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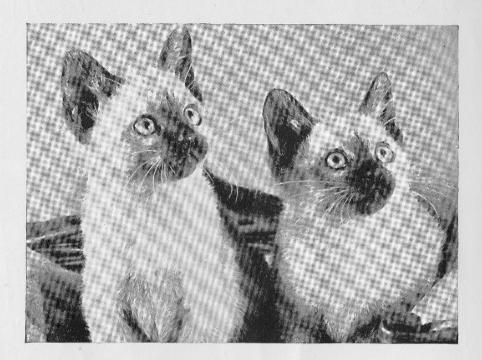
AUTHORITATIVE AUTHORITATIVE COMPREHENSIVE



A HAMPERFUL OF MISCHIEF

BRIARIC ALEXANDRA (a Blue Longhair kitten bred by Mrs. B. E. Reid, of Belvedere, Kent) and her young friend co-operate to provide a delightful study for photographer D. G. Davis. OCTOBER 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.



FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE



A BURROUGHS WELLCOME VETERINARY PRODUCT

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. 10 OCTOBER 1960

Managing Editor:

ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW 4 CARLTON MANSIONS CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

Australian and New Zealand Correspondent:

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Hugh Smith

Mme. M. Ravel, President of the Fédération Internationale Féline D'Europe and well known for her long association with the Cat Club de Paris, judging a Longhair at last month's Golden Jubilee Show of the G.C.C.F. at Olympia.

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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	
29 Octo	ober	*Midland Counties Cat Club		***	Birmingham
5 Nove 5 " 12 " 26 "		*Blue Persian Cat Society Isle of Wight Cat Club *Croydon Cat Club *Northern Counties Cat Club			London Ventnor, I.O.W. London Sunderland
	ember	*National Cat Club *Herts, and Middlesex Cat Club			Olympia, London London
7 Janu 21 ,,		*Notts. and Derbys. Cat Club *Scottish Cat Club			Nottingham Glasgow
9 "	" Surrey and Sussex Cat Association				Venue to be fixed London Epsom, Surrey 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.

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.

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WHEN SHOWING YOUR CAT

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To keep healthy cats healthyto help make sick cats well again -give them Brand's Essence.





A tribute to Squeakie

By CAROL BUNKER

This is a remarkable story of a woman's determination and courage in the face of great misfortune. When Mrs. Bunker's operation was over, she found herself unable to talk, walk or even feed herself. She was paralysed down one side and numb in the other, deaf in one ear and generally slowed down in her mental processes. She refused to be beaten by her disabilities and aided greatly by the companionship of a little black kitten she slowly but surely won back her place as a useful member of society.

ATE in 1951 I had an operation for the removal of a tumour on the brain. I have told the story in a book called Struggle to Return (Peter Davies, 18s.). This is an account of my cat's contribution toward my recovery—a help the Almoner book reviewer has recognized by calling her "an N.C.O. in my victory."

She was a small black kitten when she was given to me by some children and, because she had a high voice, I named her Squeakie. She lived with me for six years before I had to give up my job in London because I grew increasingly tired. I moved to Devon where I hoped the slower tempo of country life would make me less exhausted.

I think Squeakie thought the move was especially for her benefit. Although she had seemed quite content for a few years with a town garden, she could now bring back for my inspection all kinds of things that moved. She was never hungry, so she did not need to eat what she caught and I soon taught her that anything she brought back unharmed could be exchanged for my praise and a piece of meat. But anything so hurt that it had to be killed was a total loss as far as she was concerned. She did not attempt to touch small chickens or other farmyard animals, and indeed used to drink out of the same saucers as the rabbits I started to keep, and would sit and guard those as big as herself when they occasionally escaped from their hutches into the garden.

After a few months in Devon my trouble was diagnosed and soon I was back in London-in hospital. Even when I returned home after eight weeks I had to go away several times to convalesce. Always I arranged for Squeakie to be fed, but she would never go into the house while I was absent. She existed outside and made herself a bed in the garage. She was always waiting for me when I returned, so that I could rely on her, and her whole world seemed to centre on me. I badly needed to be the centre of someone's world at that time and her faithfulness made a great impression on me.

Never showed pity

Squeakie was the only living thing who ignored my operation. The fact that I now looked odd and could not walk properly made no difference to her feelings toward me. I never saw pity in her eyes as I did now in the eyes of humans, though she frequently looked worried when I was depressed. On her account I ceased to give way entirely to my own feelings because it seemed selfish not to make her as happy as possible.

Another thing which helped me greatly was her trust in my physical powers. Although she was energetic and often galloped about like a kitten, at times in the past she had wanted to be carried, and she still demanded the same attention. Now it was as much as I

could do to balance myself, but she never expected to be dropped and so I was careful never to fall with her. She seemed to feel perfectly safe when I walked or stood holding her, whereas everyone else was so concerned lest I should fall. Even I felt very unsafe, but her trust and apparent unawareness of my lack of balance gave me confidence.

There was another way in which she must have assisted me too, although I did not realize it at the time, and that was in my talking. I had always been used to speaking to her occasionally, as though she could understand all that I said, but now that I was alone I formed the habit of often passing remarks to her as to another person. She liked this attention and, because she did not criticize, I spoke without thinking, so that gradually, with a practice that was quite unintentional, I spoke more clearly.

For nearly two years we lived alone and then I sold the house in Devon and moved to take a job and live with relatives in Suffolk. No one was expecting my cat and there was already a dog in the house who barked nearly hysterically at the suggestion of one. The dog was going blind too, so that she had no idea how near she might be to the claws of a cat. Even I could see that to allow the two animals to come into contact with one another would be foolishly cruel to the dog.

Facing a problem

There was a suggestion that I should have Squeakie destroyed and get another cat when I had a home of my own. I do not suppose anyone realized that she was all I had left from my home. I could not explain all that she meant to me besides my affection for her, that she was a symbol and the one thread of continuity binding my past life to my present situation.

A compromise was finally reached: Squeakie should live in an empty aviary in the garden and be let out in the afternoons, when the dog would be shut in the house. She lived in her aviary quite happily for nearly a month until I found a flat for us both.

A year later I felt I was fit to return to London and continue the climb back to the kind of job I had done before my operation. The fate of Squeakie kept me vacillating for many days. I knew that I could rent a room where she could be shut in all day until my return back at night. That would be nice for me as I should still have the pleasure of her company, but she would have no natural life at all. Several people would have given her a good home, but I refused them all. She did not like other people and would always have been waiting for me to return. Finally a vet. offered to put her to sleep for me. It seemed the kindest thing.

Still missed

I grieved for her and miss her now. But into my heart when she had gone came a resolve which has helped me on many occasions since. Somehow I should have to get well again, otherwise her death would be a purposeless waste.

It is now nearly six years after her death. I lead a perfectly normal life once more and I think she would be pleased with my progress. I have no photograph of her, but her picture will always stay in my mind—a faithful little black cat, my companion for nearly nine years.

Blue Creams are advancing! At the recent Show of the Yorkshire Cat Club at Harrogate, the Best Longhair Cat—Mrs. D. Statham's Jasper Susanne—and the Best Longhair Kitten—Mrs. Wright's Wildfell Pim—were Blue Creams. Among the Shorthairs, Helsby Beta, a lovely Blue Pointed Siamese shown by Mrs. Nicholas, was Best Shorthair Adult and Mrs. Vickers won Best Kitten with her British Blue Broughton Barnaby.

Golden Jubilee Year of our Governing Council is also the centenary of the birth of

"The Hogarth of Cat Life"

whose remarkable life story is sketched here by SIDNEY DENHAM

(Reproduced with acknowledgements to "The Guardian")

"He made the cat his own. He invented a cat style, a cat society, a whole cat world. British cats that do not look and live like Louis Wain cats are ashamed of themselves."

HIS was H. G. Wells' tribute 35 years ago to Louis Wain, the centenary of whose birth fell in August this year. Wells was supporting a broadcast appeal by Robert Loraine for Louis Wain who had been taken as a pauper to a mental home. Ramsay MacDonald was another of the many famous men and women horrified to learn that one of the most popular artists in the world for more than 30 years had fallen on such evil times that he lacked even paper and pencil to use during his lucid moments.

"Louis Wain was on all our walls some fifteen to twenty years ago", Ramsay MacDonald wrote in 1925, "Probably no artist has given a greater number of young people pleasure than he has."

Forty years ago to think of cats was to



Louis Wain in middle life.

think of Louis Wain. The identification in the public mind was brought home to me not long ago when I found a book of cynical aphorisms about women published in 1916 called "Cats—Not by Louis Wain." The anonymous author, evidently realizing the public expected any and every book about cats to be by Louis Wain, hit on this ironical way of cashing in on the phenomena.

Louis Wain died in 1939, a few days before his 80th birthday, but circumstances and mental illness had virtually ended his curious career twenty-five years earlier. Several generations have now grown up to whom the name Louis Wain means nothing. But for millions over fifty, his name or the sight of one of his characteristic cat drawings revives childhood memories, as they did for Ramsay MacDonald.

For more than thirty years there were few nurseries without Louis Wain cats smiling down from the walls, Louis Wain books and annuals in the toy cupboard and Louis Wain postcards in an album. The cats he sketched and painted—at the rate of 1,500 a year—were reproduced by the million in Britain and America. His publications fill three columns of the British Museum

catalogue. Christmas 1903 alone was marked by the publication of 13 Louis Wain books and many drawings for Christmas numbers. But in their very nature these publications were ephemeral and collectors to-day appear ready to pay ten or twenty times the published price for them. His later pictures made in a mental hospital have been collected for a different reason. He continued to draw and paint to the end and as the familiar friendly cats changed into increasingly elaborate patterns with the progression of his illness, they provide classic examples of schizophrenic art.

Louis William Wain was the eldest child of William Mathew Wain of Leek, Staffordshire, who moved to London. His mother was of French origin which explains the Louis. He dropped his name William so that even his close friends did not know of it and never signed his pictures anything but L.W. or Louis Wain. In later life he recalled his early childhood as "terryifying in the extreme" as a result of being haunted by strange visions. How far this was the shadow of the illness which eventually overwhelmed his mind, we must leave to the alienists.

A start-with birds

Although he insisted that he drew his cats from life and was not a caricaturist, but a realistic artist, in fact the cat world he created was not related to reality. The eminent Victorian art critic, Frank Burnard, who christened him "The Hogarth of Cat Life" was acute enough to see this and realize that the cats which delighted the public were the products of an often secretly tormented mind. In 1899 when Louis Wain was at the height of his fame, Burnard wrote: "He is, and I trust he will not be angry with me for saying it, a neuropath, a keen sufferer at times from a finely and highly strung nervous temperament."

Louis Wain's private schooling was fragmentary and a decision at 17 to

become a musician was changed after six month's study because he decided art offered an easier path to the fame and fortune he desired. He studied for three years at a small London art school and stayed as a master. He was attracted to the then bohemian world of Fleet Street and tried to sell sketches to magazines. He sold his first soon after his 21st birthday, a drawing of bullfinches. A letter in the V. & Λ . records that he failed to sell the next 30 pictures he offered this editor, but he slowly established himself as a press artist specializing in birds and animals, but never cats.

Sickroom vigils

At the age of 23 he married and it was a black and white kitten given as a wedding present that almost accidentally transformed his life and won him world fame. Soon after marriage his wife was struck down by a lingering and inevitably fatal illness. Peter, the black and white cat, would sit on her bed and during his long sickroom vigils, Louis Wain sketched and caricatured Peter to amuse his wife. She urged him to show these cat pictures to editors, but Wain, then reporting dog and agricultural shows, took himself seriously as an artist. The remark of an editor: "Whoever would want to see a picture of a cat?" led to the pictures being put away until in 1886, Sir William Ingram, editor of the Illustrated London News, realizing the originality of some Louis Wain cats he saw, suggested a picture of a cats' Christmas party across two pages in the Christmas number.

In a few days, drawing on his notebook of sketches of Peter, Wain produced a picture containing about 150 cats, each with its own expression, each doing something different. The picture made an immediate hit. Comments and requests for copies came from all over the world. Louis Wain found himself famous almost overnight. For the next quarter of a century he was never in need of a

field he had created. An endless stream of laughing, smiling, winking cats appeared under his hands—he could draw equally well with left or right hand and, as a parlour trick, would sometimes draw with both at once. He drew not only for the press, but generously for friends and for charity. At Princess Christian's stall at a Mansion House bazaar once he drew 200 for sale to anyone who would give a few shillings.

Louis Wain was no draughtsman, like the Swiss Gottfried Mindt, who also drew nothing but cats and, curiously, also ended his life in a mental hospital. Wain spent the rest of his life with a houseful of cats, but there is no evidence in his work that he seriously studied their anatomy. The most damaging criticism of him was probably that of a child who was one of the few not delighted by his humour: "Mummy, those aren't cats, they haven't got any bones".

Nor was he a subtle interpreter of feline character like Steinlen. He regarded cats as playful children, which is perhaps why his drawings appealed so much to parents. His cats walk on two legs and miraculously hold cups in thumbless paws.

cats were, not, like his brilliant French predecessor Grandville, to satirise human beings by portraying them as animals.

But he was inventive and humorous in the straightforward, boisterous Victorian manner and had the journalist's knack of topicality. His cats took up golf, motoring, sea-bathing and every other new "craze" and in 1914, inevitably went into khaki and nursing uniform. Having invented a style, he stuck to it and his faithful public would probably have been disappointed if in later years he had drawn cats in any way distinguishable from those he had drawn 30 years before.

Until he gained his spectacular success, Louis Wain had taken no special interest in cats. But his drawings rapidly won for him the kind of authority which to-day is bestowed by television appearances. Within a short time he was the leading world authority on cats. He was elected President of the National Cat Club and became an outstanding figure in the Fancy, which had grown rapidly since the first show at the Crystal Palace in 1881. He was in demand as a judge and the magic of his name assured a good gate



anywhere. Experience and study led to a certain degree of expertness, but he held theories on the breeding and nature of cats as eccentric as his theories on science and philosophy on which he would write half-column letters to the press. He encouraged the publication of the first stud book of cats and, although in America at the time, helped to get the compromise between factions in the Fancy which led to the formation of the Governing Council, which this year celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

Inevitably he was in demand by the growing number of organizations devoted to animal welfare. At the end of the 19th century there was still much cruelty and neglect in Britain. Even more than his formal work for clubs and societies, his drawings with their human appeal raised the social status of the cat which climbed from the kitchen to the family parlour and began to rival the dog as the friend of man. Discussing the change, he once remarked that when he was young, no public man would have dared to acknowledge himself a cat enthusiast, but that now even M.P.s could do so without danger of being laughed at. He was patronized by royalty, invited to Marlborough House on a number of occasions and once, it is said, was summoned to the royal box at Covent Garden by Queen Victoria

to draw a lightning picture for her grandson, the Kaiser.

Louis Wain had considerable success in America where he eventually worked for three years for one of the Hearst newspapers. He was virtually the inventor of the "comic strip" and also of the film cartoon. The ancestor of Felix the Cat and the creations of Walt Disney appears to have been Louis Wain's "Pussyfoot", an animated cartoon—with a characterisically topical Louis Wain title—for which he was going to sign the contract when he was severely injured in a bus accident in Bond Street in 1914. He remained unconscious in Bart's Hospital for a week.

This accident, following on a number of other severe mental shocks, seems to have triggered the disintegration which culminated in his commital to an asylum. Although he was unbusinesslike and too friendly to bargain for the fees he might have demanded, he had earned very large sums. Most of his savings had been lost backing an invention in America and the remainder disappeared when a ship carrying a cargo of china cats in a "futurist" style was torpedoed. With the shrinking of magazines due to war-time paper shortage, the markets for his work disappeared.

He had always lent freely and it was said of him that if he had a pound in his



"My ball, I think!" these Louis Wain golfers are saying simultaneously.

pocket, inteen simings was at the disposal of any less fortunate friend. Now near the poverty line himself, he was too proud to borrow and more and more stayed away from his old haunts so that his friends should not know his need. Thus it was when his mind finally gave way, he was taken to a pauper's asylum without any of his many friends or admirers knowing.

His condition was discovered accidentally by a visitor to the institution. The subsequent public appeals and exhibitions of his work done in his lucid intervals brought some thousands of

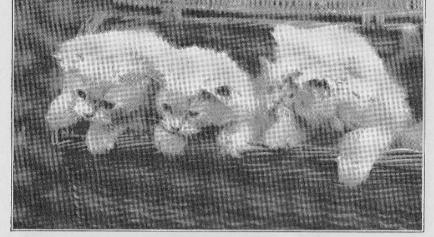
fourteen years life that remained in a private room of a mental hospital near London.

To-day, 21 years after his death, his name has generous space in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, but, as a puzzled art dealer commissioned from America to "buy a Louis Wain" told me recently, is recorded only with the date of his birth in a leading encyclopedia of artists. This is, perhaps, a fair estimate of his permanent place in English life and in English art.



Peter Wrinch-Schulz

This lovely Blue Longhair male, bred in England in 1953, is now one of South Africa's best known cats. He is Champion of Champions BREY'S RONADA BLUE RAJAH, the first ever to win the supreme title in South Africa. He has been in the ownership of Mrs. H. J. Hanlon, of Durban, Natal, for over four years. Blue Rajah was bred from Oxley's Smasher and Charnock Jemima.



Some of Honey Puff's lovely kittens

MRS. A. HUGILL of 63 Brier Crescent, Nelson, Lancashire, writes:

"I thought you would like to hear about my Cream Persian Honey Puff or Honey for short who has had 7 kittens. They are now nearly 9 weeks old and, as you will see from the photograph, they are really lovely.

"Honey had 6 to 8 Kit-zyme Tablets daily while carrying her kittens and she was also given your vitamin A and D extract, Kenadex, for six weeks as well as your mineral supplement Stress. She kittened without any trouble at all and proved a wonderful mother. I am sure your products helped her enormously and I send you my thanks.

"The kittens now have their daily ration of Kit-zyme as also do my Chinchillas and my Blue Persian. They get Kenadex and Stress too, and I always recommend your products whenever possible."

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Food and care

By JOAN O. JOSHUA, F.R.C.V.S.

The three previous B.B.C. broadcasts on "The Cat" appeared in our May, July and September issues

HETHER as pets or patients, cats are interesting and intriguing creatures. It is possible for the vast majority of households to keep a cat. They don't require accompanied exercise and the average cat depends less on actual human companionship than a dog. I say "average" deliberately since certain breeds such as the Siamese do depend much more on human company than the ordinary type of cat does as a rule.

Cats are freedom loving animals and they usually like to come and go as they please. None the less many cats lead an apparently perfectly happy existence within the confines of a city flat.

The problem of leaving a cat with free access to the house worries many owners who have to be away from home for any period. It surprises me how infrequently one meets the small hinged flap cut in the lower part of the kitchen door which seems to be the ideal solution. The cat soon learns to use this door and it is so small that it doesn't endanger the security of the house. This device is popular in America and I think deserves to be more so here.

Cats ask little in the way of special accommodation and usually make their own decisions about a sleeping place. Often they like a box or corner in a cupboard where they can achieve a degree of peace and privacy.

Feeding presents more of a problem.

Cats are fastidious to a degree and many have very narrow limits in their likes and dislikes. I believe a mixed diet is the best, containing a high proportion of good quality protein food. This can include fish, meat (raw or cooked), liver, lights for adult cats, rabbit and even cheese. Milk is very desirable and the vast majority of cats like it, although the enthusiasm of the Siamese for milk is less than average. Cats vary enormously in their food requirements, some maintaining excellent condition on about 6 ozs. of food daily while others will eat (and seem genuinely to need) as much as a pound of protein-and don't get fat on it!

Two meals a day, morning and evening, is a good rule, but in the case of those which really need more, three meals daily is better. Cats having access to vegetation will take some greenstuff, usually grass, of their own free will and if they can't get to it, it is wise to grow some grass for them.

Some cats have what appear to us to be curious tastes, having a passion for such odd things as beetroot, tomato or cucumber. I sometimes wonder if we do not coddle our cats too much by giving them their food so carefully prepared. For goodness sake, don't think I'm advocating not boning fish or rabbit—you can't be too careful over this. What I mean is that it does the feline mouth and digestion good to have to tear at a hunk of meat, even on the bone, occasionally. After all,

when you think of the eating habits

of the wild cats—lions, tigers and so on—there is a vast difference from the way we feed our domestic cats. The prey of wild cats is nearly always herbivorous and after a kill the first part eaten is always the gut and liver. The former contains partly digested green food and has a pretty high vitamin content—so has the liver. The actual muscle meat, which is what we feed our pets, is always the second choice.

Wild carnivores also crunch up a good deal of bone and so obtain a well-balanced mineral supply. It is, then, quite easy to understand that dietary deficiencies can easily arise in cats kept under domestic conditions.

A sign of health

The majority of cats are scrupulously clean by nature—the odd renegade is, unfortunately, incorrigible and quite incurable. Given freedom most cats prefer to deal with their excretory functions in private and out of doors. If this is impossible a tray must be provided. I am sure that the well-known trick of using the bath or sink outlet when in desperation, is an attempt by the cat to dispose of excreta in a hygienic way.

Cats are most particular over their toilet when in health—a welcome sign of convalescence is often a revival of interest in washing. But although they are so particular, the coat needs daily attention with a variable amount of grooming. Longhaired varieties need special care, particularly when moulting, since the fur can get tangled into huge mats virtually overnight.

Now a word on the neutering of cats. I strongly recommend that *all* pet cats, other than females which can be allowed to breed regularly, should be neutered. Owners are often worried about the kindness of doing this but let me reassure them. The cat is naturally very highly sexed and unless it can lead a full breeding life it is far kinder to castrate or spay it. In urban areas there are not many female cats in the population so the male is doomed to a life of some frustra-

tion if left undoctored; also his urine has, to put it politely, a highly characteristic odour.

I know of a number of male cats which have been neutered even quite late in life and they have led far happier and healthier lives thereafter. This is not only my own opinion. Owners who have been reluctant to have the operation done have invariably been delighted at the change for the better in their cats. You may wonder why I say "healthier." Well, fighting his fellow toms is an integral part of a cat's love life and he gets many bites in consequence. Those bites, which are only small punctures, actually plant germs under the skin from the opponent's mouth and these are always what we call pathogenic, that is they can cause disease, in this case septic infection with abscess formation. A series of such infections naturally impairs a cat's health.

Neutering and spaying

It is extremely unkind to attempt to keep an undoctored female cat in isolation when she is on heat (I don't refer, of course to breeders' catteries). It is not commonly known that ovulation (the shedding of eggs from the ovary) only takes place in cats after the stimulus of the physical act of mating and if this is not forthcoming the queen may remain in a state of heat of variable intensity for long periods of time. In the average cat the breeding season begins soon after Christmas and lasts until August or September-some mother cats even come in season while still nursing the previous litter. Cats of both sexes can be neutered at any age but my advice is to have female kittens spayed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 months of age and males castrated about a month later.

There is a fairly widely held belief that it is better to let a female cat have one litter before she is neutered. Personally I don't agree with this. For one thing the operation is more complicated in an adult cat and, whilst it very rarely causes any trouble even in old cats, there is undeniably far less effect in a young kitten. Whether she is spayed before or after a litter won't, in my experience, make a bit of difference to her subsequent physical or mental development.

To undoctored female cats maternity comes easily. Cat breeders even in developing new breeds, have not changed or exaggerated physical features to anything like the extent that dog fanciers have with certain breeds. Hence the cat is fundamentally the same physically and therefore functionally. Dystokiadifficult birth—is far less common in cats than dogs, although obviously the incorrect position of a kitten during birth can and does cause trouble. However, most cats if given a suitable bed, preferably in a fairly dark quiet place such as the dresser cupboard, will get on with the task of delivering their litter without fuss or delay.

Lazy mothers

Highly strung cats may need reassurance or even mild sedation during the preliminary stage of labour. Some Siamese cats are notoriously lazy over producing their kittens and I know of several which think all they need do is present the kitten's head or tail to view and then leave someone else to do the rest.

Any prolonged period of obvious labour pains, of course—say more than two hours—without the appearance of a youngster should be the signal for seeking veterinary advice.

Equally, feline mothers make an excellent and unfussed job of rearing their young. See that the mother has an increased nourishing ration, plenty of milk (or water if she won't have milk) and a suitable vitamin supplement and that's all you need do. Encourage kittens to start lapping for themselves at about five weeks of age, help them to get onto scraped raw meat at about six weeks and by seven weeks they ought to be self-supporting.

The cat has retained many of its wild

a patient it presents certain problems. The instinct of many sick wild animals is to seek solitude to die—this trait the domestic cat has retained to some extent and it is always necessary therefore to be sure that a sick cat is securely within doors if you are to avoid the distress of having a pet disappear and not know what's become of it.

Model patients

A cat's preference, when ill, would undoubtedly be to be left alone to recover naturally or to die in peace, and some submit to treatment and nursing with an ill grace in consequence. Nevertheless, once a cat can be persuaded—and persuasion is the key-note in handling cats—to accept ministrations she may well prove to be a model patient. In this respect canine and feline temperaments present a marked contrast.

When a dog has to have something, unpleasant done to him he prefers to be very firmly restrained—it seems to give a sense of security—but the cat is just the opposite, the less the restraint that can be applied compatible with carrying out the job in hand, the better. A few moments spent in cajoling a cat is never wasted. Another contrast is that a nervous dog will tense its abdominal muscles and so make palpation (examination by touch) of the abdomen difficult or impossible, whereas the nervous cat, once it has accepted handling at all, is perfectly relaxed and abdominal palpation is easy.

Cats are sensitive to what is known as mental trauma and physical illness can result. An example of what I mean is a Blue Persian cat I know of, which had to have an enema for which it was not desirable to give an anaesthetic. The outrage to its person and dignity was such that for several weeks afterwards the cat refused to eat, a condition known as anorexia nervosa, and vigorous nerve treatment had to be given, which fortunately was successful.

You may, therefore, not be surprised when I say that cats can suffer from

to find that it was cats rather than dogs which suffered from what I can only call shell shock after air raids. Dogs were frightened at the time, but it was cats which felt the after effects.

Cats are far more temperamental than dogs in settling down to hospital or boarding routine. I would say the feline boarder or in-patient demands more understanding than any other domestic pet as a rule.

Falls and fractures

As surgical patients cats are excellent. Their muscular structure is so beautifully designed and so efficient that operating on a cat can be a surgeon's dream. Cats take anaesthetics well but it is quite impossible to give them narcotic and pain relieving drugs of the morphia group—instead of becoming dopy they become maniacal. However, the modern tranquillizers can usually be given and are a great boon to cat and handler, facilitating examinations, X-rays, minor operations and the giving of general anaesthetics.

Abdominal operations such as hysterectomy, Caesarian section and even removal of the spleen are well tolerated and I'd say that the cat is almost the ideal subject for modern orthopaedic surgery. The bones are usually of too small calibre to permit the application of plates, but intramedullary steel pins inserted into the bone are excellent.

It is as well here, perhaps, to explode the fallacy that cats do not break limbs as a result of falls and accidents—indeed they do, fractures are quite common. I know of one cat of 14 years which broke its tibia (shin bone)—the fracture was pinned and the cat lived a fully active and completely normal life for a further three years—comparable with some operations on human centenarians, you may think.

Operations on damaged tendons are often regarded as a dubious proposition, as tendon heals so slowly. But tendon repair in cats is always worth a trial. ful even in old cats. A policy of *nil* desperandum is well justified in feline surgery.

Cats are prone to certain virus infections, often grouped together under the common heading of feline distemper. The most serious of such diseases is feline enteritis. It is a severe disease and not infrequently fatal, especially in young kittens. The main symptoms are vomiting, loss of appetite and extreme dullness and any cat, especially a young one, showing such signs should have veterinary assistance as soon as possible. Fortunately there are now vaccines available giving good protection against it and I look forward to the day when cat boarding establishments will require a certificate of vaccination against enteritis before accepting a feline guest in the same way as many dog boarding kennels do for distemper.

Dental inspection

Cat influenza (also part of the distemper group) is also common but usually less serious. It is due to various strains of virus in much the same way as human 'flu; hence vaccination is not easy. Symptoms include sneezing, coughing, difficult breathing and catarrhal discharges from eyes and nose.

It is a curious fact that people seldom connect cats with dental trouble, yet many cats suffer considerably from diseases of teeth and gums. I would even say that regular inspection of your cat's mouth—especially if she is over middle age—is nearly as important as your own routine visit to the dentist. Even if you are told all her teeth must come out—don't worry—she'll be far happier and manage to eat much more easily without a tooth in her head than with a full complement of bad ones.

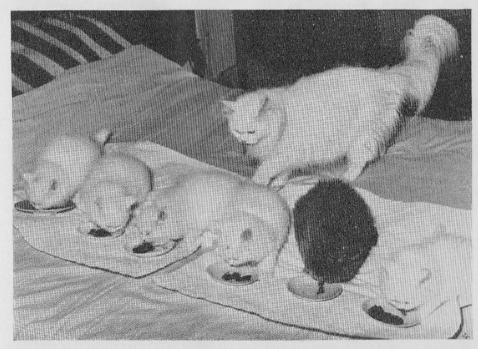
Likewise, people seldom think of such diseases as diabetes in connection with their cats yet it is by no means rare in older cats. Unfortunately treatment involves daily injections of insulin, just as in man, which few cats will tolerate. As always, the exception proves the rule, and Punch, a cat of my acquaintance, accepts not one but two daily "jabs" of insulin from his owner with complete co-operation and equanimity. Did he but know it, he has prolonged his life by at least eighteen months by being so adaptable, but he is a feline rarity.

A "fashionable" condition which we know cats have is so called slipped discs. "Slipped" is a bad term. In animals at least it is a protrusion of the disc and this bulge presses on the under side of the spinal cord and so causes symptoms. Funnily enough although we know cats do have slipped discs we're not at

Yet they certainly do in dogs.

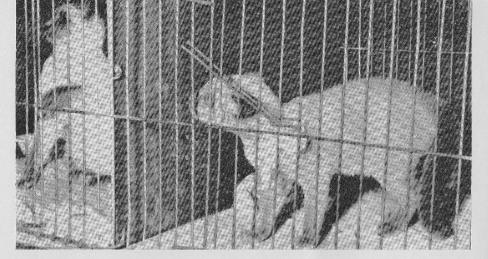
You may think we know all we need to about cats, but I don't think that is true. I'd like to know a lot more about a lot of things. For this, much research work is needed. I'd like to know far more about such things as anaemia in cats, diet, including nutritional requirements and deficiencies, and last but by no means least, that bugbear—skin disease. Skin disease is very common in cats, especially the type often called miliary eczema or fish-eater's skin.

Indeed, there is still much to be discovered about our paradoxical domestic—vet semi-wild—feline friends.



FEEDING TIME

This captivating picture of a White Longhair with her family of six kittens comes from Mme O. Dekesel, of Antwerp, Belgium, who is naturally very proud to be the owner of such a large and bonny litter. The queen with the vigilant eye is Houpette du Vieux Donjon



Characters at the Show: (1) The angry one.

Cat breeding from scratch - No. 7

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

NE of the questions that occupies the thought of every would-be exhibitor is: How can I get my cat into first-class condition?

There is no simple answer to this question. Yet perfect condition should always be the exhibitor's aim.

Condition is of course the external manifestation of an inward state of health. The general level of health is determined by inherited stamina, nutrition and environment, light, air and exercise.

The diet must be well-balanced, for any deficiency will quickly show in loss of condition. Excess, leading to fat formation is also to be avoided. Overweight is less of a problem with breeding stock and kittens than it is with neuters who nearly always tend to eat in excess of their requirements, if allowed to do so.

Grooming is essential, for the coat

of the show cat ought to lack nothing in lustre and texture. With Shorthair cats very little grooming is necessary. A brushing every day followed by stroking with a soft chamois leather are all that is needed. The object of brushing is to remove surplus hair from the coat; but care is necessary. Too harsh grooming may cause damage by removing hair that is not really loose and ready to come out. A wire brush should never be used.

It is, in fact, a matter of opinion whether with Shorthairs a brush is really necessary. The palm of the hand slightly moistened with water will readily remove the loose coat. This is the better way with a few cats who resent brushing. Shorthair kittens need very little preparation for the show.

Longhair cats and kittens present a more difficult problem. A look along the show-bench quickly reveals to the observant eye the cats that have been carefully prepared and those that have



(2) "The sleepy one who couldn't care less."

not. Tangle and greasiness have to be combatted and the careful use of powder is necessary—though *never*, of course, on the show floor. All traces of powder must be removed by brushing. The novice really needs to learn from the experienced breeder by practical demonstration how to tackle this problem.

Cats and kittens vary enormously in their reactions to the show. All who visit shows will be familiar with their different types of behaviour. There are to be found at all shows examples of the exhibitionist who plays up to an admiring public. There is the angry cat, the playful one, the sleepy one who couldn't care less and the one who retires under a blanket fervently wishing he were away from it all. No doubt, inherited characteristics of temperament are partly

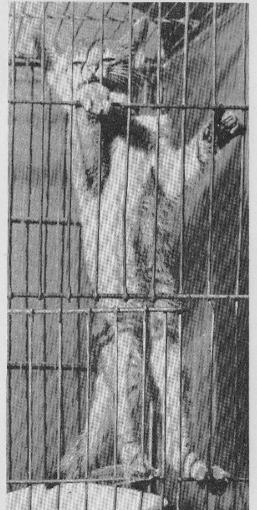


(3) The playful one

behaviour shown by cats and kittens at shows.

My own experience suggests that the kind of treatment received from early kittenhood plays a very great part. There are of course inherently nervous kittens but scientists as well as animal trainers know that animal behaviour is conditioned by pain and pleasure.

If a kitten habitually derives pleasure from handling it tends to become confident and amenable. One incident of harsh treatment may leave an indelible impression, causing it subsequently to



(4) "The exhibitionist who plays up to an admiring audience."

of a similar situation to that in which the previous unpleasant incident occurred.

I have always made a practice of handling my kittens regularly once weaning has begun. Before this I prefer to leave them alone. I stroke them and get them used to lying on their backs in my hands and never, never do anything to cause alarm while handling them. Consequently I have found that, with one or two exceptions, they grow up confident that at the hands of human beings they will receive kind treatment. One unfortunate incident in kittenhood may destroy this relationship of trust.

Pre-show training

It is not a bad thing to see that kittens and young cats are used to the sight of strangers before they are taken to their first show. In fact a gradual initiation into the strangeness of the world outside can help them to confidence. I used at one time to take my young kittens on bus journeys, to which they very soon became used. If kittens are launched suddenly from the seclusion of the cattery to the solitary occupation of a pen, they may find the ordeal rather much.

Kittens penned in litters rarely seem to suffer from nervous strain. Perhaps they have a sort of "we're all-in-ittogether" feeling.

(to be continued)

A TIMELY REMINDER!

A year's subscription to this Magazine makes a welcome Christmas and New Year gift for a cat lover. We can arrange for your personal greetings to be included with the first issue.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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.

Over 500 exhibits!

ONGRATULATIONS to Mr. A. Towe (Show Manager) and the Committee on the success of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy Golden Jubilee Championship Show at Olympia, London on September 24th.

The weather was just right to attract the public; not too sunny to tempt them to have a last fling at an excursion to the sea or country, yet good enough to tempt them out.

Over 3,000 spectators attended, which I believe is a record for a one day show in England. From 10 a.m. until early evening the hall was comfortably full and the onlookers were not so obtrusive during judging as they have sometimes been on previous occasions.

The quality of many of the exhibits was outstanding and some of the Longhair and Shorthair cats and kittens were the best we have seen this season.

Best Exhibit in Show was Mrs. Peck's S.P. Siamese Tailong Luki-Looki by Keranda Devi. This fine male was bred by the exhibitor, who came all the way from Cornwall. There were seventeen S.P. males in his Open Class. Best L.H. Cat was Mrs. Jewell's Cream male Brynwood Casanova by Ch. Briaric Beauty, bred by Mrs. Brind. Best L.H. Kitten was Mrs. Brunton's Cream female Summer Sunshine of Dunesk by Ch. Oscar of Pensford bred by exhibitor. Best Neuter award went to Mrs. L. Speirs' Chinchilla Premier Loreley of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington, bred by Miss Langston.

Among the Shorthairs—Best Kitten was Mr. Richard Warner's male S.P. Siamese Spotlight Trajinsky by Ch. Spotlight Troubadour, bred by exhibitor. Best Neuter was Mrs. Lewis's S.P. Siamese Sabukia Steeplechaser by Ch. Killdown Kerry bred by Mrs. Dadd. There were 25 Siamese neuters in his Open Class, seven of whom were spayed females.

There is a colossal amount of work involved in organizing a show at Olympia and overseas readers can imagine what it means when Mr. Towe had 546 pedigree exhibits, over 50 household pets and 7 for exhibition to cope with. All the clubs had risen to the occasion and they and their members offered over 240 special prizes. Among them were medals, spoons and trophies donated through Madame Ravel, President of F.I.F.E.; Miss Posthuma

mark); Madame Gibbon (Switzerland); Madame Pia Sandoz (Switzerland); two from Canada and several silver spoons from Miss K. Yorke, Chairman of the G.C.C.F.

Space will not permit mention of all the outstanding wins, but among the Longhairs some of special merit were the winning Blue adults and kittens. Ist and Ch. went to Mrs. Stephenson's Ch. Ashdown Nuthatch and Ist and Ch. to his daughter Miss Alexander's Gippeswyck Judith. Best Blue kitten was Mrs. Denton's male Camber Eros by Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous. The winning female was Mrs. Brunton's Damask Rosc of Dunesk by Ch. Thiepval Paragon.

All the 6-9 month Longhair Open Kitten classes were cancelled, which is what all experienced Longhair breeders anticipated. These varieties rarely have their kittens before the end of April and many of those exhibited were born in May or June. Three to 5 months and 5 to 9 months Open Kitten classes is a better classification for all Ch. shows up to December, and these age groups will apply to all Longhair kitten classes at the National Cat Club Ch. Show at Olympia on December 3rd.

Blues and Creams

The 24 Blue kittens (winners already mentioned) had an exacting assignment as many were of lovely quality and this remark also applies to the 13 Cream kittens who competed in one class of both sexes and all ages from 3 to 9 months. The second, Mrs. King's male Startops Ben's Shadow (by Ch. Hendras Benedict and Ch. Starmist of Pensford) has been purchased by Mrs. Ross of Longfield, Kent as a future stud. Many of the Longhair side classes were very well supported and exhibits had to be exceptionally good to win. The Adult Blue Junior class (for cats under 2 years) had at least three potential Champions, the winner being Mrs.

Enchanter. Miss Rodda was awarded 1st and Ch. with her Black L.H. male Chadhurst Black Panther (by Chadhurst Golden Monack) and Mrs. Aitken in Black kittens with her Bourneside Black Psyche.

Mrs. Hughes was awarded 1st and Ch. with her Cream female Startops My Fair Lady. A welcome winning newcomer was Miss Sherlock's Blue-eyed White female Lotus Lolette, a variety rare in this country nowadays. Mrs. Mearns' Orange-eyed White male Snowcloud Eros is speeding on to become a Champion and she also won in White kittens with her female kitten Snowcloud Gossamer.

Mrs. Rosell's Red Tabby male Bruton Peregrine (by Ch. Barwell Pedro) is a lovely addition to this breed and it was a welcome sight to see eight Red Tabbies with the winning kitten sired by Peregrine. Best Chinchilla adult was Mrs. Turney's Bonavia Anne by Ch. Mark of Allington and Best Chinchilla kitten Mrs. McLeod's Rebel Thame by Jamie of Thame. In Blue-Cream adults the winner came all the way from Wales, Mrs. Statham's Jasper Suzanna.

Mr. Stirling-Webb's Colourpoint male Briarry Evan was the winning adult and both parents were bred by the exhibitor. He also bred Briarry Eustace, sire of Miss Susan Watts' male Blue Colourpoint kitten Amaska Orlando, which excelled in type. Mrs. Wilson won again in Self Coloured L.H. neuters with Premier Priory Golden Glory by Ch. Oscar of Pensford.

Siamese a'plenty

The Siamese were almost a show in themselves and the judge, Mrs. Price, had an exacting, although very pleasant task seeking the winner in an Open S.P. Female Class containing twenty-two. Mrs. Carter's Gainsborough Beauty Too by Ch. Spotlight Troubadour was the winner. Four Open Classes



Hugh Smith

General view of the Golden Jubilee Show at Olympia during the afternoon.

were provided for S.P. Siamese but numerically terrific competition awaited them as there were 76 entries in these classes. The three first prize winners were Mrs. H. Martin's male Whiteoaks Wakefielde by Lancy Palladin; Mr. Tew's female Bradbourne Vanessa by Ch. Spotlight Adonis and Mr. R. Warner's Spotlight Trajinsky. In the 6 to 9 months female class the first prize was withheld.

The two adult B.P. Siamese classes attracted fifteen exhibits, the winners being Mrs. Putwain's male Bluebridge Ratsmee and Mrs. Peck's female Laurentide Chalcedony. B.P. kittens with twenty-one exhibits had Mrs. Goodwin's Shikaree Mahroboy and Mr. Bullock's Leyborne Sally Anne as the winners. The Chocolate Points are steadily increasing and they had twenty-one representatives. ist and Ch. went to Mrs. Stewart's male Bolney Kien and to Mrs. Worsley's female Bradgate Folly, the latter being bred by Mrs. Lapper, who also owns the sire Ch. Camley Fudge.

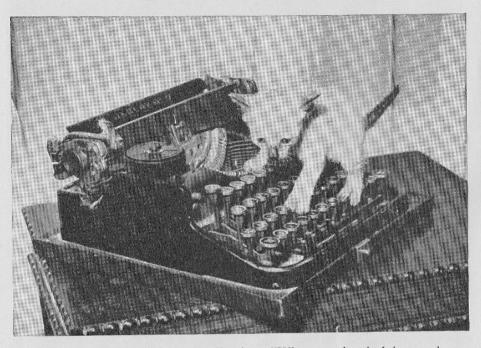
The Lilac Points were interesting but the judge decided to withhold both Challenge Certificates. At present they could more aptly be described as "Dove Coloured" as their points have more than a tint of fawn. But they are almost in their infancy and breeders must remedy this if they wish the colour to approximate to the name. My dictionary defines lilac as a "very pale violet colour."

Burmese winners

The Burmese Cat Club Silver Spoon for Best Burmese Adult was awarded to Mrs. MacPherson's Benroc Beau Brummel by Ch. Darsham Khudiram who became a Champion and in kittens a similar honour went to Mrs. Silkstone's female Ailanthus Tiddleywinks. In Blue Burmese the winners of spoons were Mrs. Wallington's female Arboreal Blue Pandora by Lamont Patrick and in kittens Mrs. Knowles' female Ballard Chukai. This variety has come on by leaps and bounds and there were thirty seven exhibits to represent it.

The winning Abyssinian adults were Miss Bone's Kattypuss Jacer and Mrs. Bradbury's Nigella Shymwa. I judged the latter in a side class and considered her an elegant cat with dainty feet, and

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!

TIBS

Famous breeders say,
OUR CATS ARE TIBS CATS
TIBS tablets for cats are a Bob Martin product

To complete the picture she had the inscrutable expression which seems so suitable for this variety. Both these adults were bred from Miss Bones' Abyssinians with her well known "Nigella" prefix. Best Kitten was Mrs. Turner's Arkwright Sholto.

Silver Tabbies made a brave show with twelve exhibits. In an amalgamated class of five adults Mrs. Greenwood's winning Silverseal Matilda was bred by Mrs. Thake who is so well known for the quality of her "Silverseal" Shorthair Silver Tabbies. Mrs. Grant Allen's Elvaston Silver Mist by Bellever Calchas D'Acheux was the winning kitten.

A hat trick

Russian Blues had twelve to represent them with Mrs. Clavier's male Revel Cathlas the winner in adults, and Mrs. Carpenter scoring a hat trick with two males and one female from the same litter named Sini Popov; Sini Petrushka and Sini Petrova by Dunloe Silvertoes.

In British Blues Mrs. Hughes had the honour of breeding the winning kitten—Mrs. Vickers' Broughton Barnaby. The only adult entered was absent. The Best S.H. White was Mrs. Baines' Ch. Helenic Cleopatra; Best Blue-Cream Shorthair Mrs. Attwood's Aldra's May Blossom and she also won in S.H. Cream kittens with Aldra's Tweedledum.

Miss Jukes' Brown Tabby S.H. Ch. Herga's Elf added a fourth to her Challenge Certificates. Mrs. Colville's lovely Black Manx Eastern Princess richly deserved her award of Best Manx Cat or Kitten. Her short back and shapely body were an object lesson and her polished jet black coat, complete taillessness, and all-round quality completed the picture.

The quantity of the exhibits and the quality of many of them was remarkable, especially for a show in September.

remarkably good coat considering the scason has only just begun, and a humid wet summer is not conducive to growing sound thick coats. It was obvious the Show must have been a financial success with its huge entry and record attendance. Very gratifying for Mr. Towe after all his hard work!

Not best venue

Although Olympia is world famous, it is a debatable point whether it is the best venue for a cat show. To look inviting it needs the colour, warmth and the cosier atmosphere created by such fixtures as the Ideal Home Exhibition. The New Royal Horticultural Hall in Westminster is a better venue in my opinion for our big shows. Built just before the war in the modern manner with its huge expanse of glass roof rising in perpendicular tiers it has the maximum amount of daylight and no gallery to impede light all round its extremities. It also has better restaurant facilities which is quite a consideration for those who have to be present all day.

Visiting the National Rose Society's Show in early September I was very impressed with its perfect lighting. The afternoon sunshine literally gleamed on the Rose of the Year "Super Star", making it appear fluorescent, as its growers claim.

It was interesting to find that the Best Longhair Adult Mrs. Jewell's Cream male Brynwood Casanova was bred from a pure-bred Blue sire Ch. Briaric Beauty and a Blue-Cream mother Ch. Brynwood Aurora, and that the Best L.H. Kitten, Mrs. Brunton's Cream female Summer Sunshine of Dunesk from a Cream male, Ch. Oscar of Pensford who has a pure Blue bred sire. The dam of Mrs. Brunton's kitten Damask of Dunesk is a Blue-Cream. Soundness to the roots was rare in the adult Creams at Olympia and some of them were marred by bars varying in intensity on their forelegs.

Ch. Widdington Warden is regarded as the yard stick for pale sound colour and type by those of us who remember him so well. He was bred from a pure bred Blue sire Theydon Sunset and Widdington Theydon, a Blue-Cream dam. I consider it is along these lines we shall have to breed Creams in an effort to obtain coats sounder to the roots and to eliminate the tendency to bars on forelegs and occasionally shadow tabby markings.

Welcome visitors

A welcome visitor to Olympia was Mr. Soderberg, so well known to the readers of this Magazine for his interesting articles and for his books Cat Breeding and General Management and its sequel Pedigree Cats. It is regrettable when such an able and well-informed personality decides to "call it a day" and write no more. Mrs. Hancox was

another welcome visitor who looked charming in her mauve ensemble.

Which title?

Miss Milburn's Longhair Brown Tabby Ch. Trelystan Fire Opal who was neutered some time ago was awarded Best Neuter in Show at the South Western Counties Ch. Show at Exeter and became one of the first cats with the double title of Champion and Premier. By the way: Are these cats called Champion Premiers or Premier Champions? Which title takes precedence?

Correction

Mr. Watson has drawn my attention to a quotation from a letter in the June issue of Our Cats. The Blue Point Siamese which captivated Mrs. Eustace was bred by Mrs. Watson and the dam was not a pure bred Burmese but a Burmese/Siamese hybrid.



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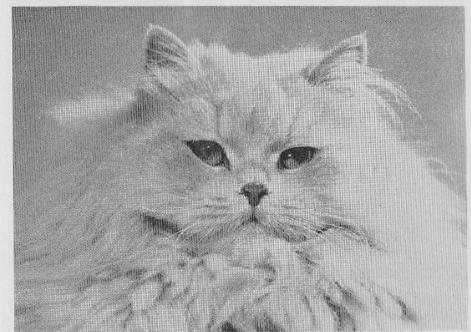
Strenol Products Ltd. Loddon Drive, Wargrave, Berks



Sydney Morning Herald

FIRST IN NEW SOUTH WALES

This delightful quartette of Abyssinian kittens (3 females and 1 male) with their smart neckties are the first of the breed to appear in New South Wales, Australia. Owner breeder is Mrs. F. Donmall, whose "Mystic" prefix was well known in England before she emigrated to Australia some years ago. The kittens' parents, imported from New Zealand, are Chatwyn Nimrod and Finnisterre Thalia.



Ronald D. Woolf

TOPS IN NEW ZEALAND

PREMIER GLEN ESK CREAM PUFF, Cream neuter at $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, won the title of "Persian Neuter Cat of 1959" in New Zealand. Bred by Miss Diane Patterson, Cream Puff belongs to Miss S. Pinkerton, of Wellington, an enthusiastic fancier in that part of the world.

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

A CUCKOO, injured by a cat, has been treated at the P.D.S.A. dispensary in Sheffield. It recovered—and probably didn't waste any time in heading South!

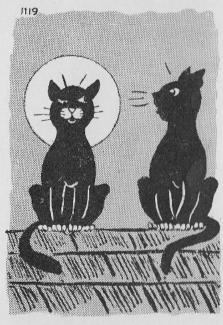
What is happening to the ships' cats of to-day? Port officials in London and elsewhere are saying that few cats are now to be seen hanging around the docks and old sailors are puzzled that a cat aboard a ship is becoming something of a rarity. In the old days puss was one of the most important members of the crew. Perhaps a reason for the decline is to be found in the fact that modern ships are regularly inspected by law and the services of puss as official rat catcher are not so much in demand.

Warning his hearers at the recent Labour Party Conference not to place blind trust in the Soviet Union and its leaders, a speaker said that Mr. Kruschev was the man who boasted that when he was a boy he used to swing cats round by their tails.

Hooliganism is reported to be rife in Salford, Lancashire—as in so many other parts of the country. Gardens and buildings have been damaged and worst of all some fiend impaled a ginger cat on the railings of a gate near a cemetery.

Mrs. A. M. Dickie, Editor of the 1960 edition of the Year Book of the American Cat Fanciers Association Inc., writes from California to correct an item for which I was responsible in our August issue. She points out that C.F.A. instituted its Premier class for neuters

and spays in their show rules for the 1959-60 season and 59 cats completed their Premierships. Many of these have points towards their Grand Premierships. It seems likely that my informant was mislead by the fact that under the rules of that season these cats were not "counters toward the total of points allotted to each show." Under the rules for the 1960-61 season, the points system has been done away with and four winners ribbons earned under three judges will entitle a cat to a Championship or Premiership. I am looking



"Lovely moon to-night. How do I look in a halo?"

(With acknowledgments to Ark, cartoonist of the London "Evening News") forward very much to seeing the Year Book which Mrs. Dickie has produced as previous editions were "really off the top shelf" as far as promotion literature is concerned. So much of this material in the cat world is poorly edited and badly printed.

The current issue of Cats Calling, the Magazine of the Western Province Cat Club, Cape Town, South Africa, records the unfortunate loss of the services of Mr. E. J. Anderson as Secretary. Mr. Anderson, who in 1958 visited this country with his wife, has had to take up residence in the Transvaal. Mr. W. E. S. Philip is filling the vacant post. I note too that the Rev. H. N. Lovemore, who did such splendid work for the Club before he also had to leave the district for "pastures new," is no longer able to edit the Magazine, which now becomes the responsibility of the Committee. Obviously Mr. Lovemore has not forsaken the cat cause as he recently lectured on "Felines-Fact, Fiction and Fable" to a packed audience in a Methodist Church Hall.

Mrs. Sylvia Bassam is running a successful holiday camp for cats at the back of her cottage in Crawley Down, Sussex. It all began as a hobby about five years ago when she looked after friends' cats while they were on holiday. Now she has accommodation for several dozen guests in electrically heated chalets with sprung bunk beds, all tastefully decorated in pink, blue, green or cream.

The Natal Cat Club report a successful July show at which an encouraging feature was the support given by exhibitors from far afield. Mr. W. Farnham-Butler took the award for Best L.H. Adult with his Cream male Westridge Persian Prince and the Best Siamese Adult was Mr. L. Curtis' male Lenmerton Chou. Mrs. I. B. Lombard's imported Abyssinian female Courtmoor Fanfare of Mandale won 1st and C.C.,

as did Mrs. E. MacDonald's S.P. Siamese female Katrina of Bon Accord. Mr. F. J. Anderson came third with his imported Madresfield Ratnya-Kanya. The S.H. Grand Challenge award went to Mrs. C. Haywood's B.P. Siamese Ch. Eleuthera Shadow.

Believing as I do that there can never be too much promotion for our cause, I record with pleasure that a new quarterly journal makes its appearance this month. Its title is Siamese News Quarterly and its sponsors are the Siamese Cat Society of America, Inc., 4205 Culbreath Ave., Tampa 9, Florida, U.S.A. Mr. Jack Cruise will edit with the able assistance of Mr. Sam Scheer and "big, fresh and vital issues" are promised.

It is the exception rather than the rule for a cat show to be effectively publicized through the medium of the poster. For this reason it was a pleasure to see the attractive sheet in black, red and yellow which announced the G.C. Jubilee Show at Olympia. The poster was designed by Miss Maisie Seneshall who introduced a black cat wearing a crown as the motif.

I hear that the Chinchillas currently appearing in the well known Kosset Carpet advertisements are bearers of the "Poldenhills" prefix which of course belongs to Mrs. Emilie Polden, of Crowthorne, Berks.

A certain Dr. W. Lane-Petter has stated in the press that the Royal Commissions of 1876 and 1912 found that British scientists were not unmindful of their obligations of humanity towards their experimental animals. He added that no laboratory has been convicted, or even prosecuted for receiving stolen cats. Very rightly Mr. W. Risdon, Sccretary of the National Anti-Vivisection League, points out that this kind of assurance will hardly serve to allay public concern and suspicion at what is going on these days behind the closed doors of the laboratory. The cats for which there is the greatest

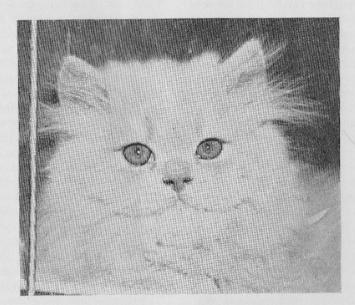
demand in laboratories are the placid, well-fed, healthy specimens. They are obtained either by theft or by misleading advertisements in local papers offering to find homes for unwanted pets. This is part of a commercial racket indulged in by some dealers who supply laboratories with cats.

A Leicestershire farm worker stopped his van in a country lane and drove away after leaving three unwanted cats in the grass. Luckily he was seen and a local R.S.P.C.A. inspector was able to trace the man after the incident had been reported. A prosecution followed and the case heard by the Loughborough Magistrates made history as the first under the Abandonment of Animals Act

1960. The charge read "that he, being the owner or having charge or control of certain animals, to wit three cats, did without reasonable cause or excuse abandon the same in circumstances likely to cause the said animals suffering". A fine of £3 was imposed, plus £2 4s. 8d. costs.

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



SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT!

STARTOPS THAIS, Mrs. D. King's beautiful Cream Kitten, won Best Longhair Kitten award at the July Show of the Kensington Club. Thais comes from a long line of Champions, being sired by Ch. Oscar of Pensford. Her dam Startops Thistledown was Best Cream Exhibit and winner of several trophies at her one and only show appearance in 1958. She is now owned by Mr. H. Schonau, of Belgium.

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

News from "Down Under"

E are having lovely warm spring days and it's a treat to be well and able to enjoy them. The golden wattle has been a special treat this year and very early. Mulberries and loquats are almost ripe and the birds are nesting.

New South Wales. The Siamese and Shorthaired Club presented their 4th Annual Ch. Show in Parramatta Town Hall in August. A good schedule attracted 88 entries which was very good for late in the season and following so many other fixtures. A grand team of workers included the President and Mrs. Meaney (Secretary and Show Manager) and some ladies from the Parramatta Legacy branch, which benefited from the proceeds. An unexpected visitor was a very small girlie with a nice black and white pet cat in a canary cage. She had seen the notice outside the hall, had rushed home to collect her "puddy" and borrow the cage. Her cat was given a place of honour in the show and when prize-giving time came round the young lady received a special trophy which several kind people had donated. I can quote her as saying that "Cat shows are a lovely idea!"

Main awards were: Best Adult—Mrs. Donmall's Pic Point Banyak Ketchil; Best Opposite Sex — Mrs. Tchan's Chatwyn Nimrod (imp.), also Best Stud Cat(Aby.); Best Kitten—Mrs. Donahee's Amoys Tachin; Brood Queen—Mrs. Burt's exhibit and same exhibitor also won the Litter award; S.P. Male—Mrs. Little's Bambi of Ellington; S.P. Female—Mrs. O'Donoghue's Kaylee Cassandra; C.P. Adult—Mrs. Thom's Gaye Daffodil Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkings, from Tasmania, were exhibitors and this show was the climax to their tour of the Australian cat shows.

Early in September Blue Mountains Cat Society held their 1st Ch. Show in the very nice new Citizen's Hall at Warrimoo, an ideal venue. Entries totalled 127. There were plenty of visitors as it was a nice day and the run by car from Sydney $(1\frac{1}{2} \text{ hrs})$ or the very latest in electric trains is comfortable travelling. I certainly enjoyed the happy atmosphere which prevailed, particularly the reunion part of it with some of our old time stalwarts. Mrs. Foster of Glenbrook came along with Mrs. Whyte. I hadn't seen her for 25 years. Mr. Ted Lonsdale was absent (in New Zealand) but Mr. Watkins and Miss Cottell were visitors. President Mrs. Hyde and Secretary Mrs. Cross did a grand job and smooth organization greatly aided the work of the seven judges and ensured comfortable conditions for exhibitors and visitors alike. Top awards went to Honky Tonk Jaison-Mrs. Baxter's Longhair male; Ch. Minaloo Loga-Mrs. Mullin's Longhair female; Honky Tonk Exotic Son-Mrs. Baxter's Longhair male kitten; Catatina Miss Jali - Mrs. Joy's Longhair female kitten; Akaroa Tawny Temptress Mrs. Cross' Brood Queen; Harmony Tara — Mrs. Outram's Abyssinian; Bambi of Ellington-Mrs. Little's Siamese male; Marmion Sweet Song-Mrs. Ousley's Siamese female: Amoys Tachin -Mrs. Donahee's Shorthair kitten: Kentwood Kaspetang and litter-Mrs. Isaac's Abyssinian entries; Arabi Farena -Mrs. Donmall's Abyssinian kitten. This happy little show concluded the Championship fixtures for N.S.W. and now we have a breather until the kitten shows.

At the last meeting of the Consultative Committee Mrs. Helsham was responsible for a successful motion "that prefixes and affixes registered by controlling bodies of the Cat Fancy, both interstate and overhere except where they have not been used for a period of 15 years ". It's a good idea I think to exchange lists yearly as a safeguard.

Queensland. Welcome letters received from Miss Harrison and Col Woodrow. Mrs. Mason went up and judged Wynhum Show and was very agreeably surprised at both the number and quality of the exhibits. She has promised a trophy for competition. About 70 cats were benched, Mrs. Shead taking Best Cat, Best Opposite Sex and Best Groomed Exhibit. I understand that Mrs. Mason enjoyed her picnic trip to the "gold coast" and later gave an address to exhibitors at Mr. and Mrs. Shead's home at Coorporoo, Mrs. Shead's two cats are now Gr. Champions -Spada Alice Blue Gown, by Gr. Ch. Astra of Pensford from Myowne Sweet Lavender, and St. Chads Muffin, by Ch. Julian of Ellington from Redwalls Ballerina.

Mr. and Mrs. Tasker are having a film evening at their home when the wonderful record of their trip round the world will be shown in colour. A small charge will be made for Club funds.

Col Woodrow, who judged them all (180) at the Queensland Cat Club fixture in September, reports a great improvement in the quality of the exhibits and an excellent attendance on both days. He comments that the winning Siamese female was the best he has seen. A point of interest is that the Best L.H. and Best Opp. Sex Female came from that lovely litter pictured in the June issue of Our Cats. Two studs, Gr. Ch. Coochie Dominion Monak (Siamese) and Gr. Ch. Spada Ambassador Duke (Longhair),

nave made a tremendous improvement in Queensland stock of late. Some top awards were: Best L.H.-Mrs. Riches' Archdale Monjet; Best Opposite Sex-Mrs. Bleakley's Archdale Soraya; Best Siamese-Mrs. Gillingham's S.P. Rathglass Smughi; Best Opposite Sex-Mrs. Tow's S.P. Coochi Subba. The Show was opened by Mr. Ron Stark of the Tailwaggers Club, a very large and active body of young folk with whom Ron is very popular. No word from Mrs. Henry but we all trust she is doing well. We shall look forward to seeing her and also other Queensland fanciers at some of our major shows next year.

Victoria. Mrs. Scott has sent me the September Newsletter and it is a very interesting edition. Mr. Urban, Chairman of the Council, having resigned, Mr. C. Chandler has been elected to fill the vacant chair. Clyde has been connected with the Siamese Club on the executive side for many years, and also his wife. It is splendid news that Colonel Cole is slowly recovering from his serious illness. I must make him a member of my "Itching Stitch" Club. It is also good news that Mrs. Murch is back on the Committee and has accepted the post of Treasurer.

It is mentioned that TAA—our Government airline—has at last made provision to carry cats and small dogs interstate with their owners. This should ease the minds of many people sending kittens by air and also improve the stud arrangements between states.

(It is regretted that pressure on space prevents us from including all the news received from Mr. Fred Pearce this month. More Australian items and New Zealand news will appear next month.—Editor.)



CLASSIFIED ADVEKTISEMENTS

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.

For Sale

SIX MONTH OLD MALE SIAMESE, Seal Point, excellent pedigree, housetrained, £3 3s. 0d. to good home. Owner going abroad unable to take him. Miss G. E. Matthews, 78 Pembroke Road, Ruislip, Middx.

TANGLEWOOD CHINCHILLAS. Lovely Kittens by Jamie of Thame, dam by Ch. Mark of Allington and American outcross. Duport, Tanglewood, Liss, Hants. Tel. 2170.

HANDSOME PALE CREAM PERSIAN Kittens, 1st prize litter, ideal for breeding or pets, immunized, also others same breeding ready December.—Todd, Aviary, New Odiham Road, Alton, Hampshire.

Insurance

INSURE YOUR CAT! Full cover includes death from any cause. Veterinary expenses, loss by theft, etc. Reasonable premiums. Write for Free Brochure.—CANINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LTD., 90 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3; 58 Rankin Drive, Edinburgh 9. (Established over a quarter of a century).

Books

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

Wanted

PRETTY SANDY Kitten, 4 months old, wishes secure good home, doctored, living at present in bed-sitting room owing to dangerous zone.—FRE 4694.

Boarding

MARY'S BOARDING CATTERY provides all a cat can want, with the personal care of Miss Mary Stuart Hodgkinson and Mrs. Hodgkinson, Grimspound, Oxshott Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. Tel. 2067. Inspection invited without appointment.

Miscellaneous

CHINCHILLA IMPORTER requires Agent.
—Leven Chinchillas, Leven, Hull.

THE MOST ADVANCED Cat Harnesses, Collars and Identity Labels available, ideal for holidays, Carrying Baskets, Clawboards. —Collier, "Cats Valley," Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

PERSONAL SPECIALS FOR SHOWS. NAMED CAT BOWLS posted to winners 6s. 6d. each (postage and packing 1s. 6d. extra), in hand thrown pottery. Price list for other articles free on application.—The Dove Pottery, 17 Upper Mall, Hammersmith, W.6.

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WHO WANTS A CATNIP MOUSE? The herb inside this cloth mouse creates sheer ecstacy and promotes healthy exercise. Send 1s. 6d. (P.O. or stamps) to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

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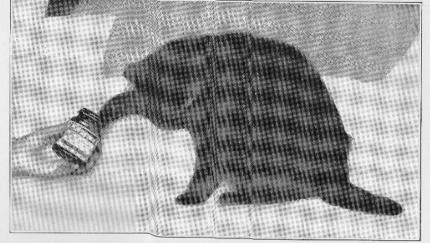
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Chew Chew helps himself to his bed-time snack!

MRS. G. WYLIE of 4 Rose Cottages, Haine Road, Ramsgate, Kent, writes:

- "Five years ago I took into my care a very nervous and undernourished cat who belonged to the previous tenants of our farm cottage. Yet to-day, although he is still a little afraid of people and sounds, he has grown into a fine and most lovable cat and I am really proud of him.
- "I must say, however, that all the credit must go to those wonderful tonic tablets Kit-zyme which you have put on the market for, without them all my efforts would have been in vain.
- "I really must say, 'Many, many thanks'. I have enclosed a photograph of my cat (Chew Chew I call him), taking his tablets before he settles down for the night".

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