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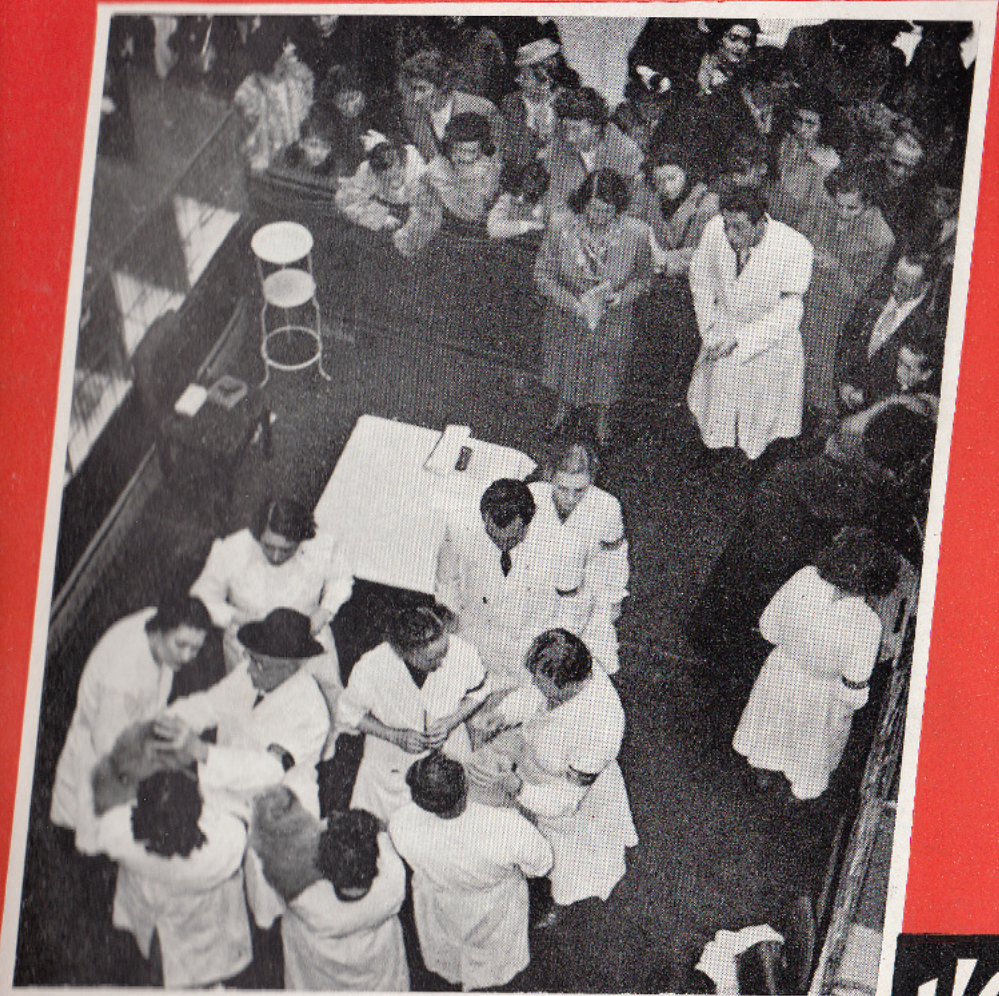
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# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



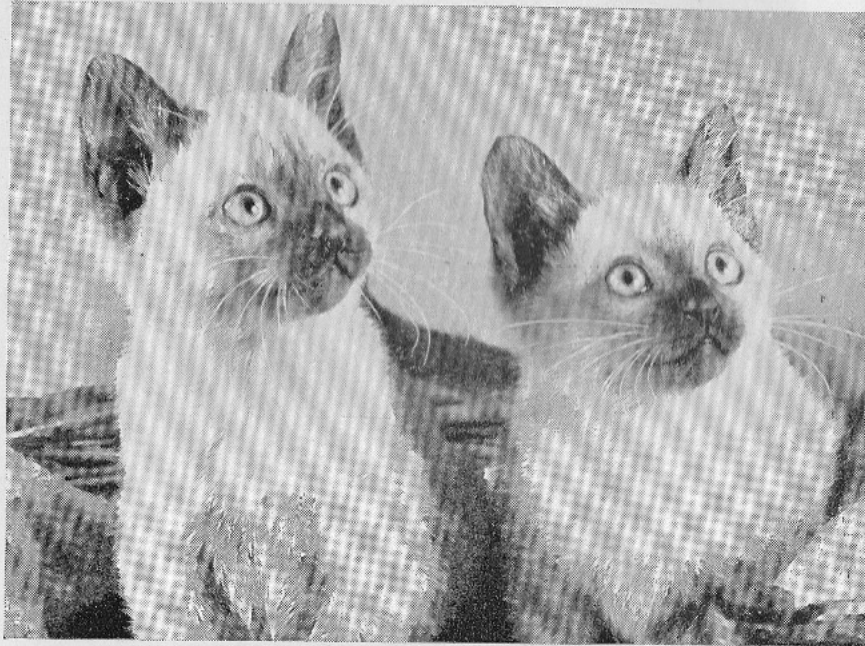
BACK IN THE 1940's

It is perhaps apposite in this Golden Jubilee Year of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy to present this picture of the judging at a Cat Club de Paris Show. In the foreground Cyril Yeates, Grand Old Man of the Fancy, is carrying out what was probably his last judging assignment abroad. On his left can be seen Miss Kathleen Yorke, present Chairman of the C.F., and Miss Bennett, who completed a trio of English great judges.

**1/6**

SEPTEMBER 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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# 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. 9  
SEPTEMBER 1960

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## THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

### IT'S A GOLDEN YEAR!


Congratulations to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy—its officers and helpers and all the affiliated clubs and societies—on the attainment of its Golden Jubilee. It is a fine achievement which sets an example to the rest of the cat world and everyone who has made a contribution, large or small, is surely entitled to feel well satisfied with the progress made over the last half of a century. The road has not always been easy.

We hope that the celebration show at Olympia this month will be truly worthy of the occasion and a real "bumper" in every respect.

In a later issue of OUR CATS we propose to publish a review of the G.C.'s progress since its inception in March, 1910.

We are sorry that various commitments and holidays have intervened to prevent us from having our usual stall at Olympia. The Magazine will, however, be displayed and on sale at the stand of The Little Bookshop, where Miss J. L. Pratt has kindly promised to deal with all enquiries on our behalf.

EDITOR.

 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).

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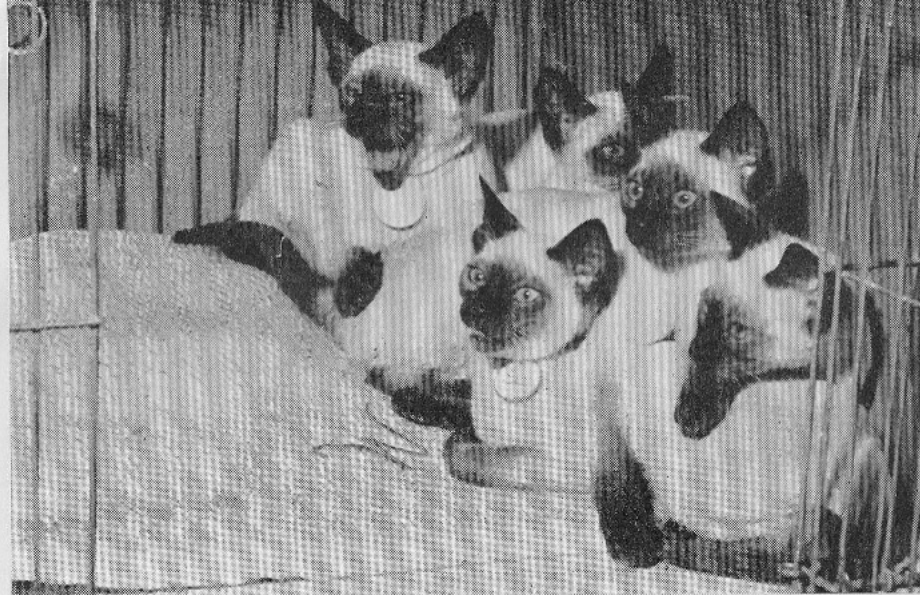


## Let's go to a show

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
24 September...	*G.C.C.F. (Golden Jubilee Show) ... ..	Olympia, London
1 October ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club ... ..	Harrogate
7 " ...	*Siamese Cat Club ... ..	Guildford, Surrey
<i>(See displayed advertisement in this issue)</i>		
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
<b>1961</b>		
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 Elm Court Gardens, Crowborough, Sussex.



"The great advantage of exhibiting is the opportunity provided for testing the quality of one's kittens against the best that other breeders produce."

## Cat breeding from scratch - No. 6

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

IN the course of the last five articles, I have reviewed what I should do if I were starting all over again to breed pedigree cats, with the benefit of ten years of practical experience behind me. I have dealt with housing, choosing breeding stock, the care of the queen, the birth and rearing of kittens. I have not dealt at any length with disease, its symptoms and treatment. When starting to breed, I think a fund of common sense and a good veterinarian are better than a lot of text-book knowledge about feline ailments; although, of course, the more one can learn as time goes on about every aspect of cat welfare, the better breeder one is likely to become.

Sooner or later, the question of whether or not to enter cats and kittens in a show is bound to arise. Many people do so for the fun of the thing; some then catch "show fever" and go on because they simply can't help it. For the serious breeder, exhibiting becomes almost a matter of routine. The great advantage of exhibiting is the opportunity it provides for testing the quality of one's stock against the best that other breeders produce. Personal judgement too should become keener as one compares the quality of other cats and kittens with one's own.

There are, of course, drawbacks to exhibiting. The greatest of these is the increased chance of introducing infectious or contagious disease into the cattery.

In our English championship shows the screening of cats by veterinary

surgeons is very thorough indeed. Nevertheless, incipient illness is not always recognizable by its symptoms and feline troubles are apt to develop very rapidly. In spite of most stringent precautions, an infective cat or kitten may sometimes be penned.

Probably the greatest danger is that presented by *fingers*. Nobody has yet found an effective way of preventing the public—and especially children—from showing their affection for cats and kittens by pushing their fingers between the bars. One can get the message over to a few—that they may be endangering the lives of the animals they touch. Still the potential spreaders of infection from pen to pen go on.

Infectious leucemia enteritis is the great killer disease. It is contagious, develops extremely rapidly and the mortality rate is very, very high. I personally would never exhibit a cat or kitten unless it had been inoculated. In well-managed shows—and the Governing Council is at great pains to see that shows are well-managed—every possible precaution is taken to safeguard the exhibits. Nevertheless, to exhibit is to take a risk—albeit a calculated risk. With healthy, vigorous well-fed and inoculated kittens, the risk is probably small and must be weighed against the advantages that may accrue.

Having once decided to exhibit, it is well to “get wise” at an early stage to the procedure and the problems. When starting, it is advisable to apply to the show manager or the secretary of the relevant club for a schedule and entry form. These will be sent with a copy of relevant extracts from the Governing Council’s rules. The regular exhibitor receives these without request.

### A big task

Schedules, which list all the various classes for cats and kittens of different varieties are usually ready about six weeks before the date of the show. Entry forms must be posted by a fixed date, usually about four weeks before the show. Early posting of entry forms is a great help to the show managers who have a big task in hand, making up the entries to classes and preparing copy for the catalogue, which has to be in the hands of the printers by a certain date.

The novice exhibitor always finds it a bit of a problem to decide in which classes he can enter his animals. Really, the classification is not very difficult to understand if the definitions given at the beginning of the schedule are carefully read. The classes that are really important are the open classes.

Open classes are open without restriction to all cats and kittens of the variety provided they are of the right sex and conform to the required age limits.

Kittens may fall into three classes: 3-4½ months; 4½-6 months and 6-9 months. Kittenhood is deemed to have been left behind after the lapse of nine calendar months.

It is in the open classes that the real heat of competition is felt. In the championship show, the breeder’s stock is pitted against the best that has been mustered from the United Kingdom. This may include previous champions, entered in the adult class. Many experienced breeders feel that the open classes are the only ones that really matter. From the winners in the open classes are chosen the best in show cats and kittens.

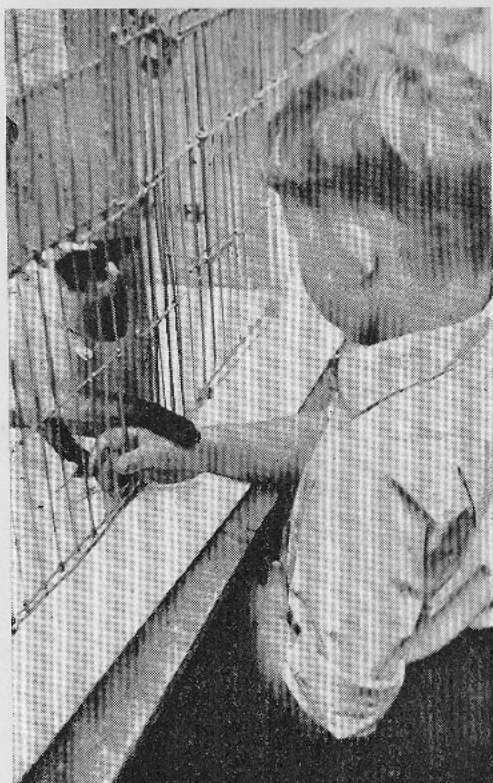
Breeders classes are restricted to cats and kittens bred by the exhibitor. They provide an opportunity to assess achievement in relation to the successes of fellow breeders.

I suspect that judges fervently wish that most of the ancillary classes could be dropped from the schedule. They add enormously to their work and have to be judged when the public is already milling round the floor. These classes are

restricted in various ways. Classes are provided restricted to members of the club that is running the show. Other classes are restricted to those members of particular clubs which guarantee classes for them, i.e., agree to pay from club funds any deficit between the amount of prize money paid out and entrance fees paid in. There are classes for novice breeders for novice cats, for exhibitors residing within a certain distance of the show venue and for those residing outside this circle, etc.

Why so many classes? Well, all and sundry need encouragement and the more restricted the entry the less severe the competition and the better the chance of winning something. Personally, I should like to see half these classes swept away. Unfortunately shows cost money—a lot of money—to run, and entry fees make up a considerable part of the income. A show could not be run on fees for entry to open and breeder’s classes alone, unless these fees were made so exorbitantly high as to be unacceptable to the body of exhibitors.

*(to be continued)*

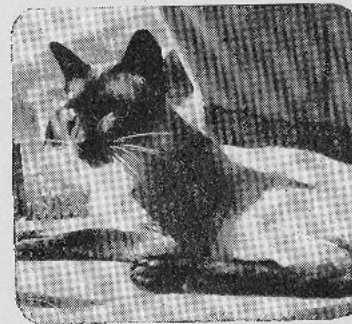


“Nobody has yet found an effective way of preventing the public—and especially children—from showing their affection for cats and kittens by pushing their fingers between the bars.”

## Come and see me at the Siamese Championship Show Friday, 7th October

at the

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## **The voice of the cat**

By **Dr. F. R. BELL, F.R.C.V.S.,**

*Department of Physiology, Royal Veterinary College, London.*

*The two earlier B.B.C. broadcasts by experts on "The Cat" appeared in our May and July issues*

THE range and volume of the noise made by a cat in good voice, giving a gala performance, through the quiet of the night makes an experience even the most ardent cat-lover suffers unwillingly.

However, when I speak of the *voice* of the cat, I use the word figuratively to indicate the body of sounds that the animal makes naturally. The question as to whether animals can communicate with one another by voicelike sounds has been a matter of debate since ancient times and is still a matter of controversy. Some animals certainly do communicate with their fellows by sound but whether these sounds bear any comparison with human speech is clearly debatable.

One school of thought claims that animal vocal sounds can never cross the gulf to human speech, while another school contends that these noises are the forerunner of the sounds that have been adopted by humans to make up a language. But so far even the apes and the chimpanzee have not responded by training to produce anything resembling a language or human speech. No animal is able to control the noises it produces in the way, for example, an angry man can control his emotion and speak calmly. In other words all animals, including the cat, produce

their typical family noises quite spontaneously and have little or no control of the nature or the quality of the noises they emit.

Students of philology now consider that animals use sounds for three main purposes. Firstly as an extension of their emotional state, secondly as a "call" to signal their presence to other members of the species, and thirdly as a communicative gesture.

While each animal species produces a characteristic noise—the dog barks, cattle low, birds sing and cats mew—animals belonging to related species, for example the domestic cat, the lion, tiger, and leopard make certain sounds that are basically similar. The true or absolute quality of these specific sounds however, do not become apparent until the animal has reached full maturity.

Most mammals are born with the ability to produce a limited range of sounds; these include whimpering, snorting, yawning, coughing and sighing.

The inborn or instinctive noises made by the kitten very closely resemble the sounds made by many other young animals, like the puppy and the baby. Young animals of many species are born with the ability to produce the same basic sound pattern. The nursing queen cat also produces sounds instinctively, sounds which to the human ear have a sympathetic and soothing air. This reaction of the nursing cat has a basic pattern which is similar to that of other nursing dams when in contact with their young. This is well seen in the next record of a lioness with her cubs.

Cats in common with other mammals, produce sounds that are an extension of their emotional state. For example a cat on the defensive will arch his back, raise the tail vertically and erect the hair all over the body. This posture probably conveys the impression of increased size to any would-be attacker, especially as at the same time the cat produces a low penetrating howl. This kind of display is often terminated by the well known "spit" which may cause a momentary inhibition of the attacker, so allowing the defender that fraction of second to get in the first strike. The "spit" of the fighting cat is also shown by some of the big wild cats and appears to be a characteristic sound reaction of the Felidae. The kitten and other young felines can easily be provoked to adopt this defensive "spitting" attitude from a very early age.

### Sexual significance

Male cats demonstrate their territory by pacing it out and at the same time emitting the familiar staccato variation of the mew, the type known as catter-wauling. This noise is known as the "call" and probably serves to demonstrate possession of a special area and to warn off any other male cats. The call often produces a similar competitive response in other tomcats and even in some neutered males.

The cry or call of the individual animal is utilized by certain species, including the cat, for biological ends. The provoked vocalization has a sexual significance for it attracts the female to a sexually mature male. In the same way the female cat when on heat produces her own characteristic call which is, of course, a vocal signal to the male. A "calling" female usually attracts a number of males all of which continue to produce their own calls in competition with one another for the favours of the female. It is this nocturnal cacophony which so many people find so unpleasant.

The sexual call of the female is often associated with special posturing, including rolling, which can be quite frenzied at times and which presumably also attracts the male. This type of behaviour is governed by the production of hormones from the endocrine glands such as the ovary, and the small but important pituitary gland which lies at the base of the brain. The animals, both male and female, are in the thrall of these internal secretions which so affect the nervous system to cause the characteristic chain reaction of events known as behaviour.

### Pleasure calls

This next record illustrates the call of the Siamese cat when on heat. A similar type of call to this is produced by other female Felidae when they are sexually receptive as you can hear from this recorded call of the female tiger.

During mating both female and male cats produce a low whining variation of the mew. One could well believe from the nature of the noise that the animals were in the direst of pains but this is obviously not the case.

I should emphasize that the call is not used solely as a means of bringing mature adults together for there are many variations of the "call" not associated with mating. For example the call may denote pleasure as is illustrated in the next record, when it can be accounted for by the proximity of feeding time. That was the pleasure call of a female tabby. The same type of pleasure call occurs on the next record but this time the subject is a lion.

One of the most common sounds associated with the cat is that of purring. This peculiar type of sound production is restricted almost exclusively to the domestic cat and other Felidae and serves as a good example of the point, that species of animals that are related through common ancestors often have similar sounds. A common pattern of vocalization can have a protective function for the tribe, this is certainly the case

with birds like the finches, but the cry of the cat family does not appear to have any group function of protection.

A great deal of speculation exists as to why cats purr. They purr simply because they have entered a certain emotional state. They are relaxed and are without any form of apprehension being at peace with the world around them. When a cat goes into this state, which usually means that he is comfortable and feeling safe or, more rarely, when anticipating food, he just cannot prevent himself purring. The act of purring is part of this state of relaxation; in purring the cat is radiating by means of sound its state of mind in the same way that a happy person often shows it by bursting into song.

### Timbre of the purr

Exactly how a cat produces the purr physically is less certain though there is no doubt that the sound production is closely associated with the act of breathing. It is quite easy to detect a difference in the note of the purr with inspiration and with expiration. Sometimes the sound is only produced when the air is leaving the chest, that is on expiration. Other animals usually use the force of expiration to produce their vocal effects although there are exceptions to this rule other than in purring. The donkey, for example, in producing his rather hideous bray uses both an inspiratory and an expiratory effort.

As far as I am aware there has been no scientific investigation of how the cat purrs. It is likely that the movement of the air to and from the chest sets up a vibration of the vocal cords in the larynx, or voice box, but the soft palate may also be involved. Possibly the relaxed state of the cat allows the muscles which control the vocal cords to slacken so that they can move in the stream of air to produce the purr. The sound made by the vibrations of these membranes is given resonance or timbre by the hollow cavities of the body such as the chest, nose and throat rather in the way that the

produced by the oscillating string. You will have noticed the similarity between purring and snoring although a cat does not normally purr when he is asleep. Here is a record of a domestic cat purring.

You can detect the distinct change of note when the cat breathes in and when it breathes out. Now listen to purring recorded from a lion and you will notice a very great similarity. I think however that we must agree that the domestic cat produces its purr with greater facility than the wild felines.

Most sounds made by the cat therefore are made involuntarily, that is, he has no control whatsoever over the production. These sounds serve no very useful purpose except to extend the area of communication between animals to the range of hearing. There are however a restricted set of circumstances when the cat does produce sounds quite voluntarily.

### Desires expressed

In the cat (possibly because of long association with man and possibly because of selective breeding) intercommunication between the pet and his owner has become something more than an innate reflex act. The same has happened with the dog but in a different way. The cat *can* express spontaneously its desires to certain persons, usually its master or mistress, by a combination of sound and movement.

We all know how a cat wishing to go outside, places itself in front of the door, turns its head towards the familiar person and produces the characteristic "asking" variety of the mew. If this combination of sound and posture does *not* produce the desired effect then the scope of the behaviour is further extended. For example when driven by hunger or thirst a cat will begin to mew, will approach its owner and begin to strop against his ankles, continuing to mew in a low tone. At the same time he has his tail fully erected and he waves it slowly from side to side as a reinforcement of his efforts to

attract his master's attention to the empty drinking bowl. Incidentally the rhythmic stropping of the head and body is often seen as a display by captive wild felines when they are anticipating food. Again we notice a similarity of behaviour between this group of animals.

This ability of the domestic cat to communicate by sound and gesture with human beings is of course an enormous step forward in development, and it is something that the cat shares with his companion of domestication, the dog, and which serves to lift them in character and status above their wild brethren. The voluntary production of sound by the

cat is in sharp contrast to the instinctive production of sound by wild animals for it is purposeful.

Biologically this behavioural development of the domestic cat is of great importance for in contrast to other animals the cat is now master of his environment and thus derives protection from the many rigours that must be endured in the wild. From the cat lover's point of view it is this purposeful behaviour that makes the cat such a pleasing companion.

*(The fourth talk in this series will appear in an early issue. A veterinarian will talk about "Food and Care")*

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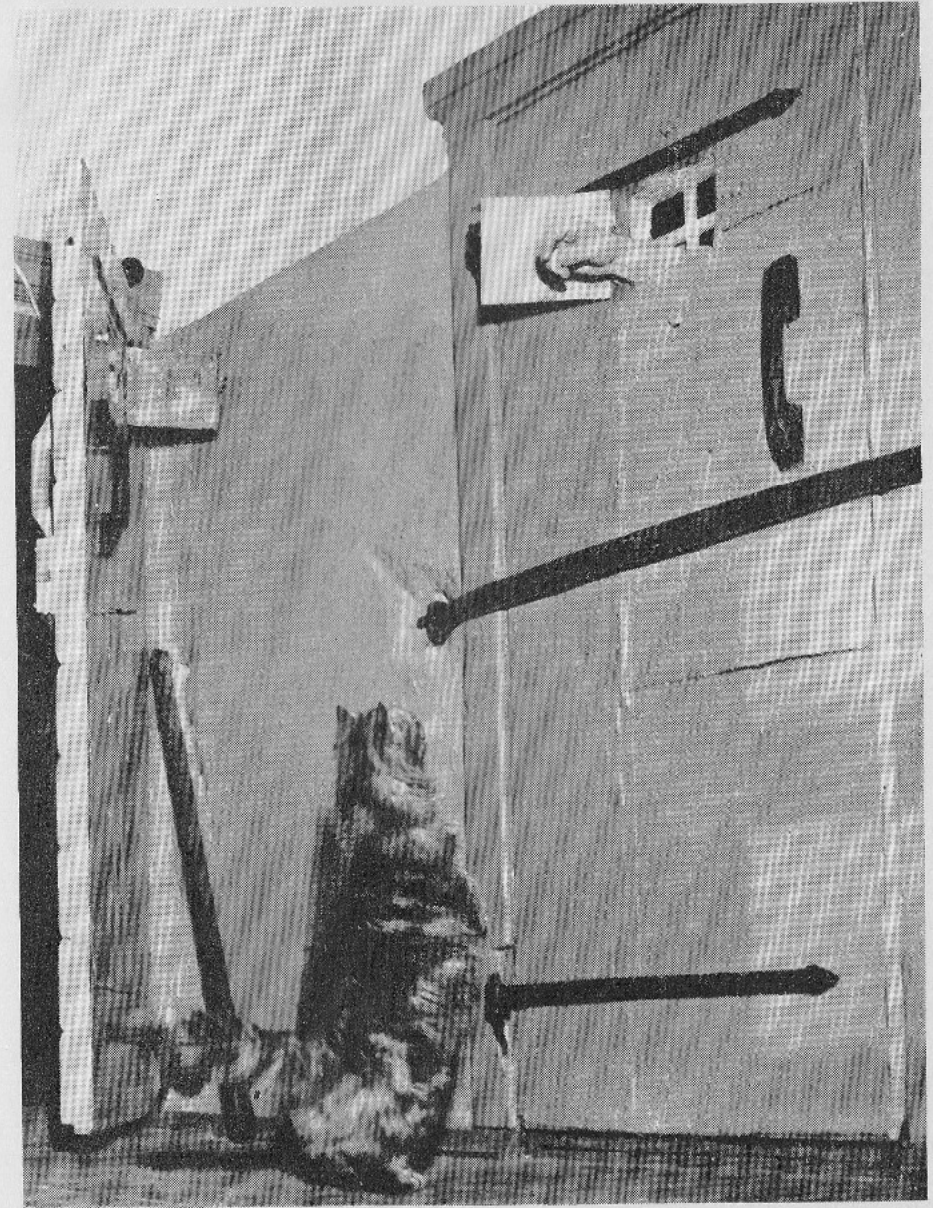
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**SPECIAL NOTICE:** OUR CATS Magazine will be on sale exclusively at our stall at Olympia. Back numbers and current issues will be available and subscription orders will be welcomed.

## A page for the proletarian puss—No. 91



*Paul Popper Ltd.*

**KIKI** begs for titbits at the cell doors in one of Europe's smallest prisons on the Finnish island of Aland. There are only five cells in this tiny gaol and it's a long time since they were fully tenanted. The prison is managed by a local farmer and his wife on a part-time basis.

**“VENICE is one of the world's supreme cat-cities, comparable in my experience only with London and Aleppo.”**

So writes James Morris in his newly published *Venice* (Faber & Faber, 30s.), the most entertaining and informative book about any city that I have read for a long time. If you have paid the usual brief visit to Venice, the book will bring home how much you never saw. If you have never been there, it will start you saving up to go there next year.

Mr. Morris's book is not only about the Stones of Venice which inspired Ruskin at such length, but about living Venice. He deals with the city's cats in his chapter on Minor Venetians and it is clear from his occasional references in other parts of the book that he is a keen observer of them. One of the many splendid photographs which reveal Venice with a fresh eye has caught a cat drinking from a street pump while a pigeon stalks unconcernedly by in the brilliant light.

Mr. Morris notes that the Venetians have been animal lovers since Roman days when they were repelled by bloody circus spectacles involving animals. When periodically the authorities organize a hunt for “strays”, the Venetians hide them until the hunters have passed. For the many half-wild cats, as in London there is always food in newspapers put out by the charitable. Their homes are corners of over-grown gardens and old drain-pipes from which thoughtful people have removed the grilles.

Students of the language of cats will be interested to learn that they do not answer to “Puss, puss”. But, says Mr. Morris, “if you go to the statue of Guiliano Oberdan, at the end of the Public Gardens, and make a noise something like “chwirk, chwirk”, there will be a thrashing of tails among the shrubbery, as of fishes flailing in a net,

and a small multitude of cats will bound out of the bushes to greet you.”

Like all Mediterranean cats, those of Venice are thin in spite of their meals of pasta, except the fat rat-catchers of the churches. Mr. Morris has noted one in a trattoria on the Rio del Ponte, a small white cat with one eye yellow and the other blue. As such asymmetrical cats are common in Turkey, he suggests it is of Saracen descent, its ancestors having been brought back by one of the Crusaders, out of whom the Venetians made handsome profits. From a letter in the *Lancet*, Mr. Morris deduces the cat is probably deaf and a reluctant hunter.

Any cat lover should follow Mr. Morris's advice and visit a coffee shop opposite the main door of the Frari church and ask about Nini, a white tom who was something of a cult in the 1890's, so that it was the “done thing” to call on him. “If you ask the barman nicely, he will bring out a big album from beneath his espresso machine, dust it reverently down, and let you look at Nini's visitor's book. Among his callers were Pope Leo XIII, the Czar Alexander, the King and Queen of Italy, Prince Paul Metternich and Verdi, who scribbled a few notes from Act III of *La Traviata* (first disastrously performed in Venice). When Nini died in 1894, poets, musicians and artists all offered their fulsome condolences, now stuck in the book . . .”

Shakespeare had Shylock, the money-lender of Venice, refer to the “necessary and harmless cat”. That is how Mr. Morris sees them, as part of the unique Venetian scene. He records that in 1947, Daniele Vare, “the laughing diplomat” put a complaint to the effect that there were too many cats in one of the ancient denunciation boxes. The paper is still there, for these boxes which once played a key role in the government of Venice have not been cleared for centuries.

S.D.

By ANN L. STUBBS

**E**VERYONE knows black cats are lucky, but few people know why. I don't, do you? Perhaps because of its association with witches, black magic and Satan himself it is felt that the presence of a black cat may help to propitiate the old gentleman and therefore keep ill-luck away! Be that as it may black cats are lucky, in England, at any rate.

The 18th century naturalist Gilbert White tells us that the coat of a black cat contains more electricity than that of other colours, so much so that it is luminous at times. If this were so it would certainly account for the superstitious fear accorded to black cats in the Middle Ages!

The sailors' wives of Scarborough held their coal black pussies in such high

regard at one time that no-one else attempted to keep them for it was well-known that if mere landlubbers attempted to keep a black cat it would most certainly be lured away to join the family of a sailor or fisherman. No surer charm was known to bring them safely home, no matter what the storms.

Young unmarried girls were always most anxious to have a pure black cat in the home for it was well-known in the past that:

“Whenever the cat 'o the house is black,  
The lasses of lovers will have no lack”.

But woe betide the girl who, however unwittingly, trod on the tail of a black cat for she would certainly not marry for at least a year!

It was firmly held in the West Country, where pure white cats are still considered

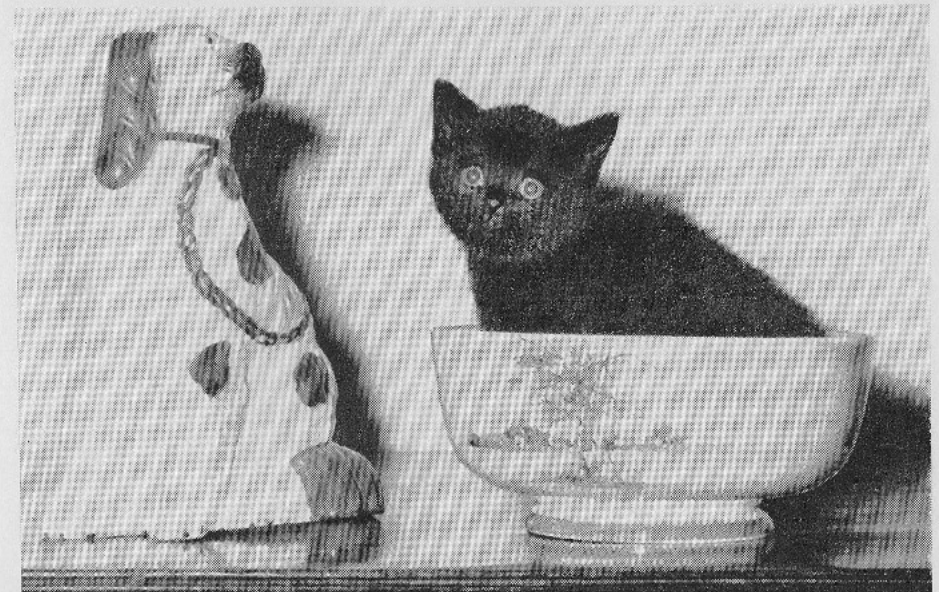


Photo by Monty

**Of course I'm lucky—and aristocratic, too! My dad's a Champion (Ch. Jezreel Jake) and one day perhaps I'll be famous like him. Miss Stubbs, who looks after me, calls me Whiston Charcoal—not a bad name, is it?**



unlucky by many, that where a white cat would bring misfortune on the family so a black one would bring prosperity and riches as we are told in the following verse :

“ Kiss the black cat and grow fat,  
Kiss the white cat and grow lean ”.

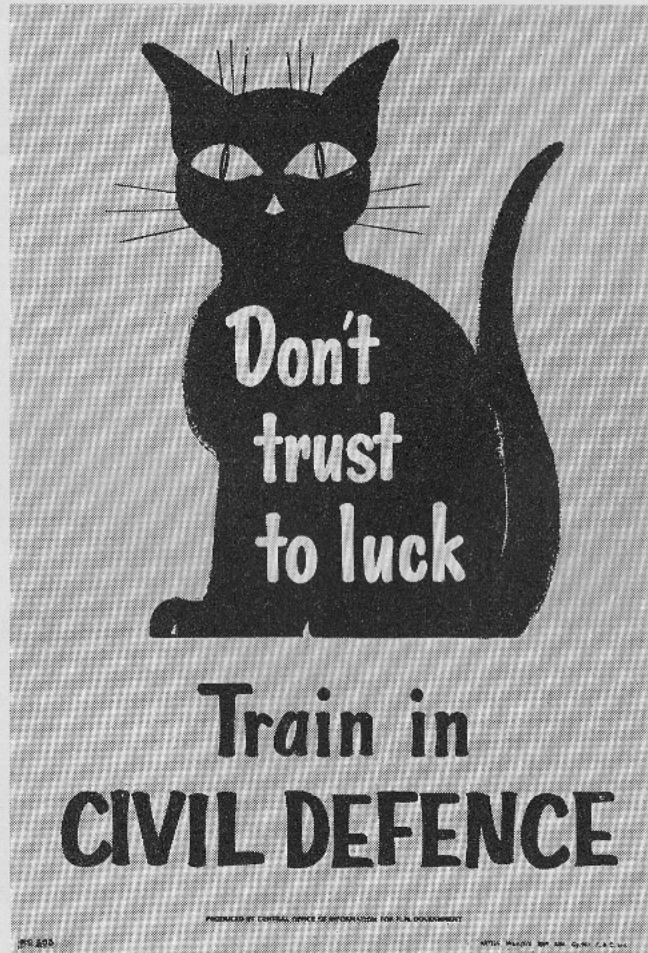
Still following up the search for prosperity we are told to keep the following odd pets :

“ Them that ever mind the world to win  
Must have a black cat, a howling dog  
and a crowing hen ”.

Black cats, that is pure black ones, are not nearly as common as might be supposed. The great majority have a small white spot on the chest, and often

another on the tummy. This is no good at all ! Our black cat must be *black*, from nose to tail if he is to be of much use to us ; and even if he doesn't bring us a fortune he should insure us against any trouble with our eyes for we are assured by the Cornish charmers of old that the tail of a black cat passed over eyelids will help our sight and cure even the most obstinate of sties.

All cats are mysterious but perhaps the black cat is even more so than most, particularly at night when all that can be seen is the strange gleam of her eyes. But mysterious or not, Lucky or no, there is a charm and fascination about a pure black cat, and well—she *might* be lucky !



This striking poster in black and red has been adopted by the Home Office for its C.D. recruiting campaign.



## Tailpieces

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



NATURAL man is doomed, says Professor Saul Adler, Professor in Parasitology at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and a Fellow of the Royal Society. Addressing a meeting of scientists from the new states, he claimed that people can no longer go on living naturally as they have lived for millenia. It was difficult to realize quite how artificial were the lives and the civilization of modern man. It was necessary for him to have proper sanitary drainage, a good medical system, and a good veterinary service to keep his animals alive, quite apart from facts that most of the foods he ate and the animals he had domesticated had been artificially selected, improved and bred for his particular purpose.

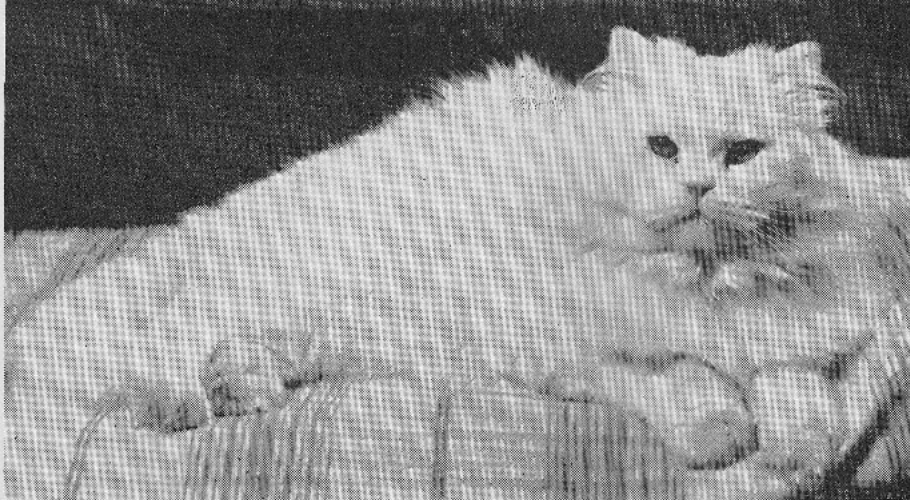
And I would like to draw attention once again to the contribution which unfortunate animals are being compelled to make to the advance of our so-called civilization. A report just issued by the Home Office reveals that during 1959 nearly 3,500,000 experiments on living animals were performed in Britain. Just pause to reflect on this—it is nearly 10,000 experiments for every day of the calendar ! Over 45,000 experiments ended in the killing of the animals while under an anaesthetic and cats, dogs, horses, donkeys and mules were used in 17,742 experiments. Six cats were used in cancer investigations, which accounted for nearly 50,000 experiments. Of all the experiments only 10 per cent involved operations requiring anaesthetics. The remainder were mostly inoculations. During the year Home Office inspectors paid 1,550 visits to

experimental establishments—usually without warning, the report adds.

Short story from Mrs. L. J. A. Price, of Bushey, Herts: We have a garden pond, which we stocked with goldfish. Unfortunately, they kept disappearing but we never found a dead one until one was discovered in our front garden. It was pretty obvious that disease was not responsible for the loss. Now the mystery has been cleared up ! The pond is clearly visible from the window of our new house and one day we saw a large British Blue cat carefully balancing on the lily leaves. He was obviously out on a fishing expedition !

There is a lady living near Newark, U.S.A. who has 600 dogs and only one cat. The canines are made of china, metal and wood and the collection has taken 30 years to assemble. The cat is flesh and blood.

Writing in *Wild Life Observer*, W. G. Kingham, who keeps a large number of British wild mammals, birds and reptiles in his garden at Effingham Common, Surrey, gives some interesting details about a British wild cat kitten which a friend in Scotland rescued from the sea. He decided to give the kitten a home with the rest of his animals. He describes the kitten as very like the ordinary tabby, but much stronger and more robust, and truly wild in every sense of the word. MacDougal, as the kitten was christened, settled down in his new home—up to a point. It is impossible to get closer than within three feet of him and the only food he really enjoys is rabbit with the



**DALMOND TOPPER, handsome White Longhair at 20 months, bred by Mrs. M. Dallison, of Broadstairs, Kent, is now owned by Mrs. N. Van Eesteren, of Oostvoorne, Holland.**

fur on and birds complete with feathers. Mr. Kingham describes the British wild cat as handsome, ferocious and untamable—but an interesting study.

Cat Week is being held from October 1st to 8th. Readers who can help or contribute in any way should contact Mr. A. A. Steward, Cats' Protection League, 29 Church Street, Slough, Bucks.

The new edition (69th) of *Pears' Cyclopaedia* made its appearance this month. I was pleased to note that its 1,000 pages included the popular section on the care and management of pets. Pelham Books Ltd. are the publishers and the price is 17s. 6d.

The Yorkshire County Cat Club was re-affiliated at the last meeting of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and in view of the cancellation of the Edinburgh Show, the Club's licence for an exemption show on October 1st at Harrogate was changed to one with Championship status.

Journals received this month include the August issue of *Animal Health*, the

journal of the Animal Health Trust. Although necessarily the contents are mainly devoted to farm livestock and dogs, it includes many interesting items for animal lovers. Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, Scientific Director of the Trust, writes about "The Ascendency of Man" and opens his article with the thought-compelling statement that "one of the major problems facing civilized man, as he continues rapidly to increase his numbers in an already highly competitive world, is going to be his attitude to biological research." The disease danger, he adds, inevitably increases with the density of population, animal as well as human.

*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

**A**N intriguing account of a woman's fear of cats and how it was overcome by a new therapeutic technique recently appeared in considerable detail in the *British Medical Journal*. The two psychologists concerned in the experiment were Dr. H. L. Freeman, M.A., formerly Registrar at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospital, London, and Dr. D. C. Kendrick, B.A., now Senior Registrar at Littlemore Hospital, Oxford.

The woman, aged 37 and London born, is the mother of two children. Her fear of cats had existed for as long as she could remember. She could recall how at the age of 4 she saw her father drown a kitten in a bucket in front of her. She could also remember sitting at the table with her legs held straight out in front of her if a cat was in the room and screaming outside the front door of the house if there was a cat on a step.

### Steadily grew worse

The fear steadily became worse. Once she found a fur inside her bed and became quite hysterical when she touched it. She had nightmares about cats and her first thought on waking was how many she might see during the day. She would panic at the sight of a cat and always walked near the kerb in case a cat attacked her from a wall. During her period of service in the W.R.N.S. she was often frightened by cats and always insisted on sleeping in a top bunk, though she did not tell anyone of her fear.

The patient's condition did not improve after her marriage at the age of 22. There was a time when the house next door became empty and the grass in the garden grew very long and became a rendezvous for all the local cats. She was terrified by the thought

that cats would spring on her and attack her. On visiting friends and relatives who had a cat, her husband or children would usually enter ahead of her to see that the cat was turned out. She would not go out at night alone and hanging out the washing in the garden was a nightmare to her.

This then was the remarkable situation when the woman decided to visit the University of London Institute of Psychiatry. She saw the two therapists and after a very patient and thorough examination of the case they decided to embark on a new method of treatment.

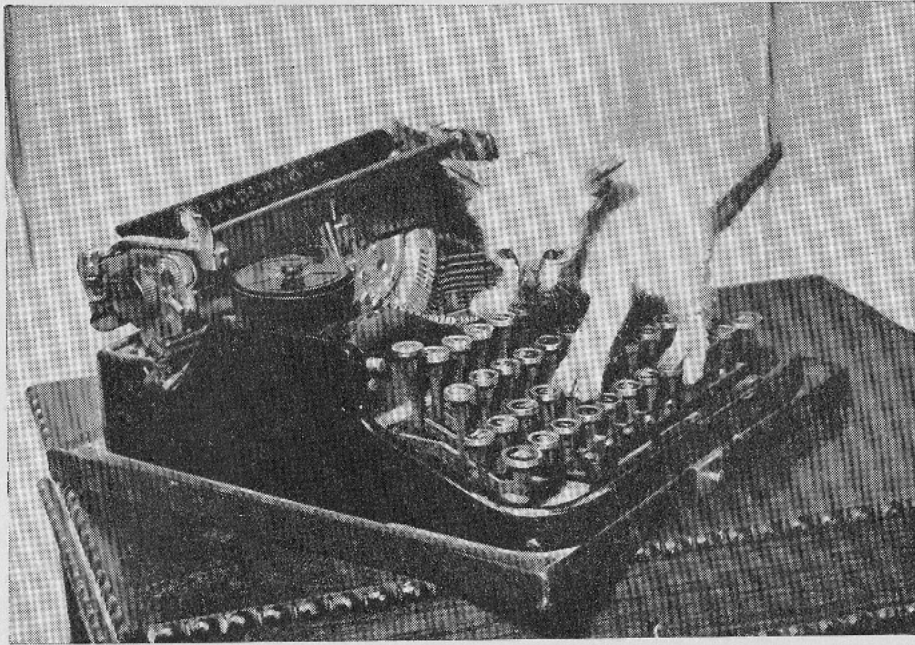
### Fears overcome

First, a series of materials were prepared—from velvet to rabbit fur—so that the patient could gradually get used to something which looked like cat fur. She was encouraged to handle these until she felt no uneasiness. Then she was given a toy kitten and pictures of cats. When these caused no anxiety she was shown a live kitten at the clinic and gradually she became able to approach and touch it. In three weeks she could walk within ten yards of a cat without flinching and after a month she took a kitten home and has looked after it ever since.

Ten weeks after the commencement of her treatment, the patient touched a full-grown cat for the first time and after eight months the doctors were able to report she had been cured of her cat phobia. She can now walk alone at night and cats no longer hold any terror for her. The last the doctors heard from her was to the effect that she had been to a cat show and thoroughly enjoyed herself!



# HILLCROSS KITTEN ON THE KEYS



Is Siamese kitten Hillcross Frolic writing to tell us how she loves her Tibs? It would be no less than the truth. When Tibby (your Tibs reporter) visited Mrs. Towe at 6 Palmerston Rd, Wimbledon, she told us she had "been using Tibs for donkey's years".

Mrs. Towe has been breeding cats since 1935, and today there are Siamese, Burmese, Abyssinians and Silver Tabbies in the Hillcross cattery. She has bred 3 or 4 Champions, some Premiers and many firsts, but since 1950 judging has largely taken the place of showing.

"When you're judging and you spot a winner, you just *know*. You see a quality about it—it's hard to explain," Mrs Towe told us.

"Short-hair breeds are the hardest to get to tip-top perfection. They must be in good condition—because if they aren't feeling 'the thing' that day their coats show it at once.

"That's where Tibs come in. All breeds need the vitamins and minerals in that daily Tibs tablet to keep them in good condition."

There speaks a wise judge. And it isn't just theory—the beautiful Hillcross cats are there to prove it!



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

**M**RS. JOAN THOMPSON—popular and active figure in the Cat Fancy for many years, breeder and International judge—turns the pages of her diary to reveal the most interesting entries concerning personalities, both human and feline.

## Kittens' big day

**M**RS. BARRON made her début as show manager at one of the loveliest shows of the year, the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club annual fixture at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London, on July 28th.

It was a big undertaking for her with its 334 pedigree exhibits and nearly 50 household pets. Congratulations to her on its success and her affability to us all. It is not always easy when one has so many items and so many exhibitors to cope with in such a short time.

The R.H.S. had previously held a flower show, so the hall looked festive with lovely flowers purchased the previous evening. Although the weather was moderate, the gate was good and it was a better temperature than the grilling heat of last year. The vast majority of the kittens were making their first appearance and it is their quantity and quality which lends such

charm to this show. Then there were the magnificent neuters who appear in such full coat compared with some of their celebrated sires at home. However, some of the latter are already preparing to "face the music" and have the short "downy" coat that promises well for the winter.

Best Longhair Kitten was Mrs. King's Cream female Startops Thais (by Ch. Oscar of Pensford), a lovely kitten excelling in balance of head and lovely eyes. Best L.H. Neuter award went to Mrs. L. Speirs' Chinchilla female Loreley of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington. Loreley is the mother of Champions and was spayed when her owner went to reside in Geneva for seven months last winter. She is just over eight years. She carries her years lightly and looked a picture with her wealth of coat and air of well being.

Best Shorthair Kitten was Mrs. Dadd's S.P. Siamese Samarkand Gallant Lad, a handsome fellow who according to the connoisseurs had that "Siamese look". He is by Ch. Sabukia Sir Galahad who is bred and owned by Mrs. Dadd. Best S.H. Neuter was Mrs. Stuart's Silver Tabby Culverden Gerard by Mrs. Towe's Believer Calchas Dacheux, the latter imported from France, a country which has produced some fine Silver Tabbies. He also sired the Best Shorthair Litter Mrs. Grant-Allen's quartette. Best Siamese Neuter was Miss P. Walker's handsome S.P. Caboodle by Killdown Kerry.

I think it is time we resumed the "Reserve" for Best in Show. This was

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OUR CATS ARE TIBS CATS

TIBS tablets for cats are a Bob Martin product



*Hugh Smith*

**It's their big moment! Judging for Best in Show in progress at the July show of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter C.C. The Sealpoint Siamese kitten on the left—Mrs. Dadd's Samarkand Gallant Lad—was voted the Best Shorthair exhibit.**

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an award always permitted before the War and one wonders why it was discontinued. Some very lovely exhibits were brought to the panels of five judges to decide the Best in the above varieties and once assembled it would only have taken a very few minutes after deciding the Best to record a vote for the Reserve Best. I am sure owners would be highly delighted with this distinction which singles their exhibits out from the others nominated from their Open Classes.

### **A field day!**

Mrs. King had a field day, winning all three of her Open Classes with Creams bred by herself. Mrs. Richard Warner's S.P. Siamese male Spotlight Trajinsky was another winner of many firsts. Mrs. Mearn's pair of Orange-eyed White Longhairs were picture kittens and it is the female Snowcloud Gardenia who has gone to Mr. and Mrs. Price of Ceylon.

Best Black L.H. was Mrs. Reynolds' Petravian Suzette by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax, a good kitten with lovely eyes and Mrs. Benbow, owner of Ajax had Best Blue Kitten with Bayhorne Son of Ajax. Mrs. Parker was awarded firsts with Prestwood Trunkles and Prestwood Althea.

Mrs. Rosell's Red Tabby, Bruton Red Gauntlet by Ch. Hendon Lysander is a very promising kitten which should win well this Winter. Another breeder who keeps the flag flying for Tabbies is Mrs. Beedell, who won in Browns with Magyar Cheetah. Mrs. Stephenson, of Tunbridge Wells, produced her usual winner and was awarded Best Blue-Cream with Ashdown Lotus Flower. Mrs. Todd's litter of five bonny well-grown Creams richly deserved their first in the L.H. Litter class. Miss Watts won in Colourpoints with a S.P. female Amaska Mazurka.

Siamese breeders supported the Show splendidly by exhibiting 66 Seal Points, 17 Blue Points, 22 Chocolate Points and

one Lilac Point, Mrs. Worsley's Trubun Timothy.

The winners in the seven Open Classes provided for Seal Points (excluding the two mentioned previously) were Mrs. Dunnill's male Sumfun Banhari, Mrs. Moss's male Fantan Achates, Mrs. Dunnill's female Sumfun Yahaha, Mrs. W. M. Parker's female Seax Janina, and Miss Grainger's Penenden Suzie Wong.

In Blue Points winners were Mrs. O'Neill's male Kuala Azure Ablim, Mrs. Gladwell's female Bitchet Betula and Mrs. Philpot's male Helsby Chipmunk.

In Chocolate Points Mrs. Dain's male Niad Si Muang, Mrs. Parker's female Seax Tanya and Mrs. Clarke's male Craigiehilloch Chomario were first in their Open Classes.

The winning S.H. stud judged on progeny was Mrs. Dadd's Ch. Killdown Kerry; making a very successful day for this young exhibitor. There were no entries in the L.H. Stud class.

Mrs. K. R. Williams' litter of Siamese by Laurentide Mercury was first in Any Colour Shorthair litters. Siamese exhibitors gave excellent support to the side classes provided for them such as Breeders, Novice, Maiden, Pairs, Brace, Team, etc.

### **Among the Shorthairs**

Lady Glubb won in White Shorthairs with her male Heartsease Dan Dare. The two British Blue winners were Mrs. Johnson's Jezreel Jothan and Mrs. Underwood's Maddron Melody. In Creams, Mrs. Hughes' Broughton Benny; in Silver Tabbies Mrs. Johnson's Flexton Silver Cobweb and in Tortoiseshells Miss Temple's Tollard Topsy won well.

There was a nice entry of 10 Russian Blues with Mrs. Carpenter's Sini Popov heading the class. Fourteen Abyssinians in three Open Classes were headed by Mrs. Pickthorn's male Blackthorn Baccardi, Mrs. Burrow's Courtmoor

Easter Belle and Mrs. Catchpole's Nigella Alexi. Sixteen Burmese in three Open Classes had as winners Mrs. Charles' male Gringo Topaz, Mrs. Waldo-Lamb's female Lamont Dara and Mrs. Dyte's female Kingsplay Petronelle. The last-named kitten was bred by Mrs. Merry of Calne, Wiltshire, and was by her stud Champion Kingsplay Fei-Fo who won the Any Variety S.H. Stud judged on progeny. The S.H. Brood Queen class was also won by a Burmese, Mrs. Allen's Kevitor Chito.

It will be interesting to follow the fortunes of some of these exhibits during the coming season. Many are already sold as pets and will be gracing domestic hearthrugs so will be retiring from the show pen unless their owners have been inspired to exhibit. The classification for neuters has never been so generous as it is nowadays and undoubtedly they have been augmented by the spayed

Notes on this Show close with a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Aitken, the latter Hon. Secretary of the K. K. and N.C. Club and former manager of some of its many enjoyable shows. They both generously gave their practical help and advice. The lions share of the work must always fall on the Show Manager but how comforting to be able to appeal to someone who has previously been so successful in that rôle.

### Up North

The Northern Counties Cat Club is very enterprising and the Committee are doing everything to put the Club on a sound financial basis with reserve resources.

The expenses of organizing a Championship Show in the North vary very much compared with London Ch. shows. The majority of cat breeders

live in the South and many are precluded from being away for the better part of two days by domestic ties and of course their cats. So there is always a much smaller number of exhibits at Championship fixtures a long way from London which of course means less entry fees. Although our judges give their services, their railway fares and hotel expenses are met, again a big expense as many well known judges live in the South. Against this, show halls are less expensive but the "gate" is less than we usually get in London nowadays.

### On fund raising

Mrs. Eustace, N.C.C.C. Hon. Secretary, sends this interesting account entitled "Ways and Means": "The holding of three shows in the first years of its existence wrought a heavy toll on the funds of the Club so the Committee decided to hold a Cat Party in conjunction with Sunderland Flower Show. This was an innovation in this area and we could not forecast the result. It was a three-day show so we had to keep in step with other stall holders and put on something that would interest the public for three days.

"The first day (a half-day) we gave up almost entirely to a show of household pets. Later in the day, we exhibited pedigree cats in decorated pens, these were mostly owned by members.

The public interest was overwhelming. Queues formed all day outside our marquee. The Mayors of Sunderland and South Shields and other public dignitaries visited us. The B.B.C. Television showed shots of our special "Day Nursery" with kittens reclining in a doll's cot. The local paper describing the Flower Show, headed the page with the words 'Cats Steal the Show.'

"There were some very well-known cats on exhibition on Saturday and Sunday. Mrs. Mavis Dunn's two Champions (one of them the B.P. Siamese Ch. Fenham Tarkas, I presume) sat behind an array of multi-coloured

rosettes. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter's newly acquired Blue Persian slept peacefully on a satin cushion, whilst their nearby litter of B.P. Siamese romped about to the delight of the children. Mrs. Carpenter also showed a fully grown litter of Manx cats. I haven't had time to inquire how she acquired these. Mrs. L. Williams showed her lovely Bluemine Blue Persians, aristocrats to the tip of their toes. Miss Grace Hardman, all the way from Yorkshire and ever to the fore where cats assemble, brought some of her Killinghall family. Miss Judith Thompson arrived from Leeds with her beautiful Colourpoints and excited crowds gathered round her pen all day.

"Other cats on exhibition were Mrs. Dawson's Chinchilla, Mrs. Hartley's Burmese and Mrs. Ward's well-fed but none the less attractive Siamese neuters. There were also my B.P. Siamese clientele, the first pen displaying the stud Spotlight Sigismund, the second his neutered son in bachelor quarters with his piano and easy chairs, the third the nursery with a playful litter.

"The total revenue exceeded our wildest hopes. The Flower Show Manager attributed the unprecedented success of his Show to the lucky black cat, the first visitor to pass the turnstile. To crown it all, we had three days of brilliant sunshine".

Congratulations to all concerned in this new venture. Not only will the Club benefit, but for the first time in many cases the public saw pedigree cats and kittens and realized how beautiful they are. Any display of them with every care taken for their welfare and comfort must be beneficial and in this case household pets were also given the prominence they so richly deserve.

### Australian news

From Melbourne, Australia, Mrs. Lorraine Picken sends an amusing newspaper cutting headed "Rajah Treatment is only for Cats"

It runs: "You recline on a silken

## The nourishment your sick cat will take — happily

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.

Brand's Essence is the ideal strengthener. It will build up the mother-cat and provides additional feeding for kittens from the age of three weeks.

Being pre-digested, its valuable meat protein is quickly absorbed without any strain on the digestive system, and your cat will readily accept a teaspoonful when refusing anything else. It contains no added salt or preservatives, and so cannot possibly irritate the most delicate system.

### WHEN SHOWING YOUR CAT

If it gets highly strung before a show, or suffers car sickness when travelling there, Brand's Essence is highly beneficial. It is so easily digested, whereas solid food may cause vomiting.

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# Brand's ESSENCE

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divan; luxurious tapestries surround you; choice morsels are at your elbow; your every whim is an order; Is that you?

"No? It's odds-on you're a human. Only cats get 'Rajah treatment' nowadays.

"That's how it looked at the Pacific Cat and Kitten Club's first championship show at Oakleigh town hall on Saturday. All breeds—including a few 'ring-ins' from the back-door mat—were shown. First thing you notice is the difference between a cat and its owner. The cat is the well-fed one. Also it enjoys a name with some distinction, such as Cedric of Pensford, Czar Horace of Angledene, Chic-a-boom.

"Interviewing aristocrats such as these is certainly ego-damaging. There is no doubt about it. It is a cat's world—but only because there are humans."

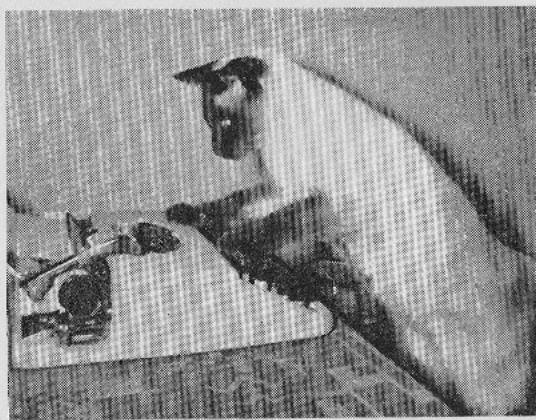
Mrs. Picken adds: "The organization for this Show on July 23rd was splendid and Mrs. C. B. Purnell, the Secretary did a magnificent job and deserves a gold medal. Over 200 exhibits were on view and the attendance was very good. I had eleven Longhairs competing and my awards

were six Challenge Certificates, seven trophies and thirteen beautiful ribbons which we so value here.

"My Ch. Kashan Solomon (Blue) was Best Cat. Best Opposite Sex was my Blue Ch. Myowne Morning Glory, bred by Mrs. Vize, those of you who knew her in England will be interested to hear. Best Black Exhibit was my male Archdale Robette, and the Black female Archdale Linette became a Champion. Best Longhair Kitten was Kashan Starmist by Ch. Kashan Solomon and Ch. Myowne Morning Glory.

"Last but by no means least my youngsters Cedric of Pensford (Blue male) and Sunkist of Pensford (Cream male) were awarded their final Certificates and became Champions. A wonderful day which I shall never forget."

Ch. Cedric and Ch. Sunkist are both sons of Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and these were the pair I went to King George Dock to see off in April last year. They were the ages I consider advisable for export to Australia. Cedric was 7 months and Sunkist 6½ and of course it is a great advantage for two kittens to be playmates before they leave this country on such a long journey.



Here's a fellow who intends to make his way in the world! WHITEOAKS SIMON, a Siamese neuter, belongs to Mrs. Bullen, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. As a kitten, his passion was music but now he obviously intends to concentrate on matters much more commercial.

HERE is a human little story to warm the heart. It is the kind of medicine to be taken any time when one is feeling a trifle out-of-sorts with the state of the world in general and the frailties of our fellow humans.

Miss Rosa Pinchera, aged 58, was born in Glasgow of Italian parents. She emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1957 and worked there as a domestic servant until early this year. Her one great pleasure was the companionship of her two cats, Tabby and Silvy.

Miss Pinchera was deported from Canada with her pets because she had insufficient means. When the Cunard liner in which the trio travelled back to Scotland arrived at Greenock, the cats were refused permission to land because their documents were not in order. Apparently they had no import licences and no arrangements had been made in advance for their reception in quarantine. Leaving the cats on board, Miss Pinchera travelled overnight by train to Liverpool, where the liner finally berthed. There followed arguments with the Customs and shipping authorities and finally she was put in touch with the Liverpool branch of the R.S.P.C.A. for help and advice.

### Help from afar

Councillor Clitherow, the Branch Secretary, promptly arranged the required import licence and put Miss Pinchera's fears at rest by promising to guarantee the expense of looking after the cats in quarantine for a period. Miss Pinchera put down her last few pounds for their maintenance.

The interesting sequel to this story has yet to be told. We first received all the details from—strangely enough—a Portofino address. Picking up an English newspaper whilst on a tour of Europe, Dr. V. Van Zele read about the plight of Miss Pinchera. He was deeply touched

by the lady's courage in dealing with her difficulties and promptly despatched to her all the English money he could muster at the time and a small cheque drawn on an American bank. This was not the limit of this Good Samaritan's interest. He decided to enlist the help of OUR CATS. Not being sure of our address he tried unsuccessfully to locate us with the aid of a directory. Eventually Dr. Van Zele obtained the desired information by contacting his wife at their home in Lemon Grove, California. Mrs. Van Zele, a well-known figure in American feline circles, he knew to be one of our subscribers.

When Dr. Van Zele finally reached London on the way home after completing his Continental tour he had little more than 24 hours to spare before he was due to leave by jet plane on the final stage. Even so, he "made the time" to satisfy himself that Miss Pinchera's affairs had taken a decided turn for the better and that she could look forward to happier days with her two cats. She had found work in London and the quarantine problem had been resolved. A magic wand had been waved—by Mr. Clitherow and Dr. Van Zele. The final wave was made when the pair met over dinner at a London hotel. Friends indeed to a friend in need!

Mr. J. Hall, Chief Secretary of the R.S.P.C.A., in a letter to the *News of the World*, reminded readers that cats don't always fall on their feet and therefore they shouldn't be tempted to try the cruel experiment of forcing a cat to fall from any height at all. He pointed out that when falling from a height cats frequently bring their tummy and chest into contact with the ground and this is liable to cause internal injury. Also the cat is likely to bite its tongue.

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## "Lady of the Lamp" - cat lover

By F. P. GENT

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, the "Lady of the Lamp" who died August 13th, 1910, at the age of 90, never married though she won the love of many notabilities and the undying affection of thousands of soldiers who in terrible conditions incredible to us now, kissed her shadow as she passed through the wards of the Crimean hospitals each night.

She had great affection for cats and visitors noticed that there were always several in her room with one coiled round her neck. It never mattered if they upset the ink and left their paw marks—still discernible—on some of her original papers.

Though she wrote multitudinous reports covering hundreds of pages with reams of statistics in small print, however busy, she always found time to write to her friends about her cats. A tom-cat called Thomas was a bit of a terror. In 1861 she wrote that he was stupid, ignorant, thievish and dirty and no one else would keep him and be kind to him. But he was so handsome and had such a way with him that people came from afar to see him.

His favourite friend had four kittens and Thomas killed one and "hit his eldest daughter a tremendous whack on the side of the head." Eventually he was sent away and immediately fell into disgrace. He went up to the chimney and had to be put in the washtub and one can imagine the "to-do." Miss Nightingale had to have him back.

To one friend, quite like an hospital matron, she described her efforts to make a kitten wash itself, while the kitten murmured, "What an awkward great cat that is!"

When she could no longer carry on her multiple tasks and was on the verge of a breakdown, she fled to Malvern on Boxing Day but not alone—"with a little cat."

Mr. Muff was her favourite cat. He wandered off into the woods near her parents' home and was lost for good, probably shot by a game-keeper. For a time, she was broken hearted. She wrote: "I have no one now to say like Ruth, 'Entreat me not to leave thee.' Poor Muff said it if ever Ruth did."

Reading again over the story of her life with its ever falling avalanche of duties, one is glad that a seeming coldness of heart inevitable under her circumstances, melted in the warmth of a great affection for her innumerable cats. "A blazing fire, a warm rug, candles lit, and curtains drawn, the kettle on for tea and finally the cat before you" was what in her strictly limited leisure the beloved "Lady of the Lamp" most enjoyed.



## News from "Down Under"

HELLO, folks everywhere! Here we are once again. Bitterly cold and lots of snow, but signs of a very early Spring are evident—birds, bees, etc.

**South Australia.** I have the *Newsletter* from Tom and Jerry in Adelaide, which we all missed last month. Too much show work, I guess. And what a fine report, with everybody apparently satisfied. Their next show will be on Johnnies Pageant Day, but more of that next month. The Kashan Cup, presented by Mrs. Pickens of Victoria, was won by Mrs. St. George's Sunnyview Regina and is to be competed for each year in the Blue Longhair section.

I liked the par about the Scottish baronet who is making a living raising six-toed cats. What a pity he did not think of it before reaching the ripe old age of 75! Another par to create interest was about Miss Lushington and her water loving cats from Turkey. A third par re Mr. Greening and his wife Margaret who live at Box Hill North and are busily experimenting on producing a new breed which may be called "Susukis" after their pet cat. Two colours are aimed at, black and lilac, with blue eyes. A famous S.P. Siamese male and a white domestic female with a Persian background are principals in the experiments. It will be interesting to receive progress reports. We have received a very pleasing and happy letter from the Club Secretary Don Gebhardt.

**New South Wales.** Armed with a special invitation from Secretary Mr. Mullins, I attended the A.G.M. of the Southern Cross All Breeds Club in Sydney in July. Although one of the foundation members I had never found time to attend before. Now I can attend whenever possible as I came away a Life Member as a reward for years of service

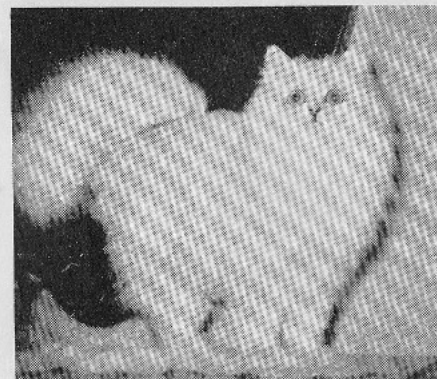
—as did four others, Mrs. Whyte, Mrs. Burnage, Mrs. Murfin and Mrs. Vize. It was a happy meeting showing a healthy balance sheet and all officers were returned unopposed.

Mr. Stan Jones has told me and I also noticed his letter to *Digest* that his late wife's cat Blue-eyed White male Shalimar Bobby Dazzler has been doing well for his new owner in New Zealand, Mrs. Shuker of Wellington, and is now a Champion after four appearances on the bench. He also made history as the first of his breed to be Best Cat in Show in New Zealand. How his breeder would have loved that. Our sympathy goes out to that grand lady Miss M. Haswell on the death of her famous stud Ch. Cbecri Debroyal who during a long life was Best in Show 14 times and collected over 100 firsts.

On July 16th the Siamese Cat Society of N.S.W. staged their third Ch. Shorthair Show. President Mr. P. Allen and Secretary Mrs. Hinde did a grand job and were rewarded with a fine day and an entry of 81. Awards by the four judges—Mesdames Burnage, Finch, Helsham and F. W. Pearce—went as follow: President's Trophy for Best in Show—Mrs. Hinde's S.P. Dandalun Princess Arla; Opposite Sex—Mrs. Kaufman's Ch. Bluemead Pas De Chat; B.P. Adult—Mrs. Outram's Pic Point Banyak Suka; Brood Queen—Mrs. Bonfill's Marcus Indiana Shadow; Best Kitten—Mrs. Donmall's Amoy's Wee Kong; Veteran—Mrs. Paris' Pagoda Golden Glow.

The Northern Feline Fanciers of N.S.W. Club staged their first Ch. Show in Sydney on July 30th. This Committee, headed by President Mrs. Vize and Secretary Dowty are wonderfully keen and great triers. Due to great publicity and organization a wonderful entry of 197 was benched. The Show was ably

opened by Dr. Diston Morgan, Chairman of the Board of Lorna Hodgkinson's Sunshine Home for Children, which will benefit to the extent of £200. It was unfortunate that an accident on the way slowed the President down to one step at a time instead of two and resulted in a badly damaged eyebrow filled with gravel. People do collect the darndest things! Dr. Morgan presented the trophy for the best decorated cage to Miss Mullins of the Minaloo Cattery. Main awards were: *Shorthairs*: Best Male—Mrs. Tchan's Chatwyn Nimrod (imp. Abyssinian female); S.P. Siamese—Mrs. O'Donoghue's Kaylee Cassandra; Male Kitten—Mrs. Outram's Abyssinian Mystic Arabi Fuad; Female and Best Kitten—Miss Martin's Tchanton Blue Chiffon; Junior—Mrs. Hinde's Dandalun Princess Arla. In Longhairs Mrs. M. Baxter really "went for the Dr.," winning Best Male with Honky Tonk Jaison, Male Kit, Female Kit, Brace, Pair, Team, etc., all beautifully benched. Mrs. Vize, Mrs. Manning, Mrs. Chaney and Miss Rapley (with Best Female) were all winners in Longhair classes.



**REENE'S ROCHELLE, promising young Chinchilla female by Frances of Allington ex Reene's Debbie, bred by Mrs. Irene Laffoon, of Burbank, California, U.S.A. The sire was purchased a short while back from English specialist breeder Miss E. Langston by Mr. H. E. Webb.**

The A.G.M. of R.A.S. Cat Club was held in August in the City and three vacancies were filled on the Cons. Committee. Mrs. Helsham, Mrs. Abbott and Mr. C. Mason were the retiring members. Both ladies were returned with Mrs. I. Paris. We are going to miss Chas. Mason, who has done a good job continuously. Congrats., ladies!

**Victoria.** Strange to say, I have not received the *Newsletter* from Mrs. Scott. I have a catalogue of the Pacific Cat and Kitten Club Show held in July, but it does not disclose date or venue. All entries totalled 193 including sub-register and domestic groups, which is very good for a young club. Five judges operated—Mesdames Williams, Hawkes, Matheson, Leslie and Patterson. The Show was given the support and co-operation of Oakleigh Swimming Pool Youth Club and it is great to be able to interest and encourage the young people who are the exhibitors of tomorrow. In the Longhair section Mrs. Picken won Best Cat with Ch. Kashan Solomon, Best Opposite Sex with Ch. Myowne Morning

Head Office of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals received a morning call from the foreman of the goods yard at Kew Bridge Station. The night watchman had reported hearing some plaintive mewing from one of the wagons in a siding. In the morning when the unloading crew emptied the wagons they found nothing, and still the faint cries persisted. Eventually, the foreman happened to lift the heavy metal lid of the chain locker and there inside was a family of kittens, three black and one tabby. The men gave the kittens some bread and milk and very soon the P.D.S.A. ambulance based in Soho had collected the little mites. Later the same day they were sent down to the Ilford Sanatorium where, after a rest and some hefty meals, they were found good homes. They were about a month old.

Glory and Best Kit with Kasha Starmist. Best Opposite Sex Kitten was Mrs. Purnell's Caprice Malik Shah. Shorthair winners (Siamese) included: Best Cat—Mrs. Bumak's Yonalin Belinda; Best Opposite Sex—Mrs. Griffin's Chanticleer Pepe le Moko; Best Kitten—Mrs. Chick's Yonalin Lola; Best B.P.—Mrs. Bumak's Valbert Blue Wren; Best C.P.—Mrs. Williams' Nareena.

At last the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria has decided to include a cat section in their Melbourne Show to be judged on October 1st. Mrs. Purnell will be cat section superintendent and Mrs. Anne Vize, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce have been invited as judges from Sydney, also Mrs. Matheson and Mrs. Leslie from Melbourne.

**Queensland.** Redcliffe Club held a show in July and the 70 odd cats were benched in a large marquee. Mrs. Bamford was the judge but I have no other news than that Mrs. N. Shead won Best Longhair and Best Opposite Sex with her entries.

**New Zealand.** For the first time I think the *Newsletter* from Miss Menzies has not reached me. I am tipping awful

fires and floods at Hamilton! Nothing less could be responsible, I am sure. I have received a nice letter and three delightful postcard photos from Miss Ruby Lovejoy, of Palmerston North. Her Blue-Cream Ch. Highland Scotch has now totted up a mighty run of successes. Highland Woodland Fay and the Grand Old Man Cream Champion Woodland Mischief (Imp. England) also continue to do well. Mischief looks as well as when I met him officially in 1957. Miss Lovejoy, a courageous importer and exhibitor, tells me Fay has been Best Kitten four times and is entered for "Kitten of the Year" honours. Ch. Bonavia Campanello (imp. England) was Best in Show at Palmerston North and is entered from this cattery as "Chinchilla of the Year". Results will be awaited with interest.

**Tasmania.** I have renewed association with that charming couple from Hobart, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkyns at the last Sydney show, where they exhibited. They say things are moving along well with about 40 registered stock and talk of a show on the island. Go to it, friends!

## IRRITATION OF CATS' EARS

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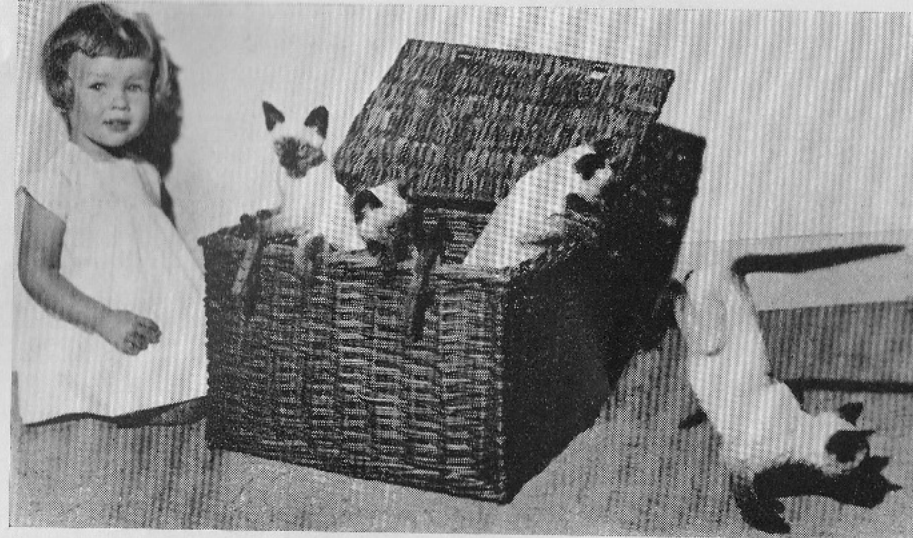
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*Photo by D. G. Davis*

**When Frances visits the home of Mrs. P. L. Moss, of Swanley, Kent, she makes a bee line for grandmother's Siamese kittens. Result—this delightful study which may cause some of you to reflect on the "innocence of youth."**



*The Kansas City Times*

**Another charming child and Siamese picture comes to us from Mrs. Wanda Scott, of Blu-Acre Cattery, Independence, Missouri, U.S.A. The kitten Shi-Karee won a blue ribbon for being the best of her breed at the Mo-Kan Cat Club Show and little Candy Sanchez, her owner, appears to be thrilled by the success of her pet.**

## 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.

### At Stud

**DONERAILE LILAC HARRY**, Lilac Pointed Siamese. Queens met Plymouth by arrangement. Kittens available.—Joan Gregory, Cherrytree Cottage, Horrabridge, Devon.

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### Books

**CATS BETWEEN COVERS**, by Sidney Denham, the only complete guide to books about cats, with an introduction by Sir Compton Mackenzie, 7s. (U.S.A. \$1) post free from H. Denham, 37 Canonbury Square, London, N.1.

**CAT BOOKS FOR CAT LOVERS.** Lists free. Little Bookshop, Farnham Common, Bucks.

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### Miscellaneous

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