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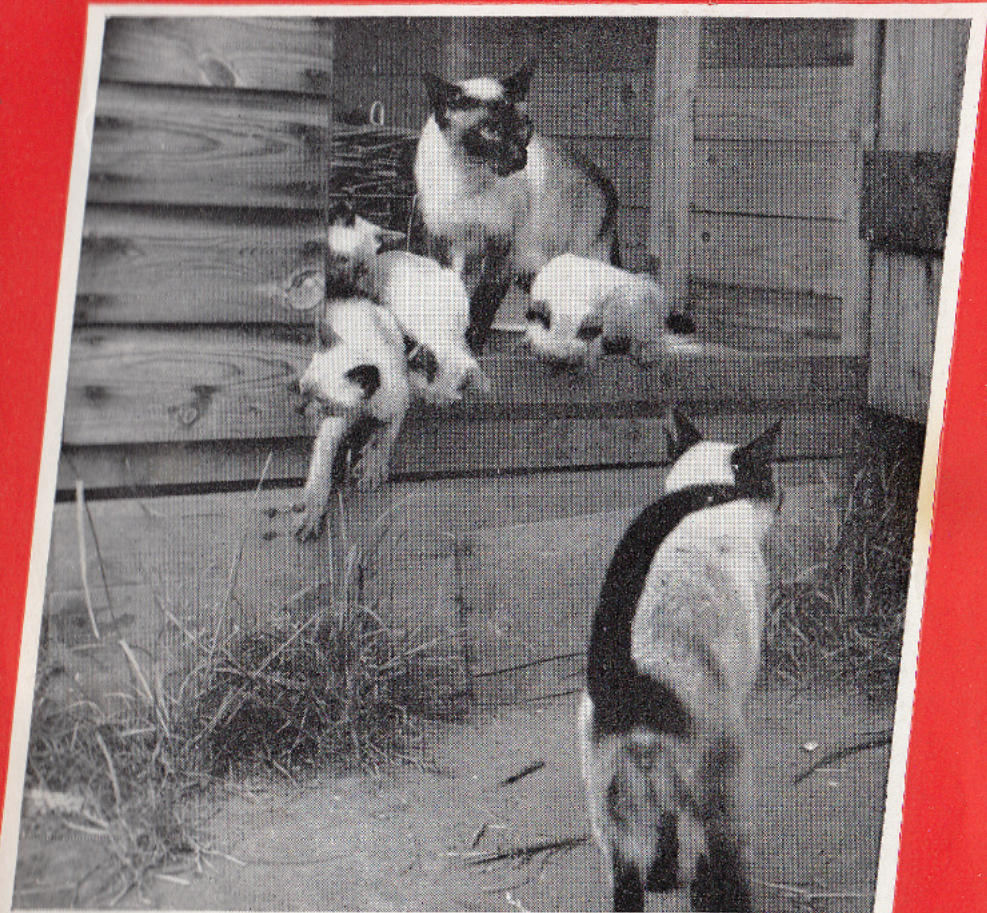
Printed in Great Britain by F. J. Milner & Sons Ltd., Brentford and London, for the Publisher and Proprietor, Arthur E. Cowlshaw, 4 Carlton Mansions.

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE

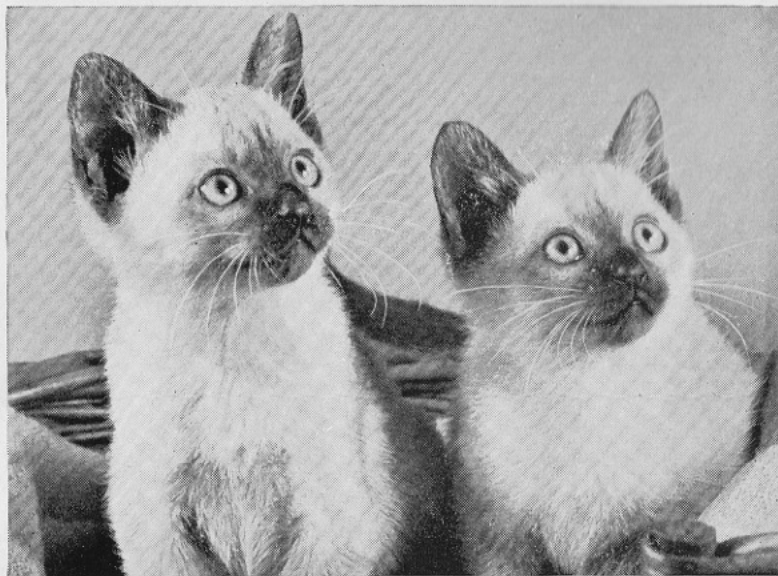


A happy domestic scene at the Silver Thistle Cattery of Miss R. Robertson-Ritchie, of Quorn, Leicestershire. The Siamese queen with her litter is Silver Thistle Cindy. S. T. Elfin provides the rear view!

1/6

JULY 1960

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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547

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:

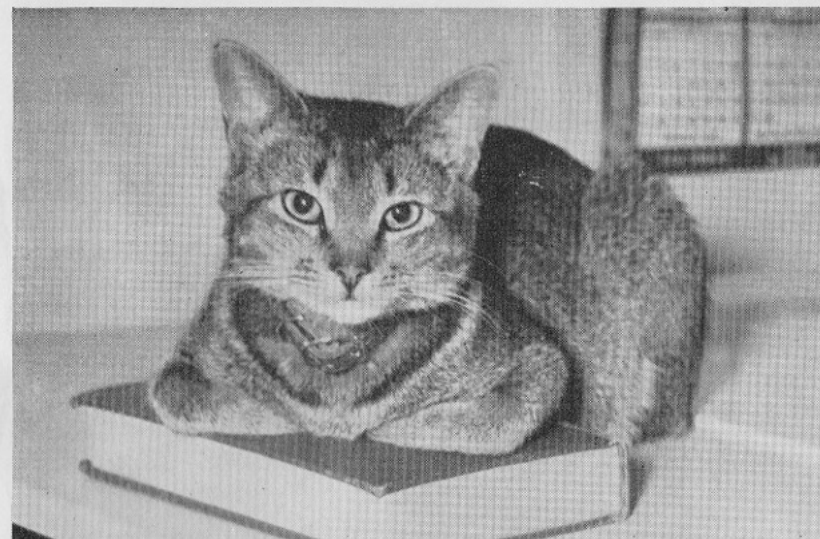
- (1) to spread a wider understanding and a better appreciation of all cats, their care and management
- (2) to encourage in every way the breeding, handling and showing of pedigree cats;
- (3) to work for the suppression of every form of cruelty to cats;
- (4) to act as a link of friendship and common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

VOL. 12 No. 7
JULY 1960

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



SELENES SANGA OF SATN, the treasured Abyssinian pet of Edith J. Beasley, of Ithaca, New York, U.S.A. This photograph was taken by flash bulb when Sanga was eight months old. Breeder is Mrs. Frances Schuler, of Lackawanna, who is well known in the Aby. world.

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 1960-61 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

1960	Promoted by	Venue
28 July ...	Kensington Kitten and Neuter C.C. ...	London
30 " ...	Kingsway Hospital Flower Show ...	Kingsway, Derby
1 August ...	Urmston Show (Cat Section) ...	Flixton
10 " ...	Airedale Agricultural Society ...	Bingley, Yorks.
13 " ...	Siamese Cat. Soc. of the British Empire ...	Reading
13 " ...	Kempston Show Society ...	Sandy, Beds.
17 " ...	Wessex Cat Club ...	Bournemouth
27 " ...	Suffolk and Norfolk Cat Club ...	Ipswich
6 September ...	*South Western Counties C.C. ...	Exeter
7 " ...	Macclesfield and District Agricultural Soc. ...	Macclesfield
24 " ...	*G.C.C.F. (Golden Jubilee Show) ...	Olympia, London
1 October ...	Yorkshire County Cat Club ...	Harrogate
4 " ...	*Siamese Cat Club ...	London
15 " ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C. ...	Edinburgh
29 " ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ...	Birmingham
5 November ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ...	London
5 " ...	Isle of Wight Cat Club ...	Ventnor, I.O.W.
12 " ...	*Croydon Cat Club ...	London
26 " ...	*Northern Counties Cat Club ...	Sunderland
3 December ...	*National Cat Club ...	Olympia, London
17 " ...	*Herts. and Middlesex Cat Club ...	London
1961		
7 January ...	*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club ...	Nottingham
21 " ...	*Scottish Cat Club ...	Glasgow
4 February ...	*Lancashire and N. Western Counties C.C. ...	Venue to be fixed
9 " ...	*Southern Counties C.C. ...	London
11 " ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association ...	Epsom, Surrey
25 " ...	*Coventry and Leicester C.C. ...	Coventry

* Denotes shows with Championship status. A detailed list of these fixtures may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., "Mosgiel," 4 Elim Court Gardens, Crowborough, Sussex.

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What makes a cat?

DR. R. A. GREEN, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., Sub-Department of Veterinary Anatomy, University of Cambridge, contributes the second talk in the series on "The Cat," recently broadcast over Network Three by the B.B.C. The opening talk appeared in our May issue.

NOW and again a domestic cat will strike most people as being a little uncanny. Perhaps it was not simple ignorance that once made black cats the familiars of witches and the personal property of the devil. I have known one or two people who find it difficult to stay in the same room with a cat. If the cat touches them they sometimes feel quite ill.

This kind of behaviour is often dismissed by critics as due to the lingering, unrecognized, of a mediaeval superstition, or else they explain it for us along Freudian lines. It could, however, have something to do with the fact that cats, unlike dogs, have never submitted themselves, body and soul, to domestication. Cats have changed their bodies and their dispositions very little since they accepted a share in human civilization. In a great many ways they still represent a wild life that we have largely forgotten. In some of us, their very presence, uncaged, strikes a deep-lying chord and the faint echo that rises is frightening.

Dogs and cats have been domesticated for thousands of years, cats possibly longer than dogs. Throughout most of that time, man has practised selective breeding on both his domestic pets. And yet the Cat Fancy can muster only some thirty different breeds, while the number of different types of domestic dog reaches well into three figures.

Cat breeds are mostly variations in coat length and coloration, whereas dogs vary in size and shape to a quite startling degree. Most of the dogs, by wild dog standards, are freaks—from midgets with flattened faces to heavy-checked giants. The only freak among the cats is the tailless Manx and the rest of his body is quite standard. There are not cats with short legs, cats with long legs, pug-nosed cats, or cats as big as a Great Dane. Under all those exotic coat-colours with such delectable names as Cream, Red Tabby, Silver Tabby, Blue, Chinchilla, Smoke and Tortoiseshell, there lies an almost monotonous sameness of body-plan.

The long-haired Persian types compared with the shorthaired Blacks and Tabbies look bigger than they really are because of that magnificently groomed coat. The Foreign group of breeds that includes the Siamese and the Abyssinian have, it is true, longer and more slender bodies than the others. But, from one end of the scale of variation to the other, from Blue Persian or Lilac-Pointed Siamese to the smallest black house cat without a pedigree, it is all a relatively slight matter of the proportions of component parts. Not only are all the parts pieced together in the same way, but all the various components have much the same length, breadth, and shape.

What, then, is this basic structural plan of a cat that appears to vary so little, and why is it so standardized when the body of the domestic dog varies so much?

In spite of all the differences between them, dogs and cats have more in common than at first sight seems apparent. Far back in time they may well have had

a common ancestor. The anatomy of either group makes sense only if it is considered as the anatomy of a flesh-eating mammal built for speed. Compared with the animals that preceded them in time—tree-climbing mammals that we know about from the fossilized bones they left behind after they died—the bodies of dogs and cats are very specialized—and in the same direction. For speedy movement over the ground on all fours, various far-reaching changes have come about in their skeleton. For dealing with a living prey, their teeth have been modified to an advanced degree, and special provision made on the skull for the attachment of powerful jaw-muscles.

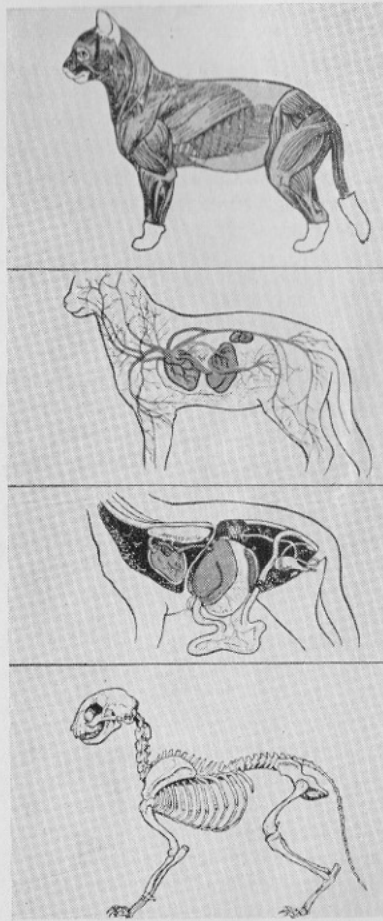
Toe walkers

In the limbs, the bones have increased in length and straightness and the collar-bone has disappeared. The hand and foot have changed their form and range of movements.

We retain the primitive from our tree-climbing ancestors, to twist one of our two forearm bones so that the palm of the hand can face upwards. This is the position called supination, because the hand is then lying on its back. We can supinate our hands through 180 degrees. In fast-running quadrupeds, this movement is either greatly reduced or lost completely. When it is lost, the two forearm bones become permanently joined together.

Even when we don't suffer from fallen arches, we are still, zoologically speaking, flat-footed animals like the bears. Compared with us, dogs and cats walk permanently on their toes.

We can bring our thumbs across to touch any of our other fingers. A highly mobile thumb is of great use to us, because it can work against the fingers like a very adaptable pair of pliers and this enables us to manipulate tools. We can no longer use our big toes in the same sort of way, although we could a little



What makes a cat "tick"? The top sketch shows the arrangement and function of the main external muscles. The second sketch depicts the circulatory system, location and size of the heart and major vessels. The third sketch gives the location and relative size of the principal organs and this is followed by paws in skeleton form.

Reproduced with acknowledgment and thanks from the excellent 550-page work on "Home Pet Care," by Leon F. Whitney, D.V.M. (Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York.)

when we were babies, and chimpanzees can all through their lives.

Animals that run fast need fingers and toes that can press in one uniform movement against the ground, in order to thrust the body forward. In the ancestors of both the dogs and the cats, the highly mobile thumb and the mobile big toe were dispensed with. The big toe, like the collar-bone, disappeared altogether, while the thumb became so small that in their modern descendants it no longer even touches the ground. Also, the skin on both hand and foot is extended downwards so that there are no spaces between the digits, as there are between our fingers and toes.

These evolutionary changes in body-structure appear to be irreversible. Once lost in evolution, there appears to be no getting back a collar-bone, a mobile thumb, or the ability to supinate the hand through 180 degrees. The limits within which variations can now occur have therefore been narrowed for both sets of animals.

Eye characteristics

In the course of their similar evolution, however, several important differences of structure have taken place between cats and dogs. The range of movements of a domestic cat is far wider than it is for a dog. A cat can not only jump better and fall safer; it can also scale fences and it can still climb trees. Two important differences that contribute greatly to these ends are a flattened face and retractile claws, claws that can be thrust in and out of protective sheaths of skin.

The shortening of the full-length muzzle, still present in all wild dogs, seems to have taken place early on in the evolution of the cat family. The importance of this to the cats is that now their two eyes can look straight ahead and focus together on a moving object. Apart from the cats, only members of the ape and monkey families, including ourselves, have this advantage. It enables

us and the cats to judge distances and depths to a degree denied to all animals in whom the eyes look out sideways, each separated from the other by a high snout or muzzle.

The cat uses its retractile claws not only for striking down its prey, but also for gripping the branches of trees and the vertical surface of a wooden fence. Unlike the dogs, the cats have not entirely lost the ability to supinate the hand. It has been reduced from the full 180 degrees to something like 90 degrees. This gives them a greater mobility for jumping and tree-climbing. Together with the claws, it also enables the hand to be used to some extent for manipulation, even though the opposable thumb is no longer present. The binocular eyesight is put to good use here as well. Kittens will sometimes reach out a front paw, capture a moth in flight, and then try to bring it to the mouth. The movement looks clumsy and is often unsuccessful because the necessary machinery isn't by any means all present. The cat can, as it were, climb trees, scale fences, and handle objects with its front paws *in spite of* being specialized for fast-running on the ground.

Tension without movement

The greatest difference between dogs and cats, however, lies not in their skeleton but in their muscles. A cat has a few extra muscles and one or two others attached in slightly different relationship to the joints. But the really striking difference is the way in which a cat uses its muscles.

In any mammal, the microscopic muscle-fibres actually responsible for moving the joints are capable of doing one of two things—they can either contract, or they can relax. When they contract, they shorten. Those fibres that run all the way from one bony attachment to another therefore bring the two bones nearer together when they contract—and the joint separating the two bones

moves. But there are other fibres that do not run the full distance from bone to bone. When these contract they do not bring about movement at the limb-joint. Their main purpose is to increase the tension of the anatomical muscle of which they are a part. This tension-without-movement occurs in those muscles opposing whatever joint-movement is going on at the time.

For example—when you bend your knee, many fibres in the muscles responsible for decreasing the angle of your knee-joint are contracting. At the same time, in the opposing muscles, those responsible for straightening your knee, all the long fibres are in the relaxed state, but a lot of the short ones are contracting. In other words, your knee-straightening muscles are showing oppositional activity—tension-without-movement—while you are engaged in bending your knee. Because of this opposition, against which the bending-muscles have to pull, the movement of your knee is a smooth and controlled one.

Balanced muscles

This opposition activity of muscles is, as I said, present when *any* mammal moves *any* of its joints. But the amount of opposition varies in different kinds of movements and in different groups of animals. When a watchmaker manipulates the tiny cogwheels of a wristwatch, his finger muscles are showing a great deal of oppositional activity. When a cat is stalking a bird, alternately freezing in its tracks and then gliding forward in a crouched position, its limb muscles are finely balanced in oppositional activity. In this way, any of its joints can instantly be held motionless in any position.

It has been discovered that those people of advanced muscular skill, like athletes and ballet dancers, use their muscles in this way to a far higher degree than the rest of us. They haven't set out to do this, but have acquired it in the course of their training. The other unconscious muscu-

lar quality they've acquired at the same time is a very high degree of relaxation in all the muscles they are using for any particular movement. Thus, no highly skilled human movement is possible without the muscles responsible for it showing two qualities—maximal relaxation and maximal oppositional activity.

Now, the cat family is naturally endowed with both these qualities to a greater extent than any human being, however skilled. The dogs, both wild and domestic, are by contrast overtensed and clumsy. And it is this double quality pertaining to the activity of its muscles that makes a cat what it is more than any other single factor—more than a flattened face, retractile claws and all the rest.

Fascinating and uncanny

A cat always moves with a feather-weight tread that appears to us as stealthy even when he is merely crossing a room and not stalking some real or pretended prey. This is because of the way he always uses his muscles, always highly relaxed and finely opposed to each other on opposite sides of every moving joint. For the same reason he almost oozes out of your grip as you try to pick him up and he can step delicately among fine bone-china on a tea-table. He can also leap upwards and across gaps between furniture with what looks like effortless ease. In all this of course his binocular vision makes for accuracy in judgement and his relatively mobile forearm and his retractile claws are often put to good use.

Have you ever been reminded of a monkey while watching a young kitten at play? As he scrambles up a chair-leg or sits with neck arched and gaze bent downwards, tapping at a piece of paper with a forepaw? To a limited extent a cat shares the same psychological world as a monkey because he has some of the same anatomical equipment at his front end. But his make-up is coloured still more by those two qualities pertaining to the action of his muscles. And it is also

these two qualities that make him at one and the same time both fascinating and uncanny because they link him directly to the wild state.

As to why domestic cats vary so little and dogs so much, no clear-cut answer is possible. The main factor in dog diversity is that selective breeding has been able to pick out what are really deficiencies in normal development and to play variations upon them. These deficiency diseases—for that is what they really are—just haven't turned up in domestic cats. Maybe this is because cats have seldom been bred for special purposes as dogs have for hunting, tracking and retrieving. Maybe it's because they've never been bred so intensively as dogs.

Cats already have a flattened face but this was acquired under wild conditions probably over millions of years. The cat's skull may have a flattened muzzle region but it is nevertheless beautifully propor-

tioned with no parts of it distorted. A Peke's or a Bulldog's skull, compared with a cat's, is an ugly travesty of something meant to be quite a different shape.

It is of course possible that with more intensive breeding for shows, cats will begin to go the same way as dogs. Possible, but rather unlikely, because cats haven't given up almost everything to our civilized way of life. If they do begin to vary in the same way as domestic dogs we had *all* better strengthen our nerves.

A good many cat-lovers, I imagine, would find it unpleasant to be in the same room with a Blue Persian looking like a Bloodhound! Many would recoil at the approach of a Lilac-Pointed Siamese with a face like a Bulldog!

[A further talk in this interesting series will appear in next month's issue.]

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If your sick cat refuses nourishment, or when *extra* nourishment is advised, give it the food Veterinary Surgeons have for years so strongly recommended — Brand's Essence.

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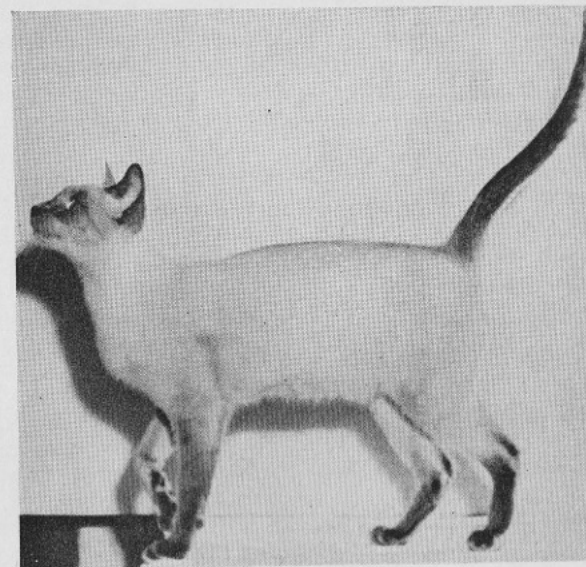
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Siamese are so superior ...

says BERYL GREATOREX

(Reprinted by kind permission from the June issue of "The Dog's Bulletin.")

"YOU can tell the old country's booming by the number of Siamese cats about," said an Australian friend visiting Britain recently for the first time in years.

It's a fairly common habit nowadays to link Siamese cats with prosperity and good living. Why? Without doubt the advertising men of the world are partly to blame. Ever since one of them set up the Siamese as a symbol of room-at-the-top they've been tumbling over each other to commission Siamese models. The trend continues.

Glossy magazines show Siamese in full colour alongside coolly elegant women.

West End stores feature them in luxury brochures.

They have been conscripted to further the sales of haute couture, smart furniture and sherry.

And it's long been known that actresses without a Siamese to cuddle stand less chance of making the best gossip columns.

There's no question about it: the Siamese is an O.K. pet.

Yet the cult of the Siamese is much more than an advertising gimmick. To the thousands of people who've been smitten and added a Siamese or two to the family it's a very real trend—and problem—indeed. For as wreckers—of soft furnishings and peace-and-quiet — Siamese are

out on their own. They shred chair covers. They race up curtains. They have their own special game of going round a room at high speed without ever touching the floor. They howl the house down if the food's not right. They're possessive and domineering.

For all that, the number of Siamese cat owners steadily grows. Never at any time since the breed was introduced into Britain in 1884 by the consul general in Bangkok have so many Siamese been among us. Seal points, blue points, even red points now: they come in different shades and sizes, though they all share the same superior mien.

Their snootiness

It's this aristocratic air that furthers the impression of some link between Siamese and the supertax class. While their numbers may increase these cats seem unable to forget their ancestry. In our classless society they continue to behave exactly like descendants of the Royal cats of Siam which lived in palaces and temples. They show no signs of adopting the commoner ways of their less distinguished cousins.

No Siamese goes sniffing around park railings. None is ever seen scavenging the bomb sites. They're never the victims of cruelty cases. Not long ago a thoughtful neighbour turned up with an indignant Siamese, its vivid blue eyes flashing, which she had picked up in the park under the impression it was one of ours. She didn't know that Siamese hardly ever get lost. When she returned it to the place where they met, the cat went straight to a nearby house and on to the shoulder of its owner.

Above all else, Siamese are loyal. They are one-owner pets. Strangers are usually greeted with massive indifference and see it as further proof of the snootiness of Siamese.

What does tend to link the breed with the better off is the cost of getting and keeping a Siamese cat. Feeding is more costly than for many pets because the Siamese is as fastidious about food as it looks. As a kitten it needs more than the scraps which are usually given to ordinary kittens, for it is much less easy to rear. It is more germprone and less resistant to disease until it is around nine months old. By that time it's as tough as the rest but rather a diet faddist.

I've heard it said that Siamese owners conspire to give the breed a scarcity value. They don't. The fact that most Siamese kittens to-day fetch between 5-8 gns. and that you can't get one for less than 4 gns. is a sheer triumph for the cult of personality practised by the breed. It's next to impossible to keep an unneutered male in any ordinary house and a female "queen" in season will raise the roof. Only those who have endured her banshee wails know just what a nerve shattering business they can be.

Road to disaster

One consequence of this is that few people are prepared to let their Siamese have kittens. In many cases, one litter is enough. The optimistic would-be breeder puts up with the banshee in the hope of making enough to pay for the holidays only to end up in the red.

(concluded on page 17)

Tailpieces

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



I AM delighted to be able to start off this month with a splendid item of news that will be welcomed by countless animal lovers all over the country. The Abandonment of Animals Bill has become law. It was piloted through the House of Lords by Viscount Bridgeman and received royal assent on June 2nd. The Bill represents a great step forward in the cause of animal welfare.

Have you ever wondered about the fate of small animals who suffer in the great disasters of our world? The Agadir earthquake, for example? Immediately this terrible disaster occurred Monsieur and Madame Lamasse went from Casablanca under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of Animals in North Africa. Madame Lamasse's report to the London Organizer of S.P.A.N.A. includes the following passage: "We did not see a single cat in Agadir nor in the environs. I was very sad about this, as I had taken a number of cat baskets, in order to bring them back with us, but I failed in this. I was very sad."

"The clinical similarity of virus enteritis of cats and virus enteritis of mink has been recorded by numerous investigators and there have been attempts to demonstrate a relationship between the two diseases." *The Veterinary Bulletin.*

I reported last month on the cat colony at Pendennis Castle Point. Now

I learn that the people of Falmouth are very concerned as to the future of the colony. The local Town Council postponed a debate on the proposed destruction of the cats following the appearance of a newspaper article and a visit by a B.B.C. television film unit. The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector has indicated to Falmouth Chamber of Commerce that he does not intend to do anything about the cats which are probably enjoying life better than many domesticated cats and have been found to be all right by a veterinary surgeon. The big question now is: What will the Council do? It is widely hoped they will reject the General Purposes Committee's recommendation for the destruction of the cats.

The news that Lord Hailsham, our Minister of Science, was suffering from his yearly visitation of hay fever produced some medical comment in the newspapers. Strange, isn't it, that the noble lord controls the forces of the back-room boys yet is unable to find a cure for his own hay fever. The complaint, according to some medical opinion, is the miserable result of an allergy. "One of my patients," said an expert, "was cured when he discovered he was allergic to his cat."

Mrs. M. Eustace, Hon. Secretary of the Northern Counties Cat Club, contributed to an enjoyable evening's viewing for cat lovers on North Eastern Independent Television on June 3rd by presenting a litter of nine Blue

Pointed Siamese kittens. She told viewers how one of the problems of coping with a litter of this size was solved by the mothering of three of the kittens by her 10-year-old Siamese queen and also her own supplementary feeding of milk and glucose from a doll's bottle. To the delight of the viewers, the T.V. kittens sucked enthusiastically. The commentator, intrigued by what he saw, suggested quietly that it was high time there were family allowances for cats.

A number of policemen in five squad cars sped to the home of Miss Colette Barrett in Miami, U.S.A., after she telephoned to report the disappearance of her cat which was wearing a diamond studded collar and gold lead valued at nearly £4,000. When Irwin was finally retrieved from the top of a palm tree he was wearing a collar worth about £7. When asked to explain, Miss Barrett said: "How else could I get five squad cars to look for poor little Irwin?"

I have received a delightful illustrated newspaper clipping from New Zealand showing 14-years-old Cheryl Flavell, of Auckland, with her massive Tabby male Rajah of Roskill. His age isn't given but he tips the scales at 32 lbs! "Tiddles," as he is known at home, just grew and grew like Topsy on average sized meals. He has passed all veterinary tests and his proud owner has entered him in a couple of shows. Cheryl says that "Tiddles" can manage quite a fast trot if there are any birds about. But he is inclined to be a bit sleepy and stops for rests when he goes for a walk. I am remembering that some years ago we published the picture of a heavy-weight Tabby in America named Klaus who weighed 40 lbs.

Mr. Carl Van Vechten, author of *The Tiger in the House*, was honoured on his 80th birthday last month by New York Public Library where his name was carved in stone, only the 70th

name to be commemorated in this way. *The Tiger in the House*, which is treasured by so many cat lovers, was something quite new when it was published in 1921 and is still a unique account of the cat in all its literary and aesthetic aspects. Mr. Van Vechten, a distinguished music critic and essayist, based this labour of love on his remarkable library of 500 books, magazines and pamphlets as well as his personal experience of them. In 1948 he gave this library to Yale University in memory of Mrs. Channing Pollock, wife of the famous American dramatist who was a breeder of Long-haired cats.

The new de-luxe greetings telegram introduced by the Post Office on June 27th will have a special appeal for cat-lovers. It is drawn by Rowland Emmett, the famous cartoonist, and features his own Siamese kitten Chinkleberry Fluffpot in birthday mood with his friends. In typical Emmett style, Fluffpot is sitting in the floral gondola of a strange airship enjoying the music of an Emmett gramophone.

Writing about his tour in the Irish Republic in the *Daily Telegraph* David Green comments: "Dogs are the same the world over—all dash and yap. I saw only one duck, and he didn't seem worried. And I didn't see one cat. I wonder why?"

Cats and seagulls continue to make the headlines—see the feature in our May issue. The latest incident concerns a young ginger tom cat who had an unexpected air trip and a ducking at St. Mary's, Scilly Isles. He stalked a herring gull from behind a boat on the beach and suddenly pounced on its back. The bird "took off" and the cat dropped into the sea, wetter and possibly much wiser.

Two cats were found unconscious by the side of the road near the station at

Beaconsfield, Bucks. A crate of beer had fallen from a passing lorry and the contents of some of the bottles spilled into the road. Apparently the cats decided to taste this novelty drink . . . to their ultimate discomfort!

Town cats scored a decisive victory over their country cousins at a mousing competition held by a social club in Dunedin, New Zealand. An Abyssinian owned by Mrs. A. J. Munro completed the course in just under half the time taken by the winning cat in the country cats section, and half the time of those in the store cats section.

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

VETERINARY CONGRESS ON PETS

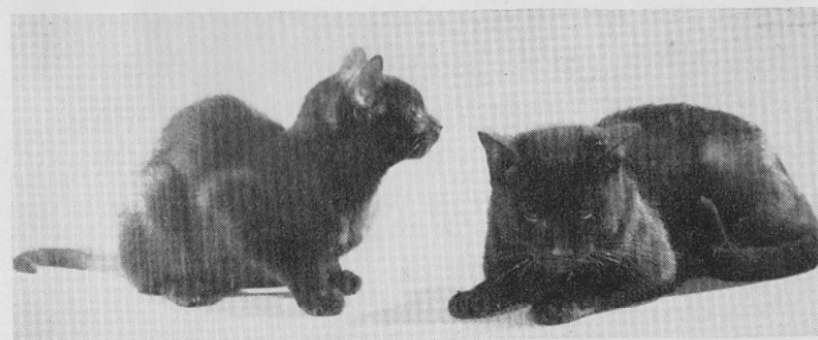
An international meeting of veterinary surgeons primarily interested in the treatment and welfare of pet animals is planned for April, 1961. They will assemble to discuss the prevention and treatment of diseases and modern

surgical techniques used in the maintenance of pet animal health.

The organizers of the conference are the members of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and this will be the first international conference of its kind. Throughout the world, the interest in domestic pets is increasing and more and more veterinary surgeons are concentrating on pet animals as their major interest.

Specialists from many countries will share the tremendous volume of new knowledge now available to the small animal veterinary surgeon. During the course of the conference, closed circuit colour television will be used to demonstrate newly developed surgical techniques for the relief of suffering in sick and injured animals. The highlight will be a transatlantic telephone link directly connecting the London meeting with a similar meeting of small animal veterinarians in the United States. This link will provide an hour's discussion between leading specialists in both countries on surgical and medical topics. It is anticipated that at least 1,000 veterinarians will be taking part in this.

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association, with a membership nearing 600, has been in existence over five years and caters exclusively for the veterinary surgeon interested in pet animal practice.



Havanas in America. On the right QUINN'S MURIELLA (by Laurentide Brown Pilgrim ex Roofspringer Mahogany) with NORWOOD'S MONA (same sire ex Quinn's Autumn Leaf). Both cats belong to Mrs. Dallas Sidlo, of San Pedro, Claifornia. At the quadruple show of the Western Intra Valley Cat Clubs, Muriella received Best Kitten Opposite Sex award.

For
immaculate
fur...



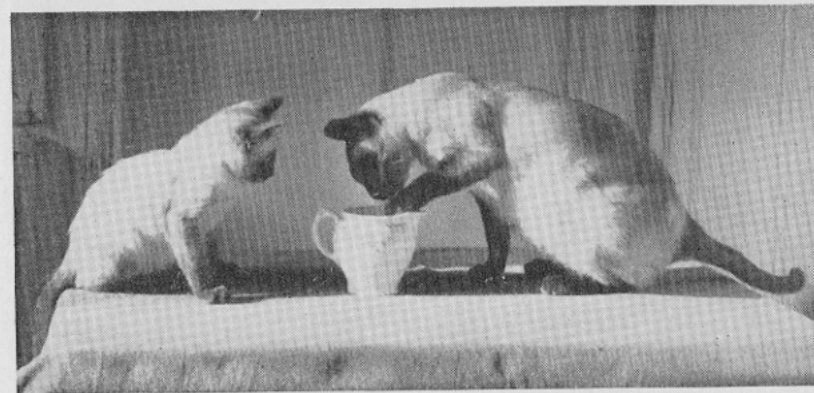
... the well cared-for pet needs to be kept free of fleas, lice, and other troublesome skin parasites. The most effective and safest way of doing this is by regular dressing with 'Lorexane' Dusting Powder. Convenient to use, the Powder is pleasantly perfumed and completely safe.

Lorexane DUSTING POWDER
(contains gamma BHC) TRADE MARK



In handy containers price 2/- and 9/-
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Ph.39



A lesson in cream stealing ?

Cat breeding from scratch—No. 4

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

THE arrival of pedigree kittens not infrequently turns a whole household upside-down. But when the turmoil is over, unless the queen is unable to cope, either through ill-health or unsuitable temperament, the path should be smooth for the next three weeks.

Were I starting all over again, I should follow much the same procedure as I have done in the past. The queen needs quiet for some time and is well able to provide the warmth and nourishment the kittens require. The bed should be shielded from light and since, particularly after the first day or two, it is likely to be deserted for short periods by the dam, it should be kept warm from underneath.

It has quite rightly been pointed out that I was in error when I referred to expensive infra-red heating. Nevertheless I would not go for infra-red myself—especially for young kittens. The prob-

lem that faces every young animal is to maintain an even blood temperature. To do this it has to get rid of the heat produced by its metabolism at just the right rate. This is achieved when the environment is at the right temperature. If the environment is too warm or too cold, the animal cannot cope with the situation and it suffers.

During the first days of its life the dam provides the environment very much as she did when the kitten was in her uterus—by close contact. When the dam is absent the warmth should be derived by contact with warm bedding underneath and not-too-cold air above. At no time during its *early life* does the kitten in nature receive large quantities of *radiant heat*. Its body temperature is adjusted by contact and conduction. Therefore, although I know it is used in the rearing of young pigs I am averse to continuous radiant heat, supplied by the infra-red heater.

Some queens are convinced that they know better than their owners. They are probably right, but unless restrained

they will carry their kittens to all sorts of inconvenient places—often the owner's bed. It is therefore necessary to restrict the dam's freedom until it becomes clear that she is settled and happy with her litter in the allotted place.

Even when the kittens eyes had opened I should see that they were kept in subdued light for a week or more. When the time is ripe I have always found that they start to climb out of their bed of their own accord and explore the world outside. In the interest of safety their world outside should be circumscribed by a pen. Not all queens can be trusted to keep count and notice if one kitten has strayed too far into danger.

Rules for weaning

Weaning presents no problem with kittens of the ordinary domestic cat. When the time is ripe for them to do so, they just help themselves to the dam's rations. How necessary the special measures we take with pedigree kittens really are, I have never been able to make up my mind. No doubt, in nature, the dam brings to her kittens the titbits from her kill most suitable for their immature digestive systems. The safest way for the breeder is to introduce solid food into the kittens' diet little by little. In fact, it is a golden rule to introduce any change in diet gradually.

I should continue to wean between the third and fourth weeks. I should start by supplementing the dam's milk supply with a little Lactol mixed in accordance with the maker's directions. (This product should not be confused with Lactagol, given to the queen to promote lactation.) Lactol is richer than full-cream Ostermilk, to which I should change later, and it is, I believe prepared from goat's milk.

As long as the kittens refuse this when offered them on the tip of the finger, I should take it as a sign that they are not ready for weaning. Later I should

then thicken it by adding a little Farex which is a pre-cooked balanced cereal baby food, being careful to see that it is well-mixed to a thin creamy consistency at first. Gradually it may then be thickened to a porridgy consistency.

In the past I have always found it useful and economical to change by degrees to full-cream Ostermilk. I have also found some kittens refuse Lactol from the start, but take Ostermilk. I should continue as I have done to introduce meat between the fifth and sixth week in the form of finely chopped stewed white flesh of rabbit. The kittens will refuse this until they are ready for it. The amount can be increased as time goes on.

At about six weeks I should expect finely minced raw beef steak to be accepted. I should give this at first about twice a week by itself, starting with a very small amount. Water should of course always be available at this stage of the kittens' lives, but not in a container big or deep enough for them to fall into it and drown themselves.

Whether the dam teaches kittens by example or whether "built-in" instinct alone guides them I have never been sure; but I suspect that they are in everything guided by instinct.

On to solids

Cleanliness is an instinct with the healthy kitten. I have always found it sufficient to provide a shallow tray of fine peat moss. Once the dam is no longer able to cope with their excreta, the kittens will find the right place to perform their functions.

As the kittens grow exercise is never any problem. It is one of the delights of breeding to watch the never-ending fun and games which keep them on the move until drowsiness and sleep overtake them.

When weaning is under way I should always provide four meals a day for the kittens, making sure that each one gets

its full share. That is where the breeder's time is consumed! At twelve weeks, meals can be cut to three a day and at six months—if any kittens were still on my hands, I should go over to two meals a day. When four meals a day are being given I like two to be milky and two with meat.

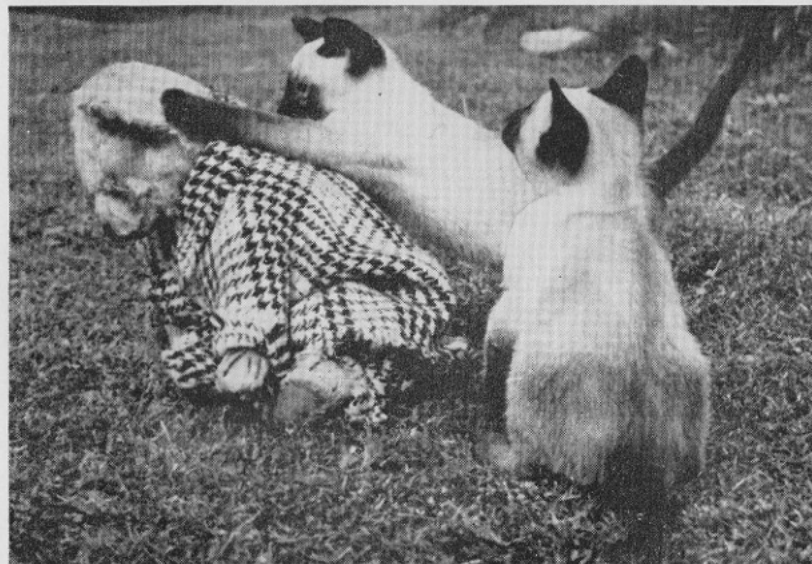
Raw meat needs nothing added, but cooked meat, which should be stewed in its own juices with a little water to cover it and make gravy, needs the addition of cereal. I have always used crunched up Ryvita biscuit which nicely absorbs the gravy and provides roughage. For young kittens, of course, the biscuit needs to be very finely crumbled.

I should feed my queen on the principle that she cannot have too much

nourishment; unlike neuters, who have no work to do. Three meals a day at all times and raw meat once every day would be my regime. At each meal she would get all she could eat.

In feeding cats and kittens it is well to recognize that often they have their idiosyncracies. I have known a kitten refuse raw meat, while his litter mates devoured it voraciously and continue to refuse it when a healthy adult. The queen too, will often refuse one kind of food at one stage of her pregnancy and take it eagerly at another stage. Therein lies great scope for the skill of the breeder, whose kittens and cats ought to be happy and contented if he is doing his job properly.

(to be continued)



"It is one of the delights of breeding kittens to watch their never-ending fun and games . . ."

SIAMESE ARE SO SUPERIOR *(concluded from page 10)*

And such is the impact of the Siamese family's personality that the breeder feels honour bound to screen applicants for kittens for character and reliability. Thus Siamese more or less pick their owners before completely master-

ing them. And the owners who are prepared to pay for a cat genuinely want one. They also look after their pet.

In the strange status of the Siamese there's a lesson for all animal-lovers.

Genetics for the novice breeder

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the instalment below as being the last completed by the late ALBERT C. JUDE before his widely-regretted death.

NEW methods of tissue culture have thrown a lot of light on the questions we ask about the growth of animals. In the first place, the cells in tissue culture go on and on dividing as we have already mentioned. Cell division continues indefinitely at regular rate unless the culture is allowed to become overcrowded.

The division of cells at fixed time intervals takes place not only in tissue culture, but also when a fertilized egg divides. Likewise it occurs in a culture of bacteria. We conclude, therefore, that a steady rate of division is a general property of cells. From this, a consequence immediately follows: namely that the bulk of protoplasm¹ must be doubled at regular intervals. For each time that protozoa² or the cells in tissue culture have divided they grow to their full size before again dividing. As a result, the total mass of protoplasm is doubled at each cell division. In other words, the rate of increase of bulk gets faster and faster. And this was just what we found in the first growth stage of an animal. The rate of growth in bulk increases steadily, *up to a point*.

What is the reason then, that the growth rate of an animal slows down after a time? It is not because the tissues are older. For in tissue culture the cells go on indefinitely dividing at the same rate. And more than this, not only cells from an embryo, but likewise cells from an adult animal which

has stopped growing will divide and grow in tissue culture. They have not lost the power of division, although in the body of the adult animal from which they were taken they no longer divide and grow, except when repairing a wound.

Now, for the cells to grow in tissue culture, the presence of what we have called embryo extract is essential. There is thus some substance, as yet unknown chemically, contained in the tissues of embryos which is necessary for cells to grow. And as an animal grows, this substance gradually disappears from the body. When it is all gone, cell division stops.

Immortal bacteria

In addition to this, there are surely other reasons for the slowing down and final stoppage of the growth of an animal. In order that tissue cultures shall go on, they have to be started afresh each second day. Otherwise growth ceases because food for the cells is exhausted, and excretions accumulate. Moreover, the blood of adult animals contains something which actually slows or stops growth of cells. It does this, for instance, when injected with a syringe into the blood stream of a young growing animal. And blood plasma from old animals, is not so good for the growth of cells in culture, as that from young animals.

In a sense, bacteria can be said to be "immortal." If they are living in the right conditions of temperature and food they will go on regularly dividing without stop. A culture of Paramecium, for instance, has been kept going for thirteen years! It passed through 10,000 generations. The excess popula-

tion was of course removed at intervals to prevent overcrowding. And at the end the division rate was just the same as at the beginning. Unless they meet with an accident, then, one-celled organisms are "immortal." They do not age, nor finally die.

The cells of higher animals in tissue culture, are just the same. Connective tissue cells from a chick have been kept going in tissue culture for twenty-one years. All this long time, the cells grew and divided at regular intervals, and up to the end of the experiment there was no slackening of growth rate. Yet twenty-one years is more than twice the length of life of a fowl.

Moreover, there are some cells in our own bodies which may go on living for an indefinite time. All cells in our bodies are, of course, the direct descendants of cells which existed millions of years back in our ancestry. Yet nearly all of them are doomed to die at our death. But not all of them. There are cells in testes or ovary which need not die. Spermatozoa or eggs may give rise to a long succession of future generations.

SOOTIE

SOOTIE, the Rossington (Doncaster) cat which spent a week on an 85 ft. cooling tower, foxed many people. He was not slowly dying of starvation on his wooden tower. He was not stranded for, when he thought he would, he strolled nonchalantly down and, none the worse, went to sleep in his boilerhouse bed.

During this tower-squatting performance Sootie had caused firemen to turn out with a turntable ladder, robbed some anxious persons of sleep, prompted a gallant archer to shoot a safety line, and let the R.S.P.C.A. fix a cat-trap, baited with fish. Most touching of all, he had caused Rossington children to remember him in their prayers.

Perhaps it is wrong to say Sootie "foxed" the folk below; rather, they foxed themselves. Sootie was being true to the nature of the cat. He was curious

Thus, we come to the remarkable conclusion that under suitable conditions living cells are "immortal." Yet all cells in the body, except with luck one or two cells in the reproductive organs, will stop dividing as growth ceases, will age, and finally will die. Why is this so? It is the price paid for having a very complicated body. The cells in the body die; separated from the body in tissue culture, the cells need not die. The body is a mortal whole, made up of immortal parts!

Fresh terms:

- (1) **Protoplasm**—The viscid semifluid substance composed of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, and nitrogen, constituting the living matter from which all living organisms are developed.
- (2) **Protozoa**—The lowest division of the animal kingdom, comprising those consisting of a single cell or a group of cells not differentiated into two or more tissues.

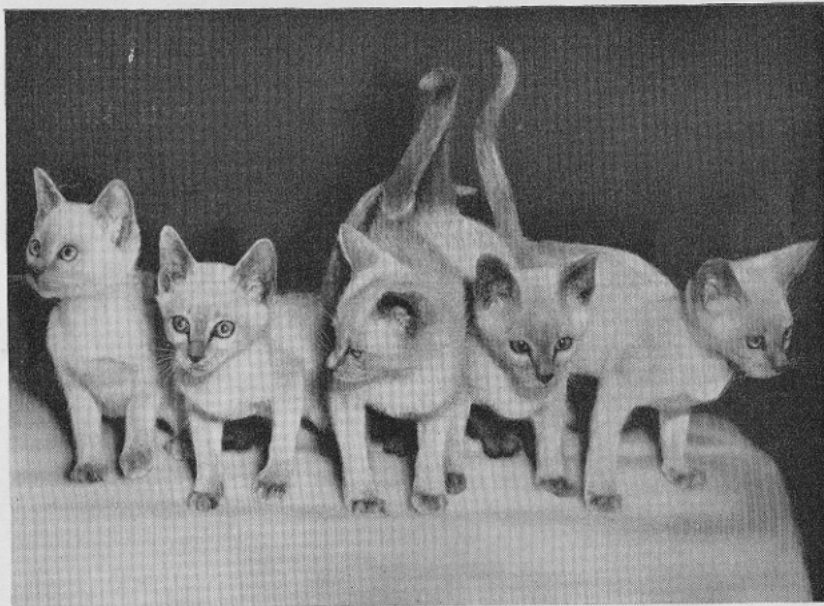
(Conclusion)

about that cooling tower. He was independent, disdaining all thought of rescue, since what goes up must come down. Probably he did not perceive the communal fuss as fuss at all, but as some sort of game.

There may be a lesson here for animal lovers. It is not always safe to project our human reactions to the higher animals. Cats especially are well able to fend for themselves and it is surprising what they can endure, as the history of Sylvester shows. Cat nature is more inscrutable than canine. But it is a fair inference that Sootie scaled the cooling tower for reasons that send some men up Everest. It was just "there." No doubt in his sleep of recovery there was a boilerhouse bliss that we can only guess at.

(With acknowledgments to an unknown author in a Yorkshire newspaper.)

TIBS FOR FIVE PLEASE!



Tibby, the Tibs reporter, visits Trubun Siamese

These quick-eyed quintuplets were best blue-point litter at the 1959 Kensington Kitten Show. Their breeder, Mrs. Margaret Worsley, of Brookhouse Farm, Kingsfold, Warnham, Sussex, has this to say about rearing kittens:

"What you do in the first few weeks makes or mars a kitten's future. Tibs tablets are excellent for all cats—but they're quite essential for kittens. By giving them the vitamins

and minerals they need, daily Tibs makes for good bone formation and first-class coat condition."

Mrs. Worsley should know. In spite of the difficulty of leaving her farm for shows, Trubun cats took five c.cs in 1959—including best blue-point exhibit at the National Cat Club Show, Olympia. As she told us, "Giving Tibs consistently over a period of time *proves* it's the right thing to do!"

TIBS

Famous breeders say, daily TIBS for the cat that's cared for

Veterinary questions answered

By M.R.C.V.S.

A fur puller

A Berkshire subscriber writes: *I would greatly appreciate your help regarding my Siamese cat, a neutered female. She frequently tugs at her fur with her teeth, pulling out mouthfuls of it and sometimes leaving quite a patch of bare skin. The area affected is on either side of the backbone and the broad part of the back.*

This problem arose during the very hot dry weather last summer. Our local veterinarian gave us first one kind of lotion and then another when the first was not effective. In the autumn we consulted a vet. physician to whom we were recommended and the treatment given was a course of ten injections and M. & B. tablets. The dragging out of fur gradually subsided until two days ago, when the enclosed batch of fur was found on the floor.

M.R.C.V.S. replies: You will appreciate that an examination of the patient would greatly help a diagnosis. However, this case may be one of seasonal eczema, so common in cats. In this case an anti-allergen such as injections of Benadryl might prove very useful, combined with a local application such as Strenol Eczema Cream. Alternatively, the case may be one of mange, for the apprehension of which a microscopical examination of a skin scraping would be essential. The help of your veterinary surgeon would also be essential. I have not much faith in M. & B. injections in such a case. But laxatives (such as Epsom Salt in the milk or drinking water) is often very helpful. As you may be aware, human beings are often affected by skin irritation through eating fish, strawberries or oysters. And so it is with animals and I think an anti-allergen will be the answer.

Nasal trouble

A West Country subscriber writes: *I should be grateful if you could advise me on treatment for a young male cat. Last winter he became very snuffly. I gave him chloromycetin and previously trinamide tablets and mylipen cerate in his nostrils but without any notable improvement. Several times lately he has vomited white slime. Is that gastric catarrh? His appetite is variable. His stools are normal and there is no sign of worms. Some 12 months ago he showed signs of wishing to copulate (he is now 3 years old) but since this trouble he has shown no interest in queens.*

M.R.C.V.S. replies: I think you could not have used better antibiotics for any bacterial condition. But you state that the cat had snuffles last winter. You do not say whether he still has this affliction. If so, the case might be a surgical one—such as a nasal polypus. I do not attach much importance to the "slime" in view of good appetite and normal stools. As regards copulating, his instincts would no doubt be aroused if he came in the proximity of a queen in season. I think your veterinary surgeon should examine for a surgical condition.


Bowel stimulation

A London reader writes: *My cat—a long-haired spayed female, eight years old—is very constipated. In the past I have given regular doses of liquid paraffin, but my present veterinary surgeon, who makes a special study of cats, tells me this is dangerous and can cause cancer of the intestines. He advised me to give her olive oil as a lubricant and supplies*

me with small yellow pills which are to stimulate the bowels. I believe they also stimulate the kidneys. These pills do the trick but unfortunately the cost of them is very high.

Can you suggest any alternative safe method or give me the name of a pill for bowel stimulation? My little cat also gets a lot of scurf which causes a certain amount of irritation. When I stroke over her spine she licks herself. Her diet is $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. raw meat each day and a small plate of rabbit. Very occasionally she has a small fillet of plaice.

M.R.C.V.S. replies: I have never before heard it suggested, in 45 years of experience, that liquid paraffin could dispose to cancer. It may have other drawbacks, but I have prescribed it for all those years and never found any deleterious effect. A 1 grain dose of grey powder given about once a week should be the answer. There is a preparation called Molevac made by Parke Davis Ltd. and consists of liquid paraffin, malt extract and cascara. Dose 1 teaspoonful occasionally. Paraffin is purely a lubricant, passing out as it went in; but olive oil is a food and fatter and is of course digested and has little lubricant effect. Paraffin or cod liver oil may be incorporated with a mashed sardine—1 teaspoonful at night only. The scurf of which you write may be caused by lice, or may even be the scurf-eating louse. Have the scurf examined by your veterinary surgeon.

 **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, 378 CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9. (Macaulay 1462).

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.

Corneal Ulcers

A Kentish reader writes: I have a young queen who six months ago developed corneal ulcers on both eyes. My veterinary surgeon at first treated them with cortizone, but with no effect at all. Terramycin was then tried with some success, at least the inflammation disappeared, leaving large black scars. I was told that nothing more could be done but I am not at all happy about the cat as she is unable to open her eyes wide and has a strong objection to light.

M.R.C.V.S. replies: You will appreciate that not having seen the cat and having no clinical history whatever, I cannot offer an opinion as to the cause of the ulcers. But I do suggest that as a treatment you apply 2 or 3 drops of crude cod liver oil to each eye twice daily for a week. If you do not see an appreciable improvement, apply Crooke's Colloidal Argentum drops in the same way.

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

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

News from "Down Under"

VICTORIA. I was privileged to be invited to judge the adult Siamese and sub register classes at the Siamese Cat Club Show in Lower Melbourne Town Hall on May 14th, and thoroughly enjoyed the re-union. I had a trip down in the jet on the previous evening and arrived at the Hall as the last cages were being erected. I was shocked to learn that Club President Colonel Cole, had undergone a major operation that day. Other old friends in Mrs. Matheson, Miss Beatty and Mr. and Mrs. Chandler were also absent through illness and I trust they will all soon be restored to health.

The weather was very unkind, but may have been a blessing in disguise as the Show attracted a wonderful lot of visitors, plus a splendid entry. There were 20 male kits under 3 months and 18 female kits, 16 in novice female, 19 in limit female and 23 in the open female, all S.P. Siamese. Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Patterson also judged and I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Scott and Secretary Mr. Laurie Wilson for the first time. And how they worked. The Spastic Children's Society should benefit considerably from this fine Show.

It was nice to meet old friends from Adelaide who motored over 500 miles to be present—Secretary Don Gebhardt and Mrs. G., Mr. Myers, Vice-President, and Mrs. Silver. Mrs. Silver had a very interesting exhibit—a nice S.P. Siamese female. I queried a large dry scab on the centre of her back and was told she had been bitten by a brown snake at her home in March. It took 600 units and a lot of attention from the vet to save the cat's life. They breed them tough in Adelaide all right!

Major awards went: Best Cat, All

Siamese—Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's B.P. male Gr. Ch. Valbert Blue Raschid; Best O.S., All Colours—Sister Goulden's S.P. Yonalin Kimlarn (also Best Junior); S.P. Male—Mr. Robertson's Inaana Ming Shan; Gr. Ch. Female—Mrs. Nasher's Suey Mak Melissa; Reserve to Best S.P. Siamese Female—Mrs. Miller's Lindisfarne Rachele; Novice S.P. Female—Mrs. Hobb's Rahka Devi Rhonda. Sorry I do not receive Mrs. Patterson's kitten awards. *Longhairs:* Ch. Male—Mrs. Blackwell's Merryvale Blue King; Ch. Female—Mrs. Farrell's Jewell Mandy; Gr. Ch. Male—Mrs. Price's Jasper of Pensford (imp.); Gr. Ch. Female—Mrs. Murch's Lorne Brae Louella. *Sub Register Group:* Best Cat—Miss Price's Dusky Maid; Best Kitten—Miss I. Clarke's Rouge San-Sec.

Mr. Houlihan has relinquished editorship of Melbourne *Newsletter* and the duties have been taken over by Mrs. Scott, whom I have to thank for the May issue.

New South Wales. On May 14th, St. George District Cat Club staged their 28th Ch. Show at Arncliffe. I was unable to be present (being away in Melbourne) and am indebted to Mrs. Del Armit for the details. This was the first St. George fixture I have missed. They always put on a nice interesting day and I have many happy memories. Charlie and Mrs. Mason have been associated with the Club since its inception and have done a tremendous amount of work on its behalf. And of course their cattery prefix is known wherever felines are found. Charlie, now retired from duty, is not enjoying the best of health. I think they should send him to Honolulu for six months—and send

me to keep an eye on him! Chas. and Hazel, all cat folk salute you for a life of devotion and service to cats.

Top winners at Arncliffe were: *Longhairs*: Best Male—Mrs. Cain's St. Chads Danny Boy; Best Female—Mrs. Cain's Bavaka Blue Opal; Junior Male—Mrs. Baxter's Ch. Illawarra Dazzling Dreamer; Junior Female—Mrs. Robinson's Leyland Shelley; Brood Queen—Miss Rapley's Mayfield Precious. *Siamese*: Best Exhibit for Phil Brown Memorial (donated by Mrs. Thurmer)—Greenfield's Linneon Wip Willow; Best Male—Mrs. Kaufman's Bluemead Pas de Chat; Best Female—Mrs. Lowery's Hookstone Heaven; Best Kitten—Mrs. Donmall's Pic Point Banyak Ketchil; Best B.P. Male—Mrs. Abbott's Eastern Hazie Boy and same breeder's Ch. Pic Point Blue Frost was Best Female; Best C.P. Male—Mrs. Thom's Gaye Dandy Brown. In Burmese Miss Grant's Ransin

Chindit (imp.) and Mrs. Abbott's female kit Eastern Totok Tuan were winners. Mrs. Donmall also did extremely well with her Abyssinian entries.

On June 4th the old Cat Fanciers Association Club staged their 36th Annual Show at the R.A.S. ground, Moore Park, in conjunction with the Royal McArthur Sheep Show. Secretary Harry Wynne was lucky in picking the only fine day in weeks and the following day, Sunday, was a real washout. I "sneaked" a couple of looks at the working sheep dog trials, which were ultimately won by a "pooch" who merited 96 points out of a possible 100. Feline entries were slightly down on last year but quality was very high in quite a lot of the major classes. Mr. Bill Taylor was Show Manager and did a great job. Major awards went as follow: *Longhairs*: Best Male—Mrs. Bill Taylor's Illawarra Candy Chief; Best Female—Mrs. Riggall's Helenic



CHADHURST EBONY PRINCESS, a Black Longhair bred in England by Miss M. L. Rodda has developed from this kittenhood stage to be a consistent winner at New Zealand shows for Miss Ruby Lovejoy, of Palmerston North.

Caprice Belle; Best Male Kit—Mrs. Ashall's Robela Blue Page; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Elliott's Shemala Candy; Best Litter—Mrs. Joy's Chinchillas; Best Champion Cat—Mr. Mullins' O.E. White Ch. Minaloo Yoga. *Siamese*: Best Male—Mrs. Abbott's Eastern Hazie Boy and Best Female was the same breeder's Ch. Pic Point Blue Frost; Best Male Kit—Mrs. Little's Kamishal Blue Farying; Best Female Kit—Mrs. Tchan's Tchanton Blue Chiffon; Best Litter—Mrs. Meaney's Seal Points.

Queensland and South Australia. I hope there will be space available next

month for news from these centres, particularly the Queensland CC exhibition at Kangaroo Point.

New Zealand. Miss Menzies *Newsletter* contains a list of approved judges, also probationer judges and the kitten classes they are qualified to judge. New Zealand news seems scarce but I guess it will soon come along profusely due to the opening of the Championship show season. I'd very much like to be able to include some news from my old friends in the South at Invercargill and Dunedin as I have had none for a long time.

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The Little Bookshop of Farnham Common, Bucks, well known for its special service for cat lovers seeking books old and new on their favourite subject, has moved to larger premises. The address is unchanged.

Cats and mink don't usually agree. But an eleven-year-old Tortie at Clay

Hall, Hants, is proving an exception to the general rule—she is bringing up six baby mink which were in danger of dying because their mother could not feed them.

At a recent auction at Sotheby's a pair of small early Meissen figures of cats made £1,800.

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To fanciers overseas . . .

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Remember the picture of Bing and Susie, the pair of black and white cats who welcome visitors to a well known London West End shop? It appeared in our September 1959 issue. Very naturally it evoked response from Mrs. John W. Kearns, of California, U.S.A., as she is the owner of Mata and Mari, the "identical twins" whose picture is reproduced above.

The winners in a \$30,000 Photo Contest conducted by the American journal *U.S. Camera* were announced the other day and it is deserving of mention that cat studies were very much to the fore. The winning entry from a Michigan photographer was a group of kittens with a simple board background. All the kittens appeared to be miaouing. Sixth prize was awarded to a study of a little grey and white kitten with a "question mark" tail framed in a window and the Canadian winner of the seventh prize submitted a Siamese head study taken from a low

and close vantage point with the lens almost looking down the cat's wide open mouth. This photograph supplied proof that even such familiar subjects as household pets can be pictured in highly imaginative ways.

At its June meeting, the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy accepted the case for breed recognition for Blue Burmese which the Burmese Cat Club submitted last October. Blue Burmese is now a sub-breed of Brown Burmese and has been given Breed No. 27A.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *not later than the 1st day* of the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Use of Box No. costs 1s. extra.

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Mrs. Joan Thompson's "Just Fancy" will be returning in our August issue, which will also include several interesting items for which room could not be found this month.

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MRS. KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS, BRAMALL, VICARAGE RD., HAILSHAM, SUSSEX. (477)

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Miscellaneous

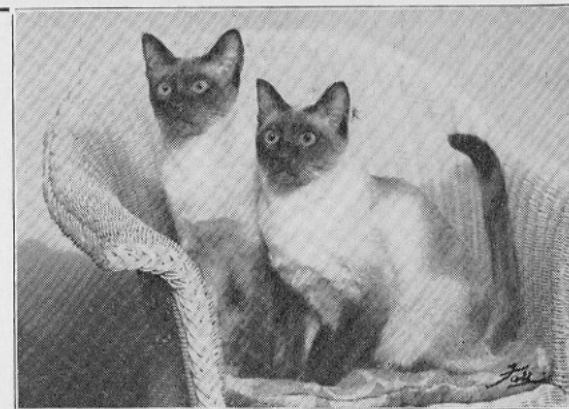
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