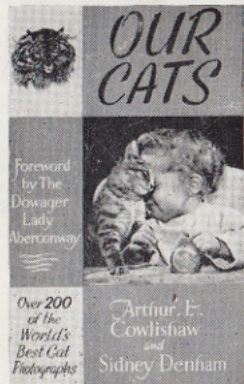


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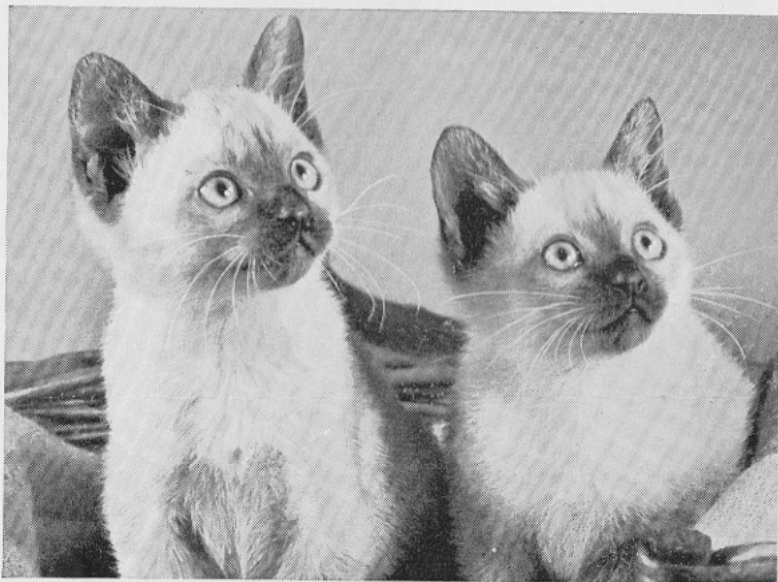
ONE HOME, ONE AWAY!

SUNKIST OF PENSFORD (Cream male) and his litter sister **STAR OF PENSFORD** (Blue-Cream) by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. Both kittens were first prize winners for their breeder Mrs. Joan Thompson at the last Southern Counties C.C. Show. Subsequently, Sunkist made the long sea journey to Australia with a little Blue Longhair companion Cedric of Pensford, to join the Kushan Cattery of Mrs. L. Picken, of Melbourne, Victoria. Star, who remains in England, has just had the good news that her brother is "progressing very nicely in quarantine."

JUNE 1959

1/6

Are we protected against Infectious Enteritis?



In the close conditions of the Show every cat is exposed to infections. One of the most dangerous is Feline Enteritis—a particularly infectious virus disease which can spread quickly through a cattery or from cat to cat in a locality. Its onset is sudden and usually fatal. The mortality rate is highest among Siamese, although all breeds are susceptible. It may be too late after the Show . . . consult your veterinary surgeon now about 'Fiovax', and have your kittens vaccinated without delay.

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

VOL. 11 No. 6

JUNE 1959

Managing Editor:

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW
4 CARLTON MANSIONS
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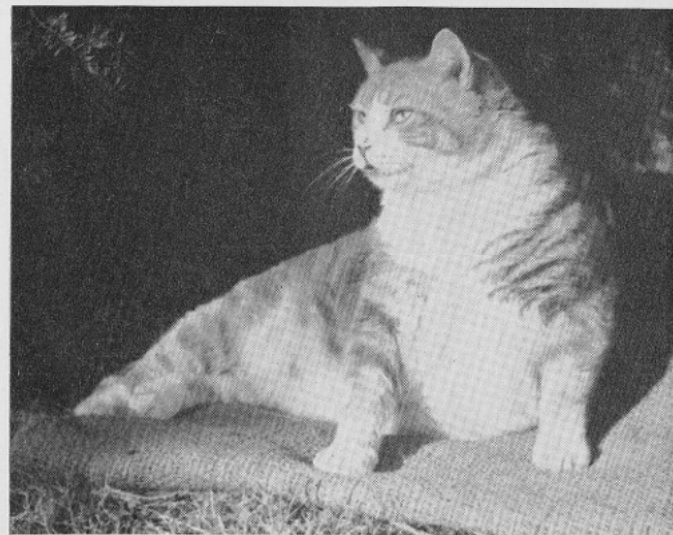
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Correspondent:

MR. F. W. PEARCE, 33 OLD BEROWRA
ROAD, HORNSBY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



SANDY HAS DIED

Some months ago we introduced our readers to SANDY, one of the best known and most loved cats along the South Coast. For sixteen years he lived among the birds and flowers in Egerton Park, Bexhill-on-Sea, and to thousands of residents and summer visitors he was affectionately known as "the Park Cat." In 1958 Sandy retired to live in more comfortable surroundings at the home of local residents Mr. and Mrs. Rolls. Last Christmas morning there was a stream of visitors to see him. Our picture of him was taken in December by Mrs. V. E. Major. Alas, this is the last of Sandy for despite the best of care and attention he has died suddenly at the fine old age of eighteen.

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 1959-60 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1959	Promoted by	Venue
4 July ...	North-East Cheshire Show ...	Hazel Grove, Stockport
4 " ...	Wessex Cat Club ...	Bournemouth
29 " ...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter C.C. ...	London
3 August ...	Far Forest Agricultural Society ...	Bewdley, Worcs.
3 " ...	Urmston Show ...	Flixton
8 " ...	Siamese Cat Soc. of the British Empire ...	Reading
22 " ...	Cheshire Area C.C. ...	Chester
25 " ...	*Herts and Middlesex C.C. ...	London
2 September ...	*Macclesfield and Dist. Agricultural Soc. ...	Macclesfield
19 " ...	*Northern Counties C.C. ...	Seaburn, Sunderland
1 October ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
6 " ...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
14 " ...	*Southsea C.C. ...	Southsea
17 " ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C. ...	Edinburgh
24 " ...	*Midland Counties C.C. ...	Birmingham
7 November ...	Preston and District Cat Society ...	Preston
17 " ...	*Croydon C.C. ...	London
28 " ...	*Yorkshire County C.C. ...	Harrogate
15 December ...	*National C.C. ...	London (Olympia)
1960		
9 January ...	*Notts and Derbyshire C.C. ...	Nottingham
23 " ...	*Scottish C.C. ...	Glasgow
26 " ...	*Southern Counties C.C. ...	London
6 February ...	*Lancs and N.W. Counties C.C. ...	Preston
13 " ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom, Surrey

* 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 Season.

Kittens ! Neuters !!

THE KENSINGTON KITTEN & NEUTER CAT CLUB

will hold their

ANNUAL SHOW

at the

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S (OLD) HALL
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Decorated pens again a feature of this show. Open to the public 1—6.30 p.m.

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2 COMMONFIELD ROAD, BANSTEAD, SURREY.

Telephone : Burgh Heath 2754

How to "shoot" your cat

By HUGH SMITH

I TAKE my cats seriously. I also take their photographs seriously—for a little extra trouble can be well rewarded. Many people show me snapshots of their cats that would really have been so nice, if only (first) they had held the camera quite steady and (second) if the cat had been got accurately into focus. Here are a few hints that may help you to make "a pin-up" of your champion or your beloved pet.

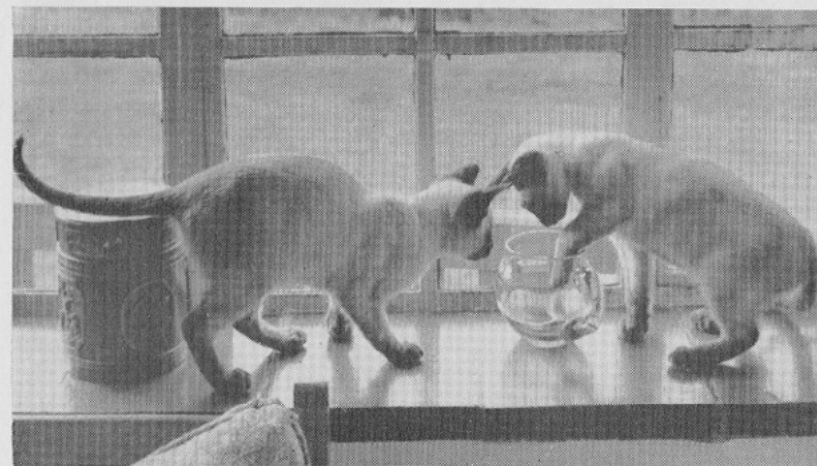
Always, before clicking the shutter, see that your feet are apart, giving you a steady stance. You can spoil your shot by slightly swaying while you are taking it. Press the camera against your chest if it is a box camera or a reflex model. If you are using a camera with an eye-level viewfinder, press it against your face. Just before you release the shutter hold your breath and see that you release

it smoothly without a jerk. Simple advice, but how often forgotten!

The ordinary hand-camera you will have to hold at a distance from your cat equal to the minimum reading on your focusing scale. He won't appear any too big in the final picture, of course, but if you have made a good negative, you can get the cat enlarged to fill the frame of the print.

Portrait attachments or close-up supplementary lenses, as they are sometimes called, can be got to fit over the ordinary lenses. These enable you to come closer to your cat so that he more nearly fills the frame of your negative.

The closer you get to your cat, the more important it is to make the actual distance between him and the lens of your camera correspond to the reading on your focusing scale. Guess-work usually isn't good enough. A tape-measure or foot-rule is almost indispens-



FISHING! This amusing picture by the author recently won a prize in an international competition. It was taken in the late afternoon of a summer day with a comparatively inexpensive camera, exposure 1/100 second at aperture f/8 on F.P.3 film. It demonstrates how attractive back lighting can be.

able. With full-face portraits it is best to get the scale reading to correspond with the distance from between your cat's eyes to the front of the lens.

Another tip—get down to your cat's own level—or else see that he is up to your level. Otherwise the foreshortening effect of perspective will give a distorted picture of him and his head will appear too big for his body.

If you want a fast action picture you must have a "fast" lens—that is, one with a wide aperture when fully opened up. You will also need a fast shutter speed of 1/300-second to 1/500-second duration. Generally all you will need for capturing the slower movements of your cat will be a shutter speed of 1/100 second. It is, in fact, better not to use a speed slower than 1/100 second when the camera is hand-held, since the danger of camera-shake giving a fuzzy picture is thereby reduced.

The ordinary box-camera is not likely to have for its fixed shutter a speed of more than 1/50 second. So you won't get any action pictures with this.

Watch the background

Often the most attractive pictures are those taken with the light coming not from over your shoulder but from behind and to the side of your cat. You will then need to open up the aperture of your lens a stop or two more. You must use a lens hood for this kind of picture; otherwise there is a danger of light shining directly into your lens and causing a fogging effect.

Choose early morning or evening during the summer months as the light is softer and the shadows longer than at other times of the day. In the winter the time of day does not matter so much, though the light should be strong enough to cast a perceptible shadow.

Another point to watch carefully is the kind of background. Rough grass, shrubs, furniture or patterned upholstery do not make good backgrounds. A pale

and unobtrusive background is best—unless your cat is white. A blanket draped over a chair will make your cat or kitten stand out well from its surroundings.

Nowadays, the films sold at your dealers are much faster than they used to be and you can take your pictures on winter days as well as in the summer time. All you need to do the job, are your camera, your cat, a helper, if possible, to keep your cat's mind on the job, and—*loads of patience!*

PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTSCRIPT

By the Editor

PURSUING the subject of cat photography, it is worthy of mention that my good friend Walter Chandoha recently had a splendid write-up in *This Week Magazine*, which is a section of the *New York Herald Tribune*. It appeared under the heading "How to Shoot a Cat" and the introduction was a delightful cover study of a tabby kitten and a puppy in colour.

Walter Chandoha is, of course, outstanding among American animal photographers and many examples of his work have appeared in *OUR CATS* over the past ten years. He admits to having taken over 30,000 cat photos and over 3,000 of them have been published. When he decided to specialize as an experiment for living, all he and his wife Maria had in the world was a camera and less than £100, and they were expecting their first baby! They lived on Spanish rice for the first few months and then came the first big success—he sold a front cover picture to a woman's magazine for over £150!

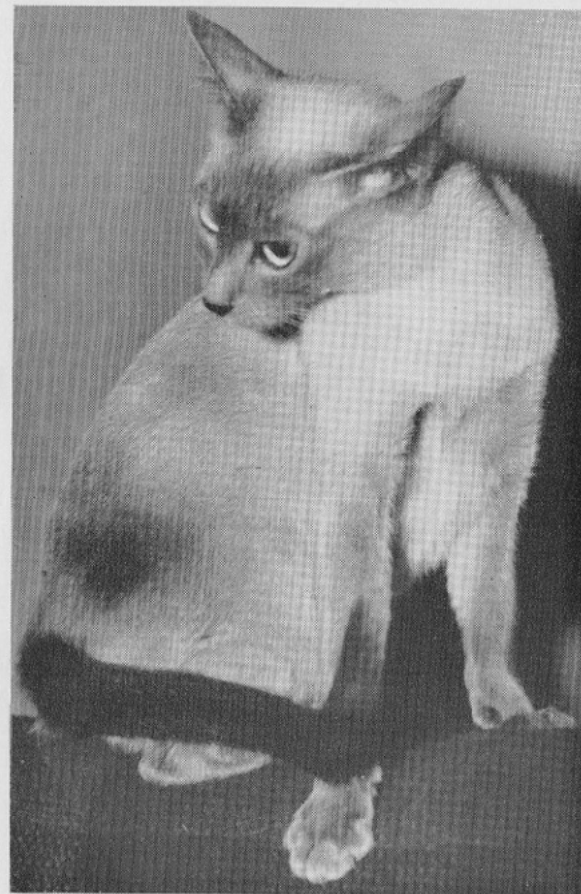
The Chandohas recruit their models from the Long Island area where they reside. They keep a blessed event diary which records the dates when local cats and dogs are expected to have their litters. One of his tough commissions was an order for a picture of a mother cat and

her two kittens lying on a tile floor. "It's next to impossible to get cats to lie still on a smooth, cold surface," groans Walter! At the other end of the scale, it's simple to get pictures of cats and kittens washing their faces and generally cleaning up. Give them each a sardine!

First and foremost, the Chandohas are animal lovers. Secondly, they are patient and painstaking folk who are completely dedicated to their art. Walter's picture-taking tips may be summarized as follow: Don't try to do it yourself. Get your wife

or child to act as handler. Take your pictures just after your pet has been to sleep or just after he has woken up. Reward him with bits of food. Don't whistle or make clucking noises—just rustle some cellophane or rub your fingers together to attract attention. Always place the subject indoors on a carpet or cushion. Outdoors, shoot your subject in the shade—sunlight is apt to make animals restless. Feel your pet's back. When he's relaxed, you'll know it. Then shoot!

A.E.C.



SUELA VOM LOWENTAL, Blue Pointed Siamese female belonging to Mr. Fritz Schwigat, of Essen-Werden, Germany.

Feline Friends*

PROFESSOR HENRY BATOWSKI, of the University of Cracow, is on a visit to England—with the help, he tells us, of the British Council.

“So you can fancy my astonishment,” he writes, “when having entered Mme Tussaud’s Museum—the Hall of Amusements—I found there is a device where one can shoot at figures representing cats for some pennies. And it was mainly little boys there who learned that cats can be targets for shooting! I suppose this is not a good method of teaching love for our feline friends.”

Once again, this shows how the dangers to international understanding are the unsuspected ones. It is no use blaming the British Council. It was just a human oversight. Concentrated as they were on proving to the professor that we have stopped chaining women to the pit trucks, they forgot to head him off from Tussaud’s.

Mahomet’s example

But there may be time to save the native reputation. It may yet be possible to convince Cracow, and all Poland, that outside, perhaps, Islam—whose Mahomet cut off the skirt of his garment rather than disturb his cat’s repose—no nation pays the cat more honour than the English.

Let’s take a cat, says Chaucer.
“—and foster hire with milke
And tendre flesh, and make hire
couche of silke.”

Dr. Johnson would himself go out to buy the oysters for his cat Hodge.

Worldly-wise, sophisticated Pepys tenderly noted, amid all the catastrophe of the Great Fire, how he “did see a poor cat taken out of a hole in the chimney, joyning to the wall of the Exchange, with the hair all burned off the body, and yet alive.”

Reserved for the Irish

There have been learned English cats, like that of the curate of Kew, who kept his in a pew, and taught it to speak, Alphabetical Greek. There have been the celebrated cats of famous poets—Swinburne’s, Southey’s Dido, and Keats’s with “those bright languid segments green”; and beloved and lamented cats—

Great Mouser of thy day
Requies cat in pace.

In Ireland, it is another story. “God save all here,” they say on entering, “barrin’ the cat.” And there Professor Batowski has it.

That sideshow, we implore him to believe, is reserved for Irish visitors.

* Reprinted by kind permission from the London “Evening Standard”.

American Profile—by Blanche Wolfram

MRS. JAMES BRODIE, of Houston, Texas

BEING the wife of an officer in the United States Air Force can mean many lonely days and nights, sometimes stretching into months on end. One who has coped with the situation with unusual courage and determination is Mrs. James (“Tommy”) Brodie, of Houston, Texas. Although she has a family of five lovely children who do their best to see that *some* of her time is occupied, Mrs. Brodie was advised to take up a hobby.



“Tommy” Brodie with a pair of her special friends.

So she turned to cats and in them she found a good measure of peace and contentment.

Her start was an auspicious one for she purchased a Seal Point Siamese kitten for the “unheard of” price of fifteen dollars (roughly five guineas in sterling). Needless to add, her husband was very surprised to get the news because he could not imagine anyone paying that much money for a cat. However, the kitten soon won over the entire household and it was his suggestion later that a playmate should be found for it. From then on, things began to happen fast.

It was “Tommy’s” good fortune to meet Mrs. Grace Forrest, who invited the Brodies to pay a visit to her cattery. It was here that they absorbed a lot about shows and what a show prospect should look like. While there “Tommy” fell in love with the Burmese and her husband took a liking to Abyssinians.

A kitten of promise

In 1956, she learned that Mrs. Helen Weiss had a very beautiful Seal Point Siamese male kitten for sale. Seeing wonderful possibilities in this youngster, “Tommy” purchased it immediately. When it came to selecting a name for it a little difficulty arose. They also wanted to have a cattery and a suitable name for that. Since they were primarily interested in the Air Force they decided to name the kittens after famous planes, but most of all they wanted to include the initials U.S.A.F. in the cattery name. Enquiries established the fact that the letters could only be used in the form of a word, so the Usaf Cattery was born and christened. The kitten was named Interceptor of Usaf.

Interceptor brought Mrs. Brodie one of her greatest thrills. At the Houston Show of 1957 she saw him win the Blue Ribbon, the winner's ribbon, Best of Colour and Best Foreign Shorthair. Then Interceptor went on to take Best Cat in Show award and you can imagine what this string of completely unexpected successes meant to "Tommy."



**A Siamese
who fulfilled
his youthful promise
—INTERCEPTER
OF USAF.**

At the present time she is pinning all her hopes for the future on Gr. and Triple Ch. Interceptor of Usaf, Gr. and Quad. Ch. Casa Gatos Zoto of Usaf (Burmese male), Dbl. Ch. Casa Gatos Dana (Burmese female), Wolfgang's Sylphe of Usaf (S.P. Siamese female), Usaf's Conac (Burmese female), Usaf's Imperial Imp (S.P. Siamese female), Quad. Ch. Selene's Pogo of Usaf (Abyssinian female) and Usaf's Starboard, a very promising Abyssinian kitten. Then, too, there are quite a few progeny who will be making their presence known in shows to come.

Hardly neighbourly!

It wasn't so very long ago that Mrs. Brodie rendered signal service to our Fancy by putting up some stout resistance in a court of law when some of her neighbours instituted proceedings against her in an attempt to stop her cat breeding activities. The case was brought at a time when her husband was far away

on Air Force duties. Never will "Tommy" experience a more harrowing time! Board of Health, radio newsmen, television newsmen, local reporters, friends and just plain curiosity seekers were constantly at her door and to make matters worse there was sickness among her kittens to contend with. No wonder she was almost at breaking point.

However, she managed to present a convincing case in the court room by proving that cat breeding is a hobby and not a business, thereby saving herself from eviction. Anyone who meets trouble of this kind in the future may find consolation in what Mrs. Brodie accomplished single-handed and can always refer to "the Brodie Case" for inspiration.

Mrs. Brodie is not the kind to be satisfied with just breeding cats and awaiting developments. She interests herself in genetics and in doing all she can to increase her knowledge of the subject. Of particular interest at the moment is the study of Burmese and anything pertaining to Siamese and Abyssinians is sure to claim her attention. She is working closely with her veterinarian to find better methods and the best remedies for the treatment of feline illnesses. This avenue of exploration she finds to be a very fascinating one and she hopes

(continued on page 29)



Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.



Treatment of F.I.E.

I AM prompted by Mrs. Judd's comments (OUR CATS, March) on my account of the recovery of my Burmese Tomahawk from feline infectious enteritis after treatment with cortisone, to offer further details and some observations of my own on this disease and its cure.

At the time of the attack Tomahawk was two-and-a-half years old, and in poor condition after a severe bout of "cat 'flu." The clinical symptoms were vomiting, diarrhoea, severe dehydration and prostration, and, after the initial fever, a rapid drop in body temperature to 96°F. There was no doubt in my veterinarian's mind that this was F.I.E. at its worst, and he held little hope for recovery. Since recovery Tomahawk has sired two healthy litters of five and six kittens, and a third is just on the way, and he is now in the best show condition he has had since he came to Australia. In short, no side or after effects.

Mrs. Judd's caution is, I am sure, very sensible. However, I think that some of her analogies to human cases are misplaced, and her reliance on what may prove to have been conservative veterinary advice perhaps not entirely justified. As she herself remarks the subject needs thorough investigation, which means more cases. We in Sydney have struck some veterinarians who have dismissed the possibility of cortisone for F.I.E., but others have used it since our experience, and with equal success.

Infectious enteritis is a particularly virulent virus disease, possibly with complicating bacterial invasions, and one of

its outstanding characteristics is the certainty and speed with which it kills. Consequently breeders who value their cats have, and will continue to, have them immunized. Even though the resultant immunity may not always be 100%; at least the incidence and severity of F.I.E. epidemics are greatly reduced by vaccination. The question of treatment therefore only arises in either non-immune cats, or cats in which for some reason immunity has broken down.

It is widely held that antibiotics do not generally have any great effect upon viruses. Where infections such as F.I.E. respond it may well be due to a restriction of the secondary, bacterial complications. However, it seems likely that antibiotics for F.I.E. are only effective in relatively mild attacks and when administered early in the course of the infection. Where the attack is severe and rapid, approaching a conclusion in 24 hours, there is no time for these drugs to take effect, even supposing they are able to offset the symptoms that cause death. In such cases it seems possible only to treat the symptoms.

The argument put forward by Noble and Sims¹ when they first applied cortisone to F.I.E. was that the observed symptoms resembled those one might expect from a failure of the adrenal glands, the glands that in the healthy animal produce cortisone, amongst other substances, naturally. Whether this is so or not, it is a fact that cortisone is quite frequently used in human medicine in cases of severe virus infections where the patient has failed to respond to all other treatments and continues to decline.^{2,3}

By the
makers
of

Kit-zyme

Although Kenadex and Stress were primarily made for dogs, their administration to cats has been so successful that we are bringing these products to the notice of cat breeders and fanciers.



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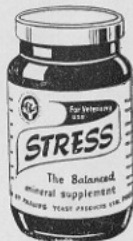
A nourishing Extract supplying Vitamins
A and D, fats and protein.

A Breeder writes: "It is a great pity more cat breeders do not realise how good Kenadex is for cats. All eleven of my cats get both products—Kit-zyme and Kenadex—and I have found an added improvement since the latter was included in the diet... even sturdier kits, healthier queens and stud, and a marvellous new-found resistance to cold... I would be delighted if I can be instrumental in converting more cat owners to use Kenadex instead of smelly, messy cod and halibut liver oils".

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Supplement providing
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In a majority of these cases recovery is spectacular and uncomplicated.

This use of cortisone, as a life-saving drug when all else fails, is quite distinct from its use in arthritic conditions. In the former the doses are large, but few, and the treatment is complete within a matter of days. In the treatment of arthritis however cortisone may be given regularly over an extended period, and it is then that harmful side-effects are produced. The trouble here is usually that cortisone administered frequently will cause the adrenal gland to stop producing natural cortisone. When treatment is stopped therefore there is an immediate relapse. In extreme cases the gland cannot be re-stimulated to action. Although in our treatment of F.I.E. the number of doses was not large, nine in five days, to offset any possible after-effect of this kind we began, on the fourth day, to administer the hormone ACTH, which acts upon the adrenal gland, stimulating it to produce its own cortisone. At the same time the doses of cortisone were reduced.⁴

I am interested that some British veterinarians consider there are *certainly* better cures than cortisone for F.I.E. Unfortunately, they are not recorded in the scientific literature to my knowledge, nor do many practising vets seem to be aware of them. The hope, I say it is no more as yet, that I have put forward is that cortisone, used in conjunction with glucose saline injections, and perhaps antibiotics too—they certainly do no harm—and with post-cure doses of ACTH, may restore a cat at death's door to normal health, and in a matter of days. This I have seen, and similar cases have been reported, and competent veterinary opinion in all cases was that (a) the cat would have died, all other treatments known to the practitioners being useless in previous similar cases, and (b) cortisone played a major part in the recovery.

Cortisone is therefore a treatment that offers hope where before there was none. It can work at the eleventh hour. If a cat with F.I.E. is caught early in the

infection, certainly before its temperature has begun to fall from fever pitch, then other treatments are to be preferred. But if these are obviously failing, or one is too late to give them a chance, then cortisone treatment is at least better than doing nothing, and the practical evidence to date is that it is very effective.

May I suggest that anyone interested in this topic, or in need of evidence to persuade a reluctant veterinarian, consult the references I have given. Then perhaps sufficient practical tests of this treatment will be made to assess its general worth.

G. G. ALLEN, M.A.

Parramatta, N.S.W., Australia.

References: 1 Noble, C., and Sims, M.—*Veterinary Record*, vol. 70, p. 262-3 1958; 2 Bincer, J.—*Lancet*, vol. 275, p. 751-2, 1958; 3 Breen, G. E.—*Lancet*, 274, p. 589-90, 1958; 4 Dickens, R. K., and Allen, G. G.—*Australian Veterinary Journal* (in press).

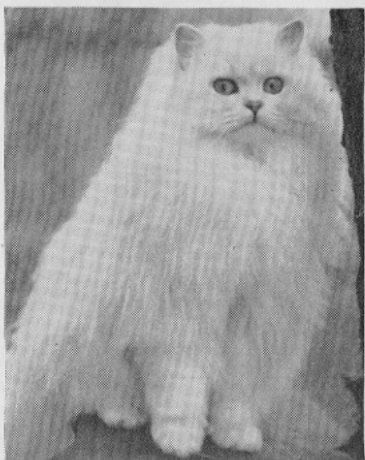
Chinchillas

AS Hon. Secretary of the Chinchilla, Silver Tabby and Smoke Cat Society, I feel that I must answer Mr. Stirling-Webb's diatribe on Chinchillas, or rather, Chinchilla breeders. First of all, we do not resent honest criticism but we do object to (if I may be allowed to put it in such a way) "teaching our grandmothers to suck eggs." We are very proud indeed of our exquisite Chinchillas of to-day and the fact that they have so frequently carried off Best L.H. in Show honours during the last few seasons is surely proof enough, for these honours are decided by a panel of all-round judges.

We know that "line breeding" must not degenerate into too close "inbreeding" and also we know that if necessary, the Blue cross is the best. But it *must* be used with patience and understanding and it must not be attempted by all and sundry. Long before the war the late Mrs. Aubrey evolved Ch. Langherne

Taurus thus and two other breeders of repute also tried this cross, one with success. In the case of Taurus and the other successful case, the eye-colour did not suffer but in the less successful experiment the lovely queen had brilliant copper eyes, which she handed on to the next generation and after that, unfortunately, we knew nothing of the succeeding generations.

During recent years two studs from America were imported. One of these is now dead and the other is abroad. Though neither of these cats improved the quality of the breed, it is quite possible that the outcross will prove useful as regards stamina. Our own beautiful type and colour should predominate, as the resultant queens are in capable hands.



Mrs. Mollie Turney's CHAMPION BONAVIA CONTENTA typifies all that is best in modern Chinchillas.

Recently a very pretty queen was imported from America. Though on the small side and much too dark to win in this country, she is a charming type and I am sure the breed will benefit from the two females and one male of the first litter at present over here.

Chinchillas are extremely strong and healthy and are almost always excellent mothers and have their kittens very easily. Their exquisite aristocratic

appearance quite belies their real sturdiness, which, of course, is inherited and probably increased by the line-breeding.

Blue-Chinchillas have much the appearance of Silver Tabbies and when first born appear to be such, but as the characteristic Chinchilla undercoat appears and the fur grows longer the heavy stripes are diffused. They make charming and handsome pets and are most useful in breeding Smokes, again if they are used intelligently. Very probably they might also improve our Silver Tabbies as it must always be remembered that Chinchillas were evolved from "ghost" (badly marked Silver Tabbies) and the present day purity of colour has taken a long time to perfect.

Mr. Stirling-Webb has done a great work in breeding Colourpoints (still, alas! referred to by the uninitiated as Long Hair Siamese!). A Siamese in type is the absolute opposite of a Persian and I should say that probably the most overtyped possible Blues must have been used to help produce the present day best specimens. I admire a good Colourpoint very much and probably in time we shall see them with the large round eye of the Chinchilla. How lovely this would be with the deep sapphire blue of our Siamese! I feel sure Mr. Stirling-Webb will achieve this in a few more years but I do not presume to advise him how to do so.

MISS EVELYN LANGSTON,
Maidenhead, Berks.

Why not Self Chinchillas?

MR. STIRLING-WEBB may not know that some years ago a very experienced breeder of Chinchillas bred the Blue outcross with the resultant improvement in type which is so noticeable in to-day's specimens. We have the best Chinchillas in the world with the most exquisite eye colour. The only criticism one could make of the present-day Chinchillas is that ears could be smaller and the ticking more pronounced. Many to-day are "off-whites"

—very attractive but not conforming to the Standard. Would it be better to have a new breed number for these Self Chinchillas and to encourage those breeders who prefer the old, well-ticked variety to take them up again?

I have never bred Chinchillas but have handled and judged some of our loveliest modern specimens and have seen them emerge from the winning Chinchillas of nearly thirty years ago.

MISS D. M. COLLINS
West Moors, Dorset.

Sitters-in

Two mother cats on this farm have kittens—one family at each end of a shed. They are now two weeks old and have been moved together by one of the mothers, so that the kittens can play and be mothered by one parent while the other goes out to find food.

Each mother takes it in turn to be a sitter-in, which goes to show how human they are. Have any other readers experienced such a clever bit of home-planning among their pets?

MRS L. F. AMSDEN,
Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Thanks from a Visitor

I AM just about to leave England after four months' pleasant holiday, and with me on the *Port Nelson* will go two little feline emigrants to Australia—Abyssinian Harmony Tara (bred by Mrs. Harmer, of Sutton Coldfield) and aptly-named Cotterstock Blue Voyageur, from Mrs. Aubrey, of Chipstead.

When I set out to obtain these two little ladies earlier in the year, I proceeded at a leisurely pace, but in March I discovered the only passage available was on 7th May. So the search developed into a frenzy! Letters were written to innumerable breeders requesting information about suitable litters, and it is with pleasure I gratefully acknowledge the splendid response and co-operation of all with whom I came in contact. From the north to the south I received wonderful

assistance and details of kittens available up and down the countryside were soon forthcoming.

Arriving too late to attend the shows, I found the homes of the Cat Fancy thrown open to me and some of your loveliest cats displayed in the comfort of their own establishments. Some of them quite obviously relished the novelty of a stranger in their midst; one queen in particular had to be forcibly removed from my lap. On several occasions, when the weather was fine, my husband was able to bring out his movie camera, so several lovely Champions will flick their tails before an appreciative Australian audience in the near future.

My thanks in particular go to the members of the Abyssinian Cat Club, who gave me much valuable information regarding show standard and points of the

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

breed. When I left Australia there were no Abyssinians there at all, but several have since been imported from New Zealand. A handsome young son of Ch. Blackthorn Massala is the intended future mate of Harmony Taram, who is herself the daughter of Ch. Chatwyn Terah.

Little Cotterstock Blue Voyageur, who can claim among her ancestors Freefolk Blue Ziken, Ch. Prestwick Blue Crackers, Ch. Missfore Riken and Ch. Ruselon Zi, is being escorted to her future home at the Purachatr Cattery, where that indefatigable worker for the Fancy, Mrs. Paris, will introduce her to her future partner Ch. Coochie Blue Caprice. We all hope for further champs in the future—but what a reputation to keep up!

The movie camera is going with us and we hope to film in some detail the life of the kittens on board ship, their accommodation, feeding arrangements, reactions to climatic changes and so on. The Port

(concluded on page 19)



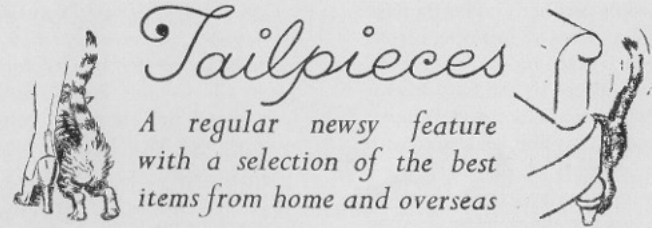
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*A regular newsy feature
with a selection of the best
items from home and overseas*

SUBSCRIPTION renewal instructions from one of our Continental friends contained this little note: "OUR CATS is in my life as a star on a dark night and I am hoping that I shall be able to read it for many years." Nice, isn't it?

An appeal from a cat club secretary overseas in her *Newsletter* runs: I wonder if anyone has any of my OUR CATS magazines? I have had them for the last three years but find that from a total of 36 copies, I have only five in my possession. I know I have loaned them to members at different times." There seems to be a moral here!

An American petitioner for a divorce charged his wife with (a) allowing the cat to walk on the dining table and (b) taking the cat to bed with her, also with nagging him when he complained.

Three little kittens caused a sensation in the heart of Miami's shopping centre. They were discovered under the grating of a storm sewer, where they had been taken by their mother. An officer of the Humane Society took charge of the situation.

Another matrimonial upset in America revolved round Felicia Smith, who keeps 12 cats, a parrot, several hundred tropical fish and four children in the house. The husband filed a divorce suit after his wife had obtained a £200 a month maintenance decree. His efforts at reconciliation were unsuccessful and he was told by Felicia that "a woman is

a delicately-tuned harp of many strings and if a man desires melody he has to acquire skill with the instrument."

When novelist Mr. Stuart Cloete performed the opening show ceremony of the Western Province Cat Club (South Africa) he said among other amusing remarks that "I have never met a cat lover who was a stinker," also that "dogs are for children and sportsmen, cats are for the matured and intellectual."

A Siamese kitten bred by 70-year-old Miss Elfreda King, of Bognor Regis, was being sent to a new home when it escaped at the railway station and ran under a train. For the next 70 hours it travelled up and down the line on a black, oily perch. It was eventually discovered and restored to Miss King, who said: "I don't know if I can bear to part with it now, though I had already sold it."

More than 2,000 cats are reported destroyed as strays from slum clearance areas in Leeds, where multi-storey flats are going up. The local R.S.P.C.A. comments on the inhuman attitude of people who abandon their pets when they are moving to a new home, where animals are not allowed. Cases had been reported of cats walking back to their old homes in the centre of the city from outside villages. One had made the journey three times!

Remember that terrible night in January, 1953, when the North Sea broke through the natural and man-made barriers at various points along the East Coast, inundating 160,000 acres of land?

Over 300 people perished and the damage was enormous. An awe-inspiring record of the disaster is given in *The Sea Came In*, a book just published by the Lord Mayor of London's National Flood and Tempest Distress Fund. Many animals shared with humans the horrors of the catastrophe and for months afterwards the R.S.P.C.A. and other organizations were feeding homeless cats, dogs and birds. Nearly 400 cats were rescued.

The amount spent on pet foods in America last year was 447 million dollars (over 159 million pounds). This exceeds the amount spent on text-books for schools.

Frantic scratching on the window by Micky, their cat, disturbed Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Endersby, of Brentwood, Essex, from their slumbers. They had a shock when they discovered that the next-door cottage was on fire. The alarm was given and the occupants, a young couple and their baby, were rescued.

Coypus (South American rats) which have established themselves in East Anglia and have caused a great amount of damage are to be classed officially as pests.

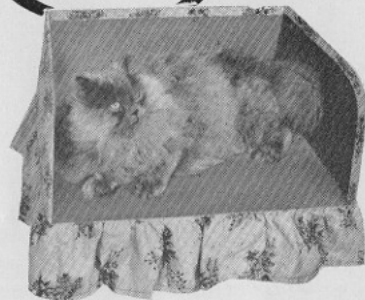
In his annual report, Mr. E. Bridges Webb, Chairman of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, observes that dogs and cats are still the largest group of P.D.S.A. patients. The budgerigar, however, has steadily increased its prominence at the dispensaries—from 31,000 to 54,000 in the last two years. The incidence of cats has fallen by 37,000 to 203,000. Mr. Webb adds that it would appear probable that the obvious danger to the safety of a bird from the presence of a cat in the same household is not without influence on the situation. Therefore, to some extent, the popularity of the one is being achieved at the expense of the other.

Correction : In the List of Champions for 1958-9 which appeared in last month's issue, the Blue Point Siamese queen Ch. Coohoy Pinup bred by Miss J. Hoyland was shown as being in the ownership of Mrs. R. M. Brown. I am reliably informed that the owner of this Champion is Mrs. R. Mavis Dunn, of Newcastle on Tyne.

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. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

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Comfortable - hygienic - portable

This beautifully designed bed is produced by the makers of the famous Safari Camp Bed.

Keeps cat free from dirt, damp and ground draughts. Strong canvas on sprung steel frame for comfort and lightness. Folds flat for travelling. "Calpreta" cretonne blends with room decor. Cretonne covered (de luxe) or plain canvas (standard). Size 19" x 16".

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THE IDEAL GIFT TO CAT OWNERS

Reproduction (No. 56)

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. Readers who have problems they would like to submit to Mr. Jude should address them to him c/o this Magazine.

SINCE my reference to osteogenesis imperfecta in cats—see February issue—I have received many helpful letters from fanciers and have been assisted widely by a number of scientist friends.

When one is trying to piece together information concerning the cause or maybe inheritance of some particular disease or abnormality where little or no research has been published or done, a deal of time elapses before enough data is collected—in this case chiefly from fanciers—to make reliable conclusions possible. This applies in the case of O i in cats.

After a thorough search through the literature, both by myself and others, no references were found. One or two papers have been read at different veterinary conferences (copies of which I have) and two references were traced on my behalf by Dr. J. P. Maule of the Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Breeding and Genetics: (1) Riser, W.A., 1956, *J. Amer. Vet. Med. Ass.*, 128-609; (2) Schnelle, G. B., 1950, *Radiology in small animal practice*. A text on applied radiography and diagnosis, 2nd ed., North American Veterinarian, Evanston, Ill.

I would like here to thank Dr. T. C. Carter, Medical Research Council, Radiobiological Research Unit, Harwell, and the Librarian also of Harwell, for

kindly help given. I hope that fanciers will continue to co-operate with information either from personal experience of the disease in cats or by giving information gained from elsewhere.

It was because of the unusual number of cases which were brought to my notice, and of the prospect of a possible further increase, that I decided to put fanciers on the alert. Mr. G. G. Allen in his letter published in *OUR CATS* (May issue) suggested it was "unfortunate" that I had put tentative views into print. He is entitled to his opinion as I am to mine, but whenever I consider there is a danger to the well-being of cats and the Fancy I shall give warning, and I expect that at least the majority of readers will agree with the policy. If in this, or any other case, the danger eventually turns out to be not so great as expected, all well and good.

More cases reported

Mr. Allen says I stated the disease to be "peculiar" to Siamese. What I did say was that "the only breed so far affected is Siamese," which, of course, is quite a different thing. Since writing my original notes on the subject of O i in cats I have received information about many more cases and in all but one instance the breed was Siamese.

Most readers will know that where an abnormality occurs in a species there is always a possibility that it may occur

in any of the breeds of that species, but quite often it may happen that one or more of the breeds is more affected than the others. Kinky-tail would be just one well-known instance. It is therefore likely that osteogenesis imperfecta might occur most frequently in Siamese—due, quite probably, to the peculiar type of bone formation. The other breed just mentioned, where O i is reported, is Burmese. This could be significant. There are species, however, where O i is never encountered—in mice for instance.

Report of the Burmese case is only just to hand. It came from America, and the writer says "I have been deeply concerned over this congenital fault in the Burmese breed. I had a litter of six, and all six showed the bone condition. This is most important to me, since it has necessitated ruthless spaying and neutering of my Burmese breeding stock where the source could be. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine said it was not *diet*, but as a result of inbreeding."

Wrong diagnosis

In 1956 a paper was presented at the Veterinary Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. It was written by Jean Holzworth of the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, and gave a good description of O i in cats.

I quote: "Osteogenesis imperfecta (fragilitas ossium, or brittle bone) is not a recent discovery in cats, but has long been misdiagnosed as rickets. Owing to deficient formation of bone spicules, the cortices are abnormally thin and brittle, and multiple fractures result. In the human, in which the disease was first recognized, the disorder is *hereditary*, and usually manifests itself at birth. Serum calcium and phosphorus are *normal*, while alkaline phosphatase may be slightly elevated. In the few children that survive there is often a lessened susceptibility to

fractures at and after puberty. While the condition may once in a while be met with in pure-bred puppies, it is the cat, among the domestic animals, that is most often affected—occasionally short-haired domestic kittens, but most often pure-breeds, especially *Siamese* of certain strains.

"Typically, trouble first develops when kittens are from 2½ to 4 months old, although mild forms of the disorder are occasionally recognized as late as 10 months. In some instances the kitten has never been able to get up properly on its hind legs, or has always been resentful of handling, and reluctant to move about and play. Oftener, the kitten has suffered a specific injury, sometimes in an accident so slight that no ill-effects would have been expected.

"As well as pathological fractures in the long bones, one may find a flattened rib cage, crooked sternum, lordosis, and deformed pelvis. Sometimes the generalized tenderness is so great that anesthesia is necessary for proper examination. In other kittens, the fractures may be almost painless, and crepitus negligible or absent. Often, kittens are bloated and constipated owing to narrowing or collapse of the pelvic canal. Radiographically, the skeleton has a paper-like appearance, because of the lack of density of the bone. In mild cases, there may be single fractures, and the diagnosis is based solely upon lack of density of the bone. Callus formation is negligible in contrast with the proliferative type of healing in rickets."

In all but one of the cases reported to me, manifestation occurred by 4½ months. In the odd case the age was over 4 years. In that particular instance there was a solid piece of backbone about 4" long. Constipation was reported in about 50% of cases only.

At some lectures given in California in 1953 by Dr. Moss—a nationally known veterinary surgeon—it was stated that the abnormality was "transmitted

through the female." This I am following up, and hope for more detail in due course. In England, certain of the cases reported may be traced to one particular stud.

The statement "transmitted through the female" needs some clarification, and might call for some extensive research unless the position has already been satisfactorily investigated. The female has either "transmitted" through the fertilized egg, in which case the abnormality would be considered as inherited, or she may have "transmitted" the tendency by the "feeding" of the new life prior to its birth.

If you have experienced this disease in your cats at any time, or if you have information from any other source, do please write to me. This is an important matter, otherwise it would not have been raised.

The Medical Research Council, Group for Experimental Research in Inherited Diseases, is working on strains of small

animals which have pathological intervertebral discs. As this condition ("slipped discs") is known to occur in cats, any experience by fanciers will be welcomed by me please.

(A new series by A. C. Jude will commence in next month's issue, under the title, "Genetics for the Novice Breeder").

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

(concluded from page 13)

Line is well known for the care and attention given to valuable livestock. On this particular trip we go via the Cape and should have rather cool conditions for most of the journey. After their quarantine period is over, our little travellers will doubtless be seen on the show bench during the November and December kitten shows. May they be worthy British emigrants!

MRS. E. OUTRAM.

New South Wales, Australia.

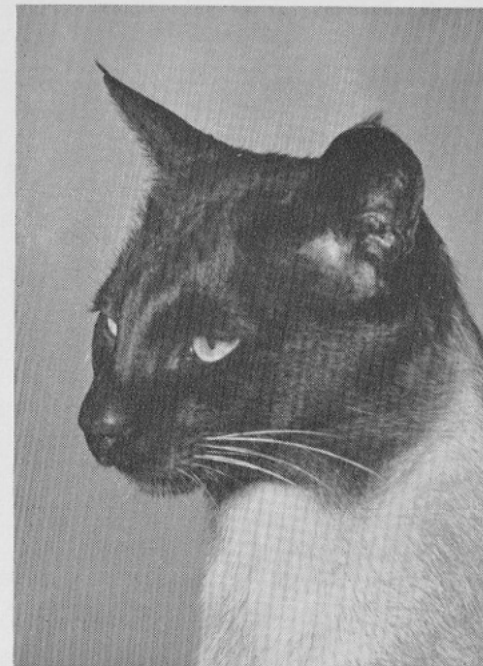
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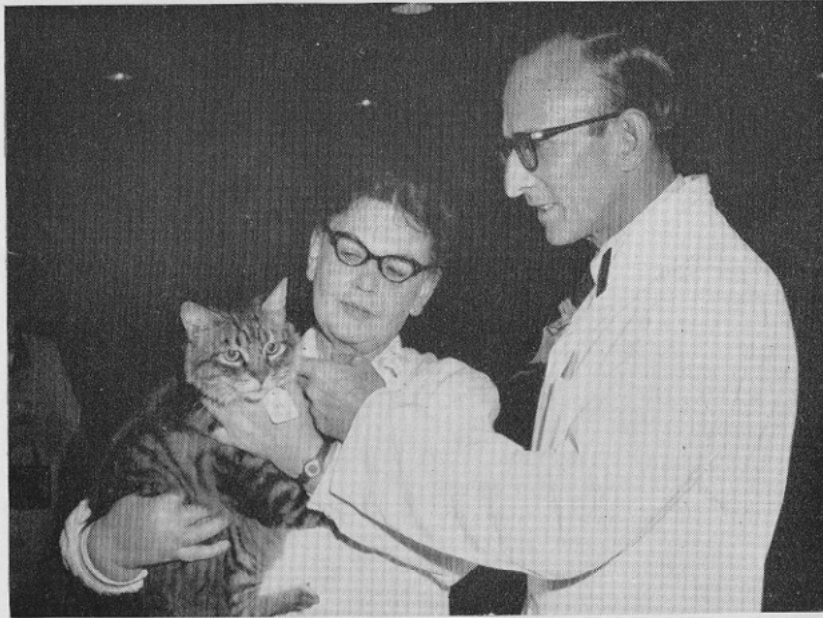
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Introducing three prominent personalities at the record-breaking show of the Western Province Cat Club recently held in Cape Town. Fluffy, the striking Tabby, was Best Adult among the household pets and also winner of a trophy for "the most majestic adult cat" in the section. Holding him is Mrs. Kay Wheeler, who judged the Longhaired Household Pets. Mrs. Wheeler recently won the South African Broadcasting—Springbok Radio—Quiz Show "60,000 to Go" (£250) on the subject "Cats in Fact, Fiction and Fable." Guest judge Mr. C. I. Belcher pauses to congratulate Fluffy.

Phenomenal progress in South Africa

THE 12th Championship Show of the Western Province Cat Club (South Africa) was held in Cape Town, on April 25th last. The usual Cape winter rains held off and exhibits, exhibitors and a record number of visitors rejoiced in unexpected sunshine.

This record-breaking show was unusual and interesting in several respects. The biggest number of cats were entered, 175. The guest judge was the well-known Johannesburg lawyer and senior South African judge, Mr. Cyril I. Belcher, who flew down accompanied by his recently imported Abyssinian male kitten, Taishun Negus. This lovely feline (on exhibition only) drew much attention and press publicity.

For the first time in Club history, exhibits flew from another city to com-

pete with local exhibits. Ch. Nelson King Laxey of Mandale, Ch. Jeanette King Laxey of Mandale (imported Manx from Durban, Natal) flew down with their neuter son, Michael. This was the Cape public's first view of genuine Manx. The visit of these two Champions made possible the first Champion of Champions Shorthair class offered at a Cape show. The winner (her first Grand Challenge Certificate) was Mrs. M. E. Nash's Ch. Penang Milori Anya (imp.).

A popular win was Deo Gratias Talisman's third Challenge Certificate, and many congratulations were handed to Mrs. I. M. Hunter on his becoming a full Champion. The first Premier cat in the Cape was so acknowledged when Mrs. C. C. Greyling's magnificent Tortoiseshell-and-White won her third

Certificate. Another interesting exhibit who drew much attention was Mrs. C. M. Lovemore's Russian Blue queen, Timshel Misty Morning (imp.). She won her first C.C. and flew shortly after the show to Johannesburg to be mated to imported Fairlawn's Czarlyne Wedgewood.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Anderson's recently imported pair of Chocolate Pointed Siamese also made their show début and the queen Roundway Lucinda won 1st and C.C., and the young male kitten Killdown Dara won Best Siamese Kitten, Best Members' Siamese Kitten, Siamese Kitten with the Best Eyes, and Siamese Kitten with Best Tail. This pair should prove to be excellent foundation stock for C.P.'s in South Africa.

Mrs. M. J. Galloway, a member of long standing and a faithful friend of the Club, came into her own and swept the boards with Mignon of Clovelly (by

Penang Bradgate Sherry (imp.) ex Killdown Miranda of Clovelly (imp.). Mignon won 1st and C.C., Best Siamese Adult Female, Best Siamese Adult, Best Adult cat in Show, and other awards.

The phenomenal growth of the Club is reflected in the following figures. For the first Championship show in 1950 there were 37 exhibits from 24 exhibitors and 7 trophies were offered. For the show just completed there were 175 exhibits from 82 exhibitors and 55 trophies were competed for.

Household pets almost doubled their best-ever entry, and 70 made a most impressive showing. Best Household Adult and Most Majestic Male awards were won by a tremendous fellow, Fluffy, whose proud owner is a non-European, Miss Chrissie April. Best Household Kitten was awarded to the exhibit of another non-European, Mr. H. S. Howell.

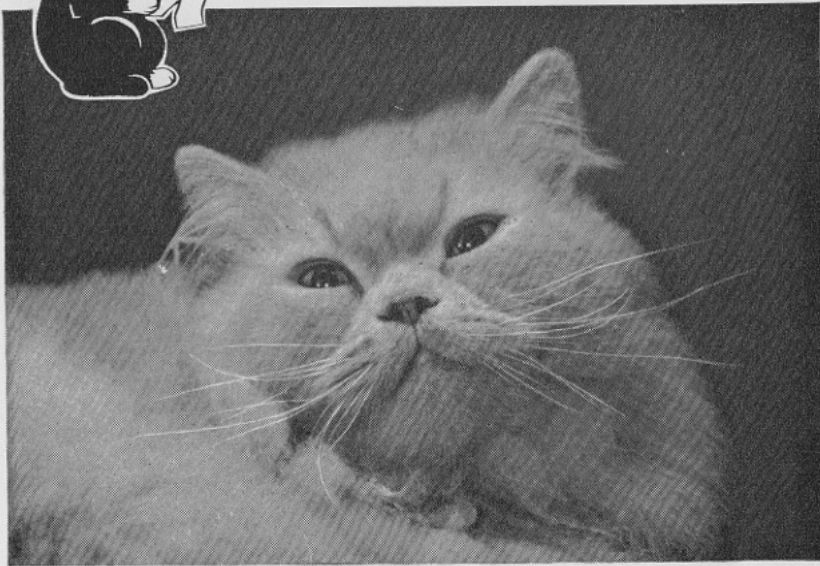


Handsome young Blue Longhair stud WOBURN CHIPPY, by Vigilant Taurus ex Moonraker Pearl. Chippy won two 1st prizes at the 1958 Blue Persian Show for his owner and breeder, Miss C. Page, of Watford, Herts.

INTERVIEW WITH A BEAUTY QUEEN



"Three Firsts in a row," says Tibby, the TIBS reporter, "the secret of her success—she told me—daily TIBS!"



Tibby, the TIBS reporter went to see Donnachaidh Kirsty, champion cream Persian, at Mrs. Brice-Webb's Cattery at Bramcote, Nottinghamshire.

"She was purr-fectly charming and told me that Judges always commented on her fine, long, silky coat. She agreed that all her prizes, First and Champion at Leeds, Glasgow and Birmingham, were awarded because she was in top TIBS condition."

Mrs. Brice-Webb, well-known breeder and Judge, says that she "attributes Donnachaidh Kirsty's marvellous coat to her daily dose of TIBS, which my Cattery is never without."

TIBS daily—just one tablet a day—for good bones, good teeth, good condition, healthy coat and sheer Tibsical energy from morning to night!



Famous breeders say:

TIBS keep cats kittenish
TABLETS



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.

At London Airport

FOR some time I have been interested in arranging a visit to the R.S.P.C.A. Air Hostel at London Airport and on a lovely day at the end of last month it materialized by kind permission of Mr. John Hall, Chief

Secretary at the Society's London Headquarters. Mr. N. H. Whittaker, Assistant Manager, was my courteous and informative guide at the Hostel.

Our tour started with the well equipped veterinary unit, with pharmacy and operating theatre. It is able to deal with any animal large or small. Specially designed apparatus such as an operating cage for the large carnivores and other equipment is available for the veterinary surgeon in dressing wounds or setting a fracture in such animals as leopards and large apes. All treatment is under veterinary supervision, an invariable rule of the R.S.P.C.A., and apart from regular visits a qualified veterinarian is on call night and day.

I noticed cylinders of oxygen in a corner of the surgery, so all needs which can be foreseen are provided for. An atmosphere of clinical cleanliness prevailed.



A small part of the Good Samaritan service provided at London Airport for animals in transit by the R.S.P.C.A.

From here we visited a room which appeared to be devoted to cage birds. They were all neatly labelled. Some were in transit to other airports but many belonged to our troops who had been stationed abroad and had sent their pets on by air to await their arrival by sea. A splendid service this to relieve owners of anxiety. Like every ward or room in the building the temperature was attuned to the requirements of the inmates. Some lovely budgerigars were twittering happily, two parrots were "chatting" and a handsome white macaw had just been there long enough to begin to feel some confidence in its surroundings. There were some beautifully coloured tropical birds of varieties unknown to me.

Can cope with elephants

From here we went to see Chinchillas, newly arrived from Canada and U.S.A. What lovely soft fine coats these little creatures have! Sitting up on their haunches and using their little paws as hands, I thought them fascinating. Fortunately they are too valuable to use for "experiments." Most of them were destined for breeders in this country and were waiting collection. It was interesting to hear that imports of Chinchillas have recently fallen off considerably.

The stables and pens for horses and cattle were temporarily empty but there is provision for elephants if necessary and these and the large carnivores such as tigers, lions, etc., are usually destined for zoos.

The sad part of the visit and one which haunted me afterwards was the memory of the cages of rhesus monkeys, so many of them destined for research. Flown from India, they had touched down in London *en route* to various countries. I suppose it is their animation and exceptional intelligence and response to humans which makes their appeal so poignant especially when one knows their probable fate.

It is ironical that only the young and healthy are eligible. The rhesus monkey

commences to breed when it is about three years and the period of gestation is nine months, exceptionally long for a small mammal. It usually has one young and seldom twins.

It is some small consolation to know that no pregnant monkeys are sent so far as can be known at the time as the "eligible" age for export is preferably about 18 months. To delude oneself that little suffering is entailed is infantile. The loss of freedom, close captivity and strange environment is in itself a punishment and now animals are being used for nuclear, dietetic, medical, dental and even space travel it is impossible to compute the total number sacrificed each year. Nearly half-a-million monkeys have passed through the R.S.P.C.A. Hostel since it was opened in 1952; some fortunately for pets and less fortunately for zoos.

Hundreds of day old chicks were twittering in their containers awaiting transport mostly to the Continent. Many are destined to end up on the plate of gourmets as *petit poulet*.

Cat accommodation excellent

My readers will be interested to know about the accommodation for cats or kittens which may leave home in normal weather conditions in winter to find on arrival at the Airport that services are delayed by bad weather. This, like the other accommodation, is excellent, with well built completely wired in pens and ample room for exercise in which their own travelling container can be placed. Those of us who live near London would rarely need to avail ourselves of these facilities as we can ascertain weather conditions or anything which may cause delay by telephoning the Airport before leaving home.

The storehouse for food is impressive and the various grains are all in metal bins. The following quotations from a leaflet give one an idea of the provision which has to be made:

"The food store and preparing room at the Hostel resembles a corn-chandler's, so numerous are the grains, meals, and seeds that may be needed at a moment's notice. For the lions and other large cats, quantities of horseflesh and other meat have to be kept in a refrigerator. Monkeys and birds call for supplies, not only of grain and seed but of vegetables and fruits, so the manager and staff have to be expert animal chefs and dieticians."

"... One kind R.S.P.C.A. subscriber has given the freedom of her bamboos, which she cultivates in her greenhouses, in case the young shoots be needed as food for some of the tropical animals that depend on bamboos for their staple diet."

"As the premises are under H.M. Customs and Excise control unauthorized persons have no access to livestock, and there is consequently no likelihood of harmful feeding by misguided well-wishers."

"It is no small labour problem to receive a message late on a Saturday night that hundreds of monkeys and a thousand or more tropical birds are arriving that night. Unless the store cupboards can produce the right foods, the transient visitors touching down half way through their long journey will go hungry."

The design of the building is a central hangar capable of sheltering a number

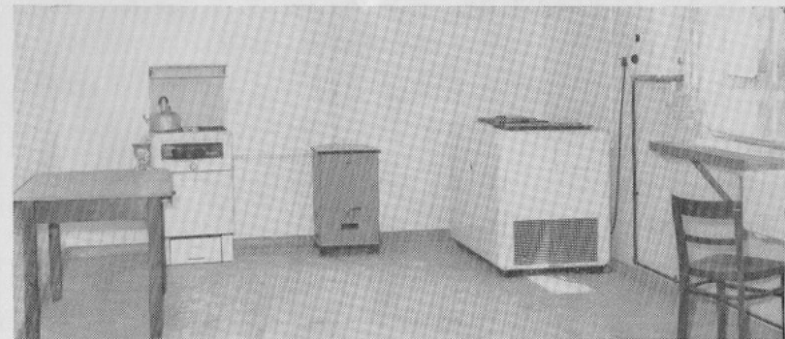
of loaded lorries. On one side are ranged the small animal kennels and rooms, some under quarantine restrictions. On the other side doors open on to stabling, the entrances to which are especially large to admit elephants if necessary.

The Hostel is open day and night with some staff always on duty.

Three million guests

During the immediate post-war years little was known about the behaviour of animals under the stresses of air travel. The R.S.P.C.A., with the co-operation of the transport officers of the British air corporations, and also the foreign companies using the Airport, made a prolonged study of the problems as they arose and filed the data for future reference. Thus the Society can justly claim to have saved life, and perhaps even more important, suffering, by supplying information as to the conditions requisite for safe conveyance — safe altitude, temperature and the provision of suitable diet and water.

But they were not content with this advisory role and decided that an air hostel for the comfort of animal air passengers must be provided at London Airport. At the time the plans were sketched there was little information as to the ultimate volume of animal traffic



Inside the kitchen at the R.S.P.C.A. Hostel at London Airport. The staff have to be expert animal chefs and dieticians to meet the food requirements of the widest possible variety of four-legged guests, birds and reptiles.

to be handled, so much had to be guesswork. After four years a start was made in 1951 and the Hostel was opened in the autumn of 1952.

Special heating arrangements had to be designed as so many animals fly straight from the tropics. This is one of the heavy expenses in maintaining the Hostel and in addition the Society had to maintain all its customary activities in other spheres. Before 1952 animals and birds arriving here were accommodated in freight sheds and those which came from the tropics must have shivered and suffered severe chills in winter and even on some of our summer days which are cold in comparison.

Up to the end of April, 1959, 3,022,485 livestock have passed through the Hostel. Last month a total of 107,522 were booked in, consisting of 54 varieties of animals and birds, including bears, opossums, civet cats, bulls to Kenya, dogs, cats, ostriches, snakes, etc. There were the usual large consignments of monkeys—and one lobster!

Two years ago a similar hostel was opened at Idlewild Airfield, New York, by the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr. Whittaker showed me some very interesting photos of its accommodation. It was pleasing to hear that such excellent co-operation existed between the two Societies that a representative of the American Society resided here for some time whilst all the experience gained here since 1952 was placed at his disposal.

The sad side

Although a visit to the London Airport evokes admiration for all that is being done to alleviate suffering for animals travelling by air it also serves to jerk one out of any complacency when one actually sees lively, healthy little animals which are fated to be used for research.

The monthly journal of the R.S.P.C.A. *The Animal World* which I have had for some years is an education in itself. It

gives one many details of the splendid work of this Society, whose patrons are the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Princess Alice Countess of Athlone.

A social occasion

At the tea party of the Croydon Cat Club last month at Caxton Hall, London, it was good fun to see judges and stewards, to say nothing of exhibitors, being guyed in their play "Alice in Blunderland."

Our "peculiarities" were exaggerated but who hasn't heard stewards discussing judges' awards and telling each other what *they* would have done if *they* had been judging. The steward who said to me one day "Well, I have brought you your winner!" still remains as an amusing memory. The cast were really excellent, making and saying some true to life blunders, although fortunately they are a comparative rarity at Championship shows.

Miss Ann Codrington's monologue on the telephone caused much amusement. Her imaginary "caller" was supposed to be button-holing her with a long dissertation about her own cats. Miss Codrington's interjections were really funny and again struck a responsive chord in those of us who have to listen to similar monologues on the 'phone.

Mrs. Shrouder showed her coloured slides of cats and kittens. She is keeping her collection up to date and I had seen very few of them before. I believe she shows these slides in many places and they are an education to those who have never seen pedigree cats. The domestic pet was not forgotten and I am sure there must be some among her audiences who exclaim "Why, he is just like our Tibs!"

Miss Statman excelled as major-domo and the tea she and her helpers provided was really "something." Many of us had had an early lunch for our afternoon

engagement and really "tucked in" to the excellent fare provided. The children of some of the audience were determined to see we were well served and how they must have enjoyed themselves when they retired with lashings of food to another room at Caxton Hall!

A judge is missed

Mr. and Mrs. Speirs returned from Tripoli via Geneva on May 21st and it was very pleasant to meet her and a few of her friends the next day. She stayed in London a few days and then went to Scotland to see her son Dr. Speirs and his family.

Mr. Speirs' professional engagements may necessitate him spending many months abroad. If so, it means her absence also, but in any case, she will be here until October. We missed her very much as a judge last winter and next season she has also declined invitations. She is eligible to judge every variety of Longhair and we have few her equal as a judge of Blue-Creams, probably the most difficult of all L.H. breeds to assess and a variety which one should breed or own oneself to really appreciate.

Unfortunately each season we lose the services of some of our best and most experienced judges because they want to exhibit, whilst those who are not interested in exhibiting are at liberty to accept all the invitations they receive if they wish.

A mighty ginger cat named Megsie, six years old and belonging to Mr. George Stone, of West Como, has won a newspaper prize—a week's meat supply—for the biggest cat in Sydney, Australia. He weighs 36 lbs., has a 36-inch waist and is 28 inches long, not including the tail. He eats four pounds of steak a week, is fond of fish and drinks half a pint of milk daily.

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FRED W. PEARCE—Australia's leading judge—sends

News from "Down Under"

OUR summer is fast fading away and there is a nip in the air at sundown these short days, so we shall soon be back with the dear old fogs. Thank goodness we don't get them like the Londoners. It will be good to see our cats with their overcoats on again and there will be plenty of opportunities as there is a show every second Saturday till August.

* * *

Overcoats were conspicuous by their absence at the Federal Cat Club Show at Manly in April. Proceeds were in aid of the Far West Children's Health Scheme and I should say the children will benefit considerably. The weather was very kind and the seven miles ferry trip from Sydney made the cup of tea very acceptable on arrival. Three judges and nine stewards were on duty, directed by Chief Stewards Mr. Hicks and Mr. Mullins. An added attraction was the Abyssinians shown by Mrs. Donmall and Mrs. H. Abbott, practically just off the ship. The catalogue shows 135 entries which is very good for a first show at Manly and was a just reward for the great effort by the hard-working Secretary Mrs. H. Scognamillo.

In the Persian Section major awards went to Mrs. Hicks' Blue male St. Chads Mischief, the same owner's female Blue Regent Trixie (a good double), Miss D. Hore's New Zealand kitten Illiwarra Bryn Brogan, Mrs. Cain's female kitten Bavaka Blue Opal, Miss Rapley's neuter Mayfield Barry and Mrs. Robinson's spey Mayfield Janette. Among the Siamese, the best were Mrs. Carlisle's S.P. male Rama Liberace, Mrs. O'Donoghue's female Kaylee Pandora,

Mrs. Fisher's male kitten Purachatr Blue Serenade, Mrs. O'Donoghue's female kitten Kaylee Cassandra and Mrs. R. Smith's litter with Princess Ming. Mrs. Abbott, who won with her imported Burmese, also showed (not for competition) the Abyssinians Finisterre Cassein (imp.) and Finisterre Sherada, a nice pair. I omitted to ask for particulars of Mrs. Donmall's exhibits. Mrs. Smith's winning litter of Siamese were flown up from Murchison East, Victoria. There were eight males and one female sired by Miss B. Saker's Yonalin Patapon, all strong and sturdy at 3½ months.

* * *

The April *Newsletter* of the Cat Fanciers' Society (Adelaide, South Australia) is to hand from those two good scouts Tom and Jerry. I was sorry to learn of the sickness in his family which kept President and Mrs. Myers away from the March meeting. At the A.G.M. which followed Mr. Myers was again elected President and Mrs. McAdie Vice-President. Mr. D. Gebhardt is again Secretary and Miss Farrow Treasurer. A good idea to have a lady treasurer. With a Committee of nine, all ladies, the girls have really come into their own!

* * *

The *Newsletter* of the Siamese Cat Club has arrived again from Melbourne. A new club has been formed under the name Pacific Cat and Kitten Club. Mrs. Purnell, 39 Scott Grove, Glen Iris, S.E.6, Victoria, is the Secretary. A very happy function was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell, Ferney Creek, to aid the Club. We send them greetings

and best wishes for a successful future. The Siamese Cat Club of Australia will hold their Championship Show in the City Hall next month (25th July) with a N.S.W. judge. Melbourne Cat Club of Victoria held their fixture at the same venue last month. It is a very lovely setting for a show, with all amenities.

* * *

Toowoomba Agricultural Show (Queensland) included a cat section at their April fixture, with a N.S.W. judge making the awards. I understand a large party of fanciers went up from Brisbane and took most of the prize-winning exhibits with them. This Show serves a very large district and it will be an excellent thing if the cat section is included in the future. I am indebted to Mrs. Burnage for details of most of the winners, which are as follow: Ch. Longhair Cat—C. Woodrow's Ch. Spada Ambassador Duke; Ch. Longhair Opp. Sex—Mrs. R. J. Herbert's Sheepfold Wild Violet (imp.); Best Blue Male—Mrs. Herbert's Anchusa Piere (imp.); Chinchilla Male—G. S. Norman's Spada Alpine Star; Shaded Silver Male—E. D. Bryan's Snow King of Roseberry; Cream—N. Cawley's Delhi Sovereign; Ch. Female—N. Shead's Ch. Langbank Melody; Chinchilla Female—M. Russell's Touchstone Elissetta; Shaded Silver Female—M. Bamford's Riza Stardust; Cream Female—R. J. Herbert's Brynwood Aphrodite (imp.); White Blue-eyed Female—M. Russell's Sondra; Black Male—A. Glead's Spada

Black Mischief. Winners among the Siamese were E. N. Marshall's S.P. male Dancer of Chatsworth; Mrs. E. Henry's female Coochi Dominion Star; S. Hartley's B.P. male Cameo Mr. Universe; L. Litchfield's female Eastern Mask.

* * *

News is to hand that the old Queensland Cat Fanciers' Association of Brisbane which was formed in 1930 (I think) and lapsed at the outbreak of World War II in 1939 (again, I think!) has been re-started by Mrs. Manson and a band of 22 fanciers. Affiliation with Melbourne has been granted. Mrs. Manson, whom I first met in 1933, has had her name included on the panel of judges for Victoria. I understand that arrangements are being made for a Brisbane show shortly.


AMERICAN PROFILE

(continued from page 8)

eventually to be equipped to meet all emergencies.

She is an eager participant in the various activities of the clubs and finds a great deal of pleasure in working to put on a show and also in lending a hand on the day.

No, "Tommy" is not as lonesome as she once used to be for every moment of her day is filled with caring for her family and her cats—dreaming always of the day when she will produce that elusive Perfect Cat.

 **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).

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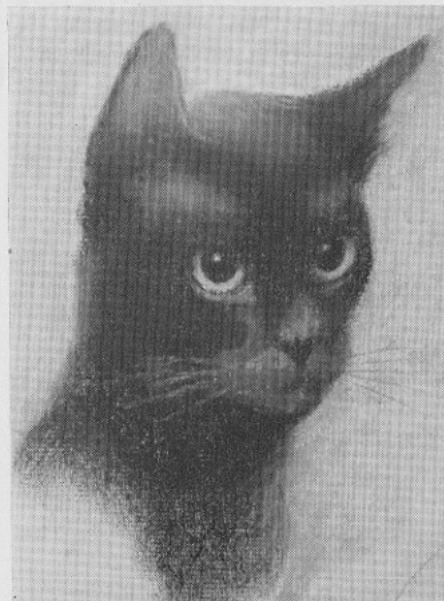
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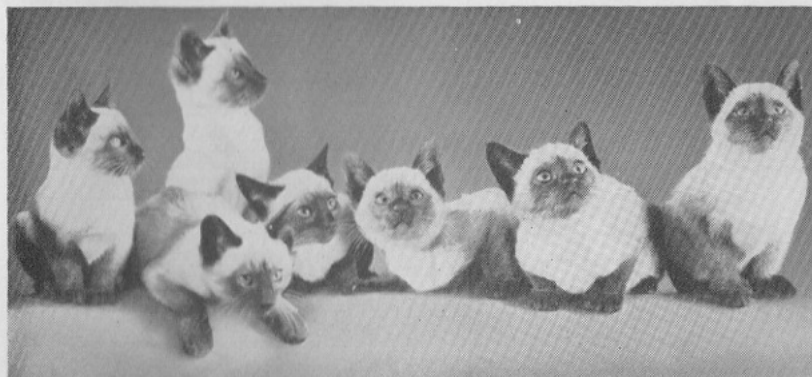
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