

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
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ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



THE WATCHER IN THE SUNLIGHT

Photograph by D. E. Tyler


JUNE 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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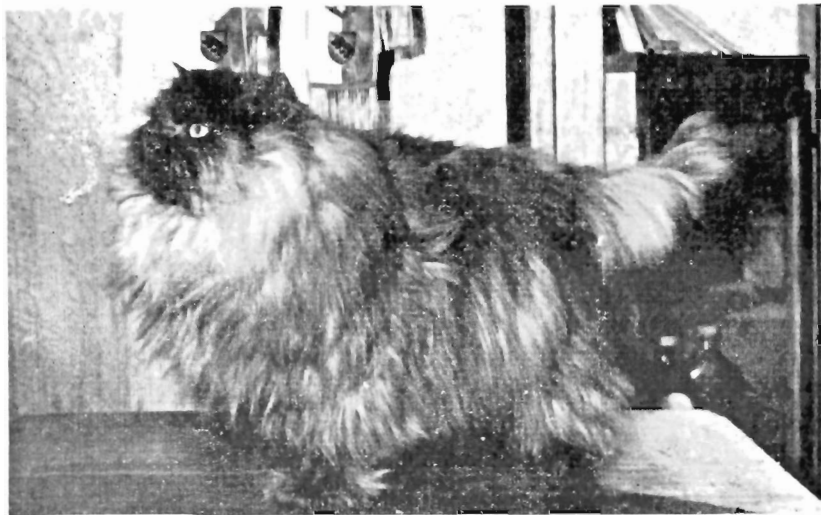
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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



TOP HONOURS FOR A SMOKE

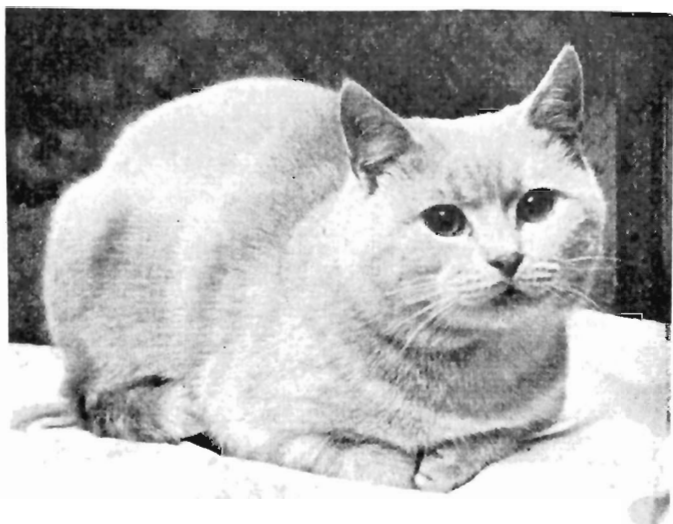
Bred and owned by Miss D. M. Collins, of Harwell, Berks., KALA NEPETA was the only Smoke Persian to become a full Champion during the 1957/8 show season. He is a male bred from Kala Sirdana (Black) ex Kala Moonbeam (Blue Smoke).

Let's go to a show

We urge our readers to attend as many cat shows as possible. There is no better place at which to meet old friends, to make new ones and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and general management, from experienced fanciers and exhibitors. Brief details of the show fixtures for the 1958/9 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1958	Promoted by	Venue
21 June	Three Counties Cat Club	Verwood, Dorset
5 July	North East Cheshire Show	Hazel Grove, nr. Stockport
12 "	Kentish Cat Society	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
16 August	Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club	London
	<i>See displayed advertisement in this issue</i>	
23 "	Suffolk and Norfolk C.C.	Ipswich, Suffolk
30 "	Cheshire Area C.C.	Chester
20 September	*Herts and Middlesex C.C.	London
27 "	*South Western Counties C.C.	Paignton, Devon
7 October	*Siamese Cat Club	London
9 "	*Blue Persian C.C.	London
18 "	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C.	Edinburgh
25 "	*Midland Counties C.C.	Birmingham
15 November	*Croydon Cat Club	London
29 "	*Yorkshire County C.C.	Leeds
16 December	*National Cat Club	London
1959		
10 January	*Notts and Derbyshire C.C.	Venue to be fixed
17 "	*Scottish Cat Club	Venue to be fixed
27 "	*Southern Counties C.C.	London
7 February	*Lancs. and N.W. Counties C.C.	Venue to be fixed

* Denotes show with Championship status. A detailed list of these shows may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. W. A. Hazeldine, 1 Roundwood Way, Banstead, Surrey. We hope that many of the shows will be advertised in OUR CATS during the course of the 1958/9 Season.



J. Frost, Ipswich

MINGSWYK CREAM PANTHER, a nice male representative of the comparatively rare Cream Shorthairs see article on next page. Breeder is Mrs. I. J. Cattermole, of Ipswich.

British Shorthairs — Self Colours

By ANN L. STUBBS

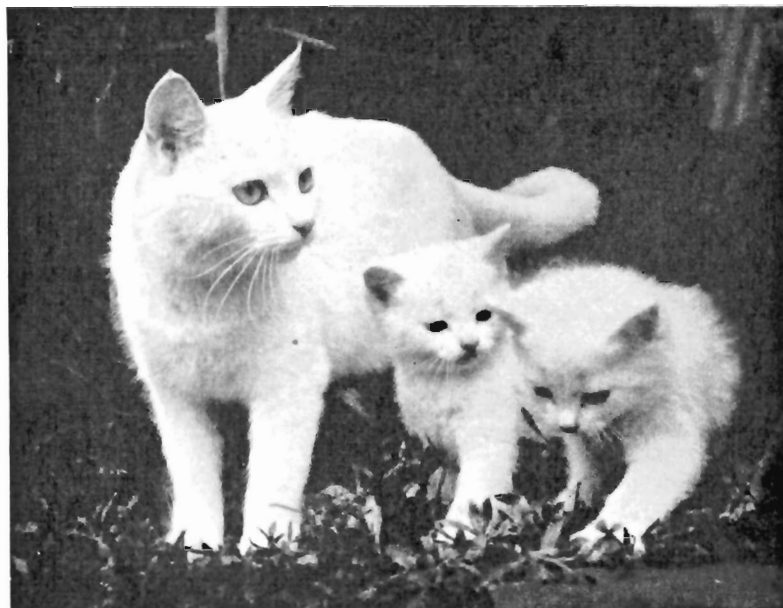
Continued from our April issue

THERE are four varieties of British Shorthairs which are known as Self colours: that is they are all one colour with no stripes, patches or spots of white. Of these four, undoubtedly the most popular and best known is the British Blue. Blues have been well and carefully bred for a good number of years and consequently usually excel in type. They are indeed lovely animals with their short, dense coats and large, round eyes of a striking and contrasting orange or copper.

The Cream Britisher is comparatively rare, in fact a few years ago it was virtually extinct but determined efforts have

been made by a small band of devoted breeders to bring this lovely cat back again and good specimens can now be seen at most of the leading shows. Like the Blue, the eyes are orange or copper. The most common fault of the Cream, and to a lesser extent the Blue, is the appearance of faint barrings or "shadow" tabby markings on the coat.

One might at first think the British Black very common. It is, however, far from it, and good quality pedigree British Blacks are very rare. The vast majority of Shorthair Blacks are either mongrels who have a patch of white, often at the throat, or are Siamese hybrids and show definite foreign type. The really good British Black is very



Edward Reeves

Miss Ann Codrington, of Lewes, Sussex, is one of a small group of fanciers who are endeavouring to popularize the British Blue-eyed White Shorthair. "It is," she says, "a tricky business on account of the inevitable mixed pedigrees and the elusive blue eyes." Here is her lovely queen MILADY with her two female kittens at 6 weeks by Pinewood Powder Monkey. Miss Codrington found "Lady" sitting on a wall in the wilds of Devonshire. She won a C.C. at her show debut.

striking with his gleaming ebony coat and once again the vivid contrasting orange eyes. Excellent Blacks are often bred from Foutie queens.

A very attractive Britisher, and one which fifty years ago was very popular, is the White. Whites can be either blue or orange-eyed. However, in actual practice, the great majority of Whites have pale yellow eyes. These spoil an otherwise attractive cat for the contrast is not great enough and the result tends to be insipid. Whites were once extremely popular, then they fell completely out of favour, due probably to the fact that a small percentage are stone-deaf (many people think they all are) and also to the absurd fallacy that white cats are unlucky. However, they now seem to be enjoying something of a come-back and several breeders have taken up this lovely variety.

Whites are not usually so good in type and also tend to have coats which are too open. Some otherwise good Whites are often spoilt by odd eyes—one blue, the other yellow, orange, or green. In a good queen with sound pedigree this is

no detriment to breeding, she is no more likely to produce odd-eyed kittens than one with two eyes the same colour. In any case, odd-eyed kittens are often in great demand as pets owing to their quaintness.

Won't meet demand!

I have an odd-eyed queen and with her last two litters I have had three enquiries for odd-eyed kittens as pets from people who were fascinated by her eyes. Needless to say, she has had no odd-eyed kittens to date. Another curious thing about Whites is that they are nearly always born with black smudges on the heads. Fantastic though it sounds, if they have these smudges, or even one black hair, they will not be deaf. These will disappear within at most a few months. If you part the hair on these smudges it will be observed that the hair is not black to the roots but only about half-way down.

Interest in the pedigree Britisher is far from dead. The last show season produced seven new Champions of these varieties, but even so the classes for them at the shows are often lamentably empty. This is a pity for only by the exhibition of good specimens can any breed come to the fore. The British cat can wear a coat to suit any taste and his physique and character make him the ideal pet. So if you are looking for a new kitten you could not do better than to "Buy British!"



Prize-winning British Blue kitten at 10 weeks
FLIXTON DIANA bred by Mrs. M. Johnson,
N.W. London fancier. Diana now has her
own family—two British Blue males and a
Blue-Cream female sired by Aldra's Cream
Bunne.



Reproduction (No. 45)

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. Mr. Jude digresses this month to explain the benefits to be derived from pedigree recording and tells you how to start a worthwhile system.

STUDY of animal genetics—the science of heredity, variation, sex-determination and related phenomena—shows that improvement of a breed can only be made by a step-by-step process. The process is naturally long, for many characteristics have to receive combined consideration at each mating, and the total result is not always certain. Because of time, and the number of factors involved not only in the chosen parents, but also in the ancestry, much data about the performances of the ancestors has either to be remembered or made note of. Memory is likely to be overtaxed, so the answer is a well kept system of recording.

Pedigree recording, correctly developed, represents a progeny test of the ancestors. Although it may be easier and more convenient to build up a strain if one's cattery is self-contained, it is sometimes found that certain crossings between strains give particularly good results and it is here that well kept standard breeding records become particularly interesting and useful. When individuals produce better progeny when mated with some strains than with others, those that give rise to the superior progeny are said to have "nicked." The phenomenon probably depends on the maximal complementary action of genes from one strain with those of another.

In general, long pedigrees are of more importance to the historian than to the active breeder. An animal in its fifth ancestral generation (great-great-great grand parent) contributes only about 3.125 per cent of the inheritance of say a kitten ; if this includes some particular and important trait, such as a desired coat-colour which is rare in the breed, such a distant ancestor may become important. However, for most purposes, a thorough knowledge of three or four generations of the pedigree is all that the breeder requires.

It is more important to extend this knowledge than to extend the pedigree. But if pedigree recording is started on right lines by new breeders, they will eventually have a host of information at their finger tips which, especially in matters of health and reproduction performances may be of great value not only to themselves, but also to the Fancy at large.

The breeder, having decided which traits are to receive most attention in selection or elimination, should endeavour to discover not only how each near ancestor was endowed in regard to these traits, but also how its litter brothers and sisters and its offspring were endowed. This information should be recorded in the pedigree index.

There is always a danger in talking of tendencies and averages, that these will be taken as rigid and absolute. Part of the art of breeding lies in the

selection of mates which will "nick" with each other and produce offspring which revert little or not at all towards the average of the breed. Once the tendency is recognized, the breeder judges his success by the range of merit in his kittens, rather than by the production of a few brilliant individuals amongst a lot of duds.

The importance of the worst kitten of each generation then becomes apparent: if the worst kittens produced in the fourth generation of your strain are just as bad and just as numerous as the worst in your first generation, you have made no real progress, even though you have bred a champion.

A great step forward

Recording system is something which during this series of articles has been referred to on a number of occasions. Many breeders have long realized the usefulness of proper recording and now look upon it as absolute necessity. It becomes particularly valuable where several people are concerned in developing a strain, or where so many animals are involved that personal knowledge of each is not possible.

Although the above observations have been included previously in these articles, the subject has come to the front again by the publication of "My Cats" Cattery Records Book, compiled and published by Capt. R. Portman-Graham, of Eastcote Corner, Barston, Solihull, Warwickshire. This work is composed of loose leaf record sheets in a well devised and attractive binder cover. The standard size contains five queen sections and three male sections, with ample accommodation for further sets of record sheets when required. The price complete is 23s. 6d., postage 1s. 6d. extra.

This is the most concise and up-to-date system yet devised for keeping cattery records. Provision is made in such a way that nothing concerning the cats concerned is left to memory. Any information needed about any individual animal

concerned in the breeding becomes unmistakable and readily available. In my opinion this standard record system should be in the hands of every breeder in the Fancy. *This is one of the greatest steps forward to more successful breeding that has been taken for a very long time.*

Each section provides space for records for both queens and studs:—

- (a) Photograph of specimen with details and description. Photographs of its sire and dam.
- (b) Its pedigree.
- (c) Show awards won; judge; critiques; column for classification ineligibility (to avoid making wrong entries).
- (d) Specimen's individual profits and loss from shows.
- (e) Medical history; illnesses; casualties; inoculations; and special tendency observed.

For Queens only:—

- (f) Dates of seasons; dates mated; dates due to kitten; resultant litters.
- (g) Diary of each kitting; colour; markings; weekly weight chart of kittens.
- (h) Disposal of kittens; to whom, price, any breeding terms or conditions.

For Studs only:—

- (i) Stud records; date of service, date queen due to kitten; name of queen, name and address of owner; any special feature of service. Fee paid, any conditions, and if free service necessary next season, result of mating.

Records of General Cattery Management:—

- (j) Cash book sheets with analysis of income and expenditure items.
- (k) Monthly and annual summaries of all cash transactions, bought forward from cash account sheets, showing cattery profit and loss.
- (l) Pedigrees of important sires in the breed.

(to be continued)



In the Siamese World



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

AT the Annual General Meeting of the Siamese Cat Club held in March, Mrs. E. Kent, Mrs. M. Burgess and Mrs. W. Wridgway were elected to the Committee. Delegates to the Governing Council will be Mrs. G. Hindley, Mrs. J. Varcoe and Capt. F. B. Williams. Judges at the Championship Show on October 7th will be: *Adults* Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb; *Females* Mrs. E. Kent; *Female Seal Point Kittens* Mrs. M. Lamb; *Male Seal Point Kittens* Mrs. H. Denham and Miss K. Wilson; *Blue Point and Chocolate Point Kittens* Mrs. A. Hargreaves; *Neuters* Mrs. P. Holroyd. Show Manager Mrs. K. R. Williams.

The main item on the agenda was the revised Standard of Points. The Chairman, Capt. Williams, said that in spite of the increase in the number of Siamese cats and kittens exhibited at shows there had not been a great deviation from the Standard laid down and the Committee felt that only after an extensive review should any question of alteration be considered. A meeting of judges was held in 1957 with the object

of obtaining first-hand information from the people who had to apply the Standard to the exhibits and to ascertain their views as to what amendments, if any, should be considered. He pointed out that this did not mean that the Committee thought the Standard wrong, but they were anxious to explore any avenue which might lead to or assist uniformity in judging.

The Club's Committee met on three occasions to decide (1) what amendments were necessary, (2) if the Standard could be broken down and/or (3) if a more detailed description of what is meant could be included in explanatory notes. The result of all this work is the amended Standard of Points approved by the General Meeting. It is set out below.

Value and Standard of Points for the Siamese Cat

Seal Pointed. *Type and shape.*

Medium in size, body long and svelte, legs proportionately slim, hind legs slightly higher than front ones, feet small and oval, tail long and

tapering (straight or slightly kinked at the extremity). Head long and well proportioned with width between eyes, narrowing in perfectly straight lines to a fine muzzle. Ears rather large and pricked, wide at the base. The body, legs, feet, head and tail all in proportion, giving the whole a well balanced proportion. *Eye Colour*—A brilliant deep blue. Shape oriental and slanting towards the nose. No squint. *Body Colour*—Cream, shading gradually into pale warm fawn on the back. Kittens paler in colour. Mask, ears, legs, feet and tail dense and clearly defined seal brown. Mask complete and (except in kittens) connected by tracings with the ears. *Coat*—Very short and fine in texture, glossy and close lying.

Blue Pointed. The Standard is the same as for Seal Pointed with the following exceptions: *Colour*—Blue, the ears, mask, legs, paws and tail to be the same colour. The ears should not be darker than the other points. *Eyes*—Clear, bright vivid blue. *Body Colour*—Glacial white, shading gradually to blue on back, the same cold tone as the points, but of a lighter shade. *Texture of Coat*—Same as for the Seal Pointed.

Chocolate Pointed. The Standard is the same as for the Seal Pointed with the following exceptions: *Colour*—Points: Milk Chocolate, the ears mask, legs, paws, tail to be the same colour. The ears should not be darker than the other points. *Eyes*—Clear, bright vivid blue. *Body Colour*—Ivory colour all over. Shading, if at all, to be to colour of points. *Texture of Coat*—The same as for Seal Pointed.

Notes and Definitions—Definition of Squint: When the eyes are so placed that they appear to look permanently at the nose. Notes: The Siamese cat should be a beautifully balanced animal with head, ears and neck carried on a long svelte body, supported on fine legs and feet, with a tail in

proportion. The head should be wedge-shaped, neither round or pointed, with straight profile; the mask complete and connected by tracings with the ears. Expression alert and intelligent. A green tinge in the eye colour to be considered a fault. White toe or toes to automatically disqualify an exhibit. It is important to note that the Standard with regard to "Type and Shape" is the same for all Siamese cats.

The allocation of points is 50 for Type and Shape (head 15, ears 5, eyes 5, body 15, legs and paws 5, tail 5) and 50 for Colour (eyes 15, body colour 10, points 10, texture of coat 10, condition 5).

* * *

I must not omit to thank readers for their kindness in responding to my appeal in the February issue of OUR CATS for back numbers of the magazine. I am most grateful to those who either wrote or sent the copies I needed. Such kindness is very warming in these days of rush and hustle.

* * *

A welcome letter from Mrs. Ulla Magnusson, of Stockholm, tells me they had the same terrible weather in Sweden that we had earlier in the year. "The cats just shake their feet and run indoors," she writes. She was in New York a short while back and visited the Empire Cat Club Show. She adds that there were some very good Chocolate Point Siamese from English imports—Mrs. Keen's Killdown Victoria and my Doneraile Malvana. Strangely enough, the following morning I received a marked catalogue of the Show from Mrs. Albert Alloy, who hopes to visit us this year.

* * *

Mrs. Betty Clark, of Hamilton, New Zealand, being keenly interested in Siamese, has decided to start breeding activities. When she wrote me she was

"anxiously awaiting" her first litter. I do hope all went well—the main thing is not to panic.

* * *

Let us flit over to South Africa. I have the honour to be elected Hon. Vice-President of the Siamese Cat Society of South Africa, a very progressive body that has done much to advance all breeds in that country. Their shows cater for both Shorthairs and Longhairs. Interest in pedigree cats is spreading and visitors to England endeavour to attend at least one of our shows for the purpose of widening their knowledge and picking up useful points. I enjoyed having the *Bulletin* of the South African Cat Union, edited by Mrs. Violet Dawson. Mrs. Dawson is "owned by three Siamese who sit on no one's lap but mine." Before returning recently to South Africa, Mr. Doyle, a friend of the Rev. H. Lovemore, enthusiastic Chairman of the Western Province Cat Club, gave us a call. These visits are so pleasant and do serve to strengthen the ties with our friends overseas.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Major Maunsell in Rhodesia. He was the founder of the Natal Cat Club and he and Mrs. Maunsell were Secretary and Treasurer for many years. They visited England a few years ago and many of you will have pleasant recollections of their stay in this country.

* * *

Speaking of visits, Mr. and Mrs. Sven Nelson's daughter, who visited us early last year on her way to Sweden, paid us a brief visit with her husband on the way back home to U.S.A. So many happy memories of cats and people were revived as during my visit to America the Nelson's home was my "operational base," and I have remained one of the family ever since. I was to have visited the States this coming winter and it is a great disappointment to me that I am unable to make the trip.

* * *

Writing in *OUR CATS* recently about Caesarian operations, Mrs. Joan Thompson referred to Miss E. Wentworth Fitzwilliam's two kittens born at an



Surrey and South London Pictorial Service

Young Francis Moss has everything neatly arranged at feeding times for his bonny litter of Seal Pointed Siamese.

interval of two days. I have personal knowledge of them as the sire was my stud, Bebe Morgan. The dam was one of those Siamese mothers who always wanted Miss Fitzwilliam to help her ; in fact she only agreed to settle with them at all when Miss Fitzwilliam took part of the night duty.

This is by no means the only case I know of ; in recent years there have been quite a number of kittens born at an interval of a day, and even three days. I agree that these operations should only be carried out when absolutely necessary. It is best always for the novice breeder to put himself completely in the hands of the vet. Most breeders of long standing have a link with their queen which helps them to know what is best.

Many of us have had worrying moments over the years. In 1944, one of my queens produced four kittens and settled down quite comfortably. During pregnancy I was sure I had felt five and the vet agreed. The fourth kitten was born about six o'clock. Just after nine she started her labour again. I was not able to get a vet out until half-past eleven and in the meantime the kitten had come down. I tried to move it by vaselining my fingers and using rubber gloves, but to no avail. The vet arrived and had to take the queen to the surgery. At two o'clock he rang me to say she was perfectly all right. There had been another kitten behind the breach birth one and all the kittens were fine. The breach birth kitten, of course, was dead ; it must have wedged itself against a nerve or a muscle, for the queen walked on the elbow of one hind leg for weeks afterwards but she suffered no ill effects and all her future litters were perfectly normal.

My experience of Siamese queens is that the majority are two or three days late. It is this lack of uniformity among cats in general that is part of their attraction, but I cannot stress too much that the human being must remain calm. A nervous or over-anxious human can convey any anxiety to her pet.



An unusual picture of a mother and daughter a Siamese and a black Manx. Tanya, the Siamese, owns Mr. B. Howard, of Wirral, Cheshire, who writes delightful accounts of her escapades. Black Prince, the Manx, is the result of one such adventure.

LOST AND FOUND !

ANY editor of a national newspaper will tell you that one of the problems his staff has to cope with is the hundreds of appeals from readers to help trace their lost, stolen or strayed pets. In most instances, these requests have to be turned down because there just isn't any space available.

It was all the most interesting therefore to discover in the *News of the World* the other Sunday that the editorial heart had been softened to the extent of a photograph and a lengthy appeal for the return of a lost Siamese named Smokey, who had disappeared from the Southgate (North London) home of Mrs. T. Brecher.

Mrs. Brecher's letter, which the newspaper described as "something especially moving," ran as follows :

"Dear Mr. Editor For pity's sake please help me

"Three weeks ago my cat Smokey, a Siamese Seal, female, doctored, disappeared. I have advertised in the local papers, put notices in the shop windows, offering a high

(continued on page 16)

MRS. LaVONA WRIGHT

MRS. LA VONA WRIGHT, of Downey, California, is a well-known personality out on the West Coast where she is a member of four Cat Fancier Federation clubs, a director on the board of the United Cat Federation, a member of the new California U.C.F. Club and for two years she served as a President of the Pacific Cat Fanciers. Her Ta-Lee-Ho Cattery has long been noted for its excellent Blue Point Siamese cats. She is a judge and has served in this capacity at more than fourteen shows.

In 1941 she purchased her first Siamese and by 1944 she found herself with too many cats because of her inability to sell them. She just could not bring herself to part with any of them. However, necessity dictated some drastic action and Dr. Fern Smith became her first customer in 1945. Dr. Smith selected a Seal Point Siamese which she decided to show. LaVona was induced to go along and the show fascinated her so much that she has never since been able to stay away from cat shows!

At least seven shows a year are attended with sometimes as many as seventeen cats being entered at one time. The pleasure and excitement of the shows has never left her; indeed they have become an important part of her life.

When it came to finding a cattery name she decided on something English, but still wished it to have an Oriental sound. So she selected that good old English hunting cry "Tally ho" and changed it to Ta-Lee-Ho.

A Blue Point Siamese male named Ta-Fee-Chee was her first show winner in 1948. "Taffy," as he is called, is still living and has sired many fine cats.

Among them is Tr. Ch. Ki Ki Wong who was a consistent winner from kittenhood. Three days after having won a Best Cat in Show award, Ki Ki passed away. However, in the three litters she produced in her short life span, seven of her offspring became Double Champions, Triple Champions and Quadruple Champions.

In one of Ki Ki's litters, with Mandarin's Blue Chips as the sire, there happened to be a little runt. This one was a male and he was given expert attention and care and as a result of this, grew to be a very fine cat. He was given the name of Al-La-Bi and went on to become a Triple Champion. He has sired kittens living all over the United States and Hawaii. Chief among his offspring is Tr. Gr. Ch. Tempurra's Yours Truly, an outstanding Blue Point Siamese who is the only short haired cat to win that coveted "Cat of the Year Award" by *Cats Magazine*. Another of his progeny is Dble Gr. Ch. Fan-T-Cee's Blue Fancy, a very lovely Blue Point Siamese who was the All-American of the 1956-57 show season.

English parentage

Siamese have always been her favourites but she has also bred some Persians. However, because her interest does tend to favour the Shorthairs she also loves the Burmese and the Abyssinians. Her Aby. male Ch. Disston's Aby Imp is out of English parents via Texas and so is her Aby. female, Tr. Ch. Rosario's Autumn, who was an All-American two years in succession. She has retired these two from the shows to let their children carry on the honours of the name.

Because of her many activities in the Fancy, she has limited herself to only ten cats in her cattery at the present time—



Gordon Laughner

Mrs. LaVona Wright with a favourite Abyssinian

a pair of Burmese, a pair of Abyssinians, a Blue Point female, two Blue Point males, a Seal Point female, a Seal Point neuter sixteen years old and a Seal Point neuter ten years old. However, she can recall when there were as many as sixty cats romping around in her cattery

To those of you who are interested in producing fine cats she gives this advice. She firmly advocates line breeding and

recommends that when you obtain a fine cat you should stick with it— even to brother and sister matings—until you have developed a fine standard of your own. This may take a few years to accomplish and it will involve a lot of hard work. But once you have reached your goal, it will be well worth all the time and trouble. It is most important to have healthy and contented cats and in order to achieve this you must give

them good food, good care and above all personal attention every day to each and every one

Many changes have been made in the Fancy since Mrs Wright first entered it and there is one thing she is sorry to see. Years ago, there used to be as many as twenty Siamese in a class, whereas to-day we are lucky to have six or eight. Perhaps this decline stems from the fact that not everyone can take home a winner's ribbon but she rightly asks: What has happened to the sportsmanship that used to prevail in the cat shows and for which they were initially intended?

Judging she rates to be great fun and very interesting. It was a big surprise

to find how different cats look from behind the judge's bench in relation to their appearance in front of it. Only by handling the cats and not by sight alone, can a cat be adequately scored. The so-called "front-row judges" do not seem to be aware of this. This is particularly true of the Longhairs for a beautiful coat can cover up a multitude of sins

Mrs Wright carried out her assignments according to the rules and each cat must conform strictly to these rules to become a winner. It is her own personal rule that friendships must never enter into the judging all cats must win on their own merits and may the best cats win.



Kenneth Hoskins

Mr. Brian Vesey Fitzgerald, well-known author and broadcaster on rural subjects, is President of the Wessex Cat Club. Here he is seen amongst some of the members Miss Fanny Smith, Miss Sheila Smith, Miss Nora Woodfield Chairman, Miss Judy Morgan and Mrs. Clarke, reading from left to right.

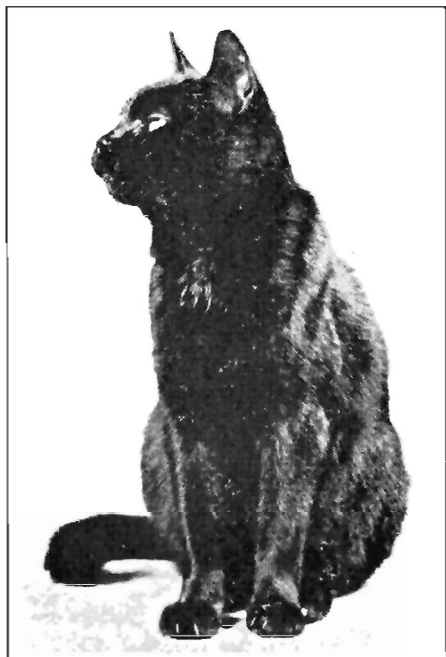
Notes from Wessex

By MADGE SHROUDER
Hon. Treasurer of
the Wessex Cat Club

THE Wessex Cat Club held a meeting at the Spencer Hall, Southampton, for members and friends last month. Mr. and Mrs. Shrouder's collection of colour slides was shown by special request. It has

been unanimously decided to repeat the Bournemouth meeting of last November, as members in Southampton had not seen the cat slide collection.

**“ . . . after
four days
Topsy
had
recovered
completely.”**



15 YEAR OLD TOPSY

Miss P. J. Rutter of 89 Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21, writes:—

“ I should like to tell you how Zemol has helped our little black cat, Topsy.

“ Topsy, who is 15 years old, was suffering continual irritation from a large spot on her back. This, we could see, would soon spread and on the recommendation of a shopkeeper we bought a jar of Zemol.

“ After only three applications of Zemol the spot was almost completely better and after four days Topsy had recovered completely. She now shows no sign of her complaint and we thank you so much for bringing out such a wonderful, clean treatment.”

ZEMOL VETERINARY OINTMENT

A revolutionary treatment for ECZEMA and similar SKIN TROUBLES, SCRATCHES, MINOR WOUNDS, BURNS, etc.

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● **BY THE MAKERS OF KIT-ZYME**

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There were nine cats on view, including Heatherdell Heather owned by Mrs. Joan Hollands. The two Misses Marshall from Eastleigh brought their lovely Blue L.H. neuter Premier Ashdon Twinkletoes and Miss Judith Stubbs' female Long Beech Progenetress was her usual talkative self. Mrs. Vera Menzies's Heatherdell Greta (affectionately known as "Bonnie"), a British Blue, shared a pen with her companion Friendly Freddy. The Chairman, Miss Nora Woodfield brought her L.H. Tortie and Treales Honeysuckle, a L.H. Cream female. Miss Judy Morgan was unable to be present but very kindly lent her female Abyssinian Contented Rica, who purred non-stop all the while, and my Burmese Oweenee was very lucky at being nursed by a member of the audience throughout the programme.

Mrs. Hollands and her two friends, Mrs. Frogbrook and Mrs. N. Bell, took full charge of the refreshments, and were kept very busy in view of the big attendance. There was a display of cat photographs and also one of our President Mr. Brian Vesey Fitzgerald. The Club's cups were on view. These have been donated by members for the Show on August 27th in Bournemouth.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all new members. She proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Dunn and Mrs. Johnson for all the work they had put in to help make the Dorchester meeting the great success it was, and to Mrs. Hollands regarding the Southampton meeting. Mrs. Helen Light, our hard worked Secretary, reviewed the Club's activities in the past, and aims for the future, and was kept busy giving advice and answering questions throughout the meeting.

We must not minimize (as often happens) the valuable work contributed by "back room girls"—Mrs. Barrow, Mrs. Heaton, Mrs. Houlden and Miss Stubbs—who were responsible for obtaining and erecting the pens, and arranging the hall and floral decorations, to mention but a few of the chores. The

success of the meeting was entirely due to team work throughout.

The South Western Counties Cat Club had a social afternoon on May 8th at the Windsor Hotel, Exeter. The hotel is very conveniently situated opposite St. David's Station.

The Chairman, Mrs. Lamb, gave a short speech in her usual friendly manner, and at 3.15 p.m. I started the slide show which lasted an hour. Tea was then served and members chatted with each other. Miss Cathcart (Treasurer) was kept very busy at the bring-and-buy stall. Mrs. Giles bought a baby's pram shade with the novel idea of using it to keep sleeping kittens cool in the summer. It was suggested that she got her husband to fix it up in the garden for her. It's just the sort of thing kittens will adore, especially plying with the fringe.

The meeting was so well organized that members had plenty of time to talk to each other. It is so nice to have these social occasions between shows, and to see familiar faces, and to know everyone is interested in the same hobby. I was very pleased to have a talk with Mrs. Stuart as we both have Abyssinians.

Mrs. Grace de Udy was unable to attend, but kindly sent articles for the stall. Miss Mackenzie and Captain Lowe were also disappointed at not being able to be present, as they were away on holiday. It is very difficult to arrange a time and place to suit everyone's convenience.

As usual when people are enjoying themselves the afternoon ended all too soon.

A black cat crouched shivering in the honeycombing of the lock gate at Millwall Docks as the water gradually rose higher and higher. Its plight was noticed and a fireman using a hook ladder was able to climb down and carry the cat to safety.

LOST — AND FOUND !

(continued from page 10)

reward for the cat alive or dead, the whole neighbourhood has searched everywhere, but all in vain.

"I am a widow without any near relations, and this cat was all I had. I am completely heartbroken.

"As the cat's body has not been found, I can come to only one conclusion: that she has been picked up and taken out of my district. As your paper is the most widely-read Sunday paper in the country, I have only one hope left—that through your printing her photo and my offering £20 reward she might be restored to me.

"Even if this appeal should prove unavailing, I will know at least that I have done everything in my power and may then be able to quieten down, which I don't seem able to do otherwise."

Within hours of the publication of the letter there was a happy sequel. Mrs. Brecher, a Czech by birth, received a message that a very frightened cat answering to the description of Smokey had been seen on a bombed site about ten minutes walk away. When Mrs. Brecher hastened to the spot and called her name, Smokey emerged from the buildings, somewhat emaciated and unkempt.

Mrs. Brecher reveals that many people wrote to her sympathizing with her over her loss and wishing her luck.

INCONSISTENCY

I'VE heard it said and seen it written
That everyone adores a kitten.
Yet when it grows to cat's estate
Man's sentiment is often hate.
The human mind is thus contrary,
Why should opinion so vary?
To hate the cat and love the kit
Is inconsistent, let's admit.
Examine now the evidence,
Consider it with common sense.
The kitten's charm, its playful ways,
Its innocent and round-eyed gaze
Can touch the heart and make appeal
To even such as seldom feel.
But adult cats are otherwise.
As well as difference in size
There is the question of their habits.
Well, first of all, they breed like rabbits
And secondly they're apt to yell,
Whilst Thomas cats can leave a smell
Which hangs around for days on end—
Reminder of our feline friend.
Such things annoy the human race;
But some there be who have the grace
To know that faults go hand in hand
With virtues of the highest brand.
All living things upon this earth
Are somehow handicapped from birth.
So with your cat, for Heaven's sake
Be fair and due allowance make.
His confidence once gained, you'll get
Devotion from your loving pet.
And raising him from kittenhood
You'll love him too. *At least, you should!*

BRIAN STIRLING-WEBB.

AN IDEAL GIFT SUGGESTION

Brooches for Siamese Lovers

SIAMESE DESIGN BROOCHES (actual size $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high \times $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide)

Artist enamelled in natural S.P. colours on solid silver ... **33/- each**
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These brooches are made by a world renowned firm of specialists in costume jewellery. They are of fine quality with plain back, fitted with joint pin and catch. Prices include purchase tax and postage.

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4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9




TARDEN TILLY TALLY is the Siamese pet of young John, the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Fingleton. You will see that every effort is made to ensure that Tally is not being ignored since the arrival of John. Tally was bred by Mrs. H. Lowe from Beaumanor Terry Too and Linnet Li Soo.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has recently opened its fine modern shelter for animals in transit at Idlewild, New York's International Airport. Erected at a cost of \$275,000, the air-conditioned structure is designed to handle anything from an elephant to a small bird or fish. Previously animals awaiting planes at Idlewild were housed in cargo buildings where handlers tended and fed them as best they could. Now there are temperature-

controlled rooms, kennels, an isolation room for the sick and a well-equipped veterinary clinic. The first guest in the boarding section was a cat left by a woman passenger from Paris.

During the month of April the R.S.P.C.A. secured convictions against nine people for acts of cruelty against cats. During the same month its headquarters clinics handled over 4,000 cats.

 **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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Which Cat is the

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(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

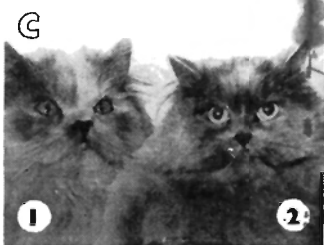
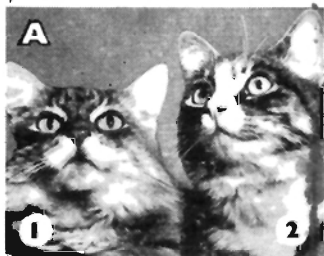
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.)*
- 5 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.
- 6 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

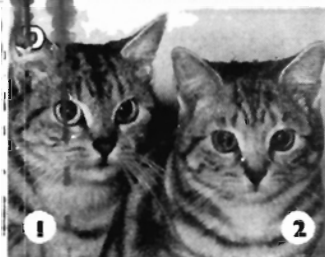
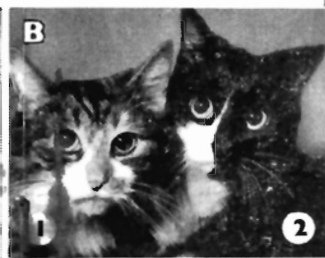


A Praunting House

IZES OF
EMUM BONDS

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

O.C.I

GER ON DAILY

KIT-E-KAT



News from "Down Under"

HERE we are again, having survived the impact of the picture on the cover of the February issue! Quite a few friends have rung up and said what a beautiful cat! Thank you, Mr. Editor.

These notes are from hospital where I am "in" for ten days and an operation.

Fine new show venue

Another very successful St. George Club fixture has been held at the lovely new Coronation Hall at Arncliffe. Exhibitors responded to the schedule with an entry of 180 odd, which included a large section of Siamese and the very striking Burmese female recently imported from New Zealand by Mrs. Abbott. Secretary P. Brown was away and the Show was managed by Harry Wynne, assisted by President Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Paris.

The Club was fortunate to have a fine day and the wonderful amenities of the new hall were enjoyed to the full by the three judges, exhibitors and visitors. There was a late start due to the fact that the Veterinary Officer had gone to the old hall in error. Two officials, Harry Wynne and W. Hicks, received medical attention for bites during the day which gives rise to a couple of thoughts—more careful training of the exhibits to accept handling and a return of the good old habit of insuring judges and stewards on the day. The cost is small.

Following are the major placings: *Longhairs*: Best Male—Mrs. Baxter's Honky-tonk Jai-Son; Best Female—Miss Haswell's Miowera Fantasy; Best Male Kit—Mrs. Hicks's St. Chad's Mischief; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Ledwidge's Olympian Neferti; Best

Neuter—Mrs. Steven's Waiki of Akaroa; Best Brood Queen—Miss Rapley's Leanne of Ellington. *Siamese*: Best Male—Mrs. Paris's Coochi Blue Caprice; Best Female—Mr. Allen's Westwood Blue Lady; Best Male Kit—Maida Cattery's Nijinsky of Chatsworth; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Jowett's Rhambi Barni Valentine; Best Neuter—Mrs. Alcock's Cresthaven Cavalier; Best Brood Queen—Mr. Allen's Westwood Blue Lady.

Good first effort

I am indebted to Mrs. Paris for a catalogue of the Cumberland Cat Club's first exhibition, held at Burwood in conjunction with the Police Citizens Boys' Club and the Canary Club. I notice that 49 cats were listed for exhibition and Mrs. Paris writes: "A good day was had by all and the Boys' Club will benefit by the sum of £22." This is a very good first effort. The C.C. Club intends holding their first show at the same venue on June 28th and I hope they have a bumper entry.

From other centres

Had a very nice letter from Mr. Marks, Secretary of Melbourne Siamese Cat Club, which I was happy to receive. Unfortunately their Championship Show date clashes with our C.F.A. Show here. I hope it will be possible with his co-operation to receive some monthly notes from Melbourne.

Preparations for the Brisbane and Adelaide Shows during June are proceeding apace. No word from my half-dozen scribes in New Zealand lately, so I guess all is well in that lovely land.



Tailpieces

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



A CAT caught in a spring trap in a garden led to the appearance of two men before the Penzance (Cornwall) magistrates. One of them was fined 20s. after pleading guilty to using spring traps to kill rabbits other than in rabbit holes. The other was fined £2 for permitting the use of the traps for this purpose.

Mrs. Christine Hayley, the widow of an Army officer who lives in a council house at Northleach, Gloucestershire, is a lady of some spirit who intends to defy the local authorities. She keeps 13 cats, mostly strays, and the Council has given her one month to get rid of eleven of her pets. "What a cheek," said Mrs. Hayley to a newspaper reporter. "Isn't this a free country any more. The Council knew I had the cats before I moved in. I won't part with a single cat."

A Bournemouth resident, Mrs. Marion Eggleston, has been given hospital treatment for leg wounds inflicted by a cat. She entered a shop with her Alsatian dog, whose presence was resented by Sugar, the shop cat, who was nursing her kittens. There was a fight which resulted in a torn ear for the dog and severe scratches for Mrs. Eggleston, who said afterwards: "I am afraid I became hysterical."

Will the Nottinghamshire reader whose letter appeared in last month's "Veterinary Questions Answered" please supply her name and address? The details have been mislaid in the editorial

office and there is a letter waiting for her from another reader.

A New York decorator and home furnishings expert, Mrs. Lois Munroe, has hit on the idea of a specially designed necklace for cats which she calls "the puss 'n purr collar." It's an adjustable strand of pearls with a fake stone pendant set in gold plate. The stones are in different colours to serve as birth stones or to match the cat's eyes. "It sounds crazy," says Mrs. Munroe, "but I'm a cat lover and that explains every thing."

Just as the second house was starting recently at the National Film Theatre the resident cat dropped a live rat in the foyer. The rat ran into the cashier's box—out dashed the cashier! A brave usherette saved the situation by grabbing the rat, which was despatched by another member of the staff. The cat reappeared later in the foyer—with another rat in its mouth!

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.

MICKEY



A BUNDLE OF TIBSICAL FUN!

It was at Mrs. King's famous Startops Cream Stud in Worcester Park, Surrey that Tibby, the TIBS reporter discovered the lovely prize-winning Persian kitten, 'Startops Cover Girl'. After coolly posing for her photograph Cover Girl was off again - full of bounce to play with that ball of wool behind the curtain.

Mrs. King attributes her cats' high spirits, clear eyes and long silky coats largely to TIBS. "By giving them each a TIBS tablet every day," she says, "I can be sure they get the proteins, vitamins and minerals they need." Certainly, you've never seen more Tibsical cats than Mrs. King's... good bones, good teeth - they're tip-top Tibsical.



*Famous
breeders
say:*

TIBS
TABLETS

KEEP CATS TIBSICAL



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.

Blue Persian Meeting

ALTHOUGH apologies for absence were received from several members who were unable to be present owing to the London bus strike, the Annual General Meeting of the Blue Persian Cat Society last month had an excellent attendance. Miss Lelgarde Fraser and Major Dugdale had previously been re-elected delegates to the G.C., and at the meeting the two retiring members of the Committee—Miss Kathleen Yorke and Miss L. Fraser—were returned unopposed.

Especially welcome were those who had travelled far to attend—Mrs. Budd and Mrs. Taylor from Yorkshire, Mrs. Bastow and Mrs. Hancox from Nottingham, Mrs. Crickmore from Lowestoft and Mrs. Iris Herbert from Dorset. The last-named has never lost her interest or failed to support the B.P.C.S. Ch. Show, although she has not bred Blues for some time.

Miss J. M. Fisher was in our thoughts, although her health precluded her from being present. Her work for the Society for so many years has been a great help in placing it in its present sound position. Miss Lelgarde Fraser merits a special vote of thanks for the wonderful response she elicited (over £54, all in sixpences) with a sweepstake on the Derby. These receipts went to the 1957 Ch. Show Fund.

Mr. Harold Speirs, A.S.A.A., gave his services as auditor, and as usual everything was in apple-pie order with Mrs. Speirs as Hon. Treasurer. Everything she undertakes she does well and queries are unknown, whether she organizes a show, a raffle or a sweepstake.

It was good to hear that the next Ch. Show will be in central London on October 2nd at the Central Hall, Westminster. This should ensure a much better entry and gate. Breeders are reluctant to travel outside a small orbit from the West End if they are not exhibiting and they often like to combine a show with a small shopping skirmish. They will have every facility from this venue. Mrs. Crickmore won outright the Dunesk Trophy for Best Pair of Blue Kittens (three wins) and kindly re-presented it to the Society. It was originally donated in 1937 by Mrs. Brunton and eight breeders have recorded wins on it. Mrs. Crickmore also won another trophy outright, but I am awaiting details of this.

I thought Mrs. Aitken's proposal to combine some Longhair varieties, which owe so much to Blues, at the next Show,

a good one, viz. : Creams and Blue-Creams in particular. Everyone who has noted the improvement in type and eye colour during the past years realizes how much they owe to the Blues. The acme of praise for any L.H. variety is to be able to say "As good as a Blue" and one can say this of some of our Cream and Blue-Cream Champions.

Many of us would like to see Cream adults paler in colour but that is another story. Like Blues, one repeatedly sees the ideal shade in kittens, but with the young adult coat comes the frequent darkening in colour.

After discussion, the proposal was not carried, but there is no reason why it should not be formally placed on the agenda next year to enable members to have plenty of time to think about it. It would inevitably mean a better entry and a better "gate" as there would be more exhibitors, and from the public point of view, a more varied and attractive show. When one considers that the Creams and Blue-Creams at last season's Ch. shows almost equalled the Blues it makes one think.

On breeding Creams

From as far afield as Australia and America comes the perennial question about the influence of Red Tabbies and Tortoiseshells on Creams. The answer is that Creams and Blue-Creams have much to lose and nothing to gain when either of these varieties are among their immediate ancestors. Originally they were bred from them, but selective breeding has ensured that they have become more remote in the pedigrees of our winning Creams and Blue-Creams until now it is possible to find the latter with four and five generation pedigrees with only these two varieties plus some of our lovely Blues.

In one letter from U.S.A., the breeder writes: "I have one of the palest Cream kittens (two weeks old) I have seen, from a daughter of a Red Tabby

and a Cream male." I regretted to disillusion him but the possibility of his kitten growing up into a pale Cream adult is quite remote. Judging from the many one has seen bred in a similar way the expectation is a "hot" Cream adult with faint or even fairly well defined tabby markings, especially on the forepaws. Even when the pedigrees of Creams are first class, the expectation of very pale kittens retaining their colour is remote, and it is seldom possible to be sure of their adult shade of Cream until they change their coat at about six to eight months of age. Sometimes young adults will go through a darker phase and become paler at two to three years of age but I have yet to see one that was the ultra pale shade of many kittens I have seen in the nest.

When one peruses the stud books issued by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, one finds that many of the Cream male Champions have been sired by a Blue male and a Cream or Blue-Cream female. One of the loveliest Ch. Widdington Warden (bred by the late Mrs. Sheppard) owned as his sire a Blue male. Theydon Sunset, and as his dam, Widdington Theydon, a Blue-Cream. Another lovely post-war pale Cream male with a Blue sire was Ch. Idmiston Champagne by Tweedledum of Dunesk and Bayhorne Lady Sheila. Champagne became a Champion in 1946 and was later exported to Madame Gibbon of Lausanne, Switzerland, and won many premier honours in Europe. The number of Blue-Cream Champions and lesser winners sired by Blue males are legion.

Professional advice

At the G.C.C.F. Conference on May 29th, at the Bessborough Room, Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria, Miss Kathleen Yorke (Chairman) had a galaxy of talent to introduce to those fortunate enough to be present. In addition to the Governing Council Honorary Veterinary Surgeons—Mrs. Sheppard,

Miss E. H. Woodger and Mr. J. Stewart—we had in the audience two other members of the profession, Mrs. M. Calder, of Guildford, Surrey, and Mr. F. Pingram, of West Wickham, Kent. We also appreciated very much Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Lomas of Burroughs Wellcome, sparing an afternoon of their valuable time to enlighten us on many points.

There were nine items on the agenda for discussion and there was only time for a brief allusion to the last two—"Abortions" and "Bladder trouble."

Rules for vaccination

Item 3, "A discussion on Feline Infectious Enteritis," was dealt with at length and there was agreement among the veterinarians and such well-known breeders as Mrs. Greta Hindley and Miss Langston about the efficiency of vaccination. At six weeks of age the

first injection can be given. This is when the kitten's natural immunity acquired from the mother has probably ebbed. The second injection should be given about 10 to 14 days later. When kittens are immunized when they are older, the second injection should be at least 14 days before a show if it is intended to exhibit.

All the veterinarians stressed the fact which so many of us know that F.I.E. is essentially a disease of kittens and young cats and opinions seem to differ as to whether further injections are necessary, but as an extra precaution, one given at about a year would act as a "booster."

Mrs. Sheppard emphasized the virulence of the infection and the need to thoroughly infect the room, one's clothing and everything with which a sick kitten has been in contact. On the thoroughness of this depended the safety of any future kittens born on the premises.

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The general view was held that at least three months and preferably six should elapse before any kitten not immunized should be introduced from outside.

Miss Woodger considered if breeders were unfortunate enough to contract F.I.E. at the beginning of the show season they should not show again until the following season.

From the humanitarian point of view, one reassuring fact emerged from the discussion, and that was that injection of "Fiovax" does not involve the sacrifice of a kitten's life to prepare the vaccine, as has been alleged. From one kitten sacrificed hundreds of doses can be prepared from its tissues.

The preparation of a serum, however, would mean a life for a life and perhaps we must be thankful that at present the whole process is much too expensive to be practicable. The veterinarians pointed out F.I.E. is a misnomer; it is really Leukopenia, a destroyer of the white blood corpuscles.

Item 4, "Distemper and Influenza" elicited much less discussion, probably because although very contagious, with care and nursing (particularly warmth in winter), the patient has an excellent chance of recovery.

Hereditary faults

Item 7: "Monorchism and Cryptorchism," produced animated debate and the veterinarians appeared to be fairly unanimous that this can be hereditary and such males should not be used at stud. Mrs. Sheppard pointed out that it is for breeders to decide if they should be eligible for competition and she also stressed that when this defect is perpetuated it makes the neutering of males more difficult. In the case of a monorchid, if the retained testicle is not removed, the partly neutered male will have the objectionable odour and perhaps the habits of an entire male. Supposing the G.C. passed a rule that monorchids and cryptorchids were not eligible for competition, the question

would arise as to whether judges or vets would examine them for this defect.

The problem should *not* present difficulties as it is unlikely that breeders would risk taking a male to a show which would not pass the vet. It would probably be only an occasional one owned by a novice. It was interesting to hear from a breeder at the Conference that the Kennel Club have passed a rule that dogs with this fault will not in future be eligible for competition. I believe this rule already applies to cats in some (if not all) clubs in America.

Item 9: "Hereditary Traits, Inverted Eyelids, Kinked Tails." Obviously, the veterinarians had similar views to those expressed about the previous defect, viz: That it was unwise to breed from cats who have this physical defect. In my opinion it is especially so in the case of inverted eyelids, a defect which can cause so much pain and which it is so wrong to risk perpetuating.

Deserved more support

Miss Yorke closed the discussion of the agenda with a charming little speech expressing thanks to our talented guests. We then adjourned for tea and one could see little groups holding animated discussions. A very interesting and enjoyable meeting!

Considering the importance of the items on the agenda to cat breeders, it was surprising that more did not attend, especially those living reasonably near. There appeared to be about seventy present. Mrs. Taylor came all the way from Yorkshire again, Mrs. Cooke-Radmore from Southsea, Mrs. Shrouder from Dorset, Mrs. Brunton from Hordsham, Miss Cathcart from Devonshire, Mrs. Parker from Stourbridge and Mr. Watson from Matlock. And last but not least, Mr. Hazeldine, our G.C.C.F. Secretary, was a welcome visitor, and these notes would not be complete without an expression of thanks and appreciation to Miss Yorke and Mrs. Speirs for organizing the Conference.

With the breeding season in full swing comes news of unusual happenings. Mrs. Aitken took compassion on a little Red Manx female that appeared to be unwanted. She adopted her and found she was in kitten, although only about seven months of age.

As no one knew when she mated there was no "baby sitting" for the birth. Mrs. Aitken found her one morning with two kittens obviously premature, both were breathing but died within a few hours. Twelve days later the queen gave birth to three more, normal full-time kittens. These are flourishing two Reds with tails and one Tortoise-shell stumpy.

Meeting Mrs. Aitken at the Conference, she told me her queens have twenty-three kittens, Blues, Creams, Blue-Creams and Blacks, plus the Red Manx queen's trio.

Mrs. Brind decided to take her lovely Blue-Cream Brynwood Aurora when she, her husband and two young daughters went to their caravan in the Isle of Wight. Aurora travelled in her nursery box quite contentedly on the back seat of their car. Her kittens were due three days later. She got out of her box to take stock of her surroundings when they were crossing the water, but took the journey in her stride.

Five days after they arrived she had two bonny Blue males and one Cream

girl. After a few days she had little outings but never attempted to go more than a few yards from the caravan. She is home now, none the worse for her adventure and the trio are flourishing.

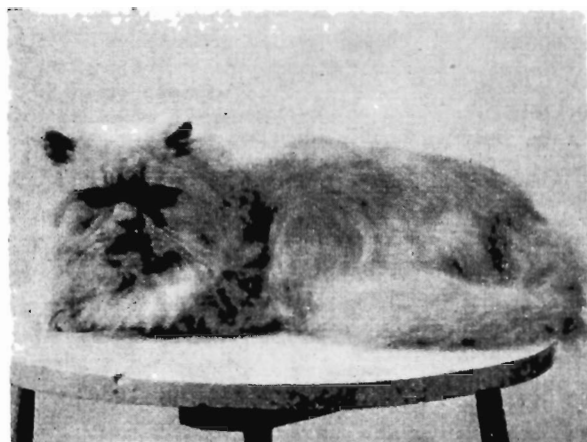
Miss Page's very well-bred male Vigilant Taurus, is siring some good kittens. Woburn Annabel has four males by him and Woburn Sweet Lavender three kittens. She had a fourth but it arrived two days after the others and was stillborn.

Mrs. Hooper's Blue Burmese queen has five Blue Burmese by Mrs. Pocock's Lamont Blue Burmaboy.

After the B.P.C.S. meeting, Mrs. Herbert spent a few days with Miss Lelgarde Fraser and wrote me: "Little Primrose was a fairyland of lilacs, apple and pear blossom and green lawns. It is ideal for the cats and Lelgarde is very happy there. Her famous Reds looked absolutely dazzling in colour and very lovely."

Not a popular mixture

Many members of the National Cat Club who were present at the A.G.M. on March 14th have expressed surprise to me and incidentally their disapproval of the possibility that the domestic pets at the next Ch. Show in December may be on the same floor as the pedigree cats.



**Champion
TWILIGHT JOHN,**
pale Cream male
sired by the
late Ch. Widdington
Warden, owned by
Miss Betty Henton,
Thundersley, Essex.

It is seldom that members feel strongly enough about anything which occurs at a show to express their opinions as forcibly as they did at the last A.G.M. of the N.C.C. about the confusion created by having over 800 exhibits and their owners on one floor. This has never occurred at a show when only pedigree cats have been exhibited which after all, is the purpose of a Championship Show.

We know Olympia has a larger floor space but over 500 pedigree cats—which appears to be the average one can expect at an N.C.C. Ch. Show—is sufficient to make a lovely show for exhibitors and the public alike. At the first Olympia Show in 1950 (organized by Mr. and Mrs. Towe), there were just under 350 exhibits—not counting kittens in litters—and there was no impression of vast empty spaces or a dreary expanse of concrete.

Risks of infection

The members at the A.G.M. were mollified because they concluded (as I did myself) from what transpired that the domestic pets would be up in the Gallery at Olympia, which—if we must have them—is an ideal place for them. They will have their own show manager, judges and separate accounts and I see no reason why a panel selected from those judging them should not adjudicate for their Best in Show so that there would be no necessity for them to be brought downstairs at all.

Apart from the anomaly of having over 200 domestic pets at a Ch. Show, what about the much greater risk of infection, when so many cats are assembled on one floor? I don't suppose for one moment the majority of their owners have ever heard of immunization. So could there be anything more illogical in the cat world than to have a Conference on May 29th when there was remarkable unanimity among the veterinarians—many of whom could justifiably be called cat specialists

—and experienced breeders, that all kittens and young cats should be immunized, especially if they are to be exhibited and then to admit over 200 domestic pets, none of whom may have been immunized and many of them kittens at a susceptible age? It is the infection these kittens may bring that makes it a greater risk for us to show our pedigree stock. Segregating the D.P.'s in the gallery considerably lessens this risk.

If members had known at the A.G.M. that it was contemplated they would be on the ground floor a formal proposal could have been made that they should be in the Gallery, and judging from the feelings expressed at the meeting, I am sure it would have been carried with few dissentients. It is not too late to reconsider the matter and we must hope the wishes of the majority will be carried out.

Correction

A misprint occurred in my notes in the May number. Mrs. Eckenberg of Seattle, U.S.A., is the owner of Camber Charles, not Mrs. McEachern. The latter resides in Oaklands, California, and I have some interesting notes from her for the July number.

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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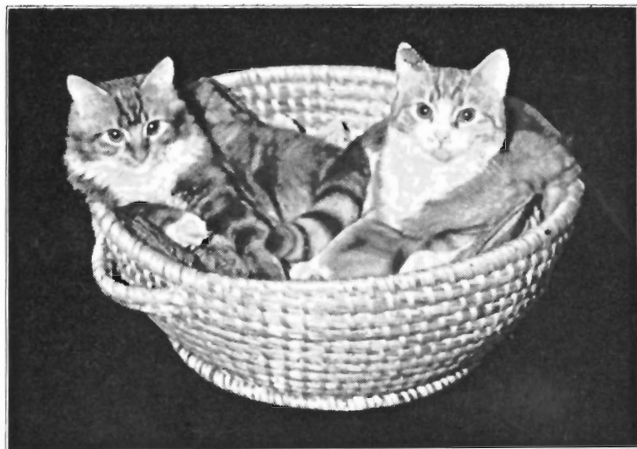
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