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W. J. Meyers
Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



ENGLISH BRED CREAM TOPS IN U.S.A.

CH. CHADHURST SUNSHINE OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN was bred by Miss M. L. Rodda, of Bishops Stortford, Herts, from her Chadhurst Golden Monarch ex Chadhurst Sunkist. Selected for export by Mrs. Ella Martin, Sunshine joined the successful Longhair cattery of Mrs. Samy Hovsig, of the well known Golden Horn Restaurant, Aspen, Colorado (seen in our picture) and has since scored top awards at three American shows.

MARCH 1961

1/6

SANDY begs for his daily treat!



MRS. I. V. FIELDER, of Sandypoint, 61 Jameson Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex, writes:—

"A friend of mine told me about Kit-zyme Tablets and gave me some to try for my cat Sandy. Other Tablets that I had previously tried on Sandy he would spit out and really fight not to take but, from the first, he went mad for Kit-zyme and will even beg for them. He has his Tablets every night and he comes and asks me for them as if he knows the exact time!

"Sandy is 12 years old now. He has really grown into a lovely cat and is a much better eater than he was. I bless the day my friend gave me the first Kit-zyme and now I recommend the Tablets to all my friends with cats".

KIT-ZYME WILL BENEFIT YOUR CAT TOO
It is a natural Tonic and Conditioner—NOT a purgative

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The Veterinary Division
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Ref. No. 231

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. 13 No. 3
MARCH 1961

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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS

MY DREADFUL DAY

I FEEL sure that my many good friends and acquaintances throughout the cat world will readily understand the underlying thoughts which prompt me to occupy a little space in this month's issue for a purely personal reason.

So many of them are already acquainted with the news of the grievous loss I suffered on 6th March when my dear wife Ivy Bella Dorothy died so tragically and unexpectedly in a local hospital to which she had been taken following a thrombosis. I find it difficult at present to accept the events of that dreadful day and its consequences. I know full well that time is the healer of all wounds and it is in this connection that I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have written me in such kindly and sympathetic terms.

To have lost such a partner after 22 happy years together is a heavy cross to bear. To have lost also the services of one who has helped and encouraged me right from the first issue of the Magazine has added much to my sense of loss and aloneness.

Our subscribers everywhere will, I know, understand the reasons for the late appearance of this March issue and any shortcomings it may reveal.

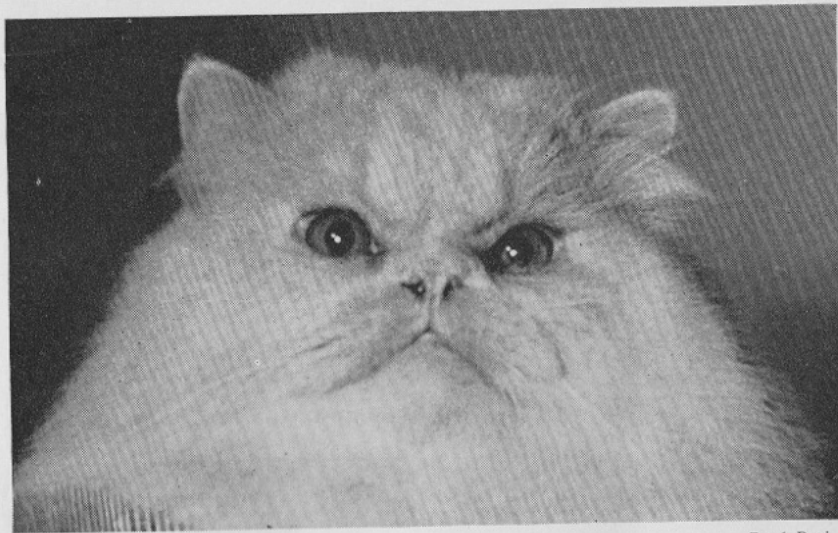
ARTHUR E. COWLISHAW,
Managing Editor.

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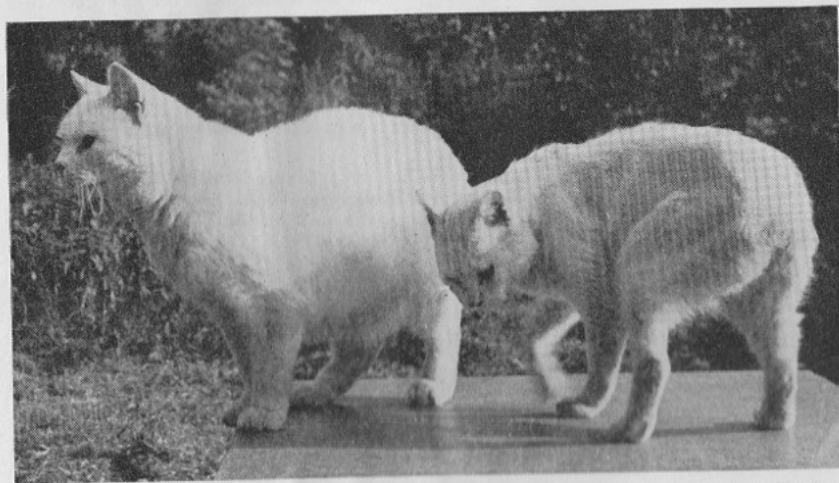
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Derek Davis

CH. BRYNWOOD CASANOVA, by Ch. Briaric Beauty ex Ch. Brynwood Aurora, is a Cream of outstanding quality. He won Best in Show award at the G.C. Golden Jubilee Show last year for Mrs. J. Jewell, of West Kingsdown, Kent, and followed this up with a Best Longhair win at the National C.C. Show.



N. S. Twining

This picture is of exceptional interest to all devotees of the Manx cat. **KERROO** (on the left) was the founder of the Greeba line and the first Manx to be owned by Mrs. J. M. Twining when she went to live at Greeba, Isle of Man. She was the mother of several Champions and many of her grandchildren are now Champions in the U.S.A. Kerroo was recently put to sleep after a throat infection at the age of thirteen. Mrs. Twining still has **BIANCO** (on the right) and the pair were dam and sire of Greeba White Rock, who later became the sire of Tr. Ch. Greggyn Dros Pasteurized, bred by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Tomson, of Michigan, U.S.A., the first Manx kitten to become All American.

Looking at the breeds

No. 1 - ABYSSINIANS

By HUGH SMITH, who also supplied the illustrations

MOST of us cat breeders are a shade romantic at heart! We like to think of the Siamese as stemming from the Royal Palaces of Bangkok, the Manx from the Isle of Man and some of us still have a sneaking suspicion that once upon a time black cats really did acquire the art of levitation on those mediaeval broomsticks. For that they got a bad name which, fortunately, they have now lived down.

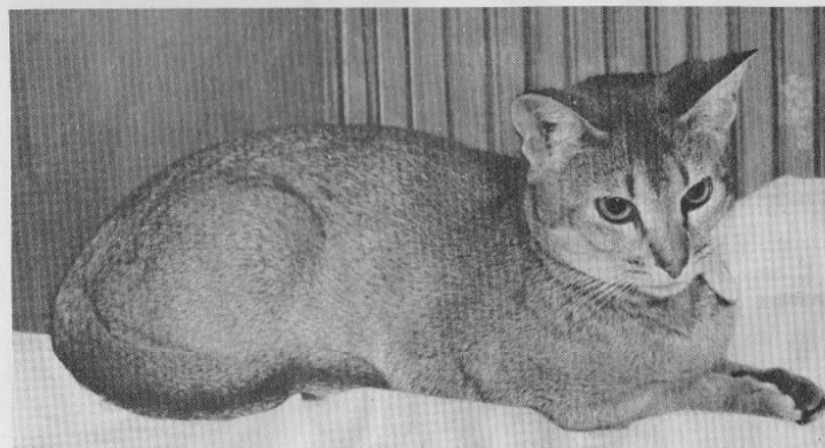
That the Abyssinian came out of Ethiopia and that his remote ancestors adorned the court of the Queen of Sheba and maybe once rubbed their necks against the legs of Solomon could never be in doubt. Look at those tawny little lion-coats! Don't lions still guard the palace of the Emperor?

What a let down when we consult

authority! Says Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald in the Penguin handbook, "Cats"; "The Abyssinian is a manufactured breed and British made at that!" What a let down! Oh; well!

All the same, whatever his origin, the Abyssinian cat is a most delightful creature and I think likely to grow in popularity as the years pass by. Certainly this breed attracts a lot of attention at the shows and not infrequently is to be seen competing on the Best in Show table.

What the Abyssinian cat should look like is laid down in quite precise terms in "*The Official Standard of Points*". This little booklet is published by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, the last reprint being dated June 1958. It can be obtained from the Secretary of the G.C.C.F., Mr. S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., 4 Elm Court Gardens, Crowborough, Sussex.



A promising young Abyssinian female—Mrs. Burrow's
COURTMOOR EASTER BELLE

Under the heading Abyssinians, will be found the following :

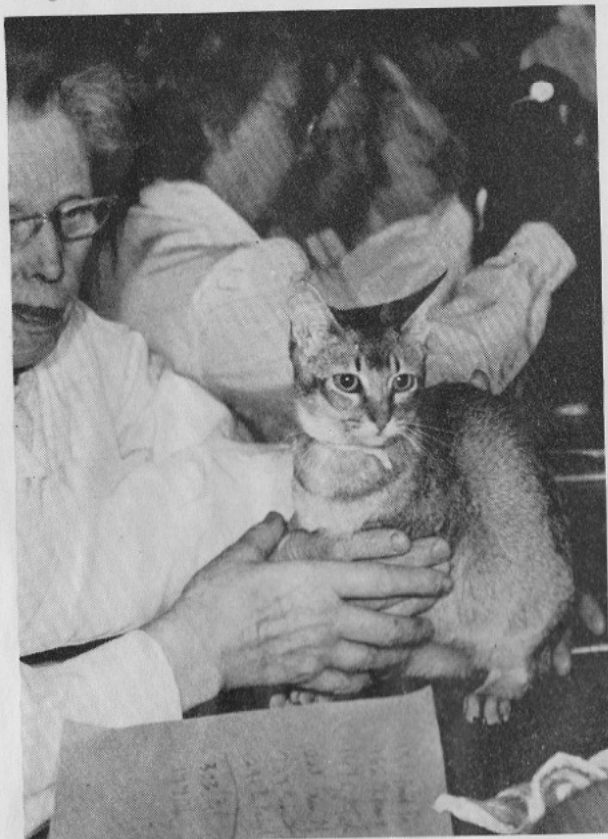
Colour and Type : Ruddy brown, ticked with black or dark brown, double or treble ticking—i.e., two or three bands of colour on each hair preferably to single ticking ; no bars or other markings except that a dark spine line will not militate against an otherwise good specimen. Inside of fore-legs and belly should be of a tint to harmonize well with the main colour, the preference being given to orange-brown.

Absence of markings : i.e., bars on head, tail, face and chest—is a very important property in this breed. These places are just where, if a cat or other feline animal shows markings at all, they will hold

their ground to the last with remarkable pertinacity. The less markings visible the better ; at the same time the judge must not attach such undue importance to this property that he fails to give due importance to others. For instance, it does not follow that an absolutely unmarked cat, but of "cobby" build, failing in ticking and colour, is, on account of absence of marking, better than a cat of slender build, well ticked, and of nice colour, but handicapped by a certain amount of "barring" on legs and tail.

Head and Ears : Head long and pointed, ears sharp, comparatively large and broad at base.

Eyes : Large, bright and expressive. Colour : green, yellow or hazel.



Abyssinians always come in for a lot of attention at the shows and are frequently to be seen competing for Best in Show award. Here is NIGELLA PICCOLA, a female kitten at the Southern Counties Show, bred by Miss F. A. Bone, of Wickford, Essex, a fancier who has done so much good work for the promotion of the breed.

Tail : Fairly long and tapering.

Feet : Small, pads black ; this colour also extending up the back of hind legs.

Coat : Short, fine and close.

Size : Never large or coarse.

Scale of Points

Colour :	Body colour	...	30
	Ticking	...	20
			— 50
Type :	Head and ears	...	15
	Eyes	...	5
	Body shape, tail, feet, coat and carriage		20
	General condition	...	10
			— 50

Note : Although imperfect cats may be awarded prizes according to the merit of the entry, no Abyssinian should be awarded a Championship Certificate that has distinct bars and rings on legs and tail. White chins are considered undesirable and other white markings are not permissible.

Most breeds seem to have some characteristic which is deemed undesirable and yet is extremely difficult to breed out. With the Aby. it is the white chin.

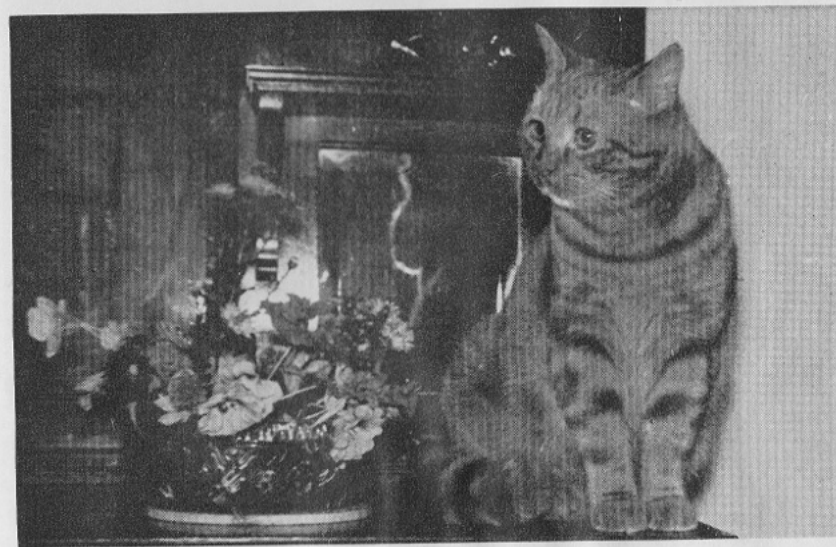
Breeders of Abyssinians have not many studs to choose from, which adds to their difficulties. Outcrosses to intensify the red colour of the coat, which is very desirable, tend to cause deterioration of type, which should be essentially lithe and oriental.

All who have anything to do with this breed speak of the delightful character of the cats. Companionable like the Siamese, the Abyssinian is very alert, tremendously playful, even when adult and shows great dexterity with the front paws.

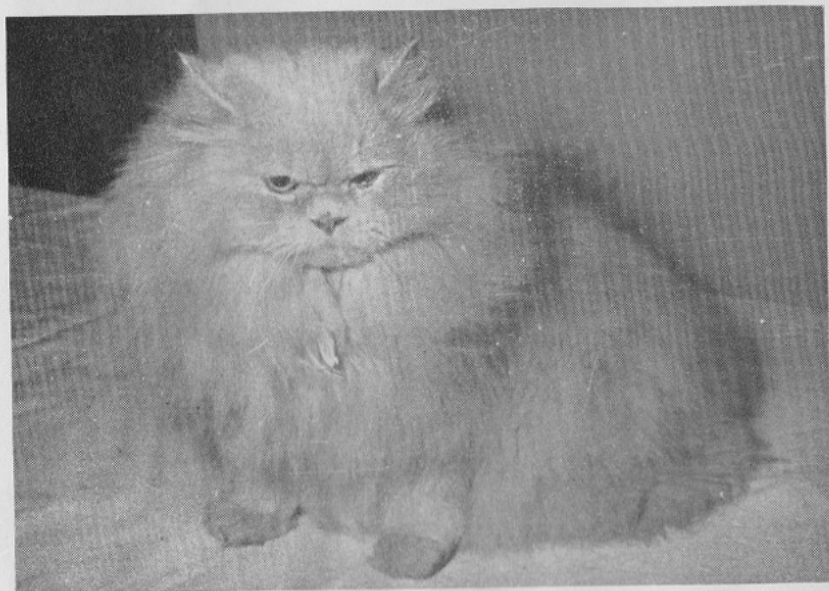
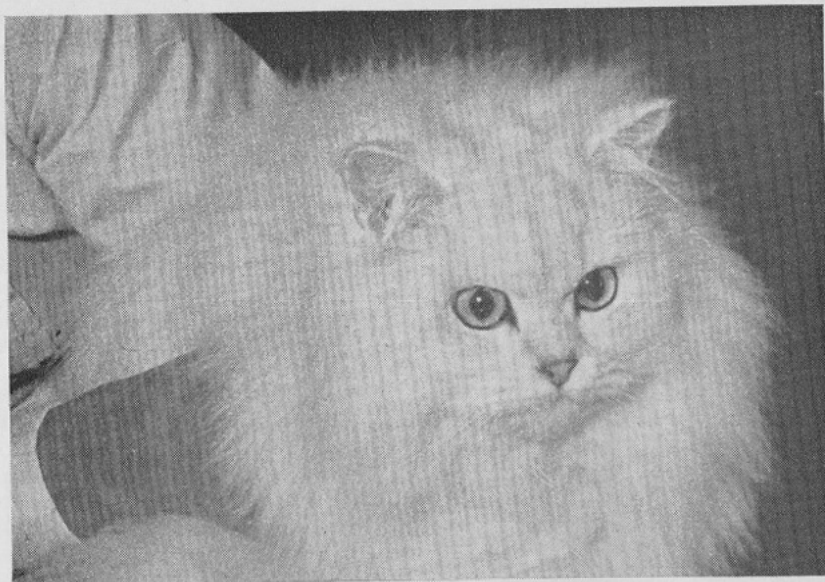
The Abyssinian is not prolific and there is a tendency for more males to appear in the litters than females. It is to be hoped that the breeders who are devoting their efforts to producing really good and improved cats of this breed will have success and that public appreciation of this "foreign" cat will rapidly grow.

The Abyssinian Cat Club whose Hon. Secretary is Mrs. I. A. Earnshaw of Heatherpine, Curridge, near Newbury, Berks, offers trophies at the leading shows.

(Next month: Black Longhairs)



NIDDERDALE GOLDEN GEM, a year old Red Tabby Shorthair belonging to Miss D. F. Arton, of Malvern, Worcestershire. He was a gift to Miss Arton from Mrs. G. Budd, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, after the tragic death of Killinghall Red Imp, whose photograph has previously appeared in our pages.



Scottish Cat Club held their 4th Championship Show in Glasgow in January. There was an excellent panel of judges and exhibits were of high quality, neuters being particularly strong in numbers. Mrs. E. F. Taylor's Almondhill Crispin (top) was Best L.H. Neuter and another good winner was Miss McMahon's Almondhill Lancelot (below). The principal winner in a strong Household Pets Section was 85-year-old Mr. Clark's Snowy, a lovely White Longhair. The Club officials and Show Manager Miss M. G. Duff, M.R.C.V.S., are to be congratulated on a highly successful and well run fixture.

On keeping a stud

By KATHLEEN R. WILLIAMS

SO many cat lovers inquire about keeping their own stud that it is to give some help in what it entails that I write the following, based on my own experiences over a number of years.

The stud cat is a study on his own and anybody thinking of keeping one should think carefully before undertaking the work—it takes time, patience and understanding.

I have often been asked by people who have one queen, and who do not wish to send her away to a stud, if a male cat will be satisfied with one wife. This is one of the questions to which there is no specific answer. Indeed there are few questions with regard to Siamese to which a specific answer *can* be given. But let us look at it from the natural point of view. The stud cat, having served the queen that is his companion, will want to go further afield in search of other females. In the course of his wanderings he will naturally come in contact with other male cats, and fights will ensue. For this reason, I think it unwise to keep a stud for a queen. In all probability he will retain his gentle nature when at home.

Let us look now to the owner of a kitten who decides to take up stud work. First, be quite sure that you have weighed up all the pros and cons. Queens are often difficult. They may be very nervous and take a few days to settle down. Others will not eat and have to be coaxed or will not use their toilet trays. No two queens coming to stud are the same. They all have their mannerisms—some more than others.

From the point of view of the stud owner there is, I feel, a necessity for both the stud and his owner having

complete understanding and confidence in each other. Thus, they work together to help the queen feel at home and at ease. Because your queen is very eager to mate does not mean to say that she will mate at once when she arrives at stud, especially if it is her first mating.

The owner of both stud and queen have a responsibility to one another. Let us first take the stud owner. The stud must be in perfect health and his living quarters reasonable in size and warmth. The happy medium must be struck for a stud house. One that is too small may be warm but not have the necessary cubic air capacity. There should be free access from the stud house to a wired run, which should be as large as possible and contain something on which he can climb. The floor can be either painted or have lino, which is easy to clean. A small piece of carpet or similar substance should be provided as this gives the queen and the stud a foothold.

Heat control

There are various forms of heating a stud house, but I think electricity is the safest. Oil, of course, is very much to the fore these days and I must confess that I used it for years. But I have now changed to electricity. It is safer, easier, cleaner and entails much less work.

I have three stud houses fitted with remote control which enables me to switch the heat on or off at will. If the temperature changes, all that has to be done is to switch on the main control without going out of doors. Although some stud cats may not need much heat (some prefer to be without it) most visiting queens are accustomed to warmth and provision must therefore be made for this fact.

Indoor housing of stud cats can be difficult. It must be remembered that the urine of a stud cat has a powerful odour and however clean his room is kept it is difficult to eliminate this.

In my opinion it is unwise to let the queen and the stud mate by just putting them together. The queen should be put in the pen (which should be disinfected after each queen) and when the stud and queen croon to one another let her out to be mated. It is the responsibility of the studowner to see that the queen is mated. Once mated, the queen will usually turn on the stud, not really viciously, so a stool or shelf should be provided in the stud house to enable the stud to jump up and away from her. Usually the queen will roll in ecstasy, sometimes in an alarming manner. While she is doing this do not attempt to touch her. In all probability once this is over she will jump back into the pen, but if not put her back and let her rest quietly.

Taking a risk

A stud who is allowed the run loose may have mated a number of queens on the same day that he is called upon to service a visiting queen. This seems to me rather risky. Studs are undoubtedly very virile and it is not from this point of view that I feel it is particularly risky, but rather from the danger of infection he may have picked up from these contacts.

With regard to the queen it is important to have details, such as her pet name, her fads in food, and the substance she uses in her toilet tray. The use of a toilet tray is most important. I have known queens who would not use their trays because they were not given the substance which they normally use.

Two matings are sufficient but more can be given, and here perhaps it would be wise to add that the mating fee is paid for the mating. If the queen misses it is assumed that it is the queen's fault,

as the stud is a proven sire, and there is no obligation on the part of the stud owner to give another service. But in my long years of experience of stud work and meeting with other stud owners, I have only known of one stud owner who did not follow the practice of giving a second mating. After all, it is very disappointing to both the owner of the queen and the stud if the visit does not result in a litter.

Difficult queens

Where a queen refuses or is difficult and much time is spent in endeavouring to mate her, some stud owners take the fee as usual on the principal that difficult queens involve more work and take up much more time than their more easily managed sisters, which is perfectly true! However, I cannot wholly agree with this, although I can see that the argument is reasonable.

It would be most helpful if owners of queens would contact the stud owner by letter or telephone, before their queen calls, so that a reservation can be made. The stud owner should be advised on the first day of the queen's "call" so that arrangements can be made for the visit on the third or fourth day of call. Personally I prefer the third. If this is not done the stud you particularly want to use may not be available, whereas if you have booked your service your queen will be taken in preference to somebody who has not done so.

When sending your queen do be careful in addressing the label and if there is any change to be made on the journey notify the station master at that station. Containers can be a great source of worry and trouble to stud owners. I have had queens arrive in laundry baskets, crates, apple boxes and the like, which generally means that one has to loan a basket for the return of the queen. Do please buy a basket or box for your queen's comfort, not too large and not too small. It must be large enough for her to stand up and turn

round, but do not think you are making it more comfortable for your queen if you send her in a box too big for her. This has been proven to be unwise.

Baskets without holes in the side are to be preferred. You may think that your queen likes to look out and see what is happening, but I do not think this is so. Besides being draughty it must be very puzzling to see "half" movements. I think they are much happier in a cosy basket where they are likely to go to sleep. They are warm and for my own part when I meet a queen say at London termini, I talk all the way home so that when I actually open the basket she knows my voice and, I feel, is quite anxious to see the human attached to the voice. In this way I have found queens feel more at home. Do not have yards and yards of string or cord, the knots either have to be untied or the whole thing cut away, which takes time and the queen is waiting to get out of the basket. It is much better to buy a strap which can be easily put round the basket, and your queen is out so much quicker. Rightly or wrongly I have a feeling that this waiting to get out of the basket while endless string is untied or cut must be nerve-wracking for the queen inside.

Gentle studs

One of the things which brings my Irish temperament to the boil is to hear or be told that stud cats are vicious. Of course some cats are vicious, just as some human beings are, but generally speaking studs are most affectionate. Naturally if they are attacked they will fight. No self-respecting Siamese is going to be hit without hitting back, but I have usually found studs very gentle. They often purr when they are mating queens.

Having decided to keep a stud you should not keep him in the house too long so that putting him outside in the stud house is a big wrench. He can be put out for gradually increasing periods

before he becomes permanently housed outside.

Never leave the stud and queen free together because you will not know whether they have mated to exhaustion point or not mated at all. Owners of queens sometimes think their queen can be mated while they wait. Although this does happen occasionally, it is not usual—the normal period is three to four days, but it can be a week or more. Stud fee and return carriage should, in theory, be paid before the queen's return.

The stud cat should be well fed, having a varied diet. During the breeding season the stud will need extra food—and if necessary supplement his normal diet with more vitamins—this will depend on the individual stud and also the amount of stud work he is called upon to do. The diet of all breeding stock should be consistent all the year round. Remember that it should be consistent with the fact that they are reproducing themselves and this requires energy and vitality. Barley should definitely be in the diet as this helps the kidneys to work properly—it can be given in casserole—all my cats get casserole meat and vegetables once a week and to this I add barley. A course of Vitamin E can be given during the mating season.

The pedigree of the stud cat must be given to the queen's owner, and here again this is not supposed to be given until the stud fee is paid. With regard to stud fees there is no set pattern, the usual one being that the stud fee, together with the return carriage and any expenses incurred are paid.

Should a return mating be necessary the queen's owner should make some contribution towards the food for the queen during her visit and of course the return carriage.



Tailpieces

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



SALISBURY'S Mayor and Mayoress-elect, Councillor and Mrs. A. C. Hoy, are the proud owners of a remarkable cat whose name and fame may very well spread beyond the borders of Wiltshire. His name is Paddy Puss Hoy and his age twelve years. He weighs about 19 lbs. and when he stands up to salute he is more than a foot high. When he joined the Hoy household he appeared to be an ordinary long-haired kitten but with each passing year he has developed far beyond expectations both in size and appetite.

"Mate.—Services of stud tom or equivalent required for ordinary flat-bound long-haired black cat, London area; any reasonable charge." Advertiser in the London *Daily Telegraph*.

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Godfrey, referring to an appeal for a family fast day on Ember Friday (February 24th) says in his pastoral letter for Lent: "What we save thereby can be offered for the hungry and starving. Something could be saved, too, in our care of pets. They also could benefit by being fed with less expensive foods." He referred especially to the "plump and pampered poodle".

Mrs. Sheila Gardiner, of Purley, Surrey, described in a letter to *The Sunday Express* how she rescued her goldfish from a cat. The fish was bitten in two but when she placed it in an indoor tank it slowly developed a new, transparent tail, which became completely normal after several weeks of convalescence.

Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, whose weekly column about pets is a popular feature of the *News of the World*, relates an unusual story about an Abyssinian cross-bred cat and a young marmalade tabby belonging to a sheep farmer on the Radnor-Hereford border. Apparently the Aby. tabby has mastered the tricks of shepherding and will bring down as many as sixty hill ewes from the hill slopes to the fold-yard gate. This is only half the story. The feline shepherd has now passed on his tricks to the young marmalade and will sit watching by the gate with a critical eye whilst his pupil hurries up the hill to "bring home the mutton". I would much like to see some pictures of this unique example of feline behaviour.

The South African *Natal Daily News* recently carried an amusing story from Johannesburg about Window, a 12-year-old Persian male who has had all his teeth out. Window lives with Mr. and Mrs. M. Passmore at Turfontein Stables. He got his name from the fact that some unknown hand threw him through the window of the Passmore home. Soon after arrival he fell through the trapdoor of a loft and broke a leg. His arrival on the ground floor saw the start of his operations as a bird "fancier". One day he was found with his paw round a day-old chick—just cleaning its feathers. He reared it. And seven more! Window then rescued two sparrows which had fallen from their nest. Day after day he watched them and kept them warm. The latest feathered charge is a dove which hadn't learned to fly. The dove travels around on top of the gentle Persian's back.

A cat with a gold tooth was found wandering in the West End of London by an R.S.P.C.A. inspector. He was recognized and returned to his owner, Mrs. Allawah Sharman, of Wimpole Street.

Any researcher or research team discovering new ways to complete experiments which usually cause suffering to animals will be considered as candidates for an annual prize of £3,000, which will be known as the Lawson Tait Memorial Award after the famous surgeon. The cash comes from the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection. They believe that suffering to animals can be avoided without hindering research by using alternative laboratory techniques. Three thousand pounds to save pain



Mrs. Hilary Bennett, of Shaw, nr. Oldham, Lancashire, writes: "This is a photograph of my black shorthair neuter Char-Char, who was chosen out of fifteen other cats to play the Pyewacket role in a local production of 'Bell, Book and Candle'. He went on the stage four times each evening for eight performances and the whole cast thought he was wonderful—no stagefright and no tantrums. His reward on the last night was a nice piece of liver and a 4d. ice cream—he loves both".

to our pets is indeed money well and wisely spent.

Arthur Claude Rodway was a cat lover who kept five of them at his home in Eltham Park. It was unfortunate that Marjorie, his third wife, didn't feel the same way and it was still more unfortunate when he made the mistake of using strong language on occasions when he felt that his wife was interfering with the well-being of his pets. Result—the Divorce Court. The judge awarded a decree nisi to the wife and told the husband that his attitude to his wife in relation to cats was totally unreasonable and likely to damage her health.

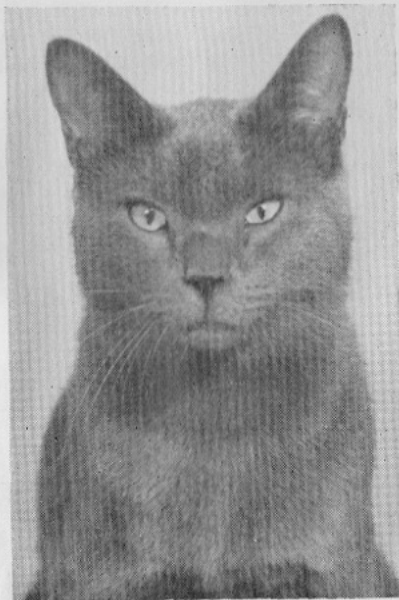
I referred last month to the latest developments of the Cats' Protection League in the Isle of Wight and mentioned that a bungalow at Newport had been bought to provide a home for the strays and unwanted cats on the island. My apologies are now due to all concerned because the bungalow home is at Marlborough Road, Ryde, and not Newport.

The Chairman's report for 1960 on the activities of the Western Province Cat Club, South Africa, reveals that membership continues to grow and now numbers 150. The Rev. H. N. Lovemore has been elected a life member as a token of the Club's appreciation of his splendid work before he left for duty in another part of the world. Mr. W. E. S. Philip has resigned as Chairman to take over the secretarial duties and Mrs. K. A. Wheeler automatically becomes Chairman for 1961.

Enquiries have been reaching me regarding the identity of the two bonnie Silver Tabbies who adorned the front cover of our February issue. Caption details were not available at the time of printing but I am now able to reveal that they were Mrs. E. Grant-Allen's Elvaston Silver Mist and his brother Elvaston Silver Cloud. Nice names for a couple of nice cats!

News has arrived of this month's important occasion in the Canadian cat world. It is a two-day Convention-Exhibition in Montreal under the aegis of the newly-formed Canadian Cat Association and the American Cat Fanciers' Association. Besides the exhibition of cats there is to be a photographic competition and side stalls. The first day will close with a dinner, prize-giving and a general meeting of delegates.

A £10,000 film starring a cat named Timmy is reported to be the latest move in the war on pet-grabbers—those despicable types who steal cats and dogs and sell them to the experimental laboratories. Every year thousands of pets vanish through the operations of the



CH. REVEL CATHLAS, a Russian Blue male who has been awarded 1st and C.C. at every show appearance. His owner, Mrs. D. L. Clavier, F.Z.S., bred him from an unregistered Russian Blue male

night thieves with their sacks. The idea of the film originated in Scotland. It will be made at the London studios of British Films Ltd. with the financial backing of the National Anti-Vivisection Society, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection.

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 but it should be remembered that we cannot reproduce direct from newspaper illustrations. I send best thanks to all who have helped in this connection.

MICKEY

Inflammation of the bowels

By M.R.C.V.S.

NON - SPECIFIC, non-infectious inflammation of the bowels (enteritis) may be caused by various bacteria but *not* by a specific virus. It also may be caused by irritant poisons, heavy worm infestations and particularly by repeated doses of vermifuges; chills, foreign bodies, impacted bowel, distemper, etc.

It sets up bouts of colic, depression, loss of appetite, some vomiting, thirst and straining to stool. The motions are usually diarrhoeic, may be coated with slimy mucus, or may be blood-stained; whilst the temperature will range between 102° and 104°F.

Most likely there will be tenderness of the abdomen when it is palpated between fingers and thumb.

The simple treatment of mild enteritis (accompanied by diarrhoea) would be the administration by mouth of such tasteless powders as bismuth carbonate, tannoform, kaolin; or a mixture of bicarbonate of soda, bismuth and prepared chalk. These would be finely powdered, equally mixed and tipped inside the cheek in small oft-repeated doses, immediately washed down by a spoon or two of milk or water.

These by their inhibitory action upon microbial invaders, or by their astringent effect upon the intestinal mucous membrane, considerably lessen the production of toxins and gases and tend to reduce the offensive nature and odour of the evacuations. More specific bacteriostatics for the intestinal tract are, of course, the chemotherapeutic drugs or sulphonamides (popularly known as M & B), such for instance as Thalazole,

Sulphamezathine, sulphathiazole, etc. These drugs are obtainable only on prescription and when simple remedies have failed to be effective it is time to call in a veterinary surgeon who would prescribe and administer appropriate drugs in correct dosage, and who might indeed upset the diagnosis tentatively arrived at by the owner.

Tablets of these drugs may be finely powdered, and either tipped inside the cheek, followed by a little milk, or be made into a soft paste with margarine or butter, and be smeared over the teeth, lips and paws. Pussy will soon lick it all up.

In resistant attacks, the veterinary surgeon may even have to give intramuscular injections of penicillin. Whether this antibiotic was proving effective or not against the condition would soon be manifest after a few doses.

For the relief of pain, straining and sickness a useful remedy is benzocaine, 2 grains in a capsule, given by mouth three times daily.

As regards the maintenance of nutrition and strength, it is probably wiser to withhold food for 24 hours, with the exception of white of egg in water; then to go on to a light and easily digested diet such as boiled sole or plaice, and later raw minced beef and milk. To treat the cause (if known) would help to dispel the effect.

SPECIFIC INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS, also called cat-plague, infectious gastro-enteritis, and panleucopenia. It is *not* to be confused with feline distemper.

Infectious enteritis is a dread disease of the domestic cat, caused by an ultra-visible virus and formerly fatal often to the extent of 90 per cent. It is true that recent advances in therapy have reduced this mortality somewhat; and of course

it is now possible to immunize kittens against ever contracting it. Cats of great sentimental or intrinsic value should certainly be inoculated; and all others indeed are equally entitled to this humanitarian procedure.

One attack of the disease confers a natural immunity if the victim is lucky enough to survive it. Those living for 3 or 4 days have a chance of survival. Generally, however, the cat dies within 24-36 hours of the first noticeable symptoms.

This is why treatment must never be delayed and also why quack remedies and advisers should be taboo.

Distressing symptoms

The symptoms are fairly typical and appear suddenly. In the writer's experience the first noticeable symptom is vomiting which, together with the suddenness and the early death, often leads people to believe their cat has been poisoned. Appetite is lost early and emesis continues; there are great depression and later prostration, the cat sitting motionless with head down and quite usually seems to prefer to sit anywhere than in its bed—mostly in the sanitary tray.

Temperature is high at first (up to 105°F.) then rapidly falls, the cat becoming cold, listless and dehydrated. There are weak plaintive cries, obviously of pain, and very soon there is collapse and death.

The vomiting is reflex as the stomach itself is often quite unaffected. It is not uncommon to find constipation throughout; and if diarrhoea occurs it is the writer's belief this is due to a secondary microbial infection, possibly by coliform germs.

In contrast with distemper we find there are no catarrhal, pharyngeal or pulmonary symptoms and no oculo-nasal discharge, all of which are so characteristic in that disease.

When enteritis occurs in a cattery or is suspected, the very strictest measures

of isolation and disinfection must be carried out. Isolation of the patient includes isolation of its attendant, and the exclusion of flies and rodents. These can very easily carry infection from a sick cat to healthy ones, or from one cattery to another. The incubation period seems to lie between 2 and 6 days.

As for treatment, a veterinary surgeon must be called in, and he will probably administer one of the more powerful antibiotics. Few, if any, other drugs have any effect on the disease. Dehydration and collapse must both be combated, as the surgeon will direct.

When sickness can be allayed, or if it abates, one may commence the administration of Benger's Food suitably prepared. Egg albumen in water is also very useful. Both are sustaining and cause no vomiting. Liquid proteins can be injected into the rectum whence they are absorbed—if given very slowly and at blood heat.

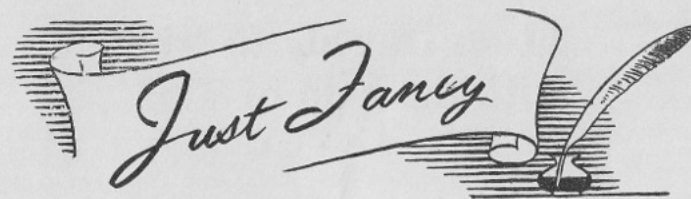
Warmth—a warning

The cat must be kept very warm by hot water bottles and blankets in a warm dry room, or can have an electric fire directed upon it from some distance away.

Never put a hot-water bottle next to the cat's body. It *must* be underneath a piece or blanket, etc., as if a cat is made uncomfortably hot it will become very distressed and leave its bed.

(Revised and reprinted from a 1955 issue).

Two Essex schoolboys, thrilled by the tales they had heard about the sailing ships of fifty years ago, decided to stow away on a Norwegian cargo vessel which lay in Southampton Docks. They had 4s. between them! Their adventures however were brought to an early and abrupt end when they were discovered in their hiding place by Fidor the ship's cat. His hissing and spitting attracted the attention of the radio officer and the game was up for the stowaways.



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

Southern Counties Show

IT was a sunny mild day for the last London Championship fixture of the season, the Southern Counties' Cat Club Show at Seymour Hall on February 9th.

The light was as near perfection as one could hope to obtain in any London hall with the exception of the New Horticultural Hall at Westminster. Unfortunately shows at the Seymour Hall seldom attract a good gate and spectators were conspicuous by their absence.

Speaking to a representative of a well-known firm who attends nearly all the London dog and cat shows, he told me that only the poodle shows are really well attended. This is not surprising in view of a statement made by the Earl of Northesk, Chairman of the Kennel Club, which appeared last month in the national press. He said: "The most popular dog is still the poodle. There are 32,331 registered with the Kennel Club

compared with 8,933 Welsh Corgis which are second in the popularity poll".

If one substitutes cat for dog his following remarks could be applied to the present day trend in cats. Lord Northesk added: "People used to own dogs without really being really interested in them—some didn't even buy a licence. They owned mongrels which were allowed to roam the streets and, as a result a lot more mongrels were born. But to-day dogs are fashionable. People have become dog conscious. When they buy a dog they choose it carefully, making sure it has a pedigree which they promptly register with the Kennel Club. And having paid a lot of money for the dog they look after it".

The last remark is a practical recognition of the fact that it is human to attach more importance to any animal which has value. But, fortunately, there are many which are dearly loved and well taken care of for their own sake.

What the Southern Counties' Show lacked in spectators was amply made up by breeders in a lovely and representative display of cats and kittens which numbered over 360 exhibits.

Main awards were as follow: Best Longhair Cat—Miss Langston's Ch. Fidelio of Allington by Ch. Flambeau of Allington; Best L.H. Kitten—Miss Langston's Chinchilla Felicitas of Allington; Best L.H. Neuter—Mrs. Trevor's Cream Hendras Periander by Ch. Widdington Winterset; Best Shorthair Cat; Mrs. D. F. Williams' S.P. Siamese male Barvale Thai-Lu by Ch. Spotlight

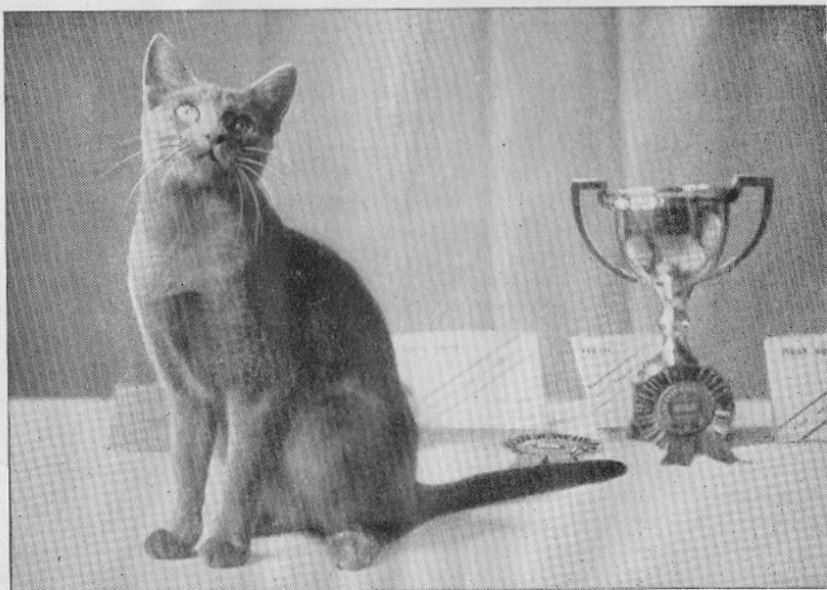
From tragedy to triumph with the help of Tibs

"I nearly lost Glasfryn Galathea when she was quite young," Mrs. Kirby of Halifax told Tibby (your TIBS reporter). "She had a serious illness which nearly cost her her life.

"When she began to pull round, I put her on TIBS. You should have seen the change in her coat! Well, you can see what she looks like now."

We could—and so can you, though the picture does scant justice to the silver-shaded sheen of this lovely Russian Blue. The vitamins and minerals in TIBS were obviously just what she needed to put her back in top form. Mrs. Kirby went on to tell us of Glasfryn's later successes—best exhibit at the Cheshire and Area Cat Club Show 1959, twelve first, innumerable other prizes . . . and now her second certificate!

All this by a cat that nearly died. All this after a convalescence completed with TIBS. No wonder Mrs. Kirby says *her* cats are TIBS cats!



TIBS

Leading breeders say
OUR CAT'S A TIBS CAT

Melchoir ; Best S.H. Kitten—Mrs. Stewart's C.P. Siamese male Bolney Khotanga by Ch. Bolney Kien ; Best S.H. Neuter—Mrs. Lewis' S.P. Siamese Sabukia Steeplechaser by Ch. Killdown Kerry ; Best Blue Adult—Mrs. Smart's female Camber Penelope by Ch. Fox-burrow Frivolous ; Best Black Adult—Mrs. Beedell's female Ch. Sarisbury Sacharissa by the late Ch. Harpur Blue Boy. This cat has won many Challenge Certificates and to hold her own in her ninth year is an outstanding achievement. Miss Rodda won in Black kittens with Chadhurst Black Boy by Ch. Chadhurst Sambo, who has sired so many winners.

The Blue-eyed White Longhair adult winner was Miss Sherlock's female Lotus Lolette and it is interesting to note that her sire and dam also bear Mrs. Cattermole's prefix "Lotus" which we associate with so many lovely Whites in past years. Mrs. Durbin's Orange-eyed White kitten Snowcloud Goliath continued on his winning way.

Congratulations to Mrs. Barron on her Blue male Camber Mario by Ch. Thiepval Enchanter becoming a Champion. The winning Blue kittens were Mrs. Taylor's Brightstar Aldebaran, Miss Schweizer's Wattwil Azalea, Mrs. Denton's Camber Felicia, and Miss Bryce's Glenbury Pussy Willow. One C.C. was awarded to Cream adults and that went to Mrs. King's Startops Cover Girl by Ch. Hendras Benedict. Mrs. Bishop's Lecreme Dainty Pauleen recorded a win on the Breeders Cup for Cream kittens.

An interesting Chinchilla

The following adults were awarded Challenge Certificates : Mr. Stirling-Webb's Smoke female Treetops Zoe and his Seal Colourpoint Ch. Briarry Evan, Miss Duke's Seal Colourpoint Briarry Gulub, Mrs. Beedell's Brown Tabby Ch. Magyar Chandra, Mrs. Houlden's Red Tabby Sherry of Carne, Mrs. Watts' Red

Self Du-Bu Roger, Miss Rodda's Tortoiseshell Chadhurst Ballerina, Mrs. Worsley's Tortie and White Ch. Trubun Jenny Fur, Mrs. Joan Thompson's Blue-Cream Star of Pensford, and Mrs. Lloyd's Chinchilla female Sunhaven Prudence.

Mrs. Turney's Chinchilla female kitten Bonavia Capriola awarded first was an interesting exhibit. A well grown kitten with a long dense coat she was the first exhibited by the U.S.A. bred Chinchilla male Silver Mesa Apache.

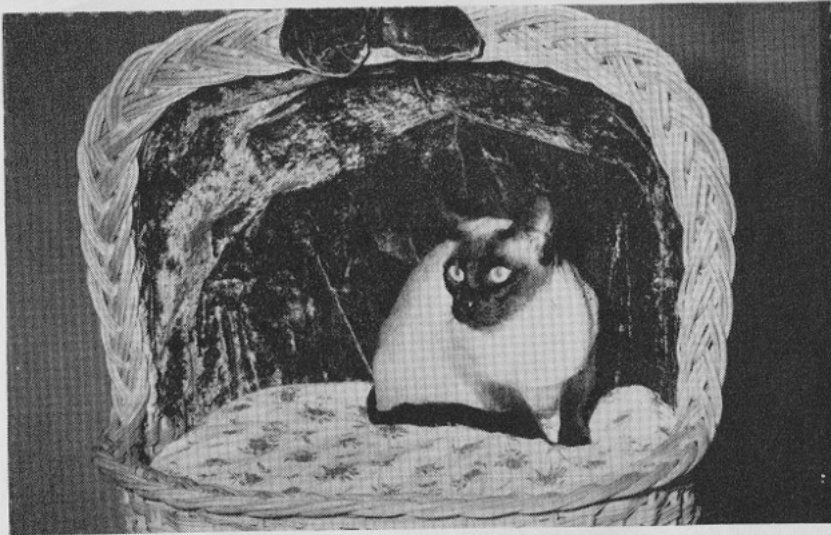
Best among Siamese

Outstanding wins for Siamese bred by Mrs. Helen Martin of East Grinstead were a Challenge Certificate to Mrs. Ballard's Whiteoaks Mary by Ch. Spotlight Melchoir (20 in class) and in kittens first to Whiteoaks Jalna (15 in class) owned and bred by Mrs. Martin. Whiteoaks Malahide sired Mrs. Lowcock's first prize winner S.P. Siamese Nefertiti in the older female kitten class. A satisfying day for the Whiteoaks! Mrs. Tingey won in S.P. male kittens with Sin-Tin, by Ch. Spotlight Melchoir.

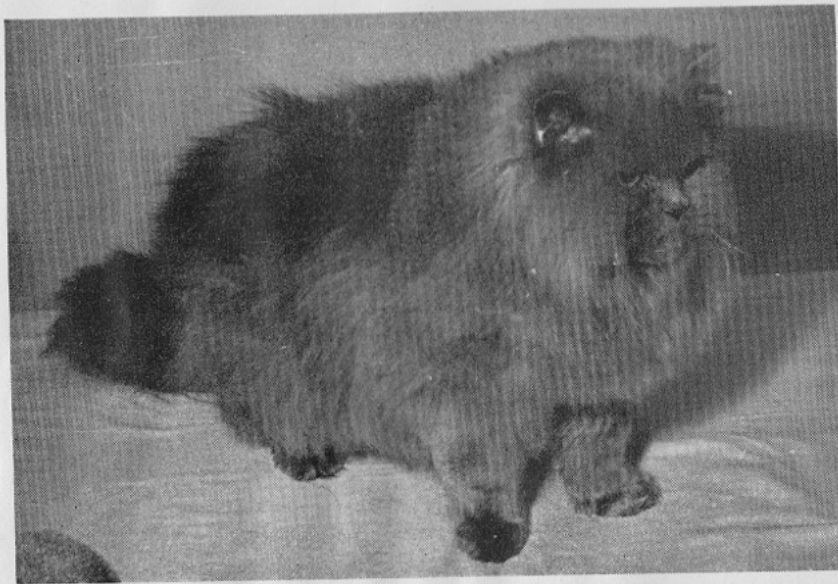
The entry of B.P. Siamese was excellent, seven males being headed by Mrs. Putwain's Bluebridge Ratsmee, and twelve females by Mrs. Boal's Freefolk Blue Ladye who became a Champion. Both parents Freefolk Blue Ziken and Freefolk Fanyen were also bred by Mrs. Boal. Congratulations!

One C.C. was awarded to Chocolate Points and that went to Mrs. Croft's Sabukia Choci-Creme by Ch. Killdown Kerry. Lilac Points numbered six with Mrs. B. Thompson's female Davenmoor Salemega the winner.

The winners in the Champion of Champion classes were Miss Langston's Ch. Fidelio of Allington, Mr. Priestley-Williams' Burmese Ch. Kingsplay Coquette and in Premier of Premiers (L.H. or S.H.) Mrs. Wilson's Premier Priory Golden Glory.



This distinguished young lady is INT. CH. GIGOLETTE, a 3-year-old S.P. Siamese daughter of Pristine Pompey. Her owner is Madame R. Mignon, of Clermont-Ferrand, France.



Mrs. M. A. Critchlow's Blue Longhair MOONCOIN COMMADER was "among those present" at the January Show of the Scottish Cat Club held in Glasgow. This young male was bred from Ch. Thiepval Paragon ex Ch. Anastia of Dunesk by Mrs. S. Knight.

Brown Burmese adults numbered nine and the Ch. Certificates were awarded to Mrs. Dodson's Kingsplay Puma and Mrs. Dytes Kingsplay Petronelle both bred by Mrs. Joan Merry, and by her Burmese male Ch. Kingsplay Fei-Fo. In kittens the "Scalcoats" came to the fore and the winner in a class of ten was Mr. Fletcher's Sealcoat Adika, bred by Mrs. C. F. Watson. Blue Burmese adults had the unique distinction of three litter sisters being 1 and Ch., 2, and 3. They were Mrs. Knowle's Ballard Kratie, B. Yala and B. Tamky by Lamont Blue Burmaboy. Mr. Fletcher won in kittens with Gringo Blue Tris by Ch. Kingsplay Fei-Fo. Mrs. Allen-Smith bred the winner in Chestnut Brown Foreign Shorthairs, Herga's Baden Prestige.

Shorthair winners

Some Challenge Certificates were withheld in British Shorthairs but those awarded went to Lady Glubb's Black Prince; Misses Chatterton's Blue British Littlewickers Blue Serge who became a Champion (sire and dam also were bred by the exhibitor). Congratulations! Mrs. Towe's Silver Tabby Culverden Alouette sired by Ch. Culverden Maurice both bred by Miss Robson; Mrs. Anderson's Red Tabby Ch. Andersley Allfire; Mrs. Gill's Tortoiseshell Apricot, surprisingly bred from Mrs. Taylor's Blue male Ch. Boy Blue of Kenton. Mrs. Colville won in Manx with Ch. Eastern Princess and in Russian Blues Mrs. Cowen's Michifer Nginsky and Mrs. Pooley's Bellemonta Patiana were the winners.

Mrs. Aitken's daughter Alison made a new departure by exhibiting an Abyssinian, Icletwee, and it was pleasing to see her win 1st and Ch.

And last but by no means least I must record appreciation of Mrs. Madge Shrouder's very successful debut as Show Manager. It certainly was not her fault that the public did not attend in sufficient numbers to see our lovely

exhibits. When any cat show is held outside Central London only Olympia appears to be sufficiently attractive to really draw the public and the fact of its being there obtains a certain amount of gratuitous publicity in addition, of course, to Mrs. Grace Pond's planned advertising.

An exciting prospect

Meeting Miss Bull, of Thornton Hough, Cheshire, when she was judging Blue adults at Coventry, some news she gave me is of interest not only to breeders of White Longhairs but I imagine to all students of genetics.

Her Orange-eyed White L.H. male Champion Snowcloud Crispin has an Orange-eyed White sire Ch. Lisblanc Bambi, two Orange-eyed White grandparents and in the third and fourth generations all Blues, Orange-eyed Whites, Creams, one Blue-Cream and only *one Blue-eyed White*, Champion Carreg Comfort in the fourth generation.

Crispin's dam is Passion Flower of Dunesk a daughter of Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous and Gaydene Wild Rose all pure Blue bred and copper-eyed for countless generations. Miss Bull mated Crispin to her Blue female also pure Blue bred. The result was three White females born in January *one of which is blue-eyed*. No wonder she is delighted. The potentialities of this breeding plus *blue eyes* is most interesting and from it one could expect if suitably mated Blue-eyed Whites equal in type to some of those our International judges have seen on the Continent and which Miss Kathleen Yorke and myself saw in U.S.A. when we judged there in 1950 and 1953. Odd-eyed Whites are eligible for Championship status in some, and probably all Associations in U.S.A. and are valued for their expectation that they *may* breed Blue-eyed Whites excelling in type. We know the White coat is dominant but oh! how exciting is the prospect of those blue eyes from a pedigree with about

99% of orange and copper eyed ancestors! Here's wishing the little prodigy long life and fertility!

Miss Bull's lovely L.H. Black male Deebank Mascot is growing apace and continuing his kitten promise. She has some lovely Blues and Creams, and her Whites are some of the best we have seen for type post-war in England. Now she has Mascot he should be a great asset to Blacks.

Kittens on the way

Spring is very much in the air and that means kittens on the way, or already here. Eventually the problem of their disposal arises, especially to breeders who are comparative novices. Well-known fanciers often have a waiting list for their best kittens but even they sometimes have to dispose of pets by advertising. The best mediums are the national press, the glossy weeklies and of course journals containing cat news. I am at a loss to understand why the sale of kittens at shows is deprecated in some quarters. Surely it is better to meet a possible purchaser face to face and endeavour to find out personally something about the home offered? After all that is all one can do if the client comes to one's home. One cannot demand to inspect the kitten's future home. Either method is more satisfactory than sending a kitten to an unknown person.

A remark which one seems to hear more frequently nowadays is that of "commercialism" in the Cat Fancy. Post-war conditions have created more opportunities for women to earn either whole or part-time emolument than ever before, irrespective of age or business experience. In these circumstances they surely would not continue cat breeding if they were "commercial" when it entails a seven-day week, a sacrifice of other interests, and enormous expenses, to say nothing of those lonely night vigils sitting up with expectant and sometimes overdue queens.

In our secret hearts we know the material rewards are negligible or non-existent if our cats are properly fed and accommodated, but the fascination of the cats and kittens themselves and the hope of breeding better ones is the will-o'-the-wisp that leads us on and we seldom stop to count the cost. If we did we should probably turn our attention to more remunerative spheres of activity.

A correction

Miss Diana Vine, of Exmouth, Devon, has drawn my attention to the incorrect spelling of her name (which appeared as "Kine") in the January report on the National Show at Olympia. She was a winner with her Red Tabby entry and very naturally as a novice breeder she is anxious to have her name "right from the start".

Who is the oldest cat in New Zealand? Mrs. F. W. G. Richardson of Seatoun is of the opinion that her 23-year-old Jeepy can claim the title and certainly there have been no challengers to date. This grand old man of the cat world is still alert and sharp-eyed. His smoke grey coat has lost some of its lustre but its texture remains soft and silky. Nothing but the best is good enough for Jeepy in his old age—salmon one day and kidneys the next. His only drink is water.

Another news item from New Zealand reports the first prosecution under the Animals Protection Act 1960, which carries a maximum penalty on conviction of three months gaol or a fine of £100. A married woman pleaded guilty to wilfully abandoning two kittens. She said she intended to "leave the kittens to the world and let them fend for themselves in the bush". She was sorry if she had broken the law. She was convicted and ordered to pay two guineas towards the cost of the prosecution.

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MRS. ROOSEVELT'S CHINA CAT

IT is comforting to know that Red Tape is not a monopoly of British bureaucracy. For proof that it exists in other democracies just read about the adventures of the little porcelain cat which lived in the Dresden Room of the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York. This spacious home with its furnishings and grounds were given to the Government when the President died in 1945.

Mrs. Roosevelt sometimes visited her old home and frequently when she escorted guests through the house she would pick up the cat and express her great fondness for it. Her remarks did not pass unnoticed by Mr. Robert Atkinson, superintendent of the house for the National Parks Service, and he decided that it would be a nice and thoughtful gesture if the government would return the cat to the President's widow. But who would untie the knots of Red Tape? No government likes to part up with things given it and usually there is a rule against it.

Undaunted, Mr. Atkinson put up his idea to the Secretary of the Interior who promised to have a federal attorney look into the matter. The legal gents got to work and discovered a clause on the statute books that said a family could get back something given the government

if it handed over something else of "equal, intrinsic value".

Mr. Atkinson then approached the President's son John to obtain his co-operation and he produced a silver cigarette case that the Turkish Government had given the late President. The Interior Department confirmed that the case would be acceptable as a swap.

And so, at the recent annual birthday commemorative services at the Roosevelt grave, John Roosevelt handed over the cigarette case to Mr. Atkinson. Then Mr. Atkinson led Mrs. Roosevelt into the Dresden Room and presented her with the little porcelain cat.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Very soon I shall be advertising the stud services of my Blue Point Siamese and would like to have an opinion as to whether it would be considered fair, if not advisable to insist on owners of visiting queens submitting a feline infectious enteritis inoculation certificate. One owner of a queen wishing to use the services of my cat tells me she would not like to think of her queen being housed in a place recently vacated by an un-inoculated cat.

MRS. E. IRELAND.

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On the subject of weaning

By P. M. SODERBERG, author of "Pedigree Cats".

(Reprinted from our July 1955 issue.)

STRICTLY speaking, the weaning of kittens starts from the very first meal they take which is not their mother's milk, so this is obviously a process which is initiated long before the kitten can be absolutely independent of its mother.

No one would deny that individual breeders have their own ideas on the subject of weaning, and so this article must be controversial. There will be some breeders who are quite sure that the advice given is wrong for a variety of reasons, but chiefly because they adopt different methods which for their kittens have proved successful. On the other hand, different breeders will find that it fits in more or less with their own pattern, and as a consequence they will approve. For the beginner, however, it can be stated that what is written here has been found to produce very satisfactory results with the kittens which have been reared by the writer's own queens, and which have been assisted very early on in the rearing period by the provision of a supplementary diet for the kittens.

The first point to make is that queens do not all produce milk of the same quality. On average the milk of a female cat contains slightly less than 20 per cent of solids with an all-round figure of about 17½ per cent, but it just so happens that cats do not all conform to the average, and some queens, like some cows, give less fat than the average and may even be lower than 15 per cent on solids. Thus, a growing kitten may find its mother's milk not too satisfactory, and an early

start should be made with weaning, particularly when one knows the exact composition of the milk food which is to be made up from the powder in the tin.

To find out whether the queen's milk is really feeding the kittens adequately, the scales are a great guide. A Longhair Blue kitten should weigh double its birth weight at the end of the first week, and over the next two weeks, except in the case of abnormally small kittens, there should be an increase of roughly four ounces each week. Siamese, on the other hand, will not put on more than about 3½ ounces a week, and the same increase will apply to other breeds of similar build.

Strain on milk supply

Another point to bear in mind is the strain upon the mother when she is called upon to produce large quantities of milk every twenty-four hours. Taken on average, a two-week old kitten requires between four and five ounces of milk a day. Bearing in mind that a pint of water weighs twenty ounces and milk will be somewhat heavier, it is simple enough to work out how much milk will be required to rear any particular litter satisfactorily.

Each week the strain upon the queen will grow greater, and even with a moderate-sized litter of four, there is a strong argument for starting to wean as soon as possible. One cannot start too soon, for the kittens will take care of that side of the business. If they are not satisfied and are hungry, it will take them very little time to learn to lap from a spoon. If what they are receiving from the mother is adequate, they will show no interest in artificial milk for a longer period.

Kittens are helpless little creatures and show little intelligence about feeding

themselves, except by sucking, until they are at least three weeks old. The exceptions to this pattern are the orphans or vidual orphans who have had to be reared by hand from the start.

When the third week has been completed, the owner can make a start as soon as he likes, but he must not expect immediate results. The first artificial meal is usually a failure. If a drop of the milk can be placed on the tongue or the lips are smeared with a little of the liquid, much more interest may be shown. Usually by the third day the kittens will lap from a spoon, but they must not get their noses buried in the milk or there will be a spluttering and sneezing which may put them off this sort of feeding.

Introducing solids

The best time to feed is when the mother has been away from them for some time. This during the fourth week she will be likely to do several times a day. There is no need to worry about quantities, for a kitten at this stage will not take more than it needs. To get the right proportion of milk powder and water is, however, important.

Early in the fifth week the kittens can be introduced to solids, and a very safe feed is plaice steamed in milk and then mashed up to separate the fibres of the flesh. Coarse fish is not to be recommended for small kittens. Perhaps the best way to give the first solid meal is by hand, by just popping a small quantity of food into the mouth. Kittens always seem to like fish even if they lose their taste for it when they get older.

The second feed of fish can be given in a really small dish, but it is necessary to stand by because a kitten's nose acts like a steam roller and flattens the food in no time. As it cannot then pick it up, the owner must make the fish again into a heap which can be tackled. During this week, towards its end, two milk meals and two fish meals can be given each day, but rarely will all be eaten. A small teaspoonful of fish is ample at first, and this will be increased gradually up to a

tablespoonful when the kitten is eight weeks old.

In the sixth week meat may be introduced with obvious benefit and little risk of ill effect. If you do not provide the meat, the mother will probably do so from her own dish. At first either horse-meat or steak can be shredded. The same quantity as of fish should be given.

Ready to leave

When the seventh week comes, if not before, both cereal in the form of corn-flakes can be added and also one of the human baby supplements such as Farex, and there can be three milk meals and two solid meals a day. By this time each of the meals will exceed a dessert-spoonful.

During this week the queen can be kept away from her kittens for periods of as long as four hours at a time, and the solid meals should be given just before she is returned. Some kittens are quite happy between the seventh and eighth week if the mother is not with them at all during the day, and when they are over seven weeks they can be taken from her completely. She will miss them for a few days, but she will soon settle down. This does not mean that the kittens are now ready to be sold, for they should have at least one week of completely independent feeding before they go to their new homes.

Some breeders like to keep kittens with the queen until they are actually sold. This may entail less trouble, but it is a practice hardly kind to the kitten and not too considerate of the new owner. He ought to expect to be able to buy a fully weaned kitten which can feed satisfactorily for itself without the corrective of its mother's milk.

A kitten fully weaned when it is a day or two over seven weeks, and kept by the breeder for another fortnight, is the safest one for a novice to buy, for he should not have any serious troubles from the feeding point of view if the thoughtful owner has provided him with an easily understood diet sheet.

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

News from "Down Under"

NEW SOUTH WALES. Here we are with a few more remarks. Very little news this month as the "kick-off" show is not until the end of February. It is being staged by Secretary Mr. Mullins for the Southern Cross All Breeds Club, which is always a smooth and happy fixture. This will be followed by the Northern Feline Fanciers Club in the Soldiers Hall, Killara (a new venue) and Mrs. Vize will be Show Manager. I have received the very neat schedule to-day and notice that seven judges have been invited, with one in reserve.

Incidentally, I have no schedule for Southern Cross Show so far. Until recently, judges who accepted were always mailed a schedule (very handy as a reminder of date and refresher for club rules) but lately the practice has been discontinued, unfortunately.

Next comes the Royal Agricultural Show with two days' judging on March 25th and April 3rd, with, I understand, a record entry again. It increases each year and is very popular. Two ladies have been selected to do the honours, Mrs. Whyte and Mrs. D. Burnage. I offer congrats. to Mrs. Burnage on being selected for her first "Royal". It's a grand "kick" as I can state, having been the first judge for cats in 1928 and serving continuously since. I shall be there once again, having accepted a job as senior steward. Mrs. Whyte, of course, will have no Royal "nerves", it being her third year. Full report next month.

In addition to seeing Mrs. Vize and Mrs. Cains from N.S.W. in London shortly, you will doubtless see the President of the old C.F.A. Club, Mr. E. J. Lonsdale, who is to be married on March 24th and go on an eighteen months' world cruise, leaving here on the *Iberia*. The cat world is quite

excited about it and send every good wish to the travellers. Unlike the last cat world wedding here, Mr. Lonsdale's bride is not "a cat lady".

I have a very nicely arranged programme for the coming year's activities of the Cumberland Cat Club from Mrs. Paris, including all show dates.

Queensland. No news from, or of Mrs. Henry since Christmas, but we trust this means good news. We may see her at one of our Sydney shows soon. I have received two newsy letters from Miss Harrison and was sorry to learn that on doctor's orders she is relinquishing her position as Publicity Officer. Mrs. Davies is to take over. Maybe she will also give us her notes to the local *Cats Digest*. My thanks to Miss Harrison. Have only received word of two show dates so far for Brisbane. Q.C.F.A. are staging a two-day show on 14th-15th April in the Town Hall, which is a lovely venue, and the Brisbane Club Show will take place on June 10th at the Hotel Canberra. Apparently Queensland Club have not fixed a date so far.

Victoria. I have received the *Newsletter* of the Siamese Cat Club for January containing a report of the December Show. It is reported that Mrs. Matheson is to judge at a Sydney show shortly and we shall look forward to seeing her again. A schedule for the Moomba Cat Festival has also come to hand. This takes place in March with Mr. Laurie Wilson as Manager. I understand a show will be staged by the old Australian Cat Club, also in March, but I have no particulars so far.

South Australia. Never a word from Tom and Jerry, which is unusual, as I receive the *Newsletter* regularly. Well, I guess things must be going along nicely with maybe all poor Thomas cats bowled over by the terrible heat



CH. BLUEBRIDGE RATSMEE is a valuable Blue Point Siamese stud belonging to Mrs. E. Putwain, of Preston, Canterbury, Kent. He obtained his top status at the Croydon Show in November last at the age of 20 months. He was also voted Best Siamese at this his third only show as an adult. Ratsmee was bred by Mrs. Putwain from Bluebridge Sohpar and Doneraile Madelaine. He won his fourth C.C. at the Southern Counties Show last month.

we have been subjected to. I am wondering if anybody from there will be visiting us shortly; it would be a grand surprise. Perhaps I shall receive a *Newsletter*, etc., as soon as these notes have left.

New Zealand. The January *Newsletter* is to hand from Miss Menzies and shows a list of show dates from February 25th at Auckland to July 22nd at Gisborne and Hutt Valley, and judges selected in most cases. A very touching and sad story sent in by Mrs. Smedley tells of a small girl of eleven named Gillian who had been ill and bedridden for seven years. Her treasured and devoted companion was Pet, a Siamese cat. The struggle proved too heavy and young Gillian died on a November day. Her mother has written to Mrs. Smedley saying Pet just wanders round and has not settled down since. Mrs. Smedley must be happy in the thought that the kitten she sent Gillian did so much to help her during her long illness. Miss Menzies has made a heart warming little story of it and we join her in sympathy to Gillian's family.

I have at last received a letter from Hayden Pollock of Plendowie asking for dates of shows in N.S.W. as it is his intention to visit us for three months and topple all the Champs with a team he contemplates bringing over. "Goodoh", Hayden, I'll supply the dates but they'll have to be good; so only bring the best!

After months of research in New Zealand, the hydatid research unit has decided that domestic cats are not final hosts of the sheep measles parasite, which does a lot of damage and causes many carcasses to be condemned. In the summer of last year the unit appealed for 2,000 cats for laboratory tests and although these revealed that cats *could* be hosts of the parasite, Dr. G. K. Sweetman, senior parasitologist, stated that of the 347 cats tested not one was infected. It was not inconceivable, he said, that the horse meat on which they were fed had some factor which is absent in mutton, which makes it possible for the parasite to live in horse-fed cats. Further experiments would be undertaken.

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