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W. J. Beyer
Our Cats

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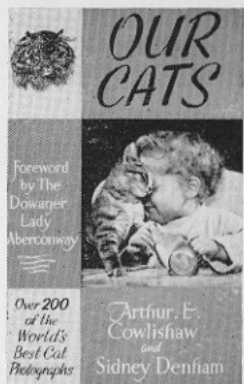
THE INTRUDER

The little lady seems to have her attention divided between the ceramic cat and the won't-keep-still Siamese kittens. They are Chocolate Points bred by Mrs. K. R. Williams, Hon. Secretary of the Siamese Cat Club.

1/6

OCTOBER 1959

All over the cat world they are saying this is the best-ever cat book. So don't miss YOUR copy of the 1st edition



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OUR CATS

By Arthur E. Cowlshaw and Sidney Denham, with foreword by the Dowager Lady Aberconway. Royal 8vo, 128 pp. Over 200 photographs. Published by Nicholas Kaye Ltd.

Here is a book designed to bring lasting pleasure to cat lovers everywhere. It is the perfect gift book—amusing, entertaining, informative and instructive—and quite unique in its presentation. The photographs have been carefully selected by the Editor from ten years' issues of OUR CATS magazine. Here are beautiful pictures and funny pictures; pictures of cats with famous people and other animals; pictures of the playful kitten and aristocratic champion; a wonderful wealth of pictures for everyone chosen for their human interest and liveliness.

The sections—some linked with informative and entertaining text by Sidney Denham—include: Cats through the Ages, Cats and People, Playing with a Cat, the Hogarth of Cats (Louis Wain), Cats and Smiles, Cats and Strange Friends, Cats and the Artist, Cats as Mothers, Cats in the Fancy.

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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. 10
OCTOBER 1959

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

Editor's Note:

Some brief explanation becomes necessary this month to account for the belated arrival of your copy of the October issue and to apologise for any shortcomings which it may reveal.

Two Sundays ago as I write (11th October) your Editor and his wife had practically completed a very enjoyable holiday on the Continent with San Remo, that colourful spot on the Italian Riviera, as headquarters. Whilst whiling away the last few hours in the Calais-Boulogne area prior to crossing the Channel on the following morning, we had the misfortune to become involved with a larger French car at some cross-roads.

The outcome of this unpleasant and unexpected meeting was disastrous and we both (my wife and I) were extremely fortunate to escape serious injury. As the accident involved an extension to our stay in France, my planned schedule for the production of the next three issues of OUR CATS (including the Special Greetings Number) became daily more unrealistic! However, with your kind help and co-operation, I hope we shall quickly be able to make good the lost time. Please remember, instructions for the Special Greetings Number—our 4th of this highly popular issue—must reach me by not later than the middle of November. Time is very short!

A little later on I hope to be able to tell you something of the interesting personalities we met along the Mediterranean Coast. The high spot was a chat with that great animal lover H.H. Begum Aga Khan at her lovely home outside Cannes.

I have just received the shattering news that Mr. Price Cross, America's great authority on Siamese and a friend of the Magazine, was killed in his home at Houston, Texas, on 5th October. Complete details are not yet to hand but I understand that he was attacked by an intruder who afterwards stole his money and car. Mr. Cross's death is a tragic loss to our Fancy.

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
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. S. E. Barnes, 21a Lewis Road, Sidcup, Kent. We hope that many of the shows will be advertised in OUR CATS during the course of the Season.

AT STUD

BEAU BOSUN

1st & Ch. Best Male Siamese Ch. Show 1959

Sired—

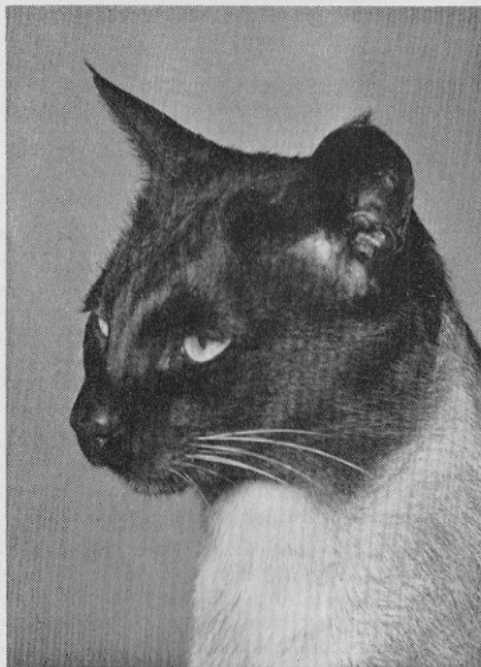
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Purrs from Vienna

By JOANNA MACKAY

THAT there *was* a Klub de Katzenfreunde Osterreichs was certain. The address was less so and I hadn't much time to write letters. However, a friend suggested the Austrian R.S.P.C.A. The kind man at the Information Office in Vienna's Opernring gave me their address and marked the route thereto on a map. A vanman indicated the last turning up a by-way.

At the Vienna branch of the Tierschutz-Verien (R.S.P.C.A.) no one spoke English, but I said the name of the club. At once, the address was looked up and

written down on a piece of paper. Then there was a telephone call to say I would be coming and at what time.

It remained only to find the secretary Frau Baier at 54 Westbahnstrasse and to cross the road to speak to a friend in a paper shop, who knew English (her daughter being married to an Englishman at Lewes in Sussex). In short, if everybody hadn't been wonderfully kind, the whole thing would have been impossible.

And so to facts. They have one cat club in Austria with eighty members. One show a year is held in Vienna.



Alfred Cermak

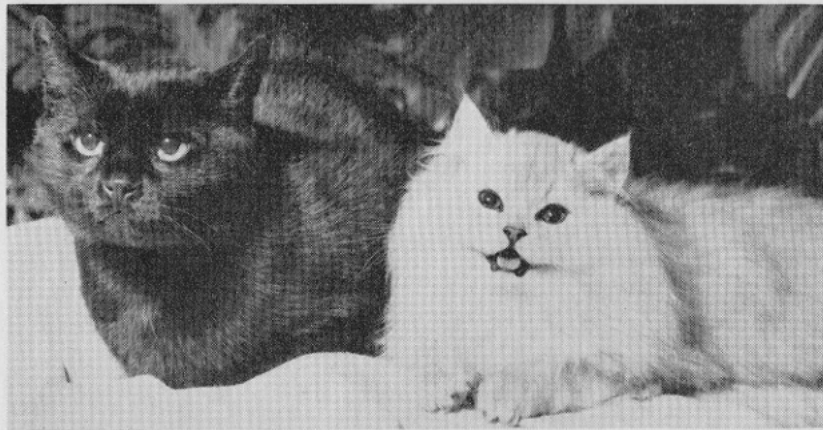
You are not seeing twins! Frau Maria Baier, Secretary of the Austrian Cat Club and her favourite Chinchilla (Int. Ch. Caesar V. Kenyon) pose before the mirror to make an attractive study for the press photographer. This is the first picture we have received from Vienna, where the Club has eighty members.

Organization follows Continental practice to a great extent. That is, the show runs for three days, decorated pens are permitted and foreign cats may come in to compete. There are about two hundred entries in all with many cats from Germany and Switzerland. Austrian regulations permit foreign cats to come in once a year. I was given a copy of the programme for 1958 and, if this is not exceptional, it seems that the Austrian show is held when our season would be over. The one in question—the 25th—ran from the 5/7th of April.

I had the impression that the Austrian Fancy is still suffering a little from the war. Certainly, they told me that Swiss

Siamese as well. Outside judges usually come to the Austrian shows.

It is not only pedigree cats who are well cared for in Austria. I saw no strays at all and not a great many cats in Vienna itself. They told me that most people in the city live in flats where it is not easy to keep them. There are many more in the country. This proved to be true, though to a Hampstead resident, Austria seems a catless country at first sight. I can't vouch for this, but I understand that most pet cats are neutered, which keeps the stray problem under control or near non-existent. The police do not seem to have much



Alfred Cermak

Frau Baier's feline family make a contrasting pair—the Chinchilla and Mickie a Black shorthair with soulful eyes.

cats seem to do best and they were a little sad when there was an exchange of Austrian and English cats. It was made, I believe, by an English judge. At shows here, the Austrian cats did not do particularly well.

Vienna is frankly old-fashioned in many ways and first cat favourites are the Longhairs. Blue Persians seem to lead, while there is a great liking for Chinchillas. Frau Baier has one and admires them and Cream Persians. She also keeps a little house cat Mickie. Many people, I was told, are fond of

to do with cats and there seems to be no cruelty of any kind.

Frau Baier's friend spoke warmly of the number of cats in England and said how very well cared-for they all seemed. She was evidently a real animal lover, like Frau Baier herself, who also keeps dogs.

Your scribe's German consists of about a dozen words, mostly relating to fluid. Though every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, indulgence is craved. We had a real language problem and I may have misunderstood something. If so, I can only say I'm sorry.—J.M.

Ringworm is conquered!

BLANCHE WOLFRAM, our American Associate Editor, pays a glowing tribute to the effectiveness of a new British drug in the control of a feline scourge.

WHAT would we do without the British? You have led the way in so many fields of endeavour that to account for them all would take many, many words. Your ideas and discoveries have been so superior that we have come to depend on you for many and varied needs. Of course, those of us who are interested only in cats have failed to realize your other accomplishments but the things we have learned through you in regard to cats has made our tasks much simpler.

There is little need of my stating that cats from England have had superior beauty for a long time. Everybody is well aware of the manner in which you have strived so hard to bring cats up to the beauty and standard that they enjoy to-day. Here in the United States, one may find English bred cats in almost every State. These cats whether past or present have and are doing their share to help improve our own lines. I am myself the proud owner of two Blue females who came from the shores of far away England. However, the purpose of this article is to point out the importance of your help in another direction allied to the breeding of cats and to give credit where it is due.

In this country, the number one enemy to the health and beauty of our cats has been ringworm, which has been so widespread that few have escaped its ravages. Our drug companies have

tried time and time again to come up with a medication that would be of help and many products have been placed on the market with each being looked upon by distressed fanciers with a new hope. However, none in my experience, has ever reached a point where it could be termed a cure-all.

I do not like to think of the great number of kittens that may have been put to sleep because of the inability of our drugs to aid them. By the same token, I dread the thought of the many mature cats that have perished through the misuse of some of the more poisonous preparations.

To-day, thanks to your British scientists, we now have something that *does* control ringworm. Not only is it a great help but its simplicity is a godsend. Then too, along with it comes the knowledge that it is harmless to cats and may be used with safety. I am referring to the new antibiotic Griseofulvin, which was first isolated from *penicillin griseofulvum* in Oxford in 1939 and later was produced by the Glaxo Laboratories.

It was first introduced into this country late in 1958 and a series of tests were made on it to determine its value and safety. Needless to say, all reports were glowing in their praise of this new antibiotic. In the month of August, it was released for manufacture and placed upon the market for general use. Although it is still relatively new, word is being spread around the Fancy as to its wonderful possibilities.

I feel sure it will not be long before ringworm is a thing of the past. No longer will we be faced with kittens whose beauty has been marred by

unsightly ringworm; no longer will the shows be a major source of the spread of ringworm; no longer will we be afraid to sell our kittens and no longer will we have any fears of purchasing new stock for our catteries.

One of our more difficult problems arose with the sale of kittens as pets to homes where there were children. Without a doubt, kittens were possible carriers of ringworm which could contaminate humans, especially the little tots. Now, with the aid of Griseofulvin, this worry has been conquered. We can feel certain that ringworm will not be caused by the pets and can send them out without any fears.

Another thing about Griseofulvin is the fact that it is not only helpful to

animals but is very beneficial to humans as well.

Not only the breeders of cats but those interested in every form of animal breeding will benefit from Griseofulvin. All we need do now is to combine our efforts into one supreme battle for the eradication of ringworm, no matter what the source may be.

So, once again, our sincere thanks to you for coming to our aid in a time of great need. May you continue to help us here in the United States as well as other places throughout the world. It is my personal hope that we may always look to you for guidance and help with future problems connected with the health and happiness of our cats.

Our picture, taken at the Cheshire Area Cat Club Show at Chester, shows Mrs. P. Kirby, of Mytholmroyd, Yorkshire, with her young Russian Blue queen GLASFRYN GALATHEA, who was adjudged Best Cat in Show. Bred by Mrs. D. Hayden from the well-known Dunloe stock, Galathea recovered from a severe winter illness to repay the care and affection of her owner.



Train the children . . . not the cat

By JOYCE STRANGER

SEVERAL members of our family have in the past few years acquired a kitten. All had young children. Within months, the kitten was gone, sent away because he was too wild

Now I see why. I am very glad we waited for our kitten. Even so, there have been one or two contretemps.

Kittens are like children. When born they are little wild creatures, having to be tamed and taught to live in civilized surroundings.

Although cats have lived with humans for generations, their instincts are still ferocious, as any one who has tried to tame a young kitten knows.

Our wee one is as fierce as they come, given half a chance. He sees a finger, and plays with it gently. In a few minutes he has forgotten what he is doing, and instead thinks he has a mouse.

So his instincts take over. He is no longer a gentle kitten. He is the hunter, the lion, and he has his prey, and by golly, he's going to kill it.

So he sets about killing the finger, and bites hard and deep, infuriating the owner of the finger, who often makes matters far worse by shouting or snatching his hand away. This brings new instincts into play. His prey is escaping, so he needs his claws, and uses them.

I have found the only thing to do is to discourage the children from playing with him with fingers. As soon as he shows signs of wanting to romp he is given a paper ball or a cotton reel on a string, and this he can kill without hurting anyone.

If he starts to bite we keep our hands quite still, and I have made the children see that this is the proper thing to do. No normal prey will lie still, and many

creatures can sham dead just to discourage their attackers, who are baffled. If we keep still he stops at once, looks surprised and as often as not falls asleep.

The other habit that frightens the children is that of suddenly running up them as if they were trees. If they shout at him he is terrified, and as a result, digs in his claws. This results in a screaming child, and a demented kitten backing spitting into a corner, and won't do at all.

When this first happened I put my daughter, weeping bitterly and wanting the kitten sent away, on one knee, and the terrified little creature on my lap, and talked to her gently.

Both were happy

I explained that he was among strangers, without his mother, unable to understand what was happening to him. He had been unwell and as we had to give him pills, he wouldn't quite trust us. And when he ran up her, instead of finding that she took him as I did, and took him very gently, holding him firmly and talking to him softly, until his fear had gone, she had made a dreadful noise and dropped him, so of course he would be angry with her.

Within minutes she was sitting quietly, holding a small purring creature, and both of them were happy again.

It is not easy to teach children to be gentle with animals, but unless the child takes full part in the cat's training the animal will be bewildered.

We have been discouraging him from jumping on to the table, but one of the boys let him up while he was doing his homework. So I explained that we all have to work as a team, making sure we all treat him the same way, until he knows how to behave.

He knows by instinct what his sand tray is for, and has never been the slightest trouble about the house, even when he was ill. But the other things are more difficult.

Chairs must be protected, so we have an old piece of carpet. As soon as he starts to claw, we put him on the carpet, and let him tear that. In time, he will know that that is the one place in the house where he can exercise his claws.

In time, he will learn to live with us, and we with him. He tells us when he is hungry or angry, and knows where to find his food and water, and he knows that when a crisis comes he will be safer with me or my husband when he is home than with anyone else.

He is already learning that I dislike being climbed when I am busy. If he tries I put out my fist very gently between my skirt and his claws and say "no" over and over quietly. After a few efforts he looks at me resignedly and goes away to find something of his own to do.

He has learned to sheath his claws when he jumps on to my knee. He feels safe there, and knows that if he slips my hand is ready to grab.

He knows that if he gets hurt, and he does because he is adventurous and inquisitive, he will find comfort at once from anyone of us, and that he only has to give a cry of pain to find the children ready with laps and soothing hands.

But little children petrify him. Their movements are too uncontrolled, their hands too rough, their voices too shrill, and he gets distressed, and claws and bites and struggles, so that I have had to discourage our tiny neighbours from calling until he feels more sure of everyone about him.

I can quite see why my relatives sent their kittens away. It is not fair to child or cat to try and have a pet when the child is too young. It makes for a nervous animal, and that is a shame, as there is nothing more restful about a house than a peaceful and serene cat asleep on the hearth.

Fads and fancies

By A. L. SHERWIN

"NEVER eats anything but fish."
"Won't touch liver." Milk?
Scorns it." How often have you heard such grumbles when discussing those faddy felines with anxious-to-please owners?

Cats are as individual about their eating as about all their habits. Take Figaro and Piccolo, for instance. These two four-year-old Siamese think that any food is a hundred times more tasty if they steal it; and they are not alone in that idea. Figaro and Piccolo will filch a succulent heart from a saucepan and demolish it with relish; but heart put down in the usual place for them will quite likely be ignored, or at the best approached with disdain.

Unfortunately, their stealing operations are fairly widespread. They make regular forays in the neighbourhood, and once returned with a roast chicken. Their distracted (but still loving) owner knows what to expect when she is stopped by a grim-faced stranger, whose opening gambit is invariably: "I believe you are the lady who owns the Siamese cats . . ."

Leah, a two-year-old Siamese, stole regularly for her kittens, and one day brought in a joint of veal. What a picture the kittens made, gnawing at the meat and squeaking and grunting all the time. Siamese kittens nearly always guzzle their food with continuous squeaks of delight. Although Siamese love food it would not be fair to describe this delightful breed as gluttons; but gourmets they undoubtedly are. Yosan, who is six, changes her diet in the winter, when she eats a lot of Kit-E-Kat and Felix.

Tinker, a middle-aged fellow with a beautifully marked tabby coat and a particularly devastating stare-you-out-of-countenance glitter in his eyes, can

be trusted not to touch roast beef or chicken. But leave roast lamb on the table, then it is Tinker who has the best of that dinner.

Fluff, bought for a shilling from a cottager in a Devon village because a small girl said: "Oh, Mummy, I want him," grew up a nice, stalwart fellow but was never an aristocrat. His place he felt, was in the kitchen and he was well content with a breakfast of porridge and milk and a good dinner of fish or meat, or family scraps. He never stole until a dainty ginger-and-white lady joined the household. He stole for her.

Dumbo, a young tabby, had always shown himself reasonably honest until the day he was caught in the kitchen sink. With eyes as wide as saucers and shining like stars he was busily engaged in dragging out of the sink-drainer the skins of lambs' tongues. Did this chance discovery of his special fancy lead to an occasional indulgence? What do you think?

Hand-feeding demanded

Although not such determined, trusting personalities as the Siamese, the Russian Blues generally manage that their meals—what served and where served—shall be to their liking.

Smokey, now eight, has never eaten on the floor. His dish must be placed somewhere high—the higher the better. He is very partial to freshly-cooked, hot bacon rind, but this must be handed to him, piece by piece. He drinks water (as every cat should) and milk, but, strange to say he won't touch the top off the milk. My experience has always been that below the cream line of a milk-bottle then it is a case of "No thank

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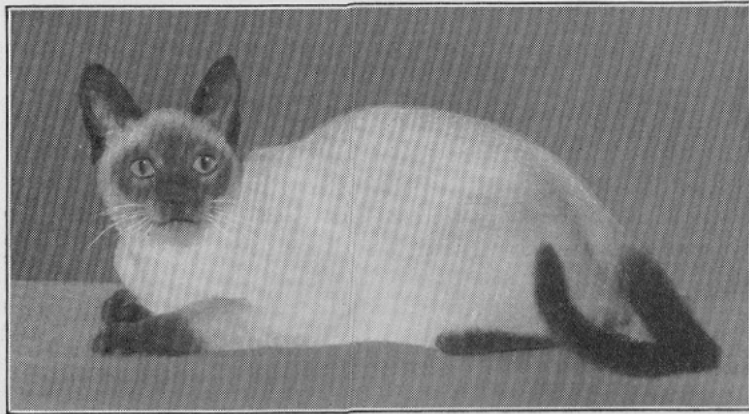
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you." Smokey's favourite dinner? Hearts. Favourite drink? A saucer of tea.

Now one of my Siamese friends is an ardent milk-drinker and appears every day at tea-time for his bowl of milk, which he invariably drinks by dipping in a paw and licking it until every drop has gone. It takes him a little time.

A taste for tails

Country cousins are just as fanciful as city felines. A family of three consisting of aged mother of twenty-two (but still a sturdy old girl) and two spayed daughters, love fish, which is their main diet. But they, too, find the smell of roasting lamb a mouth-watering scent.

A friend of mine recently went to stay with their owner, who lives in Berkshire, where the soil is sandy and heather abounds. Soon after she arrived she was told in quite a casual manner: "Please don't encourage the cats to come in as they have been catching lizards. They bite off their tails, and eat them and it makes them sick."

The three cats spend hours on the sandy banks in the hot sunshine, and every now and then out flashes a swift, silent paw, then follows a sharp nip and another lizard darts away to grow a new tail. The fact that they are always sick does not stop them. They have even been known to catch a snake and try the same trick with his tail. That time they were very, very sick.

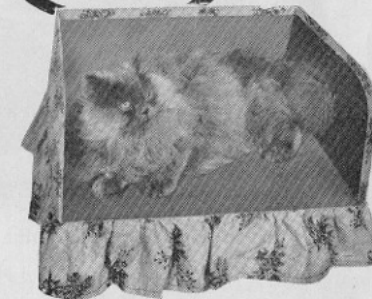
How full of fads these felines are! Nearly all of them like rabbit, but some prefer the stronger tasting hare. Most of them like liver, heart, giblets—but not all. Some won't touch horseflesh; some will eat it only raw. Just to say a cat likes fish is merely part of the story. One eats cod, another whiting, yet another haddock. Some like pilchards, but won't touch sardines (a pity as the oil is a useful lubricant). Some eat chicken and yet refuse turkey. Some say "yes" to salmon, but "no" to crab.

I have known cats who loved beetroot and celery. And, Bertie, a black-and-white boy, could never be stopped from biting a piece out of tomatoes, ripening on a plant. Nearly all the crop bore his trade mark.

It is surprising how well many cats keep on a monotonous menu, but naturally a varied diet is best. It is wise to ring the changes during a week between a good brand of cat food, fish, meat, hearts, liver, rabbit; and, of course include some vegetables and roughage. Be careful of all bones—leaving it to the cat to sort out bones is never a risk you should run. Never leave uneaten food down. Fresh food for the next meal, and on a clean plate.

It is difficult to persuade a cat to change a diet once he has decided what he likes. So start your kitten on a sensible, all-round diet—and hope for the best.

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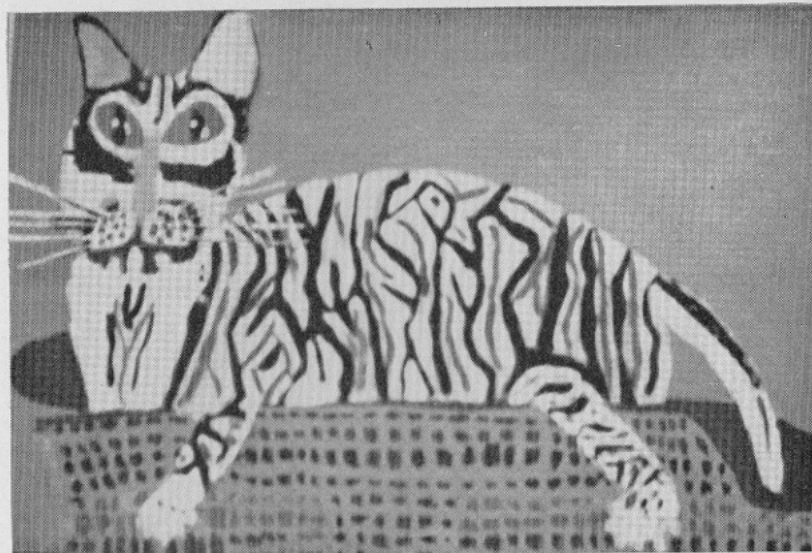
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A page for the proletarian puss—No. 88



Mirrorpic

This striking painting of a Tortoiseshell cat was among the 30,000 entries in the *Sunday Pictorial* National Exhibition of Children's Art held recently in the West End of London. The young and imaginative artist was 11 year-old Valerie Palmer, of Barnsbury Secondary Girls' School, London. Cats were a popular subject with the exhibitors.

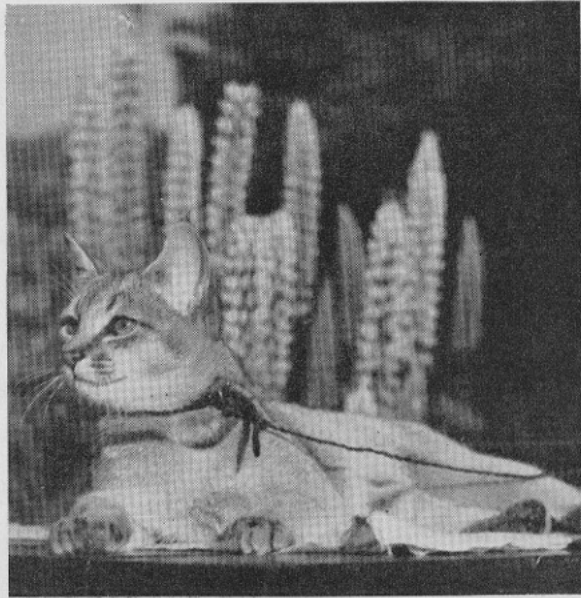
CORRECT FEEDING

IN our issue of March last we reported on a meeting of Siamese lovers organized by the London Division of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Among the many subjects discussed was the important one of correct feeding and Dr. Patricia P. Scott of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, University of London, pointed out the danger of diets based exclusively on meat and particularly heart. These diets can often lead to a serious weakening of the bones which can permanently deform the cat unless corrected in early life.

Dr. Scott's warning did not go unheeded and we subsequently received

a number of letters on the subject. One from an American subscriber wanted advice because he is feeding his cats on a mixture of kidney and heart in preference to horsemeat. This feeding, advises Dr. Scott, constitutes a perfectly sound basis for a diet provided supplies of bone salts (calcium particularly, and phosphorus) are present in adequate and balanced quantity—with if possible traces of iodine—to ensure normal bone growth. If added dog meal is properly fortified with calcium, Vitamin D, Vitamin A, etc., there should be no difficulties. Otherwise, steps should be taken to supply one of the recognized "mineral mix" supplements at the rate of about 5 per cent of the dry weight of the whole dietary.



Dignity in repose is exemplified by CHE-CHE, the 6 months' old male Abyssinian pet belonging to Mrs. D. Littlewood, of Hampstead, N.W. London.



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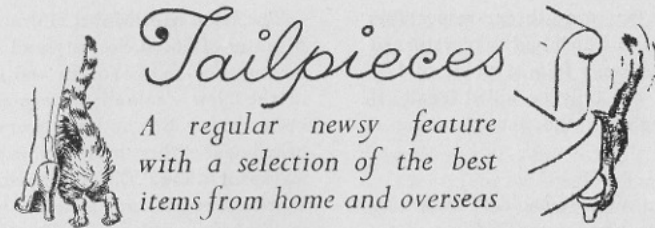
Cats love the flavour. They'll often take a spoonful when they refuse everything else. Before show-time; to build up a mother-cat; or start kittens on additional feedings, there's nothing more naturally good—than Brand's Essence.

Brand's booklet "Safe-guarding your Pet" will be sent free on application to Brand and Co. Ltd., Mayfair Works, Vauxhall, S.W.8.



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BEEF · CHICKEN



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

THE long drawn out printing strike was not without its casualties among the smaller specialist periodicals, many of which have been struggling for a long time to keep their heads above water. Some of them took advantage of the enforced break in publication to review their position and a number decided not to appear again after the strike. One monthly magazine to disappear is the *Tail Wagger* which doubtless was well known to many of my readers. Its disappearance is to be regretted since it was always well edited and brightly informative. Several thousand pet owners are going to miss it.

"While ill and alone for the past few days—my husband is away from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.—I have kept my spirits up with the company of a little black kitten only six weeks' old. He was a stray and purrs all day long. While there are such tiny, perfectly formed animals in the world, such bundles of mischief, surely no one should lose heart, no matter how ill they are." So wrote a Kentish lady signing herself "Animal Lover" to the *London Star*.

Mrs. Marjorie Howells, a 49 year old resident of Paddington, W. London, fell 12 ft. to her death from a window at her home. It was stated at the inquest that she was probably leaning out of the window trying to call in the cats for the night.

Mr. J. G. Orr, writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, comments on public houses

in Kent with contemporary names and appropriate signs. On the Isle of Grain, where there is a huge oil refinery with its catalytic cracking process, the "Cat and Cracker" sign depicts a cat leaping from an exploding firework. One sign I particularly liked is that belonging to "The Stork at Rest," an inn at Gravesend converted from an old maternity home. It shows an exhausted stork reclining in an armchair enjoying a drink and a cigar.

"Bring £20 to-night and leave it in the telephone box at the corner of the Mount at 10 o'clock on the dot if you want your white cat to stay alive." This was the threatening message which Mrs. Evelyn Gallagher, of Belfast, found pushed under her door. A watch was kept by the police who arrested a young apprentice named Crockett. The lad, who was committed for trial charged with demanding money with menaces, said he had no intention of harming the cat. He wrote the letter because he was broke.

Nottingham's only baby sitting service has been listed in the telephone classified directory under "Pet Stores."

A number of miners in Sunderland who between them maintain nearly 1,000 pigeons in 35 lofts are very worried over the activities of a semi-Persian black cat known to them as Crafty Clara. Clara has been killing their birds they say at the rate of one a day for the last five months. They have tried out a trap but all they have managed to

catch so far are three respectable household pets which had to be returned to their owners. It is a point of law that Clara can only be killed legally if she is caught in the act of taking a pigeon.

A European householder asked his Zulu garden boy for the Zulu word for a cat. The boy replied "Ee-KAAT-ce." On being told that this was probably only a Zulu adaptation of the English word "cat," the boy promised to make enquiries among the elders of his community. Next day, he returned, grinning from ear to ear. The boss was right, he said, the *real* Zulu word for a cat was "Ee-POO-se." (Reproduced with acknowledgments to *Cats Calling*, the magazine of the Western Province Cat Club, Cape Town, South Africa.)

Toots, a cat missing for two weeks at Castelbridge, Co. Wexford, Ireland, was found with five kittens in a crow's nest near the top of a 50 foot tree.

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The Hon. Miss Mabel Howard, M.P., Minister of Social Security and Minister for the Welfare of Women and Children in the New Zealand Government, has been visiting England and from what I hear, one of her most enjoyable days was spent at the P.D.S.A. Sanatorium at Ilford. She has indicated her intention to improve animal welfare in her country as quickly as possible and her aim will be to establish the high standards in surgery, etc., she saw in operation at Ilford.

A young Bradford policeman charged with indecent assault was said to have had the incriminating hairs of a white cat on his uniform. He was sent for trial at the assizes.

Answering questions in the House of Commons, the Minister of Defence revealed that over a period of six months about 3,000 animals have been destroyed in the course of experiments at the Chemical Defence Experimental Estab-

lishment. The ten different types of animals used for these experiments included 32 cats and 42 dogs, also 1,708 rats.

The finishing touches are now being put to a film sponsored by the P.D.S.A. called "Trouble was a Cat," which tells the story of how five little tough boys out carol singing at Christmastime find themselves the rather unwilling protectors of a stray cat. Kittens are on the way and the cat is sadly in need of food and warmth. Although her needs conflict with the boys' money making plans, she gets her way, though not without a good deal of incident and trouble. The film is 16mm. and will soon be available on free loan to clubs, etc., on application to "Films," P.D.S.A. House, Clifford Street, W.1. Another film to interest animal lovers is "Looking Back," which tells the story of the first 42 years of the P.D.S.A. This is also available on free loan.

Here's a fashion note by Joan Reason in the *London Star*: "Elinor Glyn once went to a literary luncheon with her cat slung round her neck. And it stayed there all through the eats and the speeches. Some cat! I have been looking at next door's moggy. Do you think an old ginger tom would go with my red? No? Well, I've been having second thoughts about it myself."

Six people living in Ash Vale, Surrey, probably owe their lives to the mewing of their cat. Violet Hamilton, aged 24, was awakened by the noise and found the house on fire. Her mother, brother and two sisters escaped with her in their nightclothes down the smoke-filled staircase. A lodger, who was last to leave the house, was treated for a cut hand and his hair was singed after he had tried to fight the flames with buckets of water.

The loud voice of a little New Zealand kitten not only got him out of a very awkward predicament but it also gained

him a good home and a name. Persistent and pathetic mewing was heard in Parliament Buildings, Wellington, and carpenters were called in to locate the sounds. Wall and ceiling boards were torn down and after a two hour search in the ceiling a small kitten was discovered. The private secretary to the Minister of Health took the kitten home and christened it after an intruder in a parliamentary edifice overseas. Guy Fawkes is the kitten's name!

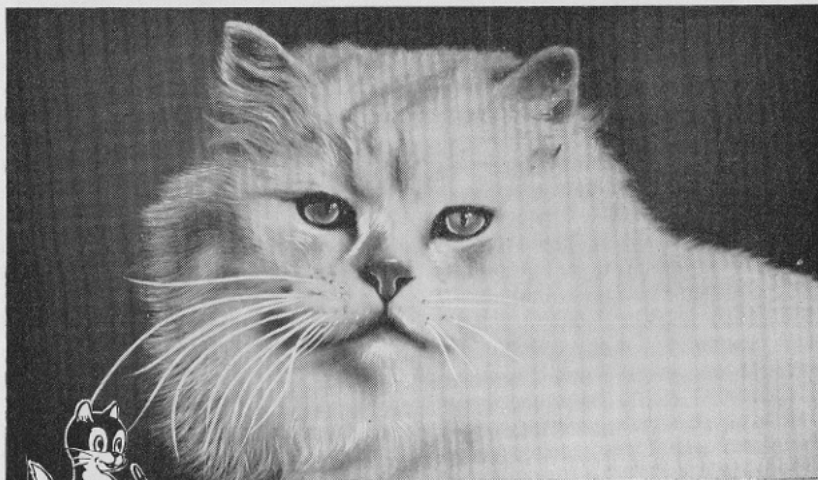
Veterinarians are due for greater appreciation as the years roll by. That was one of the impressions of a commentator on the annual gathering in Kansas City of the American Medical Veterinary Association. There are now 22,000 practitioners in the States and Canada and although the nineteen colleges where veterinary medicine is listed for study turn out about 900 graduates a year there remains a real shortage. Pet hospitals have sprung up all over America and most are doing a thriving business.

The *Daily Express* correctly titled the following incident as "a story to make you angry." A little kitten named B.B. (after Brigitte Bardot) was thrown overboard from the freighter *Tadla* in Marseilles harbour. Three days later when the ship tied up in Casablanca, the engineer spotted a ball of black fur clinging to the rudder. It was B.B., the ship's cat that no one wanted, covered in fuel oil and soaked in water. She was rescued and taken to the galley for a clean up and—happy ending—B.B. was reprieved on the captain's orders.

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.

MICKEY

Tibsical memories of father by the Champ's son



A scoop for the Tibs reporter! The facts revealed by the son of the great Chinchilla champion "Sylvadene Solomon!"

"Father always insisted on daily Tibs, so naturally I've been a Tibs fan from kittenhood," said this luxury-loving cat. Did you ever see a cat who looked more pleased with life? His owner, Mrs. F. S. Barker, of Sylvan House, Ilkeston, Derbyshire is enthusiastic about Tibs too: "I must say that I would not be without Tibs. In my opinion they are still the best for keeping cats in bloom, sparkling eyes and wonderful coat." Sound teeth and bones too!

The many friends of Mrs. Barker will be sad to hear of the ill-health which prevented her from breeding or showing her cats, although *they're* all as tibsical as ever. We wish her a speedy recovery!

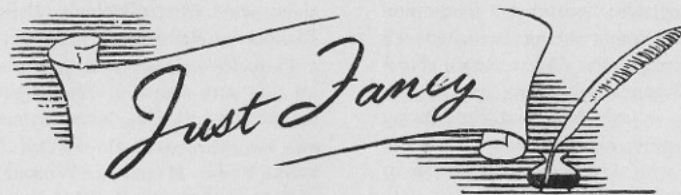


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casting vote of the referee judge. This often happens when the panel of judges consists of three and seldom when there are five judges. This matter has been discussed at Governing Council level and I know the majority of exhibitors prefer five judges. As there are always five or more judges for both Longhair and Shorthairs at London Championship Shows there is no valid reason why their (the exhibitors') wishes should not be complied with.

Major awards were: Best Longhair Cat—Mr. Reid's Blue female Briaric Bubbles (by Ch. Lavengro of Dunesk); Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Richer's Cream male Pierrepont Storm (by Bluestar Gay Cavalier). Storm's Blue-Cream litter sister was best of her variety. Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Speirs' Chinchilla Loreley of Allington (by Ch. Flambeau of Allington), a unanimous award; Best Shorthair Adult—Mrs. Colville's White Manx Noend White Brumas (by Ch. Noend Snowman); Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Philpot's B.P. Siamese male Bitchet Genista (by Ch. Misselfore Ryken); Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Moore's British Black Asplin Othello (by Ch. Barwell Pedro). This was his final Premier Certificate and he is a lovely representative for British Shorthairs.

Show season starts

THE Championship Show season opened on a hot sunny day in late August with the Herts and Middlesex Cat Club fixture at the Royal Horticultural Hall. Unfortunately, the Committee were unable to hire the Hall for a September date so the Longhair adults were fewer in number than usual and Blacks, Whites, Smokes, Silver Tabbies and Tortoiseshells were conspicuous by their absence. This may not have been entirely due to the date as the exceptionally hot summer has played havoc with coats in Longhairs although it has enabled some of them to shed more freely. They should benefit later on. Mrs. Towe was Show Manager and with the capable and experienced assistance of Mr. Towe everything was in apple pie order.

Both Best in Show Longhair awards for adult and kitten were decided on the

Congratulations to Mrs. Stephenson on her Blue male Ashdown Nuthatch, by Woburn Sunshine, becoming a Champion and to Mrs. Barron, Hon. Secretary of the H. and M. C.C. on her Cream female Dalan Susan (by Paul

of Pensford) also becoming a Champion and proud papa being awarded his second Certificate. Mrs. Ross's Blue-Cream Shapur Saccharissa by Camber Algernon, in excellent coat considering the hot summer, also became a Champion. All three who were awarded their finals were exhibitor-bred.

The Challenge Certificates in Chinchillas went to Mrs. Watts' male Du-Bu Jolyon and in females to Mrs. Turney's Bonavia Tinkabell. Mrs. Turney also bred her sire Ch. Bonavia Contenta and her dam Ch. Bonavia Flora.

Miss Page's Blue male kitten Woburn Bonamy, by Woburn Chippy, was very much admired. He is a lovely kitten and his eyes have the russet glow which always presages copper eyes when adult. Mrs. Denton's pale blue female Camber Louise (by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous) was Best Blue female. Another kitten with lovely eyes. Miss Sheppard was first in Reds with Widdington Shamrock by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo and Mrs. Calder in Smokes with Broctons Humphrey by Ch. Bircotte Nono. The winning Chinchillas were Miss Langston's male Fildalgo of Allington and Mrs. Thornhill's female Sunhaven Paula.

Siamese predominate

Siamese, as is usual nowadays, far outnumbered all other varieties. In S.P. adults Mr. Burlton's male Gay Donald by Ch. Bluehayes Foxy and Mrs. Highton's female Random Rose Petal were the Challenge Certificate winners. In Blue Points, Mrs. Davies's Spotlight Adonis (by Ch. Clonlost Yo-Yo) and Mrs. Worsley's Missfore Duena (by Dodbrook Drambuie) and in Chocolate Points Miss Beckett's Sunland Sirius (by Ch. Craigiehilloch Chozaro) and Mrs. Davis's Hanburi Lokando.

None of the other Open Shorthair adult classes had more than one, two or three entries, except Russian Blue females with five and the winner in this

class was Mrs. Pooley's Bellemonta Patiana by Bellemonta Jorge.

Lady Rosemary Glubb had a successful day with first and Challenge to her White Shorthair male Hawthorn and one, two, three with three White kittens, White Violet, Heartsease White Heather and Heartsease White Knight and the first prize Any Colour Siamese Litter with her exhibit by Larry Palladin.

Congratulations to Mrs. Thake on winning in a class of fifteen teams with her Silver Tabbies Silverseal Herrick and Rowena and a S.P. Siamese Avon-side Bright Star.

Space does not permit recording all the other first prize winners but the winners in the two very well filled S.P. Siamese kitten classes two to five months must be mentioned. Twenty male kittens were headed by Mrs. Paul's Tarleton Gaylord by Ch. Spotlight Melchoir and twenty-two females by Mr. and Mrs. Barker's Baranbir Beauty Be Be, by Hillerross Cymbal.

A Chinchilla import

Chinchilla enthusiasts will welcome the news that Mrs. Mollie Turney of Bonavia fame has imported a male from U.S.A. Here's wishing her every success with her very well bred import which should provide an excellent outcross for English Chinchillas.

Her letter gives more details:

"I very much appreciate the help and co-operation I have received from Mrs. Gwen Webb of the Silver Mesa Cattery in California. She has gone to an immense amount of trouble to obtain the right cat for me and is at the moment compiling a family album of photos for me of all the cat's ancestors.

"The cat I have imported is four years' old and his progeny proved winners in U.S.A. His name is Silver Mesa Apache of Gray Ivy and his sire is the well known Grand Champion Silver Mesa Sir Valliant, who was All-American Chinchilla Male Cat 1959.

"I have been negotiating for another Chinchilla male for over a year but the right cat was not available. Then by a lucky chance Mrs. Webb was able to get Apache for me. His flight here was delayed for some weeks owing to the intense heat in California. Then at the last moment the quarantine station where he was booked here had a suspected case of cat 'flu which meant a hurried change of quarters. However, he arrived early on August 13th and I met him at London Airport as Mrs. Webb had insisted that if he was not all I wished for he was to be sent back at once at her expense. Could anything be fairer or more generous?

"Apache had already been taken to the R.S.P.C.A. hostel at the Airport before I could see him and the first remark I was greeted with was: 'Is that your lovely cat just arrived?' My hopes rose and when the kennel maid opened the door and he ran towards me I could have cried with joy. He is an absolute darling and seemed so pleased to see someone. When I picked him up he purred and purred. I hated saying good-bye to him but alas, it had to be.

"This cat is the third Chinchilla I have imported but when you all see him I am sure you will agree he has a lot to give to the breed. I think the Chinchillas need new blood more than any other breed. Although many of our own are lovely many are too related and I have thought for a long time that unless new blood lines were brought in it would be serious for the future of this beautiful variety. Apache is my third and final import so now others will have to help to carry on.

"Mrs. Webb and myself are now intending to give a mutual 'Paws Across the Ocean' service and we hope that we will be able to pass on new lines of value to the breed. I am hoping to send her two kittens of different matings and next year when Mrs. Webb may be coming to England we shall be able to discuss the best way to utilize these blood lines. I feel confident nothing but good

can result from these discussions and for my part I cannot thank her enough for sending me such a lovely male."

Mrs. Turney is also well known here for the exceptionally good conditions at her up-to-date boarding kennels for cats named "The Cat's Inn," which have been featured by Pathé Pictorial. The Certificate of Health with its numerous questions which each owner is required to answer is sufficient to give one confidence in Mrs. Turney's solicitude for her boarders and her own cats. Individual cedarwood houses, each standing in its own 10' x 5' garden and divided by a double row of chain link ensures that occupants from different homes do not come into direct contact with each other. Only at the owner's request can one, two or three cats from the same household share one of the houses.

The line drawing by Maisie Seneshall on the brochure is charming. It shows a contented cat on a rose pink hot water bottle in an attitude eloquent of complete repose.

A little traveller

Mrs. Benbow, so well known for her Blues, Creams and Blue-Creams, sends welcome news of the charming kitten she exhibited at Kensington Kitten Show in July and later at the Chester Area Cat Club Show on August 22nd. She writes: "I exhibited Bayhorne Athena at Chester where she won all her classes and was Best Longhair Kitten in Show. Mrs. Jessop's Blue male Ch. Bluemine Morrison Busty was Best L.H. Adult. Best S.H. Adult was Mrs. Kirby's Russian Blue Glasfyn Galathea and Best S.H. Kitten Mrs. Nicholas's Helsa Beta. The Best Neuter was Miss Edwards' Cream L.H. Kaspar Sunbeam.

"Bayhorne Athena has been purchased by Mrs. Vize of Sidney and sailed for Australia on August 27th. Mrs. Ella Martin supervised all the

arrangements and telephoned that evening to tell me she had seen her aboard the Port Brisbane safely for me.

"My Blue queen Ashdown Marguerite is expecting kittens also by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax and after they are here I am having a few days holiday with Mrs. Pye Thomson in Cornwall. We are enjoying glorious views from our new house and finding it much easier to run as it is smaller."

Our good wishes accompany all these little travellers and it is always interesting to hear of their progress. All future news is welcome for these notes.

A lovely picture of Bayhorne Athena graced the front cover of last month's issue of OUR CATS.

Arrived in Australia

The two kittens I sent to Mrs. Lorraine Picken of Melbourne, Australia, Sunkist of Pensford (pictured on the cover of OUR CATS in June) and a Blue male Cedric of Pensford (both by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous) arrived safely and suffered no ill effects from their journey or quarantine. This confirms my opinion that kittens should be really well established before they leave this country for a journey which at its best must be arduous. Whatever time of year they leave they encounter extremes of temperature.

Mrs. Picken tells me: "The last part of the voyage was cold coming over the Bight from Fremantle and I was so glad they were together. Their coats were dull with dried sea spray—although their temporary home was so much above sea level—but the most important thing was they were fit and well and such robust kittens. You can imagine how I longed to bring them straight home but into quarantine they had to go for sixty days. When they at last arrived home I decided they needed a shampoo and they emerged looking clean, perfumed and fluffy.

"They had been entered as adults for the Championship Siamese Cat Club

Show for all Breeds at Melbourne as by now they were over nine months and you can imagine my joy when each won his Open Class, and four firsts.

"On Sunday evening after the Show we had Peter Jefferies from Television ringing up to invite them to his programme a week later 'Down to Earth,' which features many varieties of animals. The previous week he had televised four Champion dogs estimated to be worth £1,500. They were beautiful.

"I decided to take Cedric because he had lost less coat than Sunkist and Slapton Seretse the neuter. The cats were taken in on leads and Peter Jefferies displayed them well. As well as mine there was a Mackerel Tabby male, a lovely Manx and a Siamese. It was very interesting and enjoyable.

"I stewarded for Mrs. Patterson at the Show and later met Mrs. Vize who was also judging. We had so much to say to each other and it was so interesting hearing about the cats in the pedigrees of our English imports, many of which Mrs. Vize knew so well before she left England."

America's top cat

The September number of U.S.A. *Cats Magazine* depicts photographs of the "Cat of the Year"—Mrs. Robert Green's Black Longhair Grand Champion Vel-Vene's Voodoo which broke all show records for the season by winning "Best Cat in Show" award twenty-three times. The citation states that he accumulated more points than any previous cat in history (U.S.A.) and out-scored approximately 10,000 other felines exhibited during the season.

Voodoo's breeding is very interesting and once again we have confirmation of the wonderful influence of the Blues.

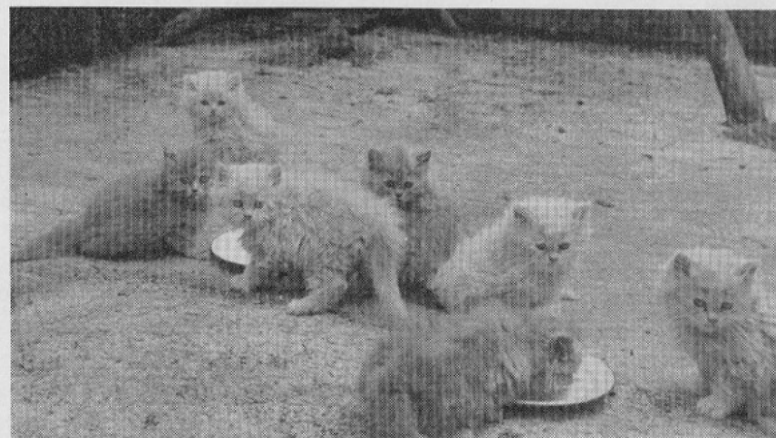
His Blue sire Grand Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau is now owned by Miss Elsie Hydon and he was "Cat of the Year" in 1950 and incidentally the one to whom I awarded Best in Show when I judged in New York in 1950. It was the ninth time he had been given

this honour, I was informed afterwards. At that time he was owned by Mr. Anthony de Santis and was acquired after his owner's untimely death by Miss Hydon who also owned and I believe, bred, his sire Grand Ch. Lavender Liberty. Liberty was sired by Miss Hydon's English import Ch. Lavender Chu Chu, a pale Blue which many senior Blue breeders will remember, although he made few appearances here before his export to U.S.A.

Mrs. Green purchased Voodoo's Black mother, Champion Longhills Black Velvet from Mr. De Santis, and in 1956 she was All American Black Longhair female and is now well on the way to her Grand Championship. Her pedigree also teems with famous show cats, so again, we see a sire and dam with immaculate pedigrees producing a super cat.

When one remembers famous cats of the past that may be as far back as the third or fourth generation in our present-day winners, how often one sees some of their characteristics reproduced.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Green and may Grand Ch. Vel-Vene's



Mrs. F. H. Stephenson's bonny litter of seven will be the envy of many Longhair breeders who have not experienced the best of luck this season. By Woburn Sunshine ex Anchor Questy, these kittens were brought up without any trouble. Our picture shows the litter at 2½ months and there are 4 Creams and 3 Blue-Creams clearly definable.

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OUR CATS MAGAZINE
4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

No. 3 in a fine new series

Genetics for the novice breeder

By A. C. JUDE

IN the first article of this series, references were made to "phenotype" and "genotype." Together, these cover every characteristic of an individual. Phenotype is the appearance of an animal. It includes all observable traits (or characters), anatomical, physiological and psychological. It is the result of joint action between environment and "genotype." Genotype is the animal's constitution. It is determined by number, type, and arrangement of genes. It is the animal's record within itself.

Although genotype and phenotype separately mean different things, breeders must consider the two together, for each is capable of giving guidance when selection of breeding pairs is being made.

To produce progeny whose colour appearance will be in accordance with some pre-determined standard, the parents must of necessity be known to carry the genetic factors capable of satisfactorily producing the required phenotype. But the parents themselves need not of necessity exhibit that wanted colour phenotype.

For instance, the simple black/blue example may be quoted. Two parents may be phenotypically Blacks, yet genotypically they may be Blacks carrying Blue factor. In such circumstances, it is within possibility that a litter of all Blues could be born. In any case some Blues could be expected.

On the other hand, two parents phenotypically Blacks may be of such genotype that they would be incapable of producing anything but Blacks. The lesson is that

appearances, although a guide, may be deceptive; it is genotype that is of vital importance.

These facts show the need for faithfully kept breeding records, in which the breeding performance of every animal bred and used is tabulated. As kittens are usually sold to other fanciers, the pedigree form becomes a necessity, for it provides by its string of names in the ancestry, the key to the whole of the information the owner will require when the kitten reaches breeding age. The pedigree form will give the breed number of each ancestor, and this will indicate the colour-pattern and general type of each individual. But for particulars about their breeding performances, personal enquiry will be necessary. Those who fail to enquire and take heed of the complete genotype, may well run into all sorts of difficulty and disappointment.

Science more precise

In a fancy, breeds or phenotypes are named in order that mental pictures may be conjured up in the mind's eye. When, for instance, one speaks of a black cat or a tabby cat, the mind at once presents a mental picture of a black-coloured cat, or of a striped ticked one as the case may be. Generally, but not always, new breeds are produced by fanciers who, having some knowledge of colour inheritance, arrange to bring certain colour genes together which it is known will eventually give the desired colour phenotype.

For instance, a fancier may decide he would like a long-haired cat with the Siamese colour pattern. Obviously then,

he will mate a suitably coloured long-haired cat (say Black) with a Siamese of suitably coloured points (say S.P.). In due course, by observing the necessary simple facts of inheritance, he will produce his long-haired cat with the desired Siamese colour-pattern. The fresh breed will be named by the fancy as it may wish. This in most cases—but not quite all—will be done in accordance with the animal's phenotype.

The scientist does his naming in a more precise way. He names the animal by a system of lettering which indicates each particular factor in the genotype. There is no personal choice or chance in this for each phenotype is named not by what it looks like, but by what it really is. And when the lettering is put down in print or writing, the mental picture, and the genetic constitution of the phenotype can be appreciated the world over.

The nomenclature used may vary with species, but in the main, some endeavour

is made to keep it constant. It is usual to use capital letters to indicate dominants, and the small letters to indicate the recessives. For instance, *B* indicates black pigment being present, and small *b* no black pigment present, its place being taken by chocolate pigment. Then again, *D* represents the ability to develop full pigment, while *d* indicates blue dilution.

This latter factor, when present in duplex, causes a clumping, and also some reduction in the number of pigment granules. It converts black into blue, chocolate into lilac, and red into buff. So then, we have pure Black indicated by *B.B.*, Black carrying Blue as *Bd*, and the pure Blue as *dd*.

Referring back to the Longhair and Siamese combination, the Siamese (recessive albinistic mutation) is designated *C^HC^H*. This, when mated with Longhair Black (also a recessive mutation) designated *ll* will produce in *F*₁ all short-haired Blacks *Cc^HLl* which, when

mated together will give in *F*₂ a kitten—one in sixteen—homozygous for both mutations and designated *C^HC^Hll*. And when one sees the combined letters *C^HC^Hll* one does know what the phenotype actually is—a Longhaired Siamese.

It is known that the general type will tend to be as all long-haired cats are, and obviously will be cultivated to fall into line with recognized long-hair type. There is no reason why the Fancy should not call this breed Colourpoints yet there is no reason why anyone in the Fancy should say (as I have recently read) that anyone who calls a Colourpoint a "Longhaired Siamese" is "uninitiated."

Through the facts of heredity we have reached a new conception of the individual. Hitherto, we had been accustomed to distinguish between breeds or the individuals by only making use of certain external features such as coat colour or markings. Apart from this, our notions as to what constituted the individuality in each case, were at best but vague.

Mendelian analysis has placed in our hands a more precise method of estimating and expressing the variations that are to be found between one individual and another, so that, instead of looking at

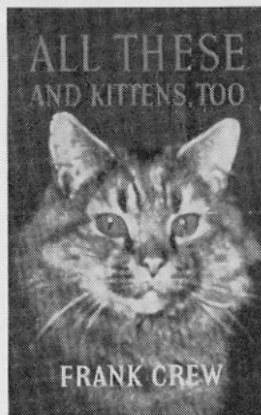
the individual as a whole, which is in some vague way endowed with an individuality marking it off from its fellows, we now regard it as an organism built up of definite characters. And by the study and use of the genotype we have no longer to grope, but can with a large degree of certainty plan and produce in the progeny a greater perfection or some new combination in the phenotype, according to our desires.

(to be continued)

A REMINDER!

We are still anxious to obtain the names and addresses of cat lovers—particularly those overseas—who are likely to welcome a specimen copy of this Magazine. Do you know of anyone?

All information is treated in strict confidence. Please send details to the Editor, OUR CATS, 4 Carlton Mansions, 378 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. He will do the necessary.



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by Frank Crew is illustrated from photographs and available from all bookshops and libraries. 12s. 6d. net. Published by Herbert Jenkins.

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OUR CATS is published monthly and closing date is the 20th 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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Yearly Subscription Rate is 20s. for 12 issues post free (U.S.A. and Canada three dollars 75 cents). Single copies 1s. 8d. post free.

A final reminder!

Our December 1959 issue will be our

FOURTH SPECIAL GREETINGS NUMBER

The perfect medium for seasonal greetings and messages from fanciers and their catteries, pet owners and their pets, clubs and their officials, humane organizations, etc.

Send NOW for details to: OUR CATS, 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9.

Last date for instructions is 12th November.

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