

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE




WESTWOOD BLUE PHYSCÉ

One of Australia's best Blue Point Siamese youngsters has been exhibited most successfully by Mrs. L. Thurmer, Secretary of the recently-formed Adelaide Cat Club. The sire of Physce is Grand Champion Misselmore Tyrant Print, bred in England by Major and Mrs. J. C. S. Rendall.

APRIL 1958

1/6

'FIOVAX' FOR PROTECTION



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 rapidly from cat to cat in a locality. All breeds are susceptible and in some, such as the Siamese, the mortality rate is particularly high.

To protect your cat against this disease consult your veterinary surgeon. He will advise you regarding protection, and can give you the 'Fiovax' Certificate.

'FIOVAX' BRAND

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE



Prepared at the Wellcome Research Laboratories

A BURROUGHS WELLCOME VETERINARY PRODUCT

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



F. Harris & Sons

ANOTHER WIDDINGTON CHAMPION

One more in the long line of outstanding Cream Longhairs bred by specialist fancier Miss E. M. Sheppard, of Berden, Herts, who is following in her late mother's footsteps. WIDDINGTON WINTERSTAR (sired by Ch. Widdington Winterset) won consistently during the 1957-8 show season and carried off three Best in Show awards in twelve months.

CHAMPIONS OF 1957-8

Name of Cat	Breed and Sex	Owner	Breeder
AUTUMN HAZE	Burmese (M)	Mrs. A. M. Charles	Mrs. J. Squires
BRIARRY GOHAR	Colourpoint L.H. (F)	Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb	Owner
BEAMSLEY SUNBEAM	Cream L.H. (M)	Miss M. F. Bull	Mrs. M. Smith
BARWELL GARNET PRINCESS	Red Tabby L.H. (F)	Mrs. N. Rosell	Mrs. D. P. Fawell
BONAVIA CONTENTA	Chinchilla (M)	Mrs. Turney & The Hon. Mrs. R. Haden-Guest	Mrs. M. Turney
BOSULA POLDHU	Tortie & White L.H. (F)	Mrs. M. Wright	Unknown
CHATWYN CLAIRETTE	B.P. Siamese (F)	Major & Mrs. Rendall	Mrs. J. Tancock
CAMLEY FUDGE	C.P. Siamese (M)	Mrs. I. Lapper	Mrs. I. Solyau
CHATWYN TERAH	Abyssinian (M)	Mrs. Harmer	Mrs. J. Tancock
CRAIGIEHILLOCH TANA	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. Clarke	Owner
DORSTAN DYMPhNA	Silver Tabby L.H. (F)	Mr. & Mrs. Gurney	Owners
DUNLOE VICKIE	Russian Blue (F)	Miss E. von Ullmann	Miss M. Rochford
DEEBANK WILD ROSE	O.Eyed White L.H. (F)	Miss M. F. Bull	Owner
DEEBANK MARGUERITE	O.Eyed White L.H. (F)	Miss M. F. Bull	Owner
DUNLOE SILVERVITCH	Russian Blue (M)	Miss M. Rochford	Owner
DARSHAN KHUDIRAM	Burmese (M)	Mrs. C. Watson	Mrs. P. W. Levy
FERNREIG PENELOPE	Burmese (F)	Mrs. K. I. Gee	Mrs. E. Mathewson
GAYDENE TINA	Blue L.H. (F)	Mrs. Ripplingale	Mrs. L. McVady
JOSEANNA	Tortie & White S.H. (F)	Mr. W. Lamb	Owner
JEZREEL JAKE	British Blue S.H. (M)	Mrs. I. Johnson	Owner
JEZREEL JAMIMA	Blue Cream S.H. (F)	Mrs. I. Johnson	Owner
JEWEL OF PENSFORD	Blue Cream L.H. (F)	Mrs. J. Jewell	Mrs. Joan Thompson
KACHIN SUNDA	Burmese (F)	Mrs. I. Walker	Miss J. Watson
LITTLEWICKERS COTTON	British Blue S.H. (F)	The Misses Chatterton	Owners
MILORI OBERON	S.P. Siamese (M)	Mrs. C. F. Watson	Owner
MANDY OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (F)	Mrs. I. Brittlebank	Miss E. Langston
MILORI LILI	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mrs. C. F. Watson	Owner
MAGYAR ONARA	Brown Tabby L.H. (F)	Miss d'H. Malone	Mrs. M. E. Beedell
MERLIN OF BRENTSIDE	Chinchilla (M)	Mrs. L. Speirs	Owner
NIDDERDALE SUSAN	Tortie & White S.H. (F)	Mrs. G. M. Budd	Owner
NI GELLA SASCHA	Abyssinian (M)	Miss F. A. Bone	Owner
OSCAR OF PENSFORD	Cream L.H. (M)	Mrs. L. Davies	Mrs. Joan Thompson
SARISBURY APHRA	Chinchilla (F)	Mrs. M. Turney	Mrs. E. C. Warren
SABLESILK BIMBO	Burmese (M)	Mrs. M. E. Smith	Owner
STONOR BUSTER	Manx (M)	Miss G. K. Sladen	Owner
SILVERSEAL PUSSY WILLOW	Silver Tabby S.H. (F)	Mrs. M. Thake	Owner
SILVERSEAL ISIS	Silver Tabby S.H. (F)	Miss J. Watson	Mrs. M. Thake
SOUTHWOOD MARCUS	S.P. Siamese (M)	Mr. & Mrs. Glover	Mrs. L. Sayers
SANS SOUCI COPPELLIA	S.P. Siamese (F)	Mr. & Mrs. Glover	Owners
SELBORNE DORCAS	Abyssinian (F)	Mrs. P. M. Grunnill	Mrs. M. Foxwell
SABLESILK MOUSE	Burmese (F)	Mrs. R. M. Pocock	Mrs. M. E. Smith
TERRY OF ALLINGTON	Chinchilla (M)	Mrs. D. A. Lodge	Miss E. Langston
THIEPVAL ENCHANTER	Blue L.H. (M)	Mrs. E. M. Denton	Mrs. M. E. Crickmore
WOBURN MONSIEUR	Cream L.H. (M)	Mrs. Y. Willett	Miss C. Page
WHISTON TABITHA	Brown Tabby S.H. (F)	Miss A. L. Stubbs	Owner

TWITCHET

The grand total of 45 Champions compares with 48 in 1956-7, 37 in 1955-6, 31 in 1954-5, 35 in 1953-4 and 26 in 1952-3. The "ladies" are again very much to the fore with 27 Championships to their credit, leaving only 18 top honours to be shared by the males. The ratio was very much the same last season.

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By courtesy of the "Wolverhampton Express and Star"

WHISTON TABITHA TWITCHETT, the author's Brown Tabby Shorthair, is one of the new Champions of the 1957-8 show season.

British Shorthairs (Tabbies and Torties)

By ANN L. STUBBS

TO some people "British Shorthair" is merely a polite name for an alley-cat or mongrel. Nothing could be farther from the truth; the good Britisher with a sound pedigree is as much an aristocrat as any breed and with just as definite a "type." By sound pedigree, I mean one which is truly British throughout with no admixture of either foreign shorthair or longhair blood. It is necessary sometimes to mate together two different coloured Britishers. The progeny is not cross-bred; it is still pure British.

It is quite true that sometimes a mongrel cat is found which though of completely unknown ancestry conforms

sufficiently closely to the standard for British cats that it can be registered, shown and even become a Champion. But generally most mongrels are a mixture of British, Foreign and Longhair blood.

The pedigree British Shorthair comes in ten recognized colours of which just over half are striped or patched and the remainder self-coloured. I will take the striped and patched ones, that is the Tabbies and Tortoiseshells, first.

The Tabby comes in three recognized colourings; Silver, Red and Brown. That the Silver is probably the most popular is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of a small band of breeders. He is indeed a beautiful creature with his black markings showing clearly on a silver ground colour. His eyes should be a bright and distinct green. The

Standard laid down for markings is the same for all Tabbies--body clearly marked with no trace of brindling, tail evenly ringed, likewise the legs with the bracelets going right down to the feet.

The chest must have two clear necklaces running round it, while the head markings must be very clear with delicate pencillings running from the eyes over the top of the head between the ears and two clear swirls crossing the cheeks.

The Brown Tabby follows the same standard as the Silver apart from ground colour and eye colour. The former should be a deep, rich, warm brown and the latter can be orange, hazel, yellow or green, actually the deeper yellow or orange they are the more attractive and as a general rule cats with the deeper eye colour tend to be a deeper and warmer body colour. The Brown Tabby almost disappeared a few years ago as a pedigree cat but recently there has been a slight revival of interest in them.

A good Red Tabby is probably more difficult to breed than the Silver or Brown as he does not have contrasting black markings as they do but markings

of a deeper shade of red. The Red Tabby is *not* the ginger cat seen in scores about the country; he is a very much deeper and quite distinct colour, in fact he is Red! His markings follow the same general pattern and his eyes are orange, hazel or copper, the deeper the better. Contrary to popular belief the Red Tabby can be female as well as male, but this colour is one of the few instances of sex-linkage in mammals and unless the red factor is on both sides of the pedigree it will be imperfectly expressed in the female progeny, who will be Tortoiseshell. Torties are almost invariably female, the very few males which appear being sterile.

The Tortie is a patched cat, her coat consisting of black and dark and light red in clear patches and even quantities. The eyes are orange, copper or hazel. The Tortie and White is similar to the Tortie but patches of white are added. These, however, are not scattered about *ad lib* but should form a definite pattern—white waistcoat, white socks, etc.

There is yet another Britisher, who though not patched is not self-coloured. I refer to the Blue-Cream who, like the



"He is indeed a beautiful creature with his black markings showing clearly on a silver ground colour." The appealing characteristics of the British Silver Tabby Shorthair are well displayed by SILVERSEAL PTOLOMY, sired by Ch. Silverseal Dazzler and bred by Mrs. M. Thake, of Coventry, who produced two Champions of this variety last season.

H. F. Thake

A type representative of our Red Tabby Short-hairs KILLINGHALL RED SPARK, a young male bred by Miss G. Hardman and owned by Miss A. Stubbs. His sire and dam are Ch. Nidderdale Robin and Ch. Barwell Cherry.



Monty, Birmingham

Tortie, is almost invariably female. Unlike the Tortie, however, the two colours in her coat, blue and cream, must be softly intermingled and not patched. The eye colours are orange or copper.

In type the Britisher is a neat, compact cat. The coat is short and close, though thick, and the head round with a short nose, well-developed cheeks, neat, well-placed ears and large round eyes. In character he is intelligent and affectionate, kindly and not usually aggressive

either to other cats or humans. He has a pleasant, well-modulated voice and he usually takes life very sensibly. For example such distractions as visits to shows he finds interesting and enjoyable rather than too disturbing.

Because of his character and his short close coat which does not require extensive preparation, he shows well. Indeed for the novice breeder-exhibitor or the person who just requires a handsome and loving pet, the British Short-hair is hard to beat. *(to be continued)*



Mrs. Homer Newton writes from Miami, Florida, U.S.A.: "I'd be thrilled to see this snapshot of my Cha-Cha-Paiyah in your magazine. Perhaps the caption should be 'Which one has the Toni?'"



THREE GREAT BELIEVERS IN TIBS

Noted breeder, exhibitor and judge gives advice to all cat lovers

Tibby, the Tibs reporter, went to see Mrs. Chappell, at her cattery, 'Ivydene' at Uxbridge.

He met Barlee Blossom and Kingsdown Barnowl, these two magnificent Persian Creams, and Pauline of Rockvilla, a lovely Silver Tabby. Pauline was putting on the cat a bit, having appeared on T/V last year and won a challenge certificate at the Croydon Cat Club Show in November. She also won the rosette for Best

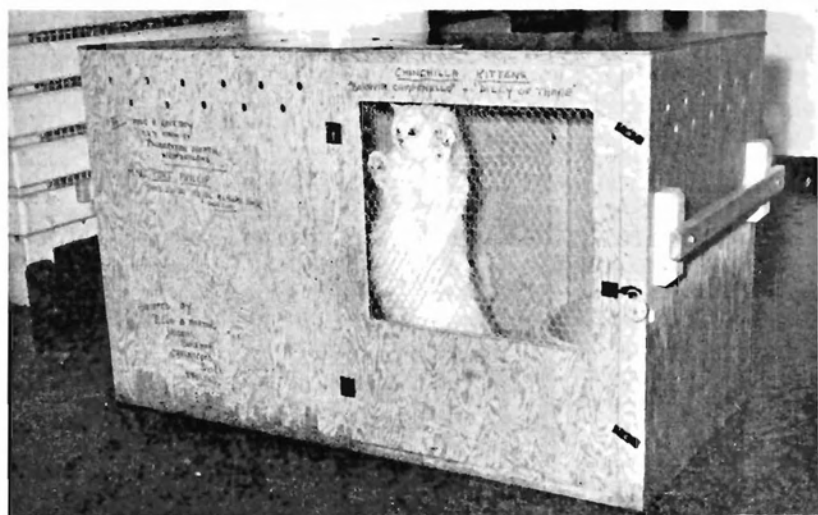
of Breed. Mrs. Chappell spoke highly in praise of Tibs. She said "Tibs are an absolutely necessary *addition to food*.

Tibs give each of my cats all the necessary proteins, vitamins and minerals that a cat diet needs." And you should just see all the Tibsical cats at 'Ivydene' . . . good bones, good teeth, good condition, shining coat and sheer Tibsical energy from morning to night!

Famous breeders say:

TIBS KEEP CATS TIBSICAL





Bill Godwin

Two young English-born aristocrats Chinchilla kittens Bonavia Campanello and Dilly of Thame are on their way to New Zealand. One of them is having a last look around before the ship leaves the quayside. In addition to this large crate, their travelling equipment includes a play pen for their use during the daytime.

British stock is popular overseas

By ELLA B. MARTIN

DURING the past twelve months there has been a mounting interest in British stock among fanciers overseas and I have received numerous enquiries for cats and kittens of all breeds, including Havanas, Burmese, Red Pointed Siamese and of course the "more in demand" varieties.

Many of the letters reaching me, some of which entailed a great deal of work, never materialized into orders and these disappointments can be ascribed to a variety of causes. However, many proved fruitful, I'm glad to say, and the number of cats and kittens I handled and exported indicated a really keen interest in the top quality stock which breeders of the Old Country continue to produce.

America has once again proved to be the liveliest market. On behalf of Miss G. Sladen, I sent her well known Manx female Stonor Tortie True to Mrs. Tomaszewski, Michigan. At Christmas, Miss Sladen received the news that both Mr. and Mrs. Tomaszewski were delighted with their purchase and that Tortie was a much-loved pet who had settled down well in the household.

Mrs. Beula Biederman, of Des Moines, Iowa, asked me to select a Blue Longhair female kit and I found Prestwood Saffire for her. Saffire was a 1st prize winner at the Kensington Kitten Show and soon after her arrival she was shown several times in America. By November she had won Best Kitten in Show award on nine occasions. Later, Mrs. Biederman asked for a male kitten and Blue Star of Dunesk joined Saffire. He was unshown here but in the breeder's opinion (and

also mine) he was a very promising youngster who should do well later.

Mrs. Anderson of Cincinnati, bought Saffire's litter brother Onyx. Poor little Onyx had a much delayed arrival on the other side due to bad weather and consequently he was not in good shape when he reached his new home. Happily, with care and attention, he recovered and in the Christmas news I received from Mrs. Anderson he had won Best Kitten in the Specialty Section at St. Louis and Best Opposite Sex at Minneapolis Show, where the honour of Best Kitten went to his sister Saffire. Congratulations to his breeder, Mrs. Parker!

Mrs. Watling, of Santa Barbara, California, being well pleased with her first import, Spotlight Hairstreak, decided to add two more Siamese to the cat family and so on a chilly October day tiny Prestwick Perlinda ("Pearly Girlie")

and Chocolate Point Sayam Traviata set off for the sunshine of California. How I wished that I was going too! Both travelled well and were in fine condition on arrival. Mrs. Watling reports that "Pearly Girlie" is the daintiest little lady she has ever seen. Traviata was a 1st prize winner here.

From California over to Texas, Mrs. Tyler, of Houston, to whom I sent Causeway Lucienne last year, ordered a wife for him and in due course I found what I was looking for—Killdown Cassandra, a lovely little female, sweet in disposition. Mrs. Tyler proudly showed both at Atlanta and "Cassie" took Best Kitten in competition with 18 other Shorthairs. Lucienne, as usual, took home rosettes, getting Best Champion under Judge Revington and Best Siamese and Best Shorthair under Judge Pelton. It was a very happy day for Mrs. Tyler.



Hunting Clan Air Transport Ltd.

The scene at London Airport as Mrs. A. S. McGregor, Kentish breeder of Siamese, says her good-byes to Inwood Koja, the kitten she has sold to Mrs. Traub, of Northern Rhodesia. Mrs. Martin, who handled the export arrangements, is on the right with hot water bottle and food for the journey. Koja's travelling companion was Summerfield Cleopatra, another Siamese youngster bred by Mrs. D. M. Orton, of Leicestershire. And it isn't a Swiss roll on the top of the crate in the foreground!

Mrs. Walker of Mesquite, now owns Sunfun Sunyi, who unfortunately became ill some weeks after he arrived. I understand that X-rays showed a shotgun pellet and this caused paralysis. It was very distressing for his new owner and I am sure we all hope he will soon recover. Sunyi was a well-known winner here and had a string of 1st prizes to his credit. He was one of a litter of top quality kits from which it was not easy to pick out the best.



Mrs. Beulah Biederman, Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., with her purchase **PRESTWOOD SAFFIRE**.

On behalf of Mr. Ivor Raleigh, I shipped Anchusa Cherry Blossom and Anchusa Rigi to Mrs. Shy and Mrs. Kingsland, of Missouri. Then later, for breeder Mrs. Stephenson, I sent out her fine winning Blue Longhair Ashdown Robin to Mrs. Kingsland, whose cable said: "Robin splendid." He arrived in excellent condition after the flight over the Atlantic.

Miss Rodda, breeder of the popular Chadhurst cats, entrusted her Raven to my care. He went to Mrs. Wendel, of Union, New Jersey, and she is delighted with him.

Canada. Mrs. M. Elliott, of Toronto, added another Siamese to her family and this time I sent Misselore Phantasy, a lovely Blue Point with an impressive pedigree. Mrs. Elliott told me in her last letter that she has had some excellent kittens from Sabukia Scilla, who was sent to her last year after being mated prior to departure.

Canadians seem to be very keen on Colourpoint Longhairs and at the request of Mr. Stirling-Webb I sent Briarry Fah Neerah and Chatelaine Al Hakim to Mrs. Ann Borrett, of Calgary. She already owns Briarry Zarcala sent last year and also in Calgary Miss MacMillan has Briarry Zuluetta, the first Colourpoint Longhair I ever imported.

New Zealand. Miss Ruby Lovejoy imported two more kits, this time a pair of Chinchillas Dilly of Thame and Campanello, of Bonavia fame, went off together in a large crate and a playpen for the long sea voyage. Campanello was a big winner here at the Kensington Show he won six 1sts and trophies for Best L.H. Kitten, Best Chinchilla Kitten and Best Novice, his awards being given by four different judges. He should, I think, have a great future in the Dominion.

English breeders will, I know, be sorry to learn that Mrs. Tancock who has bred so many excellent Chatwyn cats, has left to take up residence in New Zealand. In a few days' time I am sending out to her two adults and two kittens, then travelling crates and playpens. The adults are Ch. Blackthorn Marsale, Abyssinian female, and Mystery Maid, a Blue Point Siamese. The kittens are Abyssinian brother and sister Taishun Taniara and Taishun Fernando. Our loss will be New Zealand's gain. Best wishes to you, Mrs. Tancock.

Germany. Deckham Criquette, an Abyssinian female kit bred by Mrs. Stuart, was sent to her client Mr. Taggart, of Heidelberg, and later in the year Mrs. Potiadlo, of Stuttgart, purchased Tranby Sitra, also an Abyssinian.

Holland. Bonavia Helen, a 1st prize kit here, was sent to Costvoorne to Mrs. v Eesteren and Dalmond Topper, a White Longhair, quickly followed her. Topper has improved as he has grown and at the Amsterdam Show in December he won 1st in his class. Mrs. Eesteren has a large garden with lots of trees and her cat family have free and happy lives.

Northern Rhodesia. It is not very often that I receive orders for kittens from this part of the world and it is a number of years ago since I sent a pair of Blue Point Siamese out there. But in November last, Mrs. Traub, of Lusaka, took



Mrs. Greta Collingwood, of Melfort, Southern Rhodesia, enjoying a game with PRESTWICK BLUE SEASHELL, whom she imported from England in 1951.

delivery of a pair of Seal Point kits Summerfield Cleopatra and Inwood Koja. They arrived none the worse for their long journey and Mrs. Traub is now waiting to see how the pair get on before deciding about having perhaps a Red Point.

Liberia. It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I sent off another pair of Seal Point Siamese kits to Mr. Wheeler of Harbel, West Africa, for

when investigating the best routing I found that a 48 hour hold-up at Accra was unavoidable. It was very worrying, but thanks to the kind co-operation of Mr. Junker, Manager of Pan America World Airways in Harbel, who went to a lot of trouble to ensure the comfort and well-being of the kits while they were in Accra, they reached Mr. Wheeler safely.

To quote from Mr. Wheeler's interesting letter: "When I went down to pick up the kittens on Friday afternoon they arrived around noontime. I found Mr. Junker and the rest of the air line staff thoroughly enjoying them. They had taken the kits out of their carriers and were letting them exercise in the office. To look at them one would never have known they had made such a long trip. They apparently had received excellent attention *en route* as the carriers were very clean and the kits' coats not dirtied at all. I am looking forward to many happy hours enjoying the antics of Sanguine Nina and Sunfun Kerchil."

On looking back over the activities of the past twelve months, they seem to add up to a busy year. The great joy is in knowing that all these kits are in good and loving hands. I would once again like to thank the English breeders who have shown me so much co-operation and also the judges for their help and advice, so readily given and so much appreciated.

AMERICAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

We much regret the circumstances which compel us to raise our Yearly Subscription Rate for the Americas from \$3.25 to \$3.75 as from 1st April, 1958. This increase becomes necessary to enable us to meet (a) the higher postal charges now operating and (b) the heavier commission required by the banks for the collection of dollar cheques.



Tailpieces

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



THE news of the death last month of Michael Joseph at the age of 60 came as a shock to many in the cat world. A great cat lover who became President of the Siamese Cat Club of the British Empire, Mr. Joseph was successful as both author and publisher and doubtless he will be best remembered for his sincere and sympathetic writings in *Charles and Cat's Company*. These books

lovers under his imprint included Lady Aberconway's *A Dictionary of Cat Lovers*, Paul Gallico's *Jenny and Thomasina*, and James Mason's *The Cats in Our Lives*. When Doreen Tovey's charming book *Cats in the Belfry* was published last year Mr. Joseph contributed a preface in which he said that as a publisher he had read most of the cat books published and hundreds of those which will never be published.



The late Michael Joseph with two furry friends.

are his legacy for the enjoyment of generations to come. Only last year Mr. Joseph celebrated his 21st anniversary as a publisher and from modest beginnings he built up a successful business. Widely read books for cat

Coventry and Leicester Cat Club are holding an All-Breed Show in Coventry on Saturday, 14th June. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Monica Thake, 53 Greendale Road, Coventry.

The front cover of the April issue of *The Animals' Magazine*, the monthly journal of the P.D.S.A., carries a striking picture of a cat's head and a fish hook. The connection between the two was a painful experience for puss. It took nearly half an hour at the P.D.S.A. Sanatorium to remove the hook under an anaesthetic from underneath the cat's tongue. It is thought that the barb was in a fish head which had been fed to the cat.

Old Bill is dead. Although just an ordinary cat, he was well known at our shows where he was always an appealing collector of cash and other gifts for his less fortunate brothers and sisters. His last public appearance was at the National Show at Olympia in December, 1956, when, although 20 years of age, he put in a brief appearance to receive a rosette from Miss Kathleen Yorke.

KO - KO

MRS. E. A. JAMES of
126 Fore Street, Edmonton,
London, N.18, writes :

" Ko-Ko, our beautiful sandy-coloured Persian, is now eight years old and has had Kit-zyme every day since he was a young cat. He weighs 25 lbs., has a wonderful appetite and his coat is beautiful. due, we feel sure, to Kit-zyme.

" Ko-Ko loves the Tablets and would always be eating them if he had his way, so we keep the bottle on a high shelf—in fact, my husband and I have to spell the name out when we ask each other if Ko-Ko has had his daily dose.

" Although he looks like a tiger, Ko-Ko loves everyone and people come into our shop asking to see him. Kit-zyme keeps Ko-Ko in such perfect condition that I recommend your Tablets to all my friends who have cats."



KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO . . .
It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

Kit-zyme

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50 (7½ gr.) Tablets 1/6, 250 for 4/-, 750 for 8/-
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Literature Free on Request



If any difficulty in obtaining write to:
PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., Park Royal, London, N.W.10

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.

Ref. No. 168

Chairman of the Governing Council. Old Bill passed away in what is believed to be his 22nd year. A survivor of the blitz, he was a real Cockney and a great lover of parties, who made a host of friends. His story went round the world, thanks to the courtesy of Phillips Yeast Products. A fund has been started in memory of Old Bill from which proceeds will be devoted to the practical work of the Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks. My readers who wish to send their contributions to this good cause should mark their envelopes "Old Bill Memorial Fund."

Any reader who finds some surplus old sheets after the spring "turn-out" in the home should send them to the Small Animals' Ward, Surgical Department, P.D.S.A. Sanatorium, Woodford Bridge, Ilford, Essex, where they will be gratefully received.

The Three Counties Cat Society held an "Any Questions?" session at the Bournemouth Town Hall last month which was well attended by members and friends. The Question Master was Mr. David Ensor, author and broadcaster, and the panel consisted of Mrs. Kathleen Williams, Miss Kit Wilson, Mr. Harry W. Ashley and a veterinary surgeon. Tea was served after a very interesting and informative afternoon.

A series of five commercial television magazine programmes was completed last month for Bob Martin Limited featuring the Tibs Tablets for cats. The first two showed some Black Persian kittens loaned by Mrs. E. G. Aitken and the following two programmes in February were enlivened by the presence of a Tortie Longhair kitten and a Red Self Longhair provided by Miss Jury. In the final programme a Siamese kitten and a Burmese cat supplied the live interest. Messrs. Graham & Gillies Ltd., Advertising Agents for Bob Martin products, tell me that following each transmission

there were enquiries from viewers who were interested in buying the kittens shown on the screen.

The Western Province Cat Club has recently become the first cat club in South Africa to attain its tenth anniversary, its inaugural meeting having been held on 27th February, 1948. The occasion has been marked by the circulation of a most attractive issue of *Cats Calling*, the Club's quarterly magazine edited by Committee Chairman, the Rev. H. N. Lovemore. Its arrangement and general presentation is excellent and it is indicative of the constructive work that is being carried out in that part of the cat world. I was particularly interested to read the account of her recent visit to England by Miss P. Ashby Spilhaus, Vice-Chairman of the Club, and also the recollections by Miss Fania E. Pocock of her pioneering days. One of the Club's most experienced members, Sister F. Bradford, has written most interestingly about the evolution of her favourite Red Pointed Siamese.

In his congratulatory message to the Western Province Cat Club on reaching their tenth birthday, Mr. John Oliver, Chairman of the Siamese Cat Society of South Africa writes: "I would like to urge you to seek every opportunity of increasing your membership and of educating the public in the aims and ideals of our Fancy. When one considers that in the whole of the Union there are only three hundred and fifty to four hundred accredited people devoted to the welfare and breeding of cats, it is a sobering thought. It seems to me that with a certain amount of effort this number could at least be doubled and that we should all work together towards this end."

I was pleased to receive a copy—the first—of the *West of England and South Wales Cat Society Journal*, which will make a quarterly appearance. It is brightly

produced by Mrs. Joan Judd, Little Close, Old Down, Tockington, nr. Bristol, and should help substantially to sustain and develop interest in feline affairs over the wide area it caters for. The subscription rate is 3s. 6d. yearly or 1s. per copy.

Alicia Markova, popular star of the ballet, has a pet tabby named Moey, which is a Hawaiian word for friend. She says that he always sleeps on one of her tutus (ballet skirts) and when her dresses are being packed for a tour he always tries to hide inside the case with them. "I know," she adds, "that one day I shall open my case in New York and find Moey peacefully curled up inside my tutu!"

According to Chief Inspector Charles Morrison, of the R.S.P.C.A., great numbers of run-wild cats are a nuisance in West Norfolk. They become wilder with each generation and he has appealed to cat lovers to have unwanted kittens put to sleep without delay.

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association held its first Annual Conference in London last month. I hope to have more news later on regarding some of the discussions which took place over the three days of this lively meeting. The tremendous advances in small animal medicine and surgery was reviewed by leading specialists in veterinary research and teaching centres all over the country and efforts were made to thrash out some of the problems facing small animal practice to-day.

The Bryants Stray Cats' Shelter and Sanctuary in the Yorkshire city of Bradford has recently moved into new quarters owing to the lack of suitable accommodation at the old Westgate home. Through the generosity of the public Mr. and Mrs. Bryant raised £700 to pay a deposit on a house which comes within the requirements of the authorities. The opening ceremony was performed by Miss Bonnie Downs, Puss in Boots at the local pantomime.

Did you know that a cat kept as a mouser in a shop or warehouse is allowed as a business expense by the Inland Revenue? The cost of its food may be shown on the income tax return provided it is kept solely on the business premises and not partly in a house. This interesting fact came to light during a discussion among members of the Chamber of Commerce at Hitchin, Herts, when one of them, a grocer, said: "I keep my cat out of stock and the auditor allows for its food and milk as part of the loss on takings."

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.

MURPHY.



ASHDOWN MEADOWSWEET. Blue Long-hair kitten at six months, bred by Mrs. F. H. Stephenson, of Tunbridge Wells. Subsequently purchased by Mrs. Max Eckenburg, Seattle, U.S.A. Meadowsweet was Best Kitten at her first American show.

Reproduction (No. 43)

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.

ADVANCEMENT in any walk of life is only possible if one is prepared to adjust ones ideas in the light of up-to-date knowledge. Many things which were once acceptable become liable to alteration or adjustment in the light of new findings and discovery. In this way we are able to advance still further by the way of the new perceptions. In this and the next article, some of the newer ideas are presented on the subject of reproduction, taking the matter of environmental effects as the special concern.

The life of an animal may be said to start from the egg which has just been fertilized. The egg is more or less a spherical object, and it bears no resemblance to the animal that laid it, or into which it will develop. The processes of development are therefore concerned with the transformation of the egg into that form which we recognize as the "animal."

The transformation is gradual, and so the shape of the spherical egg is modified little by little into another shape, and this is changed into yet different ones which succeed one another until the definitive or adult shape is reached. During its development, therefore, the animal passes through a series of successive stages which we mean when we speak of the animal's "ontogeny."

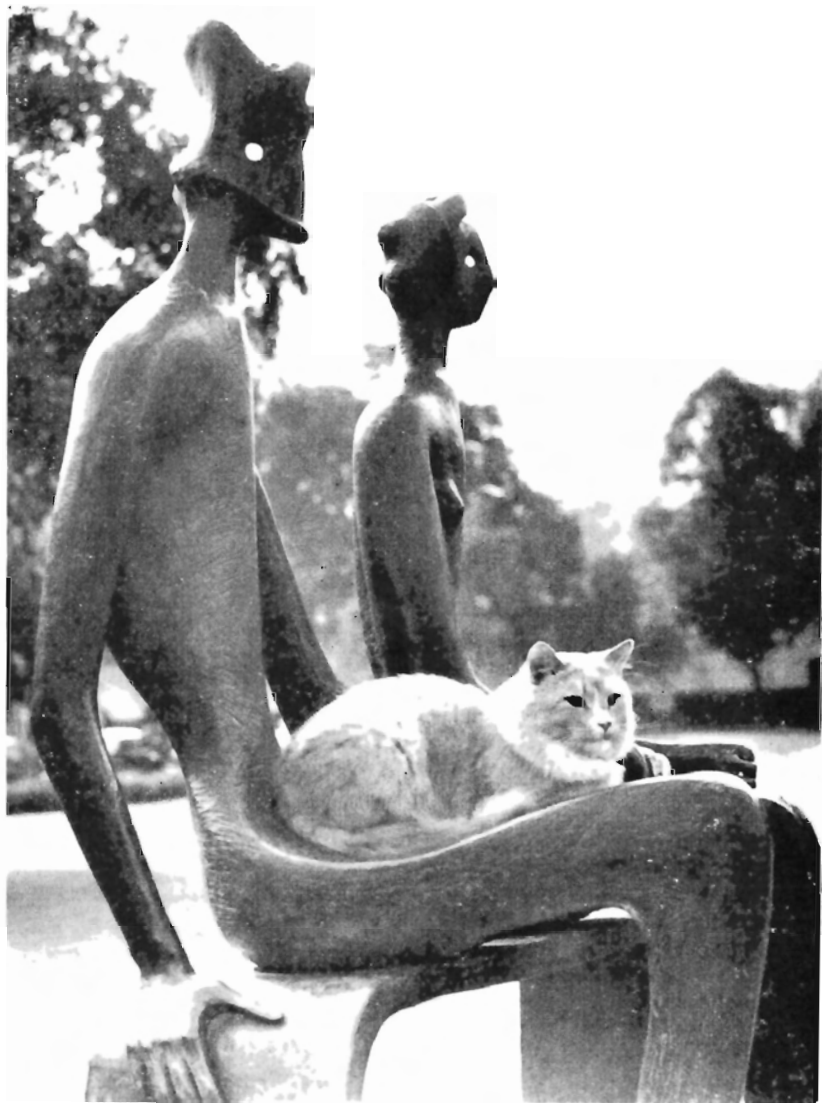
Some of the ontogenetic stages are familiar for every one, such as, for example, the caterpillar of the moth, or the tadpole of the frog, but on the whole, the stages of development of animals are more or less unknown to the layman and he must rely on the embryologist whose business it is to collect and study these interesting phases of an animal's existence.

Another series of stages can be made out from animals by comparing the full-grown or adult shapes of one kind of animal with those of other kinds, and finding that they can be arranged in an order of increasing or decreasing complexity.

If we were capable of following the progress of increase of the number of the parts of the most perfect animal, as they first formed in succession, from the very first to its state of full perfection, we should probably be able to compare it with some one of the incomplete animals themselves, of every order of animal in the Creation, being at no stage different from some of the inferior orders. Man only becomes man after traversing transitional organizatory states which assimilate him first to fish, then to reptiles, then to birds and mammals.

According to these views therefore, the ontogenetic series and the scale of beings run parallel with one another, and the developmental stages of an animal are held to correspond to the definite or adult stages of animals lower down the scale. As a result of researches

A page for the proletarian puss No. 79



Fox Photos

A cosy out-of-doors seat in the lap of a king — what more could a fellow want ? This handsome ginger cat attracted the attention of visitors to an Exhibition of Contemporary British Sculpture at Cheltenham. The bronze figures are Henry Moore's "King and Queen." No comment !

in these matters, Von Baer made the following points, which have now become known as the "Laws of Von Baer."

1—In development from the egg the general characters appear before the special characters.

2—From the more general characters, the less general, and finally, the special characters are developed.

3—During its development, an animal departs more and more from the form of other animals.

4—The young stages in the development of an animal are not like the adult stages of other animals lower down the scale, but are like the young stages of those animals.

The introduction of the concept of evolution was obviously destined to make important changes in the consideration of the relations of ontogeny to the scale of beings. For the scale of beings then ceased to be a mere static row of shapes of adult animals, and, instead, became a line of ancestors which by modification in descent have evolved into other (and usually more complex) forms. The modifications undergone by the shape of the adult animals in successive generations during evolution could now be regarded as a series of stages in the history of the race, which series became known as the phylogeny.

Theory of parallelism

The problem now was to see how ontogeny and phylogeny were related, and the next step was taken by Fritz Muller. For him, ontogeny could follow one of two methods. During its development from the egg, an animal might either pass through the ontogenetic stages and beyond the final adult stage of the ancestor ("over-stepping"), or it might diverge more and more from the ontogenetic stages of the ancestor ("progressive deviation"). The former mode reflects the theory of parallelism, a theory which gives great resemblance between animals when they are young.

Muller bases phylogeny on ontogeny, for it is the changes in ontogeny (i.e. alteration in the processes of development of the descendants as compared with those of the ancestor) which make the adult descendants differ from either ancestors, and so add a new link to the phylogenetic chain.

Another angle was made possible by the increase in detailed knowledge of the young stages. The earlier stages of development of quite closely related animals (such as the hen and the duck) can be distinguished, and it was therefore concluded that even in these early stages, developing animals possess the characters of the class, order, species and sex to which they belong, as well as the individual characteristics—the very egg itself must have specific characters although they may be invisible, and the eggs of two different animals are really as distinct from one another as are their adults, the distinctions becoming more and more visible as development proceeds. The egg of the mammal and the unicellular ancestor are not really comparable.

In the development of any organism, we have to distinguish between the internal factors which are at work inside it, and the external factors which constitute its environment. Now the internal factors were present in the fertilized egg, and so they can also be regarded as the transmitted factors, passage of which from parent to offspring constitute heredity. When therefore we ask the question: "Do the internal factors which are present in the fertilized egg suffice to account for the normal development of an animal?" we are also questioning if heredity is solely responsible for the sequence of processes which constitute ontogeny. And since phylogeny can only be related to ontogeny through heredity, we are testing the validity of the statement that phylogeny is the mechanical cause of ontogeny.

Fortunately, our knowledge of the processes of development has recently been very greatly increased by the

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IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

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extension of the application of experimental methods to the study of embryology. It may be definitely stated that the internal factors which were inherited from the parents are *not* sufficient to account for the development of the animal. To illustrate this all-important point we may refer to the fact that ever since the Silurian geological period, roughly 300 million years ago, vertebrate animals had two eyes, as can be proved by the fossils. Since (then and now) there must be internal factors concerned with the production of two eyes; these have been transmitted to every generation for a very considerable period.

But those factors are not self-sufficient, for if a few pinches of a simple salt (magnesium chloride) are added to the water in which a fish (*Fundulus*) is developing, that fish will undergo a modified process of development, and have not two eyes, but one, as Stockard showed.

Countless similar examples might be given, but this one suffices to show that, by themselves, the internal and therefore transmitted factors are not able to "produce" a normal animal.

(to be continued)



No wonder they're grinning!

AN unusual story of an ordinary man's devotion to his family of "ordinary" cats comes appropriately enough from Cheshire, the county of the famous grinning cat. Remember this?

"Please would you tell me," said Alice a little timidly, why your cat grins like that?"

"It's a Cheshire cat," said the Duchess, "and that's why."

Alice in Wonderland

Felix Wisniewski, 47 years old, is an exiled Polish tea and coffee importer who came to this country about ten years ago. He is now working as a navvy at Nantwich.

It wasn't long before he acquired a local reputation as a cat lover and neighbours went to him for advice. Some left their unwanted cats with him and so his feline family grew.

To accommodate the animals he decided to build them a home of their own, complete with heating, lighting, sun verandah and playground. The cost

was over £500 and when it was almost complete he discovered to his consternation that he needed planning permission for such a structure. So he sat down and wrote to the Nantwich Urban Council, apologizing for the omission and adding: "These cats are not just my pets. They are my friends."

When the Council met to consider Mr. Wisniewski's application, one member proposed that a decision should be deferred until the views of the R.S.P.C.A. were obtained. This was defeated by nine votes to two. It was pointed out that it was the Council's job to consider only the planning aspect of the case. Another councillor opined that Mr. W.'s plan was in every way ideal for keeping the cats.

Eventually the Council agreed that Mr. W. should be allowed to keep 16 out of his 18 cats in the new building provided there is no breeding, no stray additions and that no nuisance is caused.

Which Cat is the

4 GREAT KIT-E-KAT

1st Prize A NEW HOUSE

(Architect-designed)

OR £4,000 CASH!

2nd PRIZES 10 PRIZES OF £50
(Spending money for your Summer Holiday)

3rd PRIZES 250 PRIZES OF £1

TOTAL OF £19,000 IN PRIZES

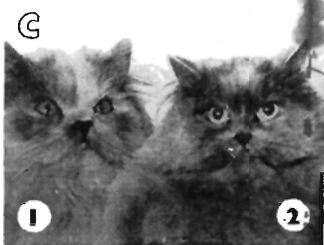
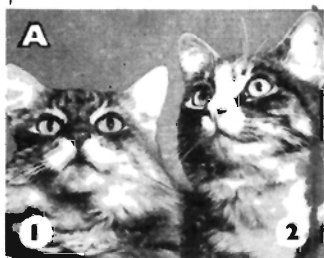
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

- All the cats in the photographs have been fed on daily Kit-E-Kat. Compare the two cats in each of the photographs A, B, C and D. In each photograph one cat only is the grandmother, the other is her grandchild.
- In the four spaces provided fill in the number of the cat you consider is the grandmother in each case. Mark 1 or 2. Remember: cats stay younger, live longer on daily Kit-E-Kat.
- Now think of an apt and original name for the cat you have chosen as the grandmother in Photograph A and write it in the space provided.
- Cut off the Entry Form and post it with the cats cut from four Kit-E-Kat labels to *Kit-E-Kat Contest, 18-20 St. Andrew Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.)*
- You may send in as many entries for each Contest as you wish, provided each entry is accompanied by the cats cut from four Kit-E-Kat labels. Use the Entry Form below, or enter on plain paper. Full Rules will be found on the Entry Forms at your Kit-E-Kat shop.
- All entries will be examined by a panel of experts, including the Editor of the 'Competitors Journal', and the first prize awarded to the competitor who has correctly selected the four grandmother cats and who has submitted the most apt and original name for the grandmother cat in Picture A. All other prizes will be awarded in order of merit. The decision of the judges is final and legally binding, and entrants agree to abide by the Rules.

YOU CAN SEND IN AS MANY ENTRIES AS YOU WISH provided each one is accompanied by the cats cut from four Kit-E-Kat labels. There are plenty more entry forms at the shop where you buy your Kit-E-Kat.

ENTER CONTEST 1 NOW—WATCH OUT FOR CONTESTS 2, 3, AND 4

Which Cat is the



YOUR CAT WILL STAY YOUNGER, LIVE LONGER

Grandmother?

KIT-E-KAT CONTESTS

MUST BE WON IN EACH OF 4 CONTESTS

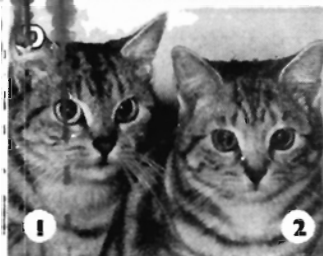
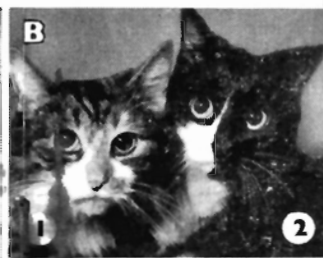


IZES OF
EMUM BONDS

A Prouting House

PRIZES!

Grandmother?



CUT ROUND HERE

USE THIS

ENTRY FORM FOR CONTEST 1

CLOSING DATE MAY 3

Fill in the number of the cat you consider to be the grandmother in each photograph

PHOTOGRAPH A PHOTOGRAPH B

PHOTOGRAPH C PHOTOGRAPH D

My name for the cat I have selected as the grandmother in PHOTOGRAPH A is

Now fill in this coupon in BLOCK LETTERS

I enclose the cats cut from 4 Kit-E-Kat labels.

NAME

ADDRESS

Name & address of the shop where I bought my Kit-E-Kat

GER ON DAILY

KIT-E-KAT

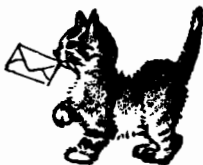


O.C.I



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.



Likes the Profiles

I am a new overseas subscriber to *OUR CATS* and have just received my first copy (January issue). Among the many interesting articles, I found one which delighted me especially. I refer to the profile of Mrs. John Revington, written by Blanche Wolfram with such charm and understanding.

I have had the good fortune to watch Mrs. Revington judge at a show and her masterly handling of cats drew my admiration and made a lasting impression upon me even though at the time I was a novice in the Cat Fancy and knew very little about it all.

I hope Blanche Wolfram will give us many more of these "inside" stories about the celebrities in the cat world. They not only make interesting reading but offer a fine opportunity to learn a thing or two from the experiences of those who have reached the top in the Fancy.

I am sure I will enjoy all future issues of your magazine as much as I enjoyed this one.

MRS. ANALIE COMSTOCK
Flushing, New York, U.S.A.

A Welcome Awaits

My Committee has asked me to write to you regarding visitors to the Cape.

We considered that, as your Magazine has such a wide reading public interested in cats and cat clubs, it was the most suitable means of extending to visitors, either passing through, or spending a holiday at the Cape, our invitation to contact the Club.

Our members will be very pleased to meet them and will try to make their visit more enjoyable. We will give them at all times a very warm welcome to our beautiful city.

MR. W. E. S. PHILIP
(Secretary, The Western
Province Cat Club).

P.O. Box 6300,
Capetown, South Africa.

A New Word

I would like to draw your attention to the word "de-tomerize" which was suggested by my daughter when she was fourteen years of age. She said to me one day, "Why not say 'de-tomerize' instead of alter or castrate?" I liked the idea and sent the word to the *Standard Dictionary* as my father coined an acceptable word for them years ago.

I received a kindly reply that they would keep the word on file for two years and if I could get it used in print, they would accept the word.

However, until recently, I let the idea drop. The Central Maine Cat Club has promised to print it in their *Bulletin* and so I am hoping that you can find space for "de-tomerize" in *OUR CATS*.

MRS. WESLEY E. McARDELL
Schuylerville, New York, U.S.A.

Readers' contributions to this feature are always welcomed. . . . We could do with many more! Editor.

—by Blanche Wolfram

MRS. STANLEY GIBSON

THE American Cat Association was the very first of its kind in America. It was founded by the Beresford Cat Club way back in 1892 and was incorporated in 1902.

Mrs. Stanley Gibson became a member of the Beresford Cat Club in 1933 and has been associated with it ever since. In 1945 she was elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the A.C.A. and has been serving in that capacity very capably up to the present. Without a doubt, she is one of the personalities responsible for the continued success of the A.C.A. whose members have every reason to be proud of the fact that their secretarial chair is occupied by a lady who is so completely efficient and dedicated to her manifold duties.

Like so many of us in the Fancy, Mrs. Gibson's love of cats began early in life but it wasn't until 1932 that her ambition to have fine show cats was realized. In that year she attended her first Championship show in Dayton, Ohio, where she won the honour of having the Best Siamese Exhibit. With a win such as this for encouragement, she increased her efforts in the breeding of show prospects and has been winning very well ever since. She named her cattery the Himaphan Cattery and many cats through the years have carried that name very proudly.

Her main interest has always been the short-haired breeds and some of the beautiful Siamese who have been her show representatives were such outstanding cats as Himaphans Su-Lin (an import from England), Proud Jeremy



(Top picture) Mrs. Stanley Gibson's late Abyssinian Double Champion DJER-MER'S MAKONNE OF HIMAPHAN.

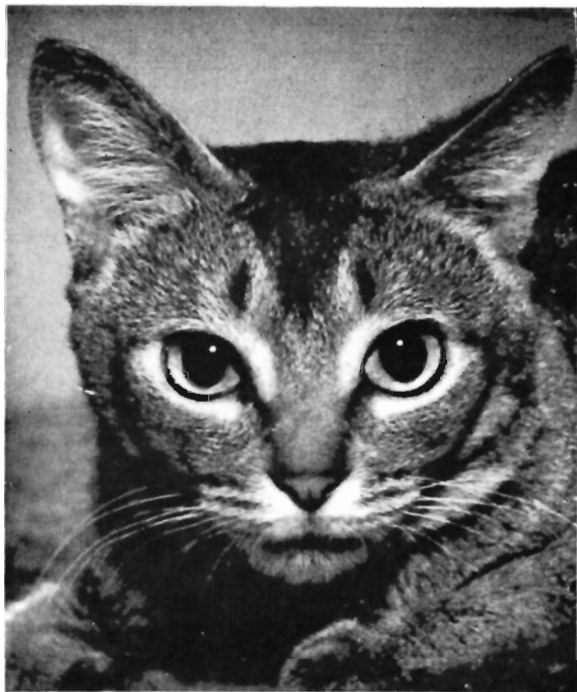
(Lower picture) Her great favourite, the Silver Tabby Shorthair Double Champion TORCHLIGHT'S SAPPY OF HIMAPHAN.

of Himaphan, Tanya of Newton, Rosedere Shar Khan, Princess Purachati, Tapiola of Valhalla and Siam's Kim Chan II of Ming Kwan. Djer-Mer's Davark was one of her finest Abyssinians, while a Shorthair Tabby named Torchlight's Sappy was always a great favourite.

In Longhairs, one of her finest Silvers was Louisa of Mariwood, an outstanding cat who frequently caught the judge's eye. Djer-Mer's Davark was Best Cat in

Mrs. Gibson's official duties demand most of her time, but she still manages to breed some very fine cats and she does attempt to take in the shows. Her last showing was in the Berestord Cat Show in 1956. She follows with interest the progress being made by many of our breeders and is delighted to know that each year many new cats of great beauty and high promise are being presented.

To those who seek her aid in the breeding of fine cats she points out the



Double Champion DJER - MER'S DAVARK OF HIMAPHAN was always rated as one of Mrs. Stanley Gibson's finest Abyssinians.

show at a Kansas City show. Torchlight Sappy had the distinction of being shown at the World's Fair held in New York City. Although all these Champions have passed on, they remain very much alive in Mrs. Gibson's memory and the loss of each was always an occasion of great sadness.

importance of beginning with a good line of cats and selecting future matings wisely. With intelligent breeding, proper feeding, immaculate cleanliness, and all the love and devotion you can

continued on page 33



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON —popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge — turns the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

Advance of the Creams

I WAS unable to attend the A.G.M. of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Blue-Cream and Brown Tabby Society on March 5th, but in a note from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. M. Newton, I heard it was a pleasant meeting with plenty of time for tea and talk.

Mrs. Axon was elected Chairman in place of Mr. Gordon Allt who retired owing to his pending removal to the Isle of Wight. The I.O.W. is not the Antipodes by any means but it is a long way to come for London meetings. Mrs. Earnshaw was elected Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Ruffell to the Committee.

The Society has 52 cups and trophies, seven for Red Tabbies, ten for Creams, eleven for Torties and Tortie and Whites, five for Blue-Creams, eight for Brown

Tabbies, three for Shorthairs of the above varieties and the remainder in neuters and first prize winners in Club classes. The Society derives most support from the breeders of Creams and Blue-Creams. At the last National Cat Club Show in a class "Any Variety Longhair Adult" (confined to the varieties for which the Society caters) with seventeen entries, fourteen were Creams or Blue-Creams and the first three prize winners came from these varieties. In "A.V. Longhair Kitten" with twelve entries, nine were Creams or Blue-Creams. In "A.V. Shorthair Adult or Kitten" (six in class) three were Creams or Blue-Creams. If taken over the season, this would be a fair average in the Society's classes. Creams and their twins, Blue-Creams, are increasing more than any other L.H. variety at present.

From the statement of accounts the Society is in an excellent position. Mrs. Newton is giving a garden party at her home, Moulford Grange, Berkshire, on June 24th, at which all members of the Society and the Shorthair Cat Club will be welcome.

S.C.C.C. Meeting

The Southern Counties Cat Club A.G.M. held early last month was uneventful. Unfortunately it coincided with a very wintry day, the venue was off the beaten track and it came amid

a spate of A.G.M.'s, four in London in twelve days, all of which probably helped to account for a small attendance. Also the agenda did not promise any controversial subjects.

Mrs. Dunks, Hon. Secretary and Show Manager, had an excellent report to present. The Show in January was a financial success and as all who attended it know, was most enjoyable.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunks' innovation of allowing owners of exhibits which were chosen to be brought out for Best in Show to put them in their own baskets to be conveyed to the judges on the platform met with general approval. It was pointed out they might be put in the wrong baskets, but the risk is negligible and does not outweigh the advantages. In any case, surely the onus rests with the owners who should be present if they have any doubts. Our stewards are very careful and it is extremely rare to see any incident one could take exception to. Maybe some are too inclined to pass remarks about the exhibits they are handling, which is not pleasing to owners, especially if the remarks are derogatory.

Judges were martinets

In my young days when I stewarded at all the London shows and some in the provinces, stewards accepted the fact that they were to be "seen but not heard." The judges of those days were martinets who allowed few transgressions. If we had ambitions to become future judges, we had to learn by observation and taking surreptitious peeps at the judges' notes, all of whom were happy to explain awards which puzzled us when their work was completed.

The next S.C.C.C. Ch. Show will be held at the same venue (Seymour Hall, London) in January. Personally, I consider this fixture has outgrown this Hall, which, being north of Marble Arch, has not such popular appeal as the Royal Horticultural Society Halls and

no All Breed Ch. Show held there has yet had a "gate" as good as some of those at the R.H.S. Halls.

Speaking to the representatives of the manufacturers of a well known cat product who attend both cat and dog shows, they confirmed that this applies to the latter also. The R.H.S. New Hall costs more to hire but expectation of a larger gate and possibly more business firms taking stalls at a more attractive venue should compensate for the extra expense. And, of course, the light is much better and the extra wide gangways make conditions more pleasant for exhibits, their owners and the visitors.

The retiring members of Committee were re-elected. Four other members were also proposed to fill one vacancy and on a ballot being taken Miss Statman was elected. The present Delegates to the Governing Council, Mr. Stirling-Webb and Mrs. Joan Thompson, were returned unopposed.

Future show plans

The Annual General Meeting of the National Cat Club on March 14th attracted an excellent attendance. It was most interesting as members had more to say than usual.

It is doubtful if anyone anticipated they would exceed 200 exhibits when the *News of the World* Trophy was accepted in 1956, and for the first time a campaign was organized to really attract pet owners to exhibit in a section of a London Ch. Show.

Judging from the remarks, there is no doubt that many members considered it a debatable point whether this was a step in the right direction and it would be interesting to have a referendum among the 170 members of the Club to ascertain if they prefer Olympia plus domestic pets or the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, exclusive to pedigree cats. It is significant that in 1955, under the latter conditions, the N.C.C. made a profit on their Show at the R.H.S. Hall,

and a loss in 1957 when domestic pets were included at the same venue. At Olympia in 1956 with both sections catered for there was a profit. As the Club has booked Olympia for 1958 and 1959 one must accept the situation and do everything to ensure success.

The domestic pets will be accommodated in the gallery which is spacious with plenty of room for them and their owners. The proposal that this section should have its own show manager was carried unanimously. It will relieve Mrs. Grace Pond of the arduous task of organizing over 800 exhibits, if the entry is similar to last year, but still leave her with a tremendous amount of work with the Ch. section. Appreciation was expressed for all she did for the last Show ; it was a remarkable achievement.

Too much commotion !

A discussion arose about television and it was decided that there should be no live broadcast of "Best in Show." This at the past show has undoubtedly perturbed some of the chosen exhibits, who had already had the new experience of hearing strange voices booming over the loud speaker system and seen the milling throng of spectators. So when the stewards had to make a detour with them to get to the judging platform it proved almost the last straw for some of the more highly strung cats and kittens.

To underrate the valuable publicity television can give to a show of these dimensions would be unwise, so it is hoped that some exhibits will appear *before* the next event and perhaps a recording made during the show which can be seen later.

One curious anomaly last time was that the national press gave about 90 per cent publicity to the pets ; and consequently the pedigree exhibits which were the motif for the Show were practically ignored. One member

mentioned she had actually been to a public library and seen all the daily papers. So there was ample confirmation of this omission.

I wonder what the public thought as they saw the Tibbies, Sandys and Fluffies pictured ! Let us hope this can be improved on next time. When one considers the years of love, care and experience which have gone into producing our pedigree cats one naturally wants to see them well represented in national magazines and newspapers.

Congratulations to the Chairman, the Reverend Basil Rees, and his committee who courteously dealt with proposals and discussions.

The four delegates—the Rev. Basil Rees, the Hon. Treasurer Miss Kathleen Yorke, the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Brunton, and Mrs. Lily Speirs—were unanimously re-elected to represent the N.C.C. on the Governing Council.

Three Committee members retired and were eligible for re-election. Three other members were also proposed and on a ballot being taken Mr. Stirling-Webb and Mrs. Speirs were re-elected and Mrs. Joan Thompson. Three of the National Cat Club trophies were won outright and each recipient very generously re-donated them. Miss Langston won the Challenge Cup for Best Chinchilla Adult (four wins), Mrs. Brunton the Stephenson-Herries Kitten Trophy for Best Blue L.H. Kitten (three wins) and Miss Edith Sheppard the Challenge Cup for Best Cream L.H. Adult (four wins).

Open Class entries

During a rare leisure afternoon I perused the catalogues of the National Cat Club, the Southern Counties Cat Club, Croydon Cat Club and Herts and Middlesex Cat Club Championship Shows and made an account of the number of entries in the Open Classes for the various varieties. It included cats and kittens, and these four London

shows represented a good average for all the Ch. shows in the country.

The figures in Longhairs are Blues 152, Creams 98, Chinchillas 65, Blue-Creams 48, Blacks 27, Whites 18.

The collective figures are given for the following six varieties as the kitten classes were sometimes amalgamated as the entry was small or they were not guaranteed: Tortoiseshells and Tortie and Whites 36, Brown and Red Tabbies 28, Smoke and Silver Tabbies 22. In Shorthairs, Siamese have remarkable statistics, so figures are given for cats, also kittens: Seal Pointed Adults 139; Blue-Pointed 42; Chocolate Pointed 21; S.P. Kittens 235; B.P.'s 56; C.P.s 26; Burmese 76; Abyssinians 52; Russian Blues 55; Silver Tabbies 22; British Blue 26; Manx 20; Whites 15; Creams 11; Blue-Creams 14; Red Tabbies 14; Brown Tabbies 10; Tortoiseshells 4; Tortie and White 2.

Aids to health

At present there is the usual hiatus as we devote ourselves to the breeding season. Owing to the cold winds and occasional snow in February and March our queens have been unable to enjoy high jinks in the garden which are so good for them. Some are already tied down with maternal cares so it may be weeks before they have leisure to bask in the sun.

All my small family have had the sunshine Vitamins A and D all through the winter in the form of Adexolin made by Glaxo Laboratories. They get three or four drops a day on one of their meals. It has no taste and does not smell like halibut liver oil, which some cats seem to find objectionable. My brood queens in kitten also have "Stress" (made by Phillips Yeast Products), as much as will lie slightly heaped on a six-pence. Sprinkled on a meal once a day, it supplies calcium, phosphorus and other mineral salts essential to the unborn young and nursing queen.

I seldom give cooked vegetables as I consider they obviously must be inferior to the fresh green grass they so daintily select for themselves when they are careering about the garden, and which is so valuable to help them eliminate hairballs. The variety they prefer is variegated ribbon grass named Phalaris Arundinaceae Variegata, seeds of which can be obtained from Sutton and Sons Ltd., Reading. It dies down completely in autumn but cocksfoot grass then makes a good substitute. This seed can be obtained from the Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks. Although it is not demanded, a sufficient remittance to cover the cost, and postage will be appreciated. The C.P.L. does splendid work for our less fortunate cats.



VIGILANT TAURUS, a well-bred Blue Longhair male by Ch. Astra of Pensford ex. Ch. Jewel of Dunesk belongs to Miss C. Page, of Watford. Breeder is Mrs. Pullen.

Notes from Wessex

By
MADGE
SHROUDER

Hon. Treasurer of the Wessex Cat Club, breeder, and well-known for her lectures with a unique collection of colour photographs of cats.



THE Wessex Cat Club, now into its third year, has already held four events in the area this season. The Club is open to anyone with an interest in cats, as it not only caters for the pedigreed, but cats in general

* * *

Mrs. Burdie Smith, of Bournemouth, is kindness itself to stray cats. She runs an unofficial reception centre for them. Every stray moggy in the district finds its way to her doorstep. She just cannot find it in her heart to turn them away. She tells me so many people get tired of their cat as soon as it has lost its kittenish ways. Her usual plan is to take the animal in, feed it up, have it neutered or spayed (all at her own expense), and then to find it a happy home.

* * *

Miss Dunn, owner of the delightful 300-year-old historic cottage, Appletrees, in Dorset, who bred Tomahawk the pioneer male Burmese who travelled to Sydney, Australia, on his first birthday, tells me he has just become the father of two boys. He also sired a litter of

kittens before he left England. He will now need a jet plane if he is to keep a fatherly eye on his children! Mr. Whatley, Hawkstone Cattery, who has 10 Siamese and is one of a syndicate of four of the leading breeders in Australia, has the custody of this young Burmese. He says that Tomahawk is the most affectionate cat he has ever known. Paquita (also bred by Miss Dunn) who was sent to New Zealand last year has had a litter, and one of the offspring has been exported to another part of Australia. Before long I expect Burmese will be as popular Down Under as they are in this country. One has to own a Burmese to realize their charm. My little Oweenee is not as striking as my lovely Siamese, nor as fascinating as the Abyssinian, but there is just that something which makes her "the apple of my eye."

* * *

P. Pegasus (by Ch. Casa Gatos Darkee ex Sablestik Sheba), the first Burmese to become a Premier in this country, is a handsome young male owned and bred by Mrs. M. Giles, of Taunton. Mrs.

Giles first introduced Burmese into Somerset two years ago when she started to breed them, Pegasus being one of the first litter. She also owns Siamese and Abyssinians who are all prize winners at Championship shows.

* * *

Talking of Premiers, Mrs. Helen Light, Secretary of Wessex Cat Club, owns Pr. Hassan Song, the first and only Abyssinian to attain that status. She also has been twice Best Neuter and is the daughter of the only litter of the late Taishun Melody. Now that the Abyssinian Cat Club are presenting extra cups for neuters perhaps we shall see more on the show bench this season.

* * *

Constance Haile, the artist, exhibited some of her cat portraits at the Dorchester meeting of the Wessex Cat Club. A Burmese, Trinity Golden Bamboo, and Tranby Amelia, the Abyssinian with the striking green eyes, are truly works of art. Constance Haile has the wonderful idea of posing her subjects in a pen. As we all know, cats never sit still in one place for long.

* * *

I am very sorry to have to report the tragic death of Mrs. Billing's husband due to a road accident in which he swerved to avoid killing a dog. Miss Mackenzie and Captain Lowe very kindly brought Mrs. Billing's cat Sticklepath Tutney to the meeting. Tutney is a Tortoiseshell female who was exhibited with her three Tortie kittens and voted Best Household Pet at the West of England and South Wales Cat Society Show at Bristol. Tutney has since been registered and shown in the Open Breed Class, and I am informed is to be mated to a pedigree Longhair male.



**Mrs. J. M. Newton judging
PREMIER HASSAN SONG**

Mrs. Clarke, of Heatherdell Cattery, has exported one of her Siamese kittens to Trinidad for breeding purposes.

* * *

Mrs. Johnson, of Cerne Abbas, has had her glorious Longhair Cream male Cooden Peta neutered.

* * *

Our youngest member told me that their "tom tat has been *nutwed* and the mummy tat *sprayed*"

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ELLA B. MARTIN

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News from "Down Under"

THANK you for your letter, Mr. Editor, I enjoyed it greatly.

I possess a calendar on which is written :

"I've often heard you cry,

'Oh, how the days just seem to fly.'

Perhaps with this to mark each one,

They'll only walk instead of run!"

This seems so very true, as here we are approaching Easter and our big Sydney Royal Agricultural Show. Many of our best cats and kittens will be on view to a large public on the Saturday and Monday and I shall of course be sending news of this big occasion next month.

In February, we were surrounded by all sorts of drastic water restrictions, due to drought conditions over a wide area and for a long period. As I write now, the rain is pelting down as though to make up for lost time. Flooding is rife everywhere; much damage and loss of life—12 inches in 24 hours!

Our visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Don Gebhardt and Kerry, of the Adelaide Club, have been spending a holiday in Manly. They left for home last week, intending to do the return trip of 1,000 miles leisurely, taking in some of the beauty spots, including the Gippsland Lakes district, which is specially lovely. They accepted an invitation to the old Cat Fanciers' Association's annual meeting, where they were officially introduced to the gathering—and to Daddy Lonsdale's "cuppa" and biscuits. Their next cat function was the Southern Cross Club show on March 1st, where, I imagine, they compared Adelaide and Sydney cats.

On the following Sunday, the Pearce took them to visit Miss Williams' Bluemead Siamese Cattery at Baulkham

Hills. After looking over the stock we all moved on to the koala bear farm at Castle Hill, where the animals and birds delighted everyone, particularly Miss Kerry. I seem to remember that Miss Kathleen Yorke disputed ownership of a red rose with a very rude emu here, who wished to add it to his wife's possessions. Happy memories!

I would like to add here that visitors are always very welcome and we trust any intending holiday makers of the future will advise us if they intend coming to Sydney.

Early in March Mr. and Mrs. Tasker arrived by *S.S. Monowai* and stayed two days before returning home to Brisbane after a seven weeks' holiday in New Zealand. They brought news and greetings from Mrs. Downey and Mrs. Sedcole, whom they visited in Auckland, where they enjoyed the usual wonderful hospitality. I visited the Taskers at their city hotel and enjoyed a good old chin wag. As they were in England and America last year, they had plenty to talk about.

I have received two Newsletters from Mrs. Thurmer, that energetic and capable Secretary of Adelaide Club, who reports that Club business is doing fine. Their Championship show is to be held in a larger hall and a Sydney judge has been invited.

A nice letter is to hand from Mrs. Henry, of the Brisbane Club, and it would appear that things feline are also doing well in the Northern State. Toowoomba Agricultural Show is to include a competitive cat section this year and a Southern judge will be invited. This is good news. When I visited Brisbane Royal National Show last year, the Townsville dog judge Mr. Duckworth, told me that he expected two show committees in the North to include a

cat section this year. I hope his prophecy is correct.

I have also received from Mrs. Chandler, of Melbourne, a catalogue of the Siamese Cat Club's Show last year. Apparently it was a great day, with Mrs. Chandler's Blue Point Siamese Westwood Blue Jade and Miss Lush's male Cresthaven Prince Charming taking top honours. Westwood cats have been winning well in all states according to the Newsletter, which also reports that Mr. and Mrs. Chandler have only left the executive side and will continue membership of the Club and breeding activities. So far no news of the new Secretary and Assistant to hand.

The Southern Cross All Breeds Club (note new name, please!) Show on 1st March at Chatswood was our first

fixture of the new season. Three judges operated and the major awards were: Best Longhair—Miss Haswell's Miowera Trinket (a Shaded Silver female); Best Longhair Male—Mrs. Jones's Shalhar Fahiti Gem; Best Longhair Female—Miss Haswell's Miowera Trinket; Best Male and Female Kittens—Miss Rapley's Chinchillas, also Best Litter, Best Shorthair Mrs. Favelle's Farways Flora; Best Longhair Male—Mrs. Higgins' Nargoon Tiger; Best Longhair Female and Best Male Kitten

Mrs. Abbott's Nunborne Blue Jackie and Eastern Blue Beau; Best Litter—Mrs. Higgins' Seal Point Siamese.

The two newly-formed Clubs have been granted show dates for June, which means a dozen shows this year. Cheerio for now!

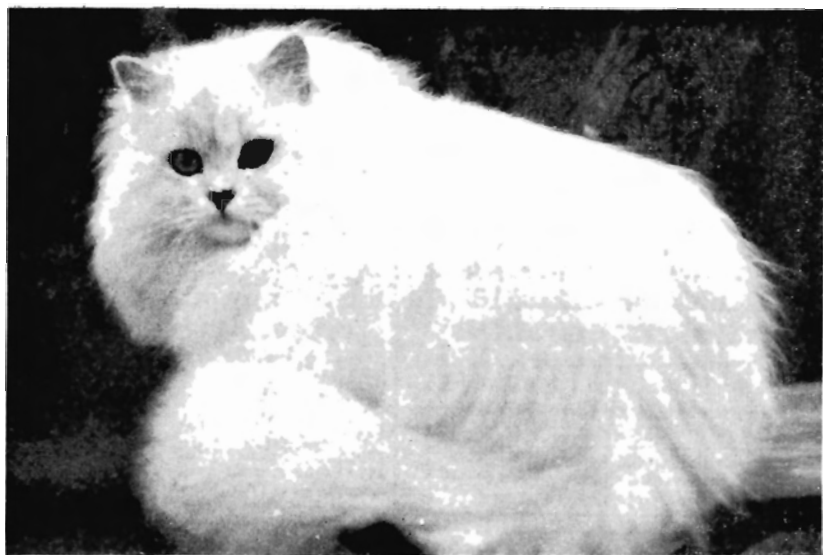
To fanciers overseas . . .

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.



Jenkins

Our photograph presents the members of the newly-elected Committee of the Western Province Cat Club, South Africa. Reading from left to right, they are *back row*: Mrs. C. M. Lovemore, Miss F. Bradford, Mrs. V. Jaholkowski, Mrs. I. M. Hunter; *(middle row)* Mrs. W. E. Harling, Miss M. C. Nash, Mrs. L. A. Warburton, Mrs. J. R. M. Bechard de Lestrac, Mrs. K. Wheeler; *front row*: Mr. W. A. M. van Ogtrop, Treasurer, Miss P. Ashby Spilhaus, Vice-Chairman, Rev. Herbert N. Lovemore, Chairman, Mr. W. E. S. Philip, Secretary. The Club would welcome overseas correspondents to the official address, P.O. Box 3600, Cape Town, South Africa.



CH. BONAVIA CONTENTA, Mrs. Mollie Turney's and the Hon. Mrs. Haden-Guest's lovely young Chinchilla male. He was Best Longhair at the Southern Counties Show, where he completed a record of being unbeaten since he was an 8-weeks' old kitten. Now his own kittens are making reputations for themselves.

AMERICAN PROFILE [from p. 24]

bestow on your charges, one should not fail to produce cats of outstanding quality.

It is her hope that one day there will be uniform rules for judges of all associations so that the exhibitors would know exactly what is required for perfection. She also thinks that registrations should be standardized so that less confusion would result from having so many different kinds of registration forms. It is her belief that an equal number of points for a championship should be established and that all associations should arrive at a uniform set of show rules. It would certainly be of help to all newcomers to our Fancy.



Apropos the article on "Catmints," which appeared in last month's issue, a reader reminds us of the old saying: "If you set it, the cats will eat it; if you sow it, the cats won't know it." It was recorded by John Ray (1628-1705) that when he transplanted young catmints from the fields into his garden, they were always destroyed by cats unless he protected them with thorns. Catmints grown from seeds were not attacked, though they probably would have been if sprays had been gathered and the scent released. In his *Wild Flowers in the Garden* Walter Ingvorsen refers to the plant's "positively unholy attraction for cats" who will roll upon it in "wild abandon."

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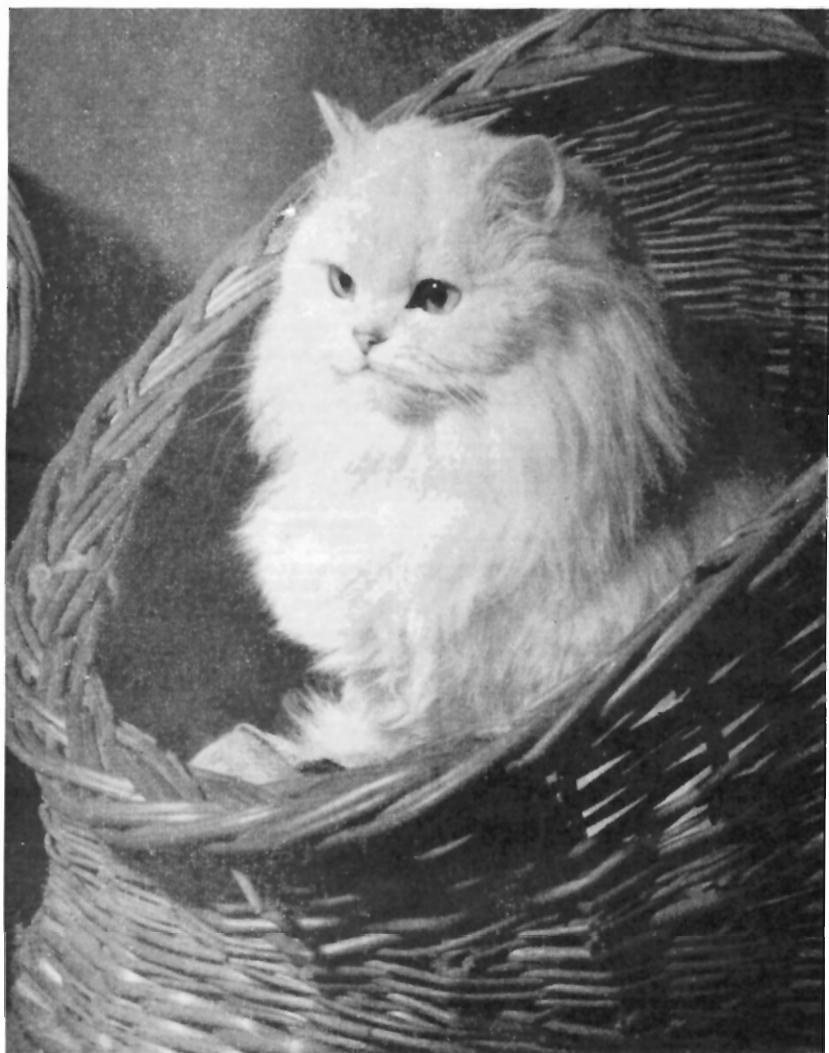
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