

Our Cats

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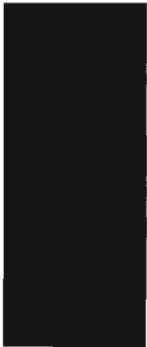
SIXTEEN CHAMPIONS CALL HIM FATHER!

Mrs. Joan Thompson's outstanding Blue Longhair Champion FOXBURROW FRIVOLOUS, awarded 8 Challenge Certificates and 69 Firsts, is the sire of 16 Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream Champions.

MAY 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



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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.

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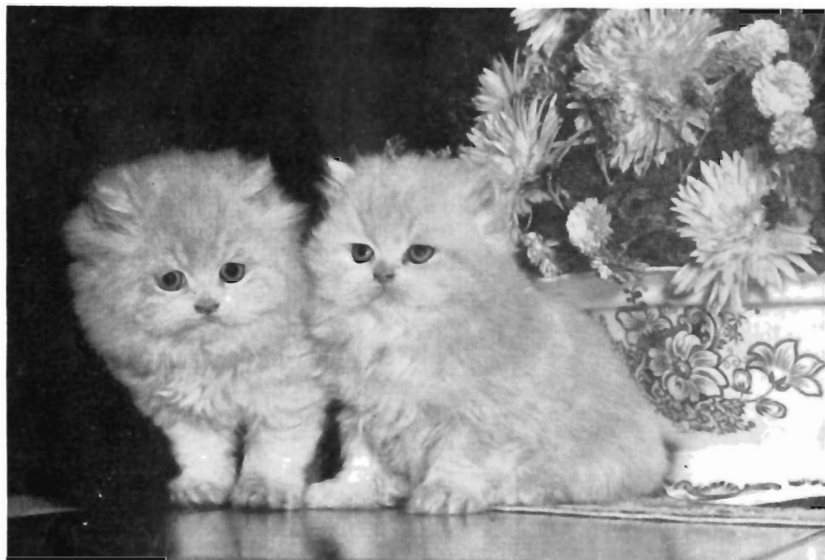
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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Surrey & South London Picture Service

HENDRAS TAMARISK and HENDRAS JUNIPER, handsome Cream Long-hair daughters of Champion Bluecroft Butterscotch and Champion Widdington Winterset. Little "Tammy" on the left now lives with Mme. Sarrazin, of Paris. These kittens from an outstanding litter of four females were bred by Mrs. D. Nash, of Banstead, Surrey.



The homeless families on London's bomb sites are classed as genuine strays leading reasonably happy lives.

Plans for the strays

A CONFERENCE has been held in London by the R.S.P.C.A. to which members of the Press and broadcasting authorities were invited to hear a statement by Mr. J. S. Hobhouse, Chairman of the Homeless Animals Sub-Committee. The gathering was rather in the nature of a first salvo in the Society's campaign for the education of the public to a sense of its responsibility for the sufferings of homeless and unwanted animals.

Mr. Hobhouse recorded a statement for the B.B.C. and subsequently broadcast in the popular Saturday evening programme "In Town To-night". His prepared statement for those who attended the Conference included the following extracts, which we reproduce with due acknowledgments to *The Animal World*, the monthly magazine of the R.S.P.C.A.

"We are worried about dogs. We are even more worried about the cat, because there is such a vast stray, homeless and unwanted population. Thousands are humanely destroyed every year, of which one-third are strays and over half are unwanted.

"There are really two separate problems on the cat—the unwanted one, and the genuine stray who is semi-wild.

"The genuine stray is a cat who can often adapt itself to a semi-wild state and once that state is achieved has the pleasure of complete freedom, and although sometimes hungry this cat is reasonably happy. The R.S.P.C.A. is not in favour of catching up these healthy semi-wild cats merely to put them to sleep. A great many of them do a necessary and useful job in keeping down vermin. Obviously under certain specific circumstances, such as too large numbers attracted to a service camp or in farm buildings, we are forced to catch up and destroy them, but fortunately the laws of nature seem to keep some control on the reproduction rate of semi-wild cats.

"The R.S.P.C.A. do not believe in catching and placing semi-wild cats in new homes as the genuine stray does not settle down to a domestic life where freedom is curtailed and many of them die of cat 'flu or enteritis shortly after coming into captivity.

"The unwanted cat, whose numbers form the great majority of strays is an unhappy and lonely creature whom we catch up whenever possible and frequently place in a new home, in particular the young male cat. We usually insist that these young males are neutered and where we place young females we ask the new owners to have them spayed.

"Our plans to reduce this vast army of half-a-million stray cats every year are mainly based on an attempt to analyse the causes of straying and trying to educate the public to realize their responsibilities to these domestic animals and give up the practices that cause them to become strays.

No helpful laws

"There are no laws to help us as the cat, unlike the dog, does not have to have a collar and the police have no responsibility in picking up stray cats.

"As we are all aware, too many cats are born. Neutering or spaying would reduce the numbers becoming stray very considerably. Some of the causes are: removal to new, unknown districts; sex in the unneutered cat; adventure-someness, particularly in the young male; loneliness, particularly where owners are out all day; unhappiness, caused by such things as hunger or being mauled by children; abandonment when an owner is moved or goes away for annual holidays; stowing away in vans; nocturnal wanderings and becoming lost.

"You may ask where all these cats live. The answer is simply that they hide up in any suitable place, feed on vermin or by stealing and are frequently fed by kindly people.

"What are we doing to prevent further strays? We are firstly having a campaign to get more cats neutered and females spayed. Both operations can be done on animals of any age. The public have the mistaken idea that these operations are costly, unnatural and cruel. The

R.S.P.C.A. strongly disagree. The cost by modern wage standards is very small. The affectionate neutered tom is surely happier than the restless, thin, quarrelsome male whose screechings make many homes unbearable at night and who become smelly and dirty in old age.

"We try to encourage people to feel responsible for their own cats and those of their neighbours. To have unwanted litters put to sleep painlessly and never to keep more kittens than they can place in good homes. Never to leave their cats stranded when they move house—either to take them with them or put them to sleep. Not to have kittens just as love toys for the children."

Research presses needs

The announcement of the R.S.P.C.A.'s plans sparked off some lively correspondence in *The Times*. First came a letter from Dr. W. Lane-Petter, Hon. Secretary of the Research Defence Society, suggesting that subscribers to the R.S.P.C.A. should press for the handing over for medical research the stray animals which would otherwise be slaughtered. "Despite the admirable work in other fields of animal welfare carried out by the R.S.P.C.A.," he concluded, "it is thus pertinent to ask whether a Royal Charter should be held by a body so unwilling to recognize the needs of research even under conditions which it, itself, could help to lay down."

The Society, through its Chief Secretary, replied promptly and at considerable length to the Doctor and flouted his suggestion that it should betray in such a way the animals entrusted to its care. "It is difficult to comprehend the mentality which is bounded entirely by considerations of finance and general expediency and which ignores completely the fundamental aspect of animal welfare that is involved. Their reply continued: "It is quite true that a large number of stray and unwanted cats and dogs have to be humanely

destroyed each year. In very many cases animals are brought to the R.S.P.C.A. by their owners for that express purpose; in other cases it becomes necessary to destroy them because of illness or injury. So far as the healthy stray animal is concerned, it is destroyed only if all attempts to find it another home have failed.

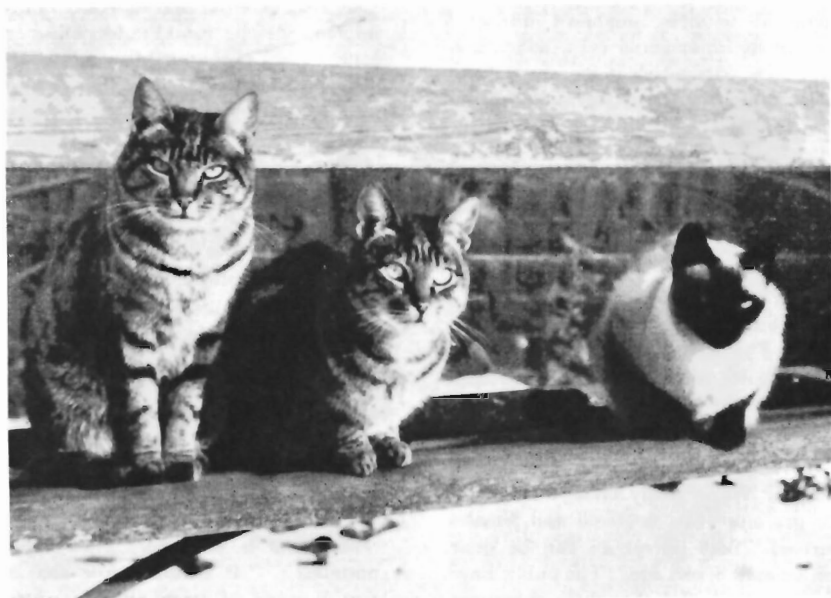
"The suggestion that the destruction of animals by the R.S.P.C.A. is a procedure which, on the whole, may inflict as much discomfort and pain as most experiments conducted for research purposes is a specious one and it is perhaps appropriate to emphasize that in the case of the R.S.P.C.A. it is always open to the owner of an animal to be present when his pet is destroyed, and to satisfy himself that the method employed is humane. Further, the suggestion is an unworthy and unwarranted reflection upon the staff carrying out this thankless task with efficiency and humanity at all times."

Finally, the situation was very neatly summed up by Peter Simple of the *Daily Telegraph* who commented on Dr. Lane-Petter's suggestion under the heading "Standing on His Head," as follows:

"Sometimes there are minor items in the newspapers which leave even me gasping with astonishment. The other day, for instance, I read a letter by a Mr. W. Lane-Petter, Secretary of the Research Defence Society, taking the R.S.P.C.A. severely to task.

"He suggests that they are unworthy to hold the prefix "Royal" because they persist in painlessly destroying stray cats and dogs instead of selling them to scientists for research, i.e. vivisection.

"This is rather as if the N.S.P.C.C. were to send unwanted children to criminal lunatic asylums so that the reactions of the lunatics to them could be scientifically observed."



Poor relations.

Reginald Waterson



Tailpieces

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



A KITTEN has contrived, quite unaided, to get a telephone call through direct to the police when it was trapped in a perilous position. It happened at Southend. The kitten found itself caught in a small telephone cubicle in a police box and in its struggles to get free, the receiver became dislodged. A switchboard operator heard unusual noises at the end of the line, a radio car went to investigate and the crew effected a rescue.

I am extremely sorry to learn that the Isle of Man Manx Cat Association, which began so promisingly a few years ago, has come to an end. It's the story we hear all too frequently. Great enthusiasm at the start, then a falling off in membership followed by a general decline in interest. Mrs. Jessie Twining, of Greeba, St. John's, who with her husband has done so much good work on the island in an attempt to get the famous breed established on a proper footing, says that the breeders will no longer trouble to "keep their cats up." All her own cats have now been neutered. Mrs. Twining, who bred Manx for ten years, including five Champions, and who has exported fifteen to U.S.A., is still prepared to get kittens for anybody who wants them, but they will not now have a pedigree.

This is to clear up any misunderstanding which may have been created by the caption that appeared under the picture in our January issue of Lindale Proud Gentleman, a particularly lovely typey Siamese. Mrs. Linda Parker explains that she bred him and owned the sire and dam, Lindale Simon Pie and

Proud Maxi. But she no longer owns Proud Gentleman and I would not like to think she is being embarrassed by stud enquiries as a result of any wrong impression given by the wording of his picture caption.

The ubiquitous Siamese get another valuable publicity boost from this year's Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. As most of you know, John Merton's portrait of the Countess of Dalkeith is the most discussed picture of the whole collection. Every day crowds gather to gaze at it. It can be described as a three-faced picture with two smaller portraits in circular panels flanking the large central figure. The panel on the right shows Lady Dalkeith with her pet Siamese, Malcolm, who was given to her by Sir Malcolm Sargent.

Our attention has just been drawn to an error in the List of Champions 1956-1957 which appeared in our April issue last year. Hendras Cassandra, Cream Longhair, bred by Mrs. D. Nash and now owned by Miss J. Sterman, was incorrectly listed as a male. This new Champion is of course a female.

A Somerset farmer brought before the Radstock magistrates was fined £10 and ordered to pay £8 13s. costs for failing to give proper care and attention to a cat. A veterinary surgeon, who gave the animal a humane end, said that its injuries may have been caused by a mowing machine. Evidence was given that the poor creature was seen dragging itself along on the stumps of its back legs, which were swollen and suppurating

with the bones exposed. "It was a horrible sight to see it struggling," said one witness.

Here is a social item from the London *Evening News*: "Even Dorothy Sayer's cat Lord Peter Wimsey, but answering regrettably to the name Micky Moo, looks you over with interest when you go to the Moulin d'Or. This is the official name for the restaurant generally known as 'George's,' after its proprietor George Stone, who looks like Bud Flanagan's long-lost brother, and who received the kitten from Miss Savers, a regular patron and the founder of the Detection Club which meets on the floor above."

Mollie Wignall, British sculptor and artist, staged an exhibition of her work at Miami Beach, Florida, U.S.A. A number of charming teakwood sculptures were on view, including one of an English cat.

Tom Driberg, writing in *Reynolds News*, suggests that the best-fed cat in Britain may be the lucky one belonging to the Sussex Hotel in Brighton, which happens to be opposite the famous fish restaurant of English's. Leaving the hotel quarters each day, the cat crosses over to the restaurant where diners never fail to respond to his appeal. His favourite two-course dinner consists of smoked salmon followed by scampi.

I learn that Pathé Pictorial have taken a colour film of Mrs. Mollie Turney's popular boarding establishment "Cats' Inn" at Forest Green, Holport, Berkshire. Doubtless the photogenic Clunchillas in residence there contributed star parts.

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.

MICKY.



"This is my idea of a pleasant evening," writes Lt. Col. Harold Williamson from his home in Kenya Colony. "I ought of course to be reading OUR CATS, but 'The River Line' is a very good play! The lady on my right celebrated her 12th birthday recently and the other is a grand-daughter of a very beautiful Siamese we had flown out from England, bred by Mrs. K. Dunks. The pair sit on my chair every evening."

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Tortoiseshell Talk

Notebook extracts recorded by JOANNA MACKAY

TORTOISESHELL cats had their turn in the weekly series of talks on domestic pets recently. This is given on Network Three of the B.B.C. and last month Mrs. Jane Newton discussed both Tortoiseshells and Tortoiseshell-and-Whites.

Mrs. Newton first stressed that the two kinds of cat were separate varieties with different standards of points. She described the correct colour pattern for a true Tortoiseshell cat—black, red and yellow or very deep cream patches evenly distributed with even the ears showing variations in colour. Difficulties were mentioned, notably that of getting rid of undesirable markings, which were liable to appear instead of the patches required. In any case, Tortoiseshells were rare and there were usually only one or two in a litter.

On the other hand if there was a Tortoiseshell far back in a cat's pedigree, sooner or later another Tortoiseshell kitten would crop up. Mrs. Newton knew one Tortie cat who had a litter of six kittens, all different. Whatever the results of breeding, Torties were good and intelligent mothers.

The legend that there are few male Torties, who are very valuable was mentioned. In fact, there were a fair number and a few years ago, a greater than average number appeared, vouched for by reliable vets all over the country. All male Torties were sterile.

Tortoiseshell cats were full of character, said Mrs. Newton, lively and very loving to their owners. They did not prefer places to people, but would go anywhere as long as the owner was somewhere about.

Turning to the Tortoiseshell-and-Whites, Mrs. Newton again stressed that they were a different variety, since no white hairs at all were permitted on a true Tortie. On the other hand, plenty of white and no brindling was correct for the other variety. It was easier to breed white in than out.

In character, Tortie-and-White cats were courageous and independent and individual. They would stay by someone ill in bed, sometimes refusing to leave even for food. Tortie-and-Whites tended to be jealous, but were no more self-willed than ordinary Torties. They had long memories.

These cats were ideal for someone wanting a good looking animal about the home, who was also a loving companion. It was easier to breed a good Tortoiseshell-and-White than an outstanding Tortoiseshell, but not very easy, because there was no standards of points for either black-and-white or red-and-white cats, which were useful in Tortie breeding, so there were not many pedigree cats of either variety.

Useful on farms

Tortoiseshell-and-White cats were often found on farms and country people would tell you that that sort always turned up. It was believed that they made the best mousers and ratters. In one small village, no fewer than seven of this kind were seen in one cottage garden. The owner said she liked them and made sure they would be born. It turned out that she mated a red and white female with a black cat down the road. Because she knew the cats, she was able to get results the breeders tried hard to obtain.

As with Tortoiseshells, the male Tortoiseshell-and-White cats were few and sterile. Females were not as prolific as the Tortoiseshells, but they were also very good mothers. Some had been known to help another cat in difficulties over kitting. Most lived to a ripe old age, sometimes as much as fifteen or sixteen.

There was a difference between the kittens of the two varieties. Good Tortoiseshell kittens were almost black, developing into "typical Torties" later. The paler kittens were seldom as good later on. With the Tortoiseshell-and-Whites, the colours were bright to start with and did not change.

Finally, Mrs. Newton pointed out that many people were under the impression that any brownish cat was a true Tortoiseshell. Sometimes a cat had a tiny patch of white on the chin. The owner believed it was valuable and was disappointed to find that it was of no value to breeders when the ancestry was unknown, though such a cat would be a delightful pet.

How these cats got their names was something of a mystery. Certainly their colouring resembles that of a tortoise with a highly polished shell, but tortoises are not native to this country. Was it possible that the cats originated in countries where there were tortoises?

Author's note. It seems impertinent to comment on an expert's talk, but I keep a White-and-Tortie myself. Everything Mrs. Newton says about character I can endorse and Semolina Silkpaws is a good (if not willing) traveller, also cheerful when parked with relatives while I take my holidays abroad. She is a better-than-average mouser. Regarding sterile males, years ago in a Wrennery there was a male White-and-Tortoiseshell cat who was often seen going down the village street to visit a family of kittens just like himself. He washed them and played with them. As to the name, surely tortoiseshell has been imported as a luxury article into this country for several hundred years? I'm not very strong on antiques, but it seems that this might be the origin of the name.

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.

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News from "Down Under"

HELLO, everybody! Our long, trying summer seems to have died during the Easter holidays and we are enjoying a few nice cool days again.

That Grand Old Gentleman of our cat world, E. J. (Ted) Lonsdale, passes the eighty mark on the 13th April and we all wish him well. I have been associated with him for very many years and don't know what we should do without him. A little bird says there is to be a party. I hope so . . . I love parties!

Some news about the new clubs. Mrs. Donmall is President and Mrs. I. Paris Secretary of the new Cumberland Club. Mr. Allen is President and Mr. Green Secretary of the new Siamese Cat Society of New South Wales.

Record Easter Show

Once again our Easter fixture at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show has come and gone. And what a fixture! Wonderful weather, a record entry and quite a few inter-State visitors calling to see me. On the Saturday, a record entry of Siamese was benched and judged, also Longhair Blues, Blacks, Whites and Creams. The warm weather suited the Siamese coats and gave them an advantage over their Longhair brothers, many of whom were sadly out of coat or only partly coated. A Blue Point Siamese male, Coochi Blue Caprice, shown by Mrs. I. Paris, of Auburn, stole everybody's heart and a Seal Point female, Jacris Princess Anna, shown by Mrs. Howard, was of very good type and much admired.

Longhair Blues were again poorly represented, likewise Black, but a very nice Blue-eyed White male and a lovely Copper-eyed White female were both very well produced. Creams, with very few exceptions, were disappointing,

as colour is being lost sight of, bars are appearing and the eye colour is poor. Until recently, Blues and Blacks were very strong classes and it is a pity to see them slipping back. No Burmese or Abyssinians were shown, but I guess they will be appearing in the May-June Championship shows.

On Easter Monday, Chinchillas, Shaded Silvers, Blue Creams, Tabbies, Torties and A.O.C. were judged and the section winners of the previous Saturday were again benched for specials, trophies, etc. The B.P. Siamese male, Coochi Blue Caprice, was selected Best Cat and winner of the F. W. Pearce Gold Trophy for Best Male Cat at the Royal, the first win by a Siamese. I am told his very proud owner needed a strong sedative and is still more or less in the clouds!

Inter-State visitors

Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Litchfield and Mrs. Gillingham flew down from Brisbane and seemed to enjoy the fixture very much, although Mrs. G. had a nasty fall *en route* and sported a businesslike bandage instead of an Easter hat. It was lovely to see them and a pity that Mrs. Henry did not stay over till the Monday and share in Coochi's win as I am told she was the breeder. I had a talk with Mr. Raynor of Melbourne (our first meeting), who told me he had taken over the Secretaryship of the Australian Cat Club there, which will shortly function again. I heard that Miss M. Saker and her mother were also present from Melbourne, but I did not see them, I'm sorry to say. I send them a greeting and hope they will come again some time—inter-State visitors are always welcome.

Following are the major awards: Best Cat and F. W. Pearce Trophy—Mrs. Paris's B.P. Siamese male Coochi

Blue Caprice ; Best Longhair Male—Mrs. Dolbell's Chinchilla Roleigh of Roma ; Best Longhair Female—Miss Haswell's Sh. S. Miowera Fantasy ; Best Longhair Male Kitten—Mrs. Watkin's White Rimu of Akaroa ; Best Longhair Female Kitten—Mrs. Rountree's Chinchilla Cherokee of Ellington ; Best Neuter—Miss J. Bruce's Cobbitty Campbell ; Best Longhair Spey—Mrs. Hockley's Rose Glen Cleopatra. *Siamese* : Best Male—Mrs. I. Paris's Coochi Blue Caprice ; Best Female—Mrs. Howard's S.P. Jacris Princess Anna ; Best Male Kitten—Mrs. Donmall's S.P. Mystic Merrymaker ; Best Female Kitten—Dr. Guinan's S.P. Dandalum Princess Chit ; Best Neuter—Mrs. Alcock's B.P. Cresthaven Cavalier ; Best Chocolate Point—Miss Williams's female Bluemead Diva D'or.

Just before I left home for Monday's show I received a long and interesting letter from Beryl Chandler, ex-Assistant

Secretary of Melbourne Siamese Club, and found that Beryl and Clyde did not seek re-election to office of the Club, but will remain members and delegates. They may call in at our Sheep Show fixture in May.

I have had another "newsletter" from Secretary Mrs. L. Thurmer, of Adelaide, who is a good correspondent. Also read that very interesting Adelaide newspaper interview with President Jim T. I caught my breath when I saw the prices that Siamese sell at in Adelaide. Nice work, Jamie, keep it going !

Unfortunately, I was very busy and so was Mrs. Henry, at the Show and not much yarning resulted. But generally, things are going fine in Queensland.

No news is good news, so the New Zealand cat world must be getting along O.K. But a letter occasionally from any official or member would be very welcome and a great help.

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

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

Brand's Essence
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Veterinary Questions Answered

By M.C.V.S.

A husky cough

From a Nottinghamshire reader :

Some time ago you kindly advised me when I was in trouble with one of my Siamese and I hope you will forgive me for troubling you again. My oldest queen, now nearly twelve years of age, is very fit indeed except for a spasmodic husky cough which at times is very distressing for her. I have tried one or two things with no effect and wondered if you could suggest something to help her.

M.R.C.V.S. replies : The age of your cat suggests that the cough is due to failing heart action. Give 1 grain digitalis pill night and morning for a fortnight. Wait four days and then repeat treatment.

Cats not to blame

From a Surrey reader : I enclose a cutting from *The Times* of March 31st (reproduced below) dealing with a possible link between polyneuritis in humans and feline enteritis. You will note from the case quoted that the cat was separated from its assumed human contact for a month. I do not know the incubation period for feline enteritis but I should be surprised if it were so long and it appears that the period for polyneuritis must be shorter since the woman died within approximately ten days of the cat.

I have neither the medical knowledge or sufficient evidence to form a balanced view, but it does seem to me that the hypothesis is by no means clearly established; feline enteritis is at certain times such a common complaint in cats that the coincidental illness of the cat and the human may well be accidental. Moreover, again as a layman, I

should not be altogether surprised if the reaction of healthy blood and infected blood to an added infection were different.

I should be glad to read any comments M.R.C.V.S. may have to make, since I fear that publication of such reports if not fully substantiated might have unfortunate results. It is so easy to blame the animal and kill it.

The short report by the Medical Correspondent of *The Times* to which our reader's letter refers was headed "Cats Blamed For An Illness in Humans. Doctor Quotes 11 Cases" and ran as follows :

"This has been a bad month for household pets. The *Proceedings of The Royal Society of Medicine* now report that there are grounds for believing that cats may be responsible for the serious form of neuritis known as infective polyneuritis.

"The author of the paper in question reports that he has seen six cases in which the onset of the disease was directly related to an illness of the patient's cat, and he has heard of five other cases.

"The most interesting of these concerned a farm labourer who developed the disease. While he was ill his cat was sent to be looked after by a woman who lived 40 miles away. A month later the cat sickened and died of the condition known as feline enteritis, and the woman was admitted to hospital with infective polyneuritis and died 10 days later.

"Feline enteritis is a virus disease of cats which is highly infectious from animal to animal, and probably 70 per cent of all cats are infected at one time or another. It has a mortality

TOSCA



MRS. D. WEBSTER of 7 Melbourne Road, Micklefield Estate, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, writes :

" My cat, Tosca, almost owes his life to Kit-zyme. Nine months ago he was lost and strayed for over six weeks. When he was found he was nothing but skin and bones and was right out of condition, but here he is to-day, fit and strong.

" It is now a daily occurrence for Tosca to help himself to Kit-zyme and if he doesn't get them there is no peace in the household ! "

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

rate of about 20 per cent. Tests carried out with the virus of feline enteritis show a distinct difference in the reaction of blood of patients with infective polyneuritis and the blood of healthy people, which suggests that there may well be some association between this common disease of cats and this particular form of polyneuritis in human beings."

M.R.C.V.S. replies : I cannot believe that the specific enteritis of cats is communicable to human beings in any form at all. It is specific to cats and I have never in my 45 years of practice known of any such an occurrence. I must have handled thousands of cats so infected but have never caught anything from them ; nor has any veterinary surgeon to my knowledge. Some years ago there was an epizootic of canine encephalitis raging at the same time as an epidemic of poliomyelitis in humans. I then wrote an article to the *Veterinary Record* calling attention to the similarity of symptoms and suggesting there might be a connection between the two. Some authorities held a similar opinion, but investigation later seemed to negative

the idea. The article in *The Times* seems to me erroneous in some points, as I am sure that nothing like 70 per cent of cats are effected, and that when they are, the death rate has been nearer 70 per cent than 20 per cent.

There has been for some years a confusion in the minds of some people, when they talk of enteritis and really mean cat distemper or influenza. Enteritis and distemper are absolutely clinically distinct in spite of the fact that so many people who ought to know better, lump the two under one common name. I would need a very great deal of convincing that the domestic cat is any menace to man.

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

Notes from Wessex

FOR the summer outing of the Wessex Cat Club in June, Bristol Zoo was voted most popular, and two trips are to be made, one on Wednesday the 11th and the other on the 15th to fit in all members. The Secretary, Mrs. Helen Light, is making the necessary arrangements for transport for both dates. I understand Bristol Zoo is one of the best in the country.

* * *

Miss Judith Stubbs, of Cadnam, has been away on a refresher nursing course in the North of England. Her Long Beach Progenitress and twin Siamese

By MADGE SHROUDER

**Hon. Treasurer of
the Wessex Cat Club**

kittens (one a Blue Point and the other a Seal) have been staying at Cats' Cottage with us in Dorset. The kittens were only five weeks old on arrival, but in about two days they seemed to grow up: showing me how clever they were jumping on and off their bed, not to mention pinching fish or meat off mum's plate, so I resolved to give them their own rations. They showed a great appreciation for rabbit. We were sorry to see them go home.

Mrs. Rives, who is going to have the Blue Pointed kitten as a companion for her year old Siamese Kismet, came out

to Cats' Cottage to see the kittens before they returned to Cadnam. She thinks Kismet is lonely. I always think it best to have Siamese in pairs, as they love each other's company much more so than any other breed, and it is such fun owning two cats.

* * *

Miss Dorothy Snell, who was a great supporter of the Club, has been found gassed in her kitchen. She had not long returned from holiday, and had evidently decided to do some washing on the Monday evening, lighting the gas copper, putting in the clothes, etc. What happened after this will always remain a mystery, as she was found the next morning by her daily help. The copper was still alight, and the clothes charred to a cinder. In the lounge the electric fire and television were still on. Her dog and three cats, also in the lounge, were unaffected. The police have the theory that she put the clothes in the copper, lit the gas and forgot to add the water. Everything heated up and the rubber connection melted and the gas escaped from the flexible pipe. "Death by misadventure" was the verdict at the inquest. Club members have been so helpful. They rallied round giving and helping to find homes for the Irish terrier, and all the cats, who are L.H. Red Tabbies, one queen being in kitten. Miss Snell was a very jolly person and a great cat lover.

West of England and South Wales Cat Society On April 12th, Mrs. E. Fisher, a committee member of the Club, gave a party for members at 76 Pultney Street Bath. This was very well attended. I was asked to put on our cat slide collection, and Mr. A. J. Palmer showed slides of his trip to New York. There was a bring-and-buy stall presided over by Mrs. Joan Judd (Secretary) and Mrs. P. Lambert. When Mrs. Ruby Alexander (Chairman) opened the party she said how much the Club had progressed, and that the show last September was up to London standards, and was a success financially. Many people had travelled quite long distances. Mrs. Helen Light (Secretary, W.C.C.) was very busy selling raffle tickets, and Mrs. Fisher tells me the afternoon gained the Club £13 16s. 9d.

I am sure the one who enjoyed the meeting most of all was my Burmese Oweenee as she was the only cat present, and so came in for a lot of attention which she "laps up." We only take her about because she loves train rides and meeting people and, of course, the refreshments made her day.

After the party Miss Joan Lincens took Mrs. Light and myself to see her four generations of Siamese, all females. I was especially struck by their beautiful coats. As we expressed the desire to see Bath, Miss Lincens very kindly drove us around the highlights of the town.

Mrs. Madge Shrouder's Burmese OWEENEE, who loves train rides and plenty of company.



Reproduction (No. 44)

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.

EXPERIMENTS have shown that the internal factors of an animal are possessed equally by the cells in all its parts. So the cells of the head of a worm can by regeneration, produce a tail, and the cells of the tail can regenerate a head. But if the cells of the head possess the internal factors which control the production of a tail as well as the internal factors which control the production of a head, how is it that in normal development these cells do produce a head and not a tail ?

The problem has been solved by showing experimentally that the first thing which has to be settled in a developing egg is its polarity, i.e. which part of the egg will give rise to the front and which to the hind end of the future animal. As soon as the polarity is established, local diversities arise and result in the qualitative differentiation of the different parts.

Now in many cases, the determination of this polarity seems to be the result of the action of factors which are *external* to the fertilized egg. In other cases, it is possible that the polarity of the egg is derived from that of the oogonium which gave rise to it, but this merely pushes the question of the origin of polarity back in time.

However this may be, it is clear that all the way through development, the internal factors produce nothing of themselves, but they enable the animal to react in definite ways to the external factors, and by this means, give rise to structure after structure in the process of development. Heredity does not account for the individual, but merely for the potentialities some of which are realized in the individual. In other words, the internal and transmitted factors are by themselves unable to "produce" an animal at all.


The first rigorous analysis of the relation of internal and external factors in development is due to Lankester, who showed that they can only be regarded as co-operating in the production of all the characters of an organism. The same point of view has been developed by others who stress the distinction which has to be drawn between the process of transmission of the internal factors from parent to offspring, and the process of production in the offspring of characters similar to those which were possessed by the parent.

An organism is moulded as the result of the interaction between the conditions or stimuli which make up its environment, and the factors of inheritance. No single part is completely acquired, or due to inheritance alone. Characters are due to responses, and have to be made anew at every generation.



SANDY THE PARK CAT

It was in October, 1955, that we published a snapshot of Sandy, the Bexhill Park Cat and showing his sleeping quarters in a disused air-raid shelter. For over 12 years Sandy lived in the Park where he was fed and cared for by a number of friends. Now we have news from Mrs. V. E. Major, who took this nicely-posed photograph of him, that Sandy has gone into honourable retirement in more comfortable surroundings. The circumstances were reported by Mr. H. B. Bullivant in a letter to the local newspaper under the heading "Purr, Purr." "Many of your readers," he writes, "will be wondering what has happened to Sandy, our park cat who has left his accommodation unit in Egerton Park and retired from public life. Well, let me re-assure them that he is quite well and happy in the home of one of the residents . . . I suppose this cat has been photographed more times than some film stars and has friends all over the world."

 **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 inquiry.

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Similar views have been expressed by several writers. These conclusions, which are based on experimental evidence, have a far reaching importance. In the first place, they would show that the question: Are acquired characters inherited? has no meaning, for all the characters of an organism are both inherited and acquired; they would not be developed at all unless the organism possessed the requisite internal and inherited factors, and unless the external factors were sufficiently "normal" to evoke the "normal" developmental responses. A change in either the internal or the external factors will result in a departure from normal development.

What the questioners really mean is: Can an effect originally produced as a response to an environmental stimulus come subsequently to be produced regularly without that stimulus? In other words, can external factors become internal?

Wonders of Structure

When therefore, one defines an acquired character as a "modification which makes its appearance in the adult or later stages of development and is obviously dependant for its origin upon other than hereditary causes," one is really describing the effect of an external factor, but that does not justify the excluding of the participation of internal factors in producing that effect.

We shall return below to the question whether external factors may become internal, and may go on now to note that some of the conclusions arrived at lift some burden off the problem of heredity. The structure of an animal shows a number of wonderfully delicate adjustments; the splinters inside a bone are situated exactly where they are required to withstand the pressure to which the bone is subjected; the fibres of a tendon lie accurately along the line of strain between a muscle and the bone

to which it is attached; centres of nerve-cells in the brain are situated close to the ends of the nerve-fibres from which they habitually receive impulses, and when in phylogeny there is a change in the nerve-fibres from which any given nerve-centre habitually receives its impulses, the nerve-centre is found to be situated near its new source of stimulation.

Sequence of effects

It was a source of perplexity to the student of heredity to try to understand how the factors controlling the production of such intricate and refined adjustments could be transmitted to the fertilized egg and produce these effects. He need not have worried about the production of the effects, for that lay in the province of the experimental embryologist, and not in his.

As it turns out, it is the pressure in the tissues which causes the cells along the lines of stress to produce splinters of bone, and that is why these splinters are in the "right" place; it is the very pull exerted on the tissues by the muscles which determines the production of a tendon with its fibres orientated along the lines of strain; it is the very ends of the nerve fibres which have the property of stimulating nerve-cells to divide and so produce a nerve-centre in proximity to them, and this has been proved.

The nerve centres arise afresh in each generation, and by arising in a different place under the stimulation of a different set of nerve-fibres, the apparent effect of a migration in phylogeny receives its explanation.

(to be continued)

The second and final article by Ann L. Stubbs on British Shorthairs will appear in next month's issue.

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

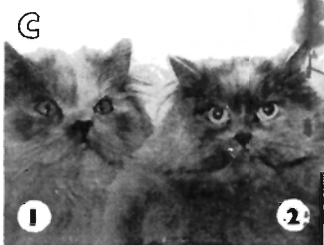
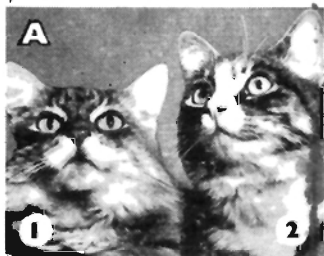
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

- 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

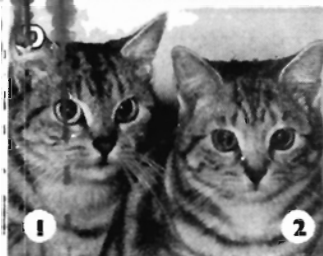
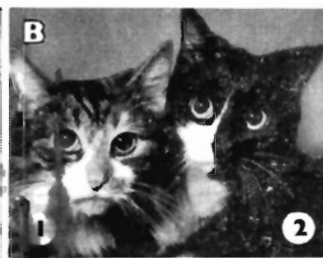


IZES OF
EMUM BONDS

A Praunting 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



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.

The Council meets

THE April meeting of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy marks the commencement of its year. Over thirty newly-elected delegates attended to represent their clubs and societies. Readers overseas will, perhaps, be interested to read how democratic the election is, illustrated by the following excerpt from the Council's constitution :

“ ELECTION OF DELEGATES. (i) Each affiliated Club shall elect its delegate or delegates either : (a) at a General Meeting of the Club ; or (b) by postal ballot, for which voting papers shall have been sent to the members not less than seven days before the date by which they must be returned. The names of two scrutineers not Members of the

Club must be shown on the voting papers. (ii) Elections of delegates shall be held annually before the 15th March in each year. Each delegate shall be elected for a term of one year, commencing on the 1st April next ensuing but shall be eligible for re-election.

Club members were evidently satisfied with their previous delegates as only two new personalities appeared—Mrs. Grace Pond taking the place of the late Brigadier Rossiter for Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club and Mr. Trevor for Herts and Middlesex Cat Club which has been granted a second delegate now that it has over 150 members.

Miss Kathleen Yorke was unanimously re-elected Chairman, her eighth year of office. It is an arduous honorary position as quite apart from the responsibilities, she has a tremendous post to deal with from this country and overseas. Our good wishes are with her and we hope it will be a happy year.

The Vice-Chairman, the Reverend Basil Rees, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. Lamb, were also unanimously re-elected. Several names were proposed for the Executive Committee and on a paper ballot being taken the former eight were re-elected ; Miss Evelyn Langston, Mrs. Brunton, Mrs. K. R. Williams, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Speirs, Miss Lelgarde Fraser, Mr. Stirling-Webb and Mrs. Joan Thompson.

A full agenda kept the delegates busy until nearly 7 p.m.

Miss Kathleen Yorke's proposal that the G.C. should convene a conference at the end of May, met with general approval. The three G.C. Honorary Veterinary Surgeons, Mrs. Sheppard, M.R.C.V.S.; Miss E. H. Woodger, M.R.C.V.S.; and Mr. J. Stewart, M.R.C.V.S., will be invited to attend, and it is hoped other veterinarians will find time to accept invitations. This will be the first conference with qualified specialists as guests of honour organized under the aegis of the Governing Council. It has great possibilities and many of us are enthusiastic about this meeting which is to be held at the Grosvenor Hotel. The date has since been fixed for the 29th of this month.

A valuable lesson

There has been much correspondence in a contemporary journal about infectious illness, particularly infectious enteritis, and one naturally sympathizes with those who have had the misfortune to experience it. But there is a more cheerful aspect and there are many who have bred cats for years and never had a single case. Cats are not gregarious by inclination and when too many are kept in a limited space and deprived of liberty, such conditions can be a predisposing cause of illness.

F.I.E. is an insidious infection and sometimes recurs on the same premises (particularly in late summer) when there has been no contact with shows or other possible sources of infection.

Although I have been exhibiting for over thirty years and never had my exhibits immunized until 1956, the only case of infectious illness I have experienced was at my second show when I showed my first Blue queen Juno of Pensford with her six eight-weeks-old kittens. Blissfully ignorant that the mother might be debilitated by rearing six kittens (although she appeared in perfect health), I did not realize the risk. The mother contracted feline distemper from which she made a perfect recovery.

The six kittens escaped unharmed because four of them were sold before the mother's symptoms appeared, and it was so easy to isolate the other two when I only had one cat.

Although very distressing at the time, it was a valuable lesson and I have never shown a litter or a queen who has recently reared a litter since. Cats and kittens should be in top-tip form before one attempts to exhibit and in my opinion shows are no greater risk than sending queens to be mated, accepting queens oneself or taking them to the premises of a veterinarian. The extra expense of having the latter visit at home is well worth while and only if the cat has to have an operation or expert supervision should it be allowed to leave its own home.

Stockholm Show

The 13th International Championship Show of the Stockholm Cat Club took place in Sweden on April 11th, 12th and 13th.

Mrs. Ulla Magnusson tells me it was a very nice show with a very good gate. The quality of the Longhairs was exceptionally good but she considers Siamese at the moment are at a standstill.

The progeny of Miss Larsdotter's International Champion Vigilant Jonathan (bred in England by Mrs. Pullen of Worthing) won many honours. He came first in the Int. Champion male class and he also sired the winning Blue male and female adults, Despotic Guy and Ch. Despotic Fif, the Open Class winning adult Blue-Cream Sarabande av Saalburg, the best L.H. kitten in Show (a White named Sapinette Eanne) and several other winning kittens. Jonathan was first in the Stud Class judged on progeny. He is by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and Ch. Jewel of Dunesk.

The winning Blue-Cream in the Championship Class was Ch. Cophorne Liebchen, bred in England by Miss Aitken from Myowne Caesar and



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



Priory Mailda. Mated to Ch. Glean of Pensford, Liebchen produced the winning Cream female in the Open Class, Gloria av Natess.

Another male whose progeny won many honours was the Longhair White Int. Ch. Derry de Padirac bred in France by Madame Letetire. He is by Ch. Alec des Princes and Int. Ch. Wildviolet of Duvesk. Derry sired the Best in Show adult, Ch. Sapinette Comtesse, her White litter sister Ch. Sapinette Gilla awarded C.A.C.I.B. and a winning Black of the same breeding Ch. Sapinn te Bambou, all bred by Mrs. B. Axelsson of Stockholm. He also sired the winning Brown Tabby Anderstorps Flisa.

Best Shorthair Cat in Show was a Seal Point Siamese Ch. Ticks av Anur by Ch. Sabukia Sinbad, and another S.P. Siamese bred in England who sired winners was Milori Bon Viveur, sire of Exotic Gobi the first male in an Open Class of eight, and the Best S.H. Kitten in Show Simba av Samdong Du.

The winning Russian Blues were all bred in Scandinavia which is not surprising as they have excelled in this variety for many years. The winning Burmese Ch. Nilgiris Bura Tured and Onahenni Bella were British bred, also the B.P. Siamese Ch. Salween Blue Jack and Browndreys Scamp, both males. The winning female Exotic Blue Star (by Int. Ch. Banchor Blue Thor) was bred by Mrs. Magnusson. The winning

Abyssinians adults, Tranby Khenti and Contented Tessa, were bred here by Mrs. Winsor and Miss Wiseman respectively.

News of Exports

Miss Langston has exported the Best Male Chinchilla kitten at the National Cat Club Ch. Show to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Webb, of Sun Valley, California, U.S.A. They own the Silver Mesa Cattery and are delighted with their purchase—Francis of Allington by Ch. Scamp of Allington.

Mrs. McGuire, of Honolulu, now owns another Chinchilla Malcolm of Allington by Ch. Laurel of Allington. He must be one of the first English-bred Chinchillas to be imported into this island. Mrs. McGuire comments on his sweet disposition and is very pleased with him.

Mrs. Denton sends me an excerpt from a letter she has received from Mrs. Sami Hirsig of Aspen, Colorado, U.S.A. Camber Betsy Bob by Anson Eros became a Grand Champion at Las Vegas. She took 1st and winners at all three shows, also Best Champion at one and Best Cat at another one. Congratulations!

Mrs. McEachern, of Seattle, U.S.A., wrote me a delightful letter about another Blue bred by Mrs. Denton—Camber Charles, who left England in December. He will be one year in June.



WESSEX CAT CLUB

All Breed Exemption Show

Wednesday, 27th August, 1958

at Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth

Many trophies offered for competition

Annual Subscription 5/-, Club Badges 5/- to all Cat Lovers.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HELEN LIGHT, 10, PERSLEY ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. MADGE SHROUDER, CATS COTTAGE, THE AVENUE, WEST MOORS, DORSET.

Felix keeps walking !

The April number of U.S.A. *Cats Magazine* contains welcome news of the fate of the black and white shorthair cat Felix who sailed as ship's mascot on the *Mayflower II* when she left England in April last year.

Interesting extracts are "The men became very fond of Felix . . . he ate everything the crew ate except salt pork. His favourite dishes were canned meat and salmon. When it came to signing the ship's papers, after the crew had all placed their signatures, Felix put his paw print. As each man had his own lifebelt with his name on it, Felix had his own special belt and seemed to enjoy modelling it . . .

"He could sit up and beg without losing his balance no matter how much the ship rocked. After experiencing a bad storm when he was nearly washed overboard, whenever a storm brewed after that Felix would go below and hide until it was all over."

Mayflower II reached port at Plymouth, Mass., U.S.A., as we know, on June 12th.

From there she went on to New York Harbour, Miami, and eventually, back to Plymouth where she will be on permanent exhibition. Felix though, has found a good home with Joe Meany the American cabin boy; he lives with a dog and they are the best of friends.

Miss Gladys Emerson Cook has drawn a complete picture story of Felix and his adventures which will be published shortly.

Cats start a hobby

Mrs. Madge Shrouder's colour slides, which those who attended Miss Yorke's training classes for judges so enjoyed, prompted me to ask her the origin of the idea. She replied: "Ever since I remember we have always had a cat,

When I married in 1936 Mr. Shrouder bought me a Blue Persian who lived until he was nearly ten. Then I had three Siamese followed by an Abyssinian female who only had one litter before she died. At present I have two spayed Siamese, one Siamese male neuter, an Abyssinian male, Ch. Contented, and one Burmese female, Kevan Oweenee.

Over to colour

"The photography all started about 11 years ago. Arthur had to have a throat operation, and was told to give up the violin for a time, so we had to think of a suitable hobby, and we thought why not combine our mutual love for cats by specializing in photographing them? Since then Arthur has taken hundreds of black and white photographs of all breeds and household pets, and then we started in colour because they looked so real. It is a record for all time, even cats that have passed on. Of course the collection which we are ever increasing, is well known up and down the country, as we have shown them at many functions, as well as the cat clubs. This is the largest collection of cat colour slides in the country, now running into hundreds."

Corrections made

Mr. Kirby-Smith has drawn my attention to an error which appeared on page 28, March number of OUR CATS: Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show is on August 16th not the 6th as printed.

The name of Mrs. Digney's Chinchilla neuter is Fishermore Hebe *not* Fishermore Helen. The latter competing in her Open Class at Notts. and Derby Ch. Show received her first Challenge Certificate in January.



Photo by Dick Knollis - Las Vegas Sun

American Profile No. 6 — By Blanche Wolfgram

MRS. MARY ANN MAXWELL

MRS. MARY ANN MAXWELL, of San Diego, California, very easily recalls her early training in the care of cats. Fortunately, she was blessed with parents who were lovers of all kinds of pets. Her mother was a doctor and it was she who taught Mary Ann how to care for kittens and to give them a proper diet. She loves to think back to the days when she took the dresses from her dolls and used them to make the kittens look like little people. Yes, this early training was a major factor towards later success in the breeding and caring of fine show cats.

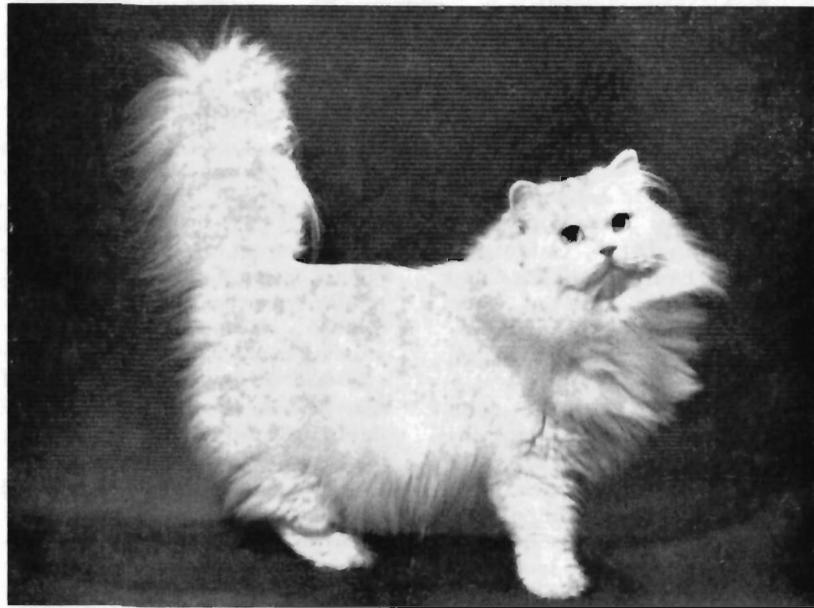
It was in 1915 that she obtained her first pedigreed cat—a Siamese. This resulted in the purchase of others and was the beginning of her efforts to reach the top. However, about 1950 she attended her first cat show and there and then she decided that she would raise beautiful Persian cats and show them in competition. With the passing of time she managed to gather together some outstanding cats from some of the better known bloodlines of the country. She has become a well-known figure at the shows because of her ability to present her cats in their finest condition.

The pride and joy of her cattery is Gallahad's Executive of Bre-Etta. He



Gordon Laugher, Los Angeles

DBL. CHAMPION WIMAUMA WILFUL OF BRE-ETTA, aptly described as "a fine Blue stud who has very good type, fine head, heavy bone, large copper eyes."



Mrs. Maxwell's Blue-eyed White female GALLAHAD'S WHITE INNOCENCE, always presented in this excellent condition, is well on the road to a Grand Championship.

is an odd-eyed White male, a son of that finest of sound hearing Blue-eyed White males—Dbl. Ch. White Pine—and his mother is a very lovely odd-eyed White named Ch. Iris.

Executive is just one of the many fine cats as a result of this pair. His type is terrific, being almost as broad as he is long, good top head, beautiful big eyes, excellent muzzle and chin, short cobby body, heavy legs and large feet. As a result of the 1956-1957 show season he won the coveted All-Western and All-American awards. In the past season he was shown only seven times and walked off with the Best Cat in Show wins on six occasions. This resulted in his gaining a Double Grand Championship, the goal of all breeders. He is also a Quadruple Champion.

Quad. Ch. Gallahad's White Innocence of Bre-Etta is also on her way to becoming a Grand Champion and is an excellent Blue-eyed White female who has the same parents as Executive. Her type is extremely good and she bears a striking resemblance to Gr. Ch. Milky Way's Enchanted Prince, a Blue-eyed White male who is her grand-pappy.

Stars—present and future

Dbl. Ch. Wimauma Wilful of Bre-Etta is a fine Blue stud who has very good type, fine head, heavy bone, large copper eyes and passes these qualities on to his offspring. He is from Sir Periwinkle Pantaloons and Wimauma Pushkin and was bred by Mrs. A. G. Ohlin.

Tr. Ch. Fiddlers Green Soubrette of Bre-Etta is a Blue-Cream out of Burque Lee's Honey B'ar and Azulita's Vesta and was bred by Jack and Althea Wedel of Fiddlers Green. She is indeed a fine cat and in her very first showing was selected as the Best Kitten. Incidentally, Soubrette was responsible for the coining of the cattery name. Mrs. Maxwell began calling her "Bretta" for short and liking this name she conceived the idea of Bre-Etta as the name to carry the honours of her cats.



Triple Ch. Fiddlers Green Soubrette, who was patiently nursed to recovery from a serious illness.

Grand Ch. Fiddlers Green Precious My Darling of Bre-Etta is another lovely Blue-Cream from the same parents as Soubrette. She has a very short cobby body, large eyes, good top head and muzzle, short tail and has a beautiful patching to her coat. In her first show last year she went Best Opp. Sex Cat.

Other fine cats making up her cattery are Blulace Romulus of Khyber, a stunning Black male, Lucky Lane's Cream Treasure, a very good Cream female, Azulita's Personality of Bre-Etta, a very promising Blue male and four Azulita Blue females named Parizade, Padma, Palette and Patagonia, who are expected to carry on the fine tradition of the other Bre-Etta cats.

Mary Ann has several very fine kittens who show promise of being future "greats." She has been holding them back but they will surely make their presence felt in the shows to come.

Her biggest thrill came at the Las Vegas (Nevada) Show, where Executive completed his Grand Championship and some of her other entries helped to win most of the top honours. That will be one show she will remember for a long, long time because of the excitement of so many fine wins.

Her advice to the beginner is to find the breeder who has the type of cat you prefer and to be sure they are honest in their dealings with you. Try to obtain the best you can afford as it takes good cats to produce good kittens. It is then up to you to see that they receive the best of care, get a balanced diet, have clean surroundings, good daily grooming, and proper medical attention in time of need. She says that her cats aren't just cats—they are little people who need all the love and attention she can give them.

Fight for a life

One of her most trying experiences occurred at a show where the heating arrangements were not all they should be. This resulted in sickness to her Soubrette. It was a sad day when the veterinarian diagnosed pneumonia. Day and night for two weeks Mrs. Maxwell cared for the cat, giving the medicine drop by drop. Even with cats, when all seems hopeless, we turn to prayer for help and guidance. To this day, she feels that it was through the sound of her voice in prayer and the gentle touch of her hand that kept the spark of life glowing in Soubrette.

The day came when the cat lifted her head for the first time and tears came to Mary Ann's eyes for she was then certain the battle had been won. It was not long afterward that a full recovery was attained and the cat was as frisky as she had been before the illness.

Soubrette then decided she wanted to become a mother and everything went

along fine until about ten days before the babies were scheduled to be born. They were prematurely born and out of seven in the litter Mary Ann was able to save four. But Soubrette would have nothing to do with them. This necessitated hand feeding and special care and at each feeding the mother cat would hiss and growl at the babies. In a short while they began to grow fur and were looking like kittens should. Soubrette jumped into her bed and made an awful fuss. To please her, one of the kittens was given to her to see what would happen. Sure enough, this is what she wanted and she immediately began the washing of the kitten.

She then gave Mary Ann an awful talking to as if to tell her: "You don't know how to care for kittens, watch me!" Well, she took over all the kittens and from that day on, her worries were over. Two of the kittens are still with her. One is a Blue-Cream like its mother and the other a Blue female; both are certain to make their way in the shows.

Mary Ann is a member of the Las Vegas Cat Fanciers and takes an active interest in their affairs. She is also a highly-esteemed judge in the American Cat Fanciers' Association. She has come a long way in gaining prominence in our Fancy and is one who can be relied upon to strive hard to improve breeding standards. We shall be hearing a lot more of Mrs. Mary Ann Maxwell in the years to come and it will be for the general good because she is a fine person, congenial to all and one who believes in fair play.



Purely Purrsonal

By IVOR RALEIGH

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

THERE has been a good deal of adverse comment lately about the quality of many of last season's judging results.

The remedy surely lies in a more realistic approach to the appointment of committee members. By and large, keen and knowledgeable club members manage, often at great inconvenience, to attend their annual general meetings and it is these people to whom the election of committees should be entrusted. The postal vote suffers from the real disadvantage that it reaches members who know too little how to use their vote wisely and very often put their crosses either at random, or against names they may have heard, while having no real knowledge of the merits of the owners of these names.

The worst system of voting is one in which there is no postal vote, but the vote in the hall is supplemented by "request" votes; that is to say, by votes given by people who write to the club secretary for a postal voting paper.

Leave the voting to those serious breeders and exhibitors who have a real stake in the Fancy, and you, my readers, will be the ones who will benefit.

* * *

My friend P. M. Soderberg, whose articles many of you have read with pleasure and benefit during a large number of years, mentioned a very useful device to me the other day. Should you buy a kitten or, for that matter, a puppy whom you feel obliged to nurse all night because it cries if left alone, make up a basket in your warm kitchen and put a water bottle and a small alarm clock under the cushions. Your

young pet will think that the warmth emanates from another small body and that the tick of the clock is a friendly, comforting heartbeat and will sleep peacefully and contentedly.

* * *

Kitten time is nearly upon us again. Two of my Siamese are well on the road to motherhood and I long so much for a bunch of small but accomplished murderers who will crawl all over me with their sharp little claws, purr sweetly in my ear and growl ferociously at each other with their front paws in my dinner-plate. Such is the lunacy and delight of such of us who have lost their hearts and their reason to "Siameses."

* * *

A little misapprehension appears to exist about early inoculation against feline infectious enteritis. For maximum safety, kittens should be inoculated at six to seven weeks although the antibodies derived from an immune mother persist in an attenuated form for some twelve weeks. The reason why a part of the immunity bestowed by very early inoculation disappears at three to four months is not that the mother's milk modifies it, but that at this age the kitten's blood undergoes a physiological change in which many of its properties become fundamentally altered. Early acquired immunities generally persist to an adequate extent, but to make doubly sure, it is best to inoculate again at three months. For those who are troubled by the cost factor, a reasonable compromise is to give one injection at six weeks and one at three months. Better still, give one at six weeks and two at three months with a fortnight's interval between.

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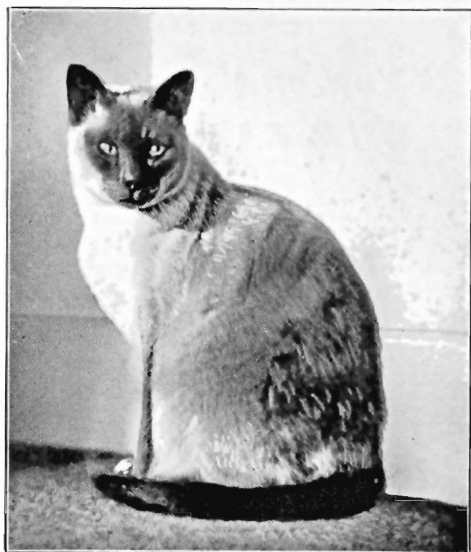
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