news for 1958 concerns St. George District Cat Club who were blessed with a fine day for their Kitten Show at Arncliffe. The three judges did not have as heavy a job as usual but competition was keen and there were lots of quality in evidence. As I have mentioned before, the hall is too small for this fixture and arrangements have been made for future shows to be held just around the corner in the larger Coronation Hall.

A comprehensive trophy list was presented and the main awards went to : *Persians* : Best Male—Mrs. Mullins' Minaloo Rola ; Best Female—Miss Haswell's Miowera Fantasy ; Best Male Kitten—Mrs. Hicks' St. Chads Mischief ; Best Female Kitten—Mrs. Hancock's Blue ; Best Queen and Litter—Mrs. Woods' Delhi Arctic Echo ; Best Neuter—Mrs. Turner's Sir Robin of St. George. *Siamese* : Best Male—Mr. Brown's B.P. Westwood Blue Haze ; Best Female—Mrs. Martin's S.P. Bluemead Rapunzel ; Best Male Kitten—Mrs. O'Donoghue's Kaylee Luigi ; Best Female Kitten—Mrs. Leech's Pic Point Precious Gem ; Best Queen and Litter—Mrs. Leech's Konghi Syann ; Best Neuter—Mrs. Young's Tarantel Sue Trong.

A very successful and happy fixture was staged in the lower Sydney Town Hall by the Federal Cat Club on the last day of November in aid of the Red Cross Society. This—our last kitten show of the year—was fairly well attended and some very beautiful litters were benched, both in Long and Shorthairs. Three judges and six stewards operated and Miss Vale, the Hon. Secretary, gets a nice big hand for smooth organization.

At the present time it seems as though our January fixture at Katoomba may lapse owing to the dreadful damage by bush fires all over the Blue Mountains.

Main awards at the Federal Show went to : *Persians* : Best Male—Miss Schieffmann's St. Chad's Silver Prince ; Best Female—Miss Haswell's Miowera Fantasy ; Best Male Kitten—Mrs. Baxter's Honky Tonk Jaison ; Best Female Kitten—Miss Haswell's Kute Kit Flight ; Best Brood Queen—Miss Haswell's Miowera Fantasy ; Best Neuters—Miss Rapley's Mayfield Barry and Miss Martin's Wendon Pretty Girl. *Siamese* : Best Male—Mrs. Green's Souchang Serenader ; Best Female—Mrs. Donmall's Mystic Blue Heather ; Best Male Kitten—Mrs. Scognamillo's Adagio of Chatsworth ; Best Female Kitten—Mrs. Keyes' entry ; Best Litter—Mrs. Donmall's Seal Points ; Best Neuter—Mrs. Alcock's Cresthaven Cavalier.

Hector, the Wireless Bird, tells me our Burmese breeding stock is to be enriched by three importations plus a trio of a breed not previously seen here. Very good news this. A breeder in New Zealand also gives details of three Burmese coming to her from England and the addition of a local queen. Congratulations to these far-seeing fanciers—they are doing a wonderful job.

A very enthusiastic group of cat lovers have just held a successful inaugural meeting at Lidcombe. It was decided to form a club to serve all Western Districts with headquarters at Parramatta City. A number became members on the spot and a constitution, list of members, executive officers, etc., will now be submitted for approval and authority to function. Efforts are being made to form a Siamese specialist club as well, but so far, no details are to hand.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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