

Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



**THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM
OF OUR GARDEN!**

(Photograph by D. E. Tyler)

JULY 1961

1/6



Tomorrow may be too late . . .

In the crowded conditions of a Show every cat runs the risk of exposure to infections. Feline Enteritis is a particularly infectious virus disease which can spread rapidly from cat to cat, and especially through a cattery, causing untold losses. The onset is sudden and the outcome usually fatal. All breeds of cats are susceptible but the incidence is higher among the Siamese. Get your veterinary surgeon to protect your cat with 'Fiovax' now; it may be too late after the Show.

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1849

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.

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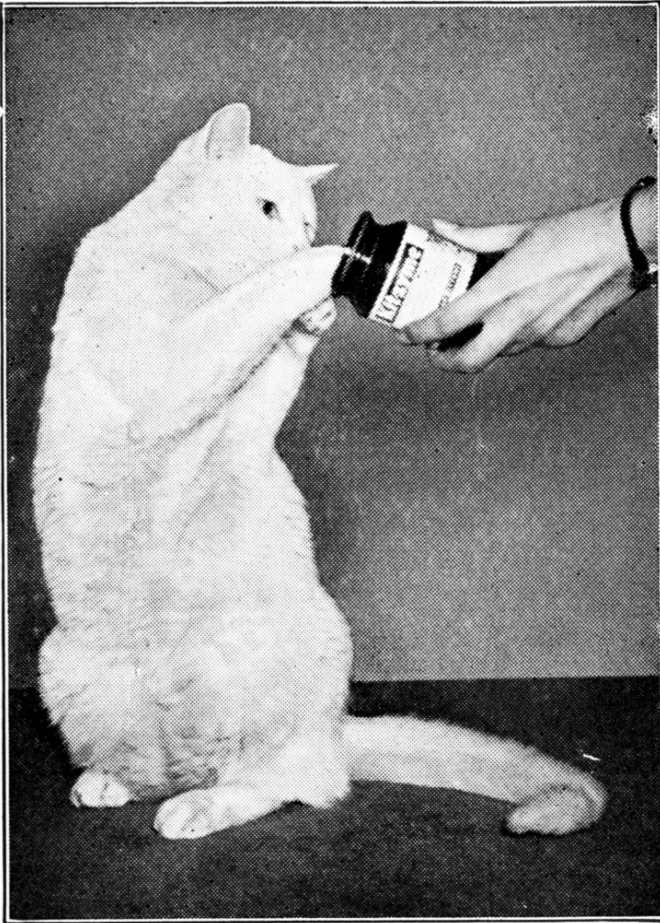
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THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Fox Photos

Feeding time at Mary's Boarding Cattery at Leatherhead, Surrey. "Breakfast is now being served" by the proprietress Miss Mary Stuart Hodgkinson.



Candy helps himself!

Mrs. MARION WEBB of
27 Chapel Street, Exning,
Newmarket, Suffolk, writes:-

“When we had our white cat, Candy, he was nine weeks old and so small that he could even get into my husband’s shoe. At first he didn’t appear to grow very quickly, but when we put him on Kit-zyme we could see an improvement in both his growth and general condition.”

“Candy is now a really wonderful cat and I am certain that this is due to Kit-zyme Tablets.”

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Ref. No. 240

Old house in Natal

By J. H. BEAUMONT

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THE Old Bishop's House stands at the top of the Loop up against the hill below the guns of Fort Napier, now the mental hospital of the capital city of Natal. It looks out eastwards across the purple glow of the jacaranda in the noonday heat or the three o'clock in the morning waxen and frangipani-perfumed dawns towards the Valley of the Thousand Hills Zulu reserve and Durban on the shores of the ancient and tropical seas of the coelacanth. It is the land of Chaka and Dingaan, of the flashing smile and the ringing laugh of the Zulu, the land of Natal fever that falls softer on tired eyes than rose petals on grass.

It was late on a Saturday afternoon when I moved into the consecrated hush of the tiled hall with its stained glass front door, the great reception rooms with their alcoves and bay windows, massive walls and yielding floors, antique carven Indian chests and four-centuries-old Burma teak antique table. I came from the memory of too much war in too many blacked-out cities, too much homelessness in too many hotels, too much wandering with the new-found ferocities of man hunting man.

I had forgotten to have the electricity connected and so when night had come I dripped candlewax on the carpets from room to room, to the bathroom and to bed. But the unforgettable smell of the extinguished candle was still in my nostrils when the dark came alive with thuds and the shaking of floors and I felt my hair rising. It was so old a house,

it had been consecrated so long ago to the service of the Lord. Who knew what human frailties or follies of the flesh, what "... bleak heart-breaks in the blood..." were brought there through the years for the charity of God and compassion of his servant, the Bishop?

I was sure that the shaking floors and the thumpings could mean nothing other than that the Old Bishop was still wrestling with devils at Ephesus. Not till nearly morning did I meet the father and mother of a rat in the bath room door so that the candle fell and went out and back in my bed I could, unseeing and unhearing (since I am deaf), laugh at myself for being once frightened but not twice bitten. There and then I decided to get a cat.

Her name was Lucy and she came with Elsie.

Elsie was a little dwarf Zulu girl who polished all the miles of floors till they shone, who swept and cleaned and washed and cooked. She was no bigger than a child of seven, and she bought her dresses off the peg, so that at the back they rode high, as if the ghostly hand of nature and Zulu physiology were lifting them with a sly and ribald humour. Sometimes, sulky and sullen, she abandoned whatever she was doing to disappear into the bedroom, from where she would later come, smug and secret and hugging herself. One morning she was there in front of the wardrobe mirror and on her head was a new hat—a creation all ribbons and flowers and transparent gauze. She was grimacing and twisting her head this way and that. At last she turned round to look at herself over one shoulder, impatiently pulled down the dress at the back,

nodded, broke into a jubilant little dance, and her grin, all white teeth and happiness, flashed in the glass.

So she, a somewhat vain and somewhat simple little Zulu dwarf, and Lucy the cat kept each other company during the long days when I was at work.

Evenings when I came home in the warm dusk up the Loop I could see something white on the gate-post of the Old Bishop's House and then knew that Lucy was waiting there, crouched on neat white feet and anxiously scanning everyone who was coming up the street. From an hour earlier, when Elsie had left, she had been sitting there while people stopped to look at the white tufted ears, which were deaf, at the white panther crouch and the gently folded paws, at the one golden amber eye and the other that was the forget-me-not crystal blue of Natal's summer skies—almost a mutation of a cat, crossed somewhere with an albino lynx and the mysterious heritages of the Siamese.

Vehement welcome

Vehemently she spoke in welcome as she jumped off the gate post. For an hour she had been without company and inexhaustibly, endlessly, vociferously, she demanded attention as she gambolled up the path and up the steps and in at the door into the hall; and all evening, on chairs, from room to room, on whatever knees she could find, she clamoured, with what must have been some uncanny, perhaps ghastly foreknowledge, not to be left alone, not to be unnoticed. The older she grew, the more greedily she asked for company and the more she had to be kept at a certain arm's length as more and more her hair fell out till every morning Elsie's first task was to brush the white tufts off the chairs and carpets.

John, the vet (a six-foot Irishman about whom the girls went mad and whom dogs bit), came to say it was prurietis, which is itching caused by an allergy or a wrong diet, and, after prescribing vitamins, injected cortisone. But months later the fur still flew.

So, when at last the bells tolled for a country, Lucy became a problem. Who else would keep her company and in the mornings sweep up the tufts of fur, even if she were to go with the house? Or where would she go if she were put out into the silent and nightmare dark to fend with the parvenu and homeless of the cat world? How would she be treated with all that sorrowful falling of her hair? She did not want to go the day John came to fetch her.

He is an understanding man and merely saying that he would take her he tucked her under him arm and went out of the gate. Through the back window of the car there was one last sad, reproachful look from those incredible eyes that had stopped people passing in the street—the one, the golden amber of honey and the other the forget-me-not blue of Natal's summer skies. She knew.

Among the papers I packed a year ago and 5,000 miles away I found yesterday a little slip of paper. Dr. to Drs. Tarr & O'Grady, Veterinary Surgeons. To visiting cat, 17s. 6d. To drugs, 2s. 6d. May she have gone gently into that last sleep, worth half-a-crown.

Long before that all the hungry rats had shrivelled up somewhere deep in the labyrinthine foundations of the Old Bishop's House and the only consolation I have when doubts assail me about my self-appointed task as arbiter of life and death is the hope that the Old Bishop will sometimes interrupt his wrestlings with devils while the floors creak and shake as the great buses pass outside in the street and explain the heart's compassion to a small, deaf, itching, scratching, vociferously demanding cat with one blue and one gold eye. She loved and trusted me.



Working cats

By J. GILLESPIE

FOR fifty years the presence of cats in the Scottish Clydeside ship-building yards was a toleration. In the hurly-burly of a tough industry nobody had any time to spare for them. They were there to keep down vermin—that and nothing more. Many a cat went through life without ever seeing a saucer of milk. There was no cruelty, only thoughtless disregard.

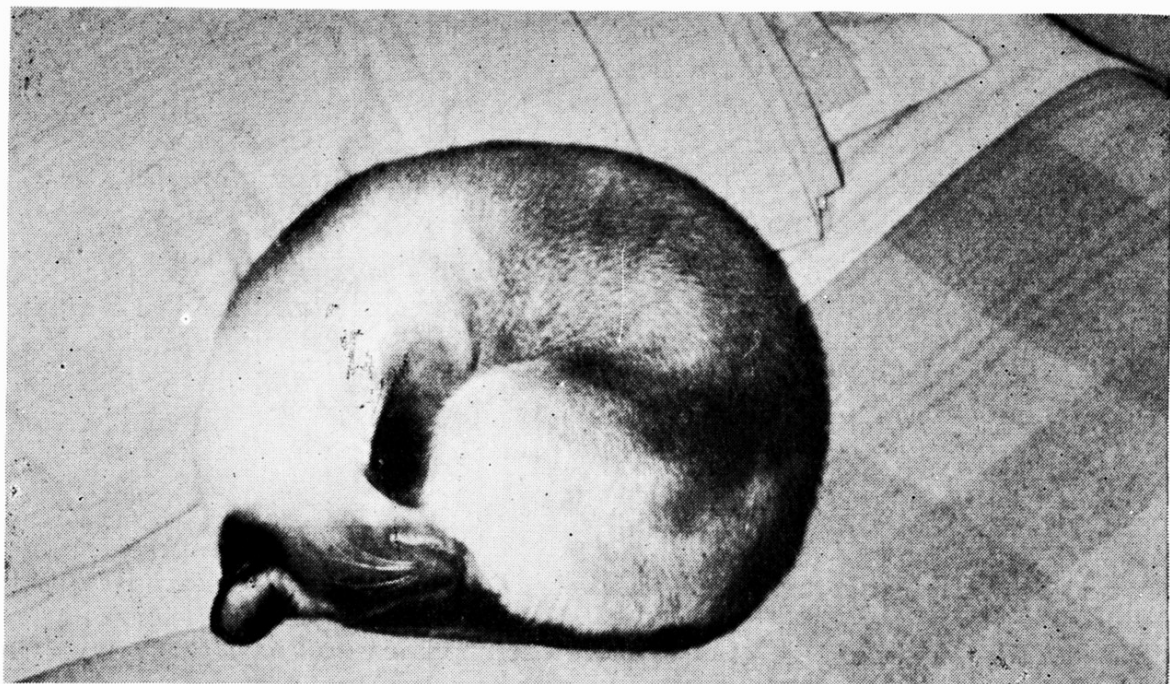
To-day, things are different. Anyone inflicting cruelty is severely reprimanded. No longer do cats prowl about under the steel floors near the furnaces. They have special quarters, provided by the men. The furnaces are no longer there. There is less dirt and noise and the accent is on brain and gentler outlook rather than brawn.

Cats in the biggest shipyard on the Clyde are V.I.P's. Before men stop work for the annual two week summer holiday they have a whip round. "The cats' collection" it is called. The

money is handed over to firemen who will remain on duty and see the cats are cared for. One full meal a day is the rule although some men seek little favours for pets, a bit of chocolate for Betty; a piece of fat mutton for Ginger and an odd halibut oil capsule for "wee Beenie" who has not been keeping up to the mark lately.

The firemen receive reminders by postcard from seaside resorts. There was consternation in one of the yard workshops when a tortie kitten vanished. It was only after three days that the search was abandoned. The kitten was never seen again in the yard. Somebody had taken it home for a pet.

If a cat gets hurt, treatment is administered on the spot. If the injury is serious it is hurried to the ambulance room where the trained Red Cross men are ever ready to help. I recall one cat being kept "in bed" for three days during which it got sun ray treatment.



Hugh Smith

Here's one fellow who doesn't believe in too much work !

A favourite is Blackie, a big tom who lords it over one of the stores. No other animal dare enter when he is around; only wee black Nellie and I can vouch that he lays aside a bit of fish for her.

Of course, there are the rogues who like to do a bit of poaching. One of them will dart into forbidden territory, swoop on a titbit and be off followed by threats that are never carried out. In the bad old days titbits were few. Perhaps some kindly person would gather scraps of food for the cats during the workers' meal hour breaks. More often a cat

would be content to lick the butter off a discarded crust of bread.

Every shipyard shop and shed has its own cats which are housed in roomy boxes insulated against cold and with downy spun glass silk for bedding. They no longer prowl around looking for scraps. The men supply them with tinned food, milk and fish. Sleek and with glossy coats they play and frolic but the "soft life" has not reduced their working capacity for they are as keen on the hunt as their forebears ever were.

MORE ABOUT CANNED FOODS

A survey in a recent issue of the *Financial Times* was devoted to the flourishing business of manufacturing and canning pet foods which has expanded to such an extent that it is now a £20m. market. This remarkable growth—more than 400 per cent since 1953—is attributed to the rise in income standards, combined with the growing popularity of pre-packed food for humans, which leaves fewer kitchen scraps for the family pet. The dog population is actually declining slowly.

In the market for prepared cat foods, says the survey, "Kit-e-Kat", manufactured by Petfoods Ltd. of Melton Mowbray, an associate of the Mars confectionery group, hold perhaps 70 per cent of the market. A further 10 per cent probably goes to Spratts "Top Cat".

But Petfoods chief competitor is said to be Scottish Animal Products, whose "Kattomeat" is a straight meat product. Petfoods' answer to the challenge was to introduce two new products—

"Minx" which contains only fish and "Whiskas" which has only meat. Benepet has launched "Queenie" and the vast Unilever organization has been preparing to enter the cat food market with "Happy Cat".

The survey comments that "while the wave of new products is one indication of the intensive competition in the market, more striking evidence comes from advertising expenditure, which has climbed even more rapidly than sales, and last year reached a peak of £2.2m." Petfoods, for instance, spent nearly £330,000 on T.V. promotion for one of their dog foods and a further £100,000 on the T.V. launching of "Minx".

Experience has shown that once pet owners have found a product that their animal will eat they tend to buy it and nothing else. Half-a-million pounds was spent in advertising "Kit-e-Kat" in 1959 but last year promotion of the product was suspended without any significant decline in its share of the market.

If you know any cat lovers who are likely to be interested in a sample copy of OUR CATS, we should be glad to have their names and addresses. Just jot the details on a postcard, address to 4 Carlton Mansions, 378 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9, and we will do the rest.

Feeding Tiddles

By STANLEY DERRICOURT

“WOULD you mind ?” asked Mrs. Mathers. “It’s Tiddles. We’ll only be away a week”.

We do these little kindnesses for each other. Mrs. Mathers, takes in our washing if it’s raining, we look after her cat when she goes away on holiday.

“I’ll leave the key with you as before, the food’s in the cupboard, the saucer’s on the shelf, one meal a day, remember, and leave the kitchen window on the latch . . .”.

My wife is the one who usually copes with this sort of problem. To me Tiddles was just another noise in the night.

The Mathers left on the Friday. The first meal wasn’t due until Saturday evening. It was raining hard at the time. The first move, it was obvious, was going to be up to me.

“Well, suppose I’d better go and feed that cat,” I remarked at last.

My wife made no comment. She can be remarkably obtuse on occasions.

I put on my mackintosh and slopped round to the Mather’s back door. Letting myself in I took the tin of cat food down from the cupboard and doled out the required ration. This task completed, I opened the kitchen window as instructed and awaited the arrival of Tiddles. Rattle the saucer on the floor, Mrs. Mathers had said. Rather self-consciously I did so, at the same time uttering the falsetto wheedling noises peculiar to such occasions.

A moment later there was a sudden noise and a large tabby appeared. Now, although, as I said, I’d never consciously noticed Tiddles before, it certainly didn’t

look like any cat I’d seen around. Still, it seemed quite at home and so, after making sure that it had had enough to eat, I saw it out into the night again closed and locked the door and returned home.

My wife had already gone to bed and so the subject of Tiddles did not crop up again until next morning.

“Feed Tiddles all right last night ?” she asked.

“Oh, yes”, I replied. “Getting quite a size now, isn’t he ?”

“Tiddles”, said my wife frigidly, “is a she and only just out of the kitten stage. What was this cat like ?”

“Barred”, I said. “You know . . . stripes and things . . . like a tiger”.

“Tiddles”, said my wife, “is black”.

That night she decided to look after the feeding herself.

“Everything in order ?” I enquired on her return.

“Oh, yes”, she said, “I hope”.

“Meaning ?” I asked.

“Well . . .”, she shrugged. “Only that there were *two* black cats this time”.

“Ah”, I said. “Quite a problem. What did you do ?”

“What could I do ?” she replied. “I fed them both”.

Next night it was my turn again. One of the black cats was already waiting. This, I felt, was proof positive of its identity. To make up for the first night’s debacle, therefore, I served a double helping.

Returning, I was just sitting down again when my wife held up her hand.

“Listen”, she said.

I listened. There could be no mistake. A cat was meowing outside our window.

“It’s Tiddles”, exclaimed my wife,

“ asking for her supper. You’ve fed the wrong one again ”.

She slipped on her coat and hurried out.

“ Poor thing ”, she said when she returned. “ He was absolutely starving ”.

“ He ? ” I exclaimed.

“ Well, she then ”, said my wife doubtfully.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we each fed a black cat. Neither seemed to tally with the others as to size but both seemed to know their way about.

On the Thursday night there was a knock at our door. It was a lady from across the road.

“ I don’t want you to think I’m interfering ”, she said, “ but there’s been a cat hanging round my doorstep all the week and knowing the Mathers were away I couldn’t help wondering if it was theirs. I didn’t want to bother you but Mrs. Mathers *did* mention that she’d asked you to look after it . . . ”.

“ I’ll come across right away ”, said my wife. On second thoughts she took the meat with her.

“ Well ? ” I asked on her return.

“ Well, I don’t know ”, she said uncertainly. “ It didn’t *look* like any we’ve fed so far but I thought I’d better not take any chances ”.

The Mathers came back on the Friday night. Shortly afterwards, my wife went round to hand over the key.

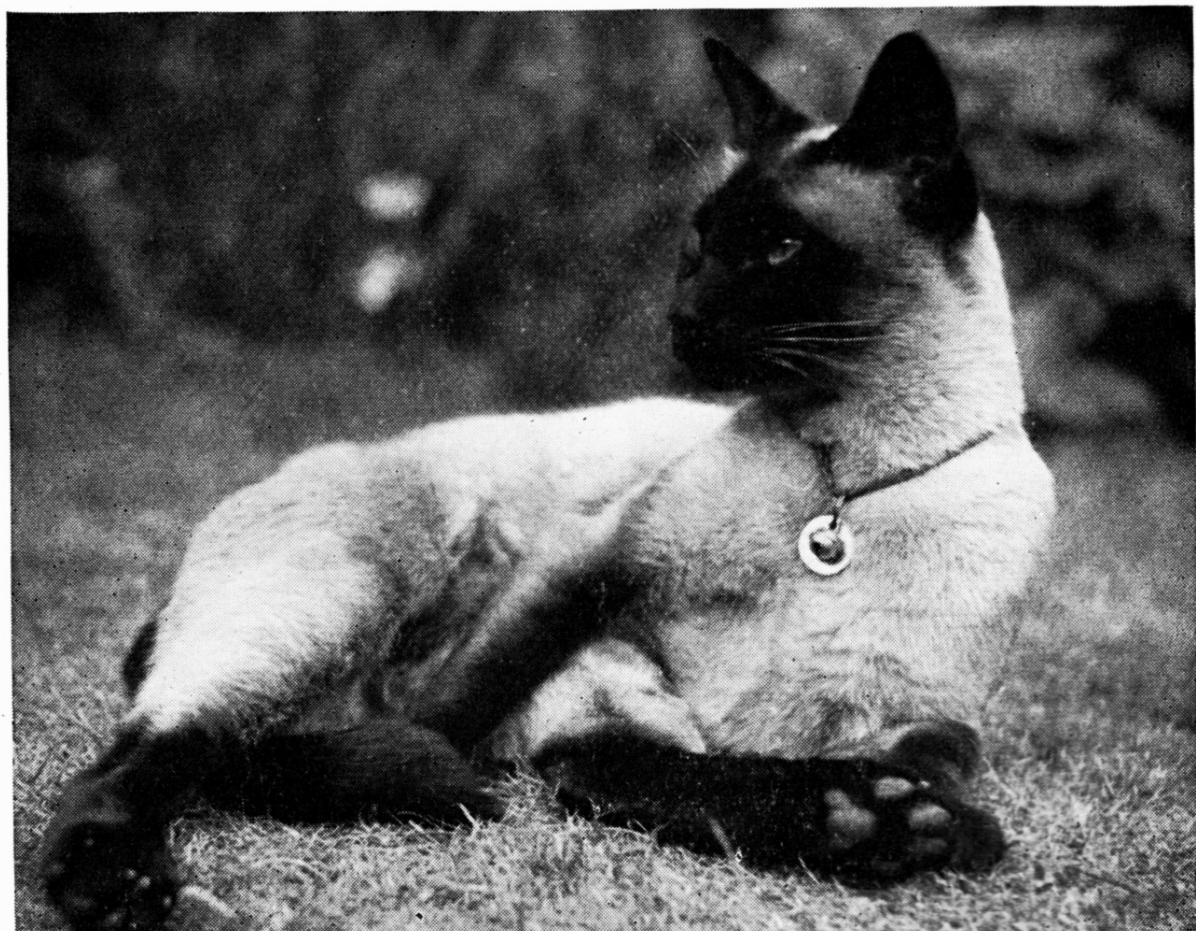
“ All right ? ” I asked as she let herself in again.

“ Oh, yes . . . so far ”, said my wife, “ . . . although Tiddles hasn’t appeared yet ”, she added.

“ She will ”, I said.

She did. But not until next morning. She’d been shut in the coalhouse all the week. Oh, and just for the record, she was ginger.

We’re still wondering what Mrs. Mathers thinks we did with all the cat’s meat, though !



TARDEN TILLY TALLY, the neutered pet of Mr. T. H. Singleton was a prize-winning kitten bred by Mrs. H. Lowe, of Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.



Correspondence Corner

Readers are invited to send contributions to this feature and so to join in the useful exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge. Letters should be concise and deal preferably with items of general interest.



Cure by Cortizone

THE following account of the successful use of Cortizone in the treatment of an ageing Siamese queen may be of interest to your readers.

During the autumn one of our Siamese queens (aged then 10½ years) began to show signs of having difficulty in eating. Upon examination the epithelium at the back of the mouth and top of the throat was seen to be inflamed. At first a tooth was suspected and this was extracted. Various other drugs, antibiotics, mouth washes, vitamins were tried over the following four months with virtually no improvement. The cat lived on beaten up egg and raw liver passed through a mincer and even these had often be to fed to her. Naturally she became very much out of condition and weak.

At last it seemed hardly kind to go on "torturing" her to live and very sadly I went for a final examination to our veterinary surgeon. He confirmed that there was little that one could do and I even equipped myself with a fresh bottle of Sagatal for the sad necessity.

At that point our veterinary surgeon suggested that there was one more thing that we could try, but that it had its dangers in that it might cause immediate death through cardiac failure. This was Cortizone, in the form of Prednisolone acetate (10mg per cc) of which the cat had a dose of 1cc at a time. After three days she showed an immediate improvement and began to eat of her own accord. No ill effects from the drug have been apparent, and within a week she was enjoying liver, minced meat (raw), fish, etc.

She began to put on weight again and to be herself: the patches of red on the gums and throat tissue diminished but did not quite disappear. The frequency of the dose was cut down and some weeks she had only two or two every eight days. At any sign of oral discomfort the dose was given again more frequently.

Early in March she called and again towards the end of that month. On this occasion a new young stud cat, tempted by her cries and rollings, tore down the fly-wire on the window of the room in which the queen lives and I found them very happily together a short while later! I had not expected that after her illness and considering her age that she would become pregnant but it soon became evident that she was. Her appetite increased and she was then eating the normal plates of cubes of raw meat eaten by the other cats without difficulty. She continued to have her injections of Prednisolone.

A jealous mother

On May 24th three kittens were born without trouble and these she is now nursing. Her injections during the last fortnight have had to be done daily and the strain of feeding the kittens is to a certain extent showing itself in a return to "difficult" feeding. Liver has to be put through a fine mincer and her preference is for egg beaten up in milk, three and even four times daily. Were she not so jealous of any other queen (except her mother, now 13 and past bearing) I would try to get the kittens to suck from another cat but this

VIVISECTION “BLACK SPOTS”

would I fear upset her. Her condition is otherwise good and she is obviously enjoying her little family as she always has. Fairly soon it should be possible partly to wean them with our rich sheeps' milk and a little Farex given through a dropper.

The drug seems to have no ill effect upon the kittens. Indeed I consulted our veterinarian before the treatment was continued and he recommended it. Without the Cortizone I am sure she would not be here now.

MRS. A. N. DRUCE,
Nicosia, Cyprus.

CORN FOR CATS

We are a very diet conscious family, every one having a daily quota of yeast and only corn oil is used for frying and roasting.

Our two cats, having taken on some of the personality of the household, simply refuse to drink milk except it has been sprinkled with a crushed yeast tablet.

Their favourite breakfast is fried soda bread—and, being Irish, this is cooked every morning.

A little creamed potato mixed with meat or liver is enjoyed at lunch time. All sweets and puddings are ignored and only “top of the milk” is acceptable without the yeast dressing.

Both cats have coats like silk and each lot of new kittens are sturdy and strong from birth.

As corn oil is one of the ingredients given by some specialists to patients with heart trouble, we have found it a very beneficial addition to the cats' diet. Half a teaspoonful mixed with food every day helps to prevent any tendency to bronchitis and that irritating cough which can be very troublesome.

It is simple to take and our pets will accept it in their daily diet without any difficulty at all.

SADIE STEVENSON.

“Black spots” in England where there is a flourishing traffic in unwanted pets, principally cats and dogs, which are sold to research laboratories, are referred to in last month's Annual Report of the National Anti-Vivisection Society.

The Society have begun a campaign to clean up this traffic. Mr. Wilfred Risdon, Secretary of the N.A.V.S., stated: “We have made a beginning at Doncaster, which is one of the worst centres of this inhuman trade. Upwards of 3,500,000 animals are being used for research experiments each year. So we decided to take action on our own to try to check this ghastly trade in pets. After Doncaster we shall be moving to other trouble spots where this lucrative trade in animals is carried on. These include March in Cambridgeshire, the Aldershot area in Hampshire; and certain London districts among which are Catford, Bow, Camden Town, Walthamstow, Ilford and other areas which are suspect.

“Wales seems to have a clean record in this respect, according to information received from our members there. Our sister society in Scotland has recently been able to bring to book some of the individuals concerned in this trafficking North of the Border.

“What people don't seem to realize is that when they part with their unwanted pets indiscriminately they are almost inevitably handing them over to the researcher's instruments. If they knew they would insist on some safeguard for the animals. We have started a system for saving these pets through the members of the Faithful Friends' Guild and finding them homes with people who we can be sure will properly look after them”.



Looking at the breeds

No. 5 - BLUE SHORTHAIRES (BRITISH)

By HUGH SMITH

THE British Blue is probably the most popular of all the British Shorthairs. It has been described as the "aristocrat" of the Shorthairs. Its lovely thick, close blue coat is most attractive when it attains the standards required for a good show specimen.

The general requirements for all British Shorthairs are laid down by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, as follow:—

Body and Tail: Well knit and powerful, showing good depth of body. Chest full and broad. Tail thick at base, well set, length in proportion to body.

Legs and Feet: Legs of good substance and in proportion to the body. Feet neat and well rounded.

Head and Neck: Head broad between the ears; cheeks well developed; face and nose short.

Ears: Small, slightly round at tops, not large at base.

Coat: Short, fine and close.

Condition: Hard and muscular, giving a general appearance of activity.

SCALE OF POINTS

| | | |
|---------------|--------|----|
| Body and Tail | ... | 10 |
| Legs and Feet | ... | 5 |
| Head and Neck | ... | 10 |
| Ears | | 10 |
| Coat | | 10 |
| Condition | ... | 5 |
| | | — |
| | | 50 |

This leaves 50 points to be apportioned for Colour and Eyes.

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| <i>Colour:</i> Light to medium blue, very level in colour and no tabby markings or shadings or white anywhere | | 25 |
| <i>Eyes:</i> Large and full, copper, orange or yellow | | 25 |
| | | — |
| | | 50 |

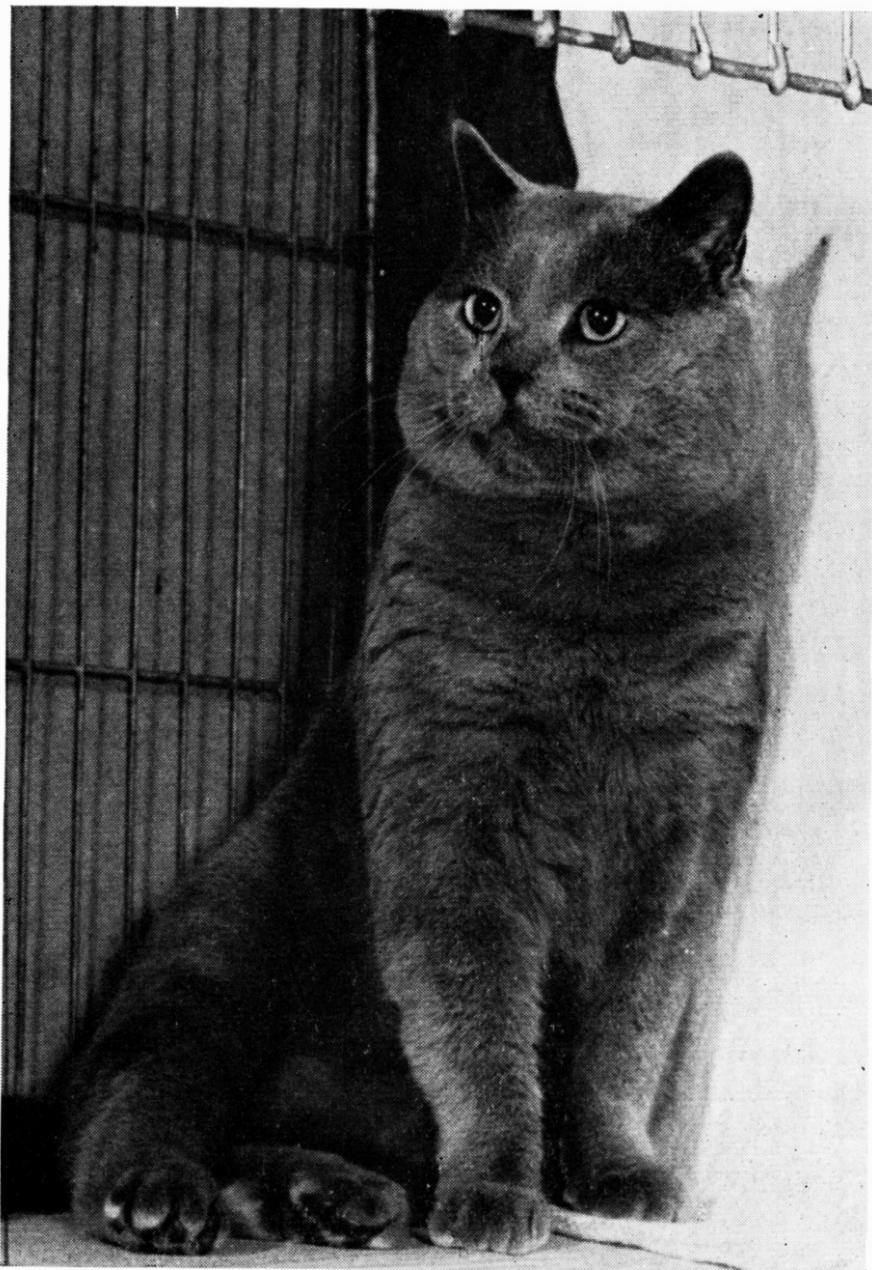
It is said that injudicious outcrossing with Russian Blue and Siamese has done much to spoil the breed. Neither has it been improved by crossing with Blue Longhairs, since this tends to make the coat too long. Crossing with breeds like the Russian Blue and Siamese, which have wedge-shaped heads has not improved type, which requires the face and nose short.

The coat may vary in shade but it must be the same shade throughout; in fact, each hair must be the same colour throughout. Any signs of markings constitute a serious fault; so do the presence of white hairs in the coat.

According to Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, the original colour of the British Blue was a dark slate—almost the colour of a plum with the bloom still on it. This colour has now been bred out of show cats, although it occasionally occurs as a result of chance matings of non-pedigree domestic shorthairs.

The persevering perfectionist can still find plenty of scope for activity in this breed.

Unlike its Russian counterpart, the British Blue has no specialist club of its own in the United Kingdom. Breeders may, however, join the Shorthair Society whose Hon. Secretary is Mrs. E. Towe, 6 Palmerston Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19.



Hugh Smith

LITTLEWICKERS BLUE SERGE, owned and bred by the Misses Chatterton of Southwick, Sussex, admirably illustrates the great beauty of the British Blue Shorthair.

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS :

An apology is due to you all for the late publication of this attenuated issue of the Magazine, from which a number of regular features are missing. I hope you will bear with me for this once and accept the assurance that the deficiencies will be made good, starting with the August issue, which will be published by the 21st of that month.—EDITOR

In sickness and in health

By M.R.C.V.S.

(Reprinted from our September 1954 issue)

CATS labouring under disease require a great deal more care and consideration than is generally realized to ensure their recovery, and the haphazard methods which were common twenty or even ten years ago have now given place to highly scientific observance of detail, and a care and precision founded upon a much more skilled knowledge of feline pathology and a closer emulation of the methods employed in human medicine.

The poor cat suffers only too frequently from the ignorance or neglect, or even excessive attention, of its owner, and this may be especially true in questions concerning disease.

When a cat is ill, people are very apt to indulge in experiments in diagnosis, and having hit upon some condition which appears to fit the symptoms, hie themselves to the nearest chemist for a bottle of "Cure All", which is probably consistently prescribed, irrespective of the nature of the complaint. But cats require a special knowledge and experience on the part of their attendants.

People should be made to understand that it is most unwise to neglect to tackle disease at its very inception; and to tackle it with any degree of safety and assurance, professional aid must be sought. Money and time which would be better utilized in the early employment of a veterinary surgeon are too frequently wasted on empirical treatment; for it must not be forgotten that some diseases of cats are communicable to man, and much mischief may follow in the wake of neglect or quackery.

Efficient nursing is of extreme importance in the treatment of sick cats, even

as it is with the human being, and the practice of sound hygiene and dietetics plays a part which is not subsidiary even to that of actual therapeutics. Cleanliness of body and surroundings, frequent change of litter, removal of discharges, warmth, interchange of air without draught, clean feeding utensils, sunlight, regularly administered medicine (where any has been ordered), a kindly word and soothing hand, are all essential conditions in the fight against disease, and are matters to which the nurse should give almost undivided attention.

A difficult patient

In most cases medicine alone will not suffice to effect a happy termination to a more or less severe illness, and the importance of efficient nursing can hardly be overestimated.

The cat is a most difficult patient, for when sick it becomes morose and obstinate, instinctively resents any interference, loves obscurity, and usually refuses to take any food. It cannot tolerate pain for any length of time, and appears rapidly to lose heart and strength.

Diagnosis is always difficult, for they usually betray few signs of their condition until *in extremis*, other than to sit huddled up for hours together with head down and eyes closed. Frequently the third eyelids (or haws) are drawn half way across the eyes, and owners tell us there is a "skin on the eyes".

It must be admitted too, that cats seldom seem to realize that what is done is intended for their benefit. On the other hand, one feels convinced that many dogs *do* realize this, for the writer has known numerous instances in which old patients have run into the surgery,

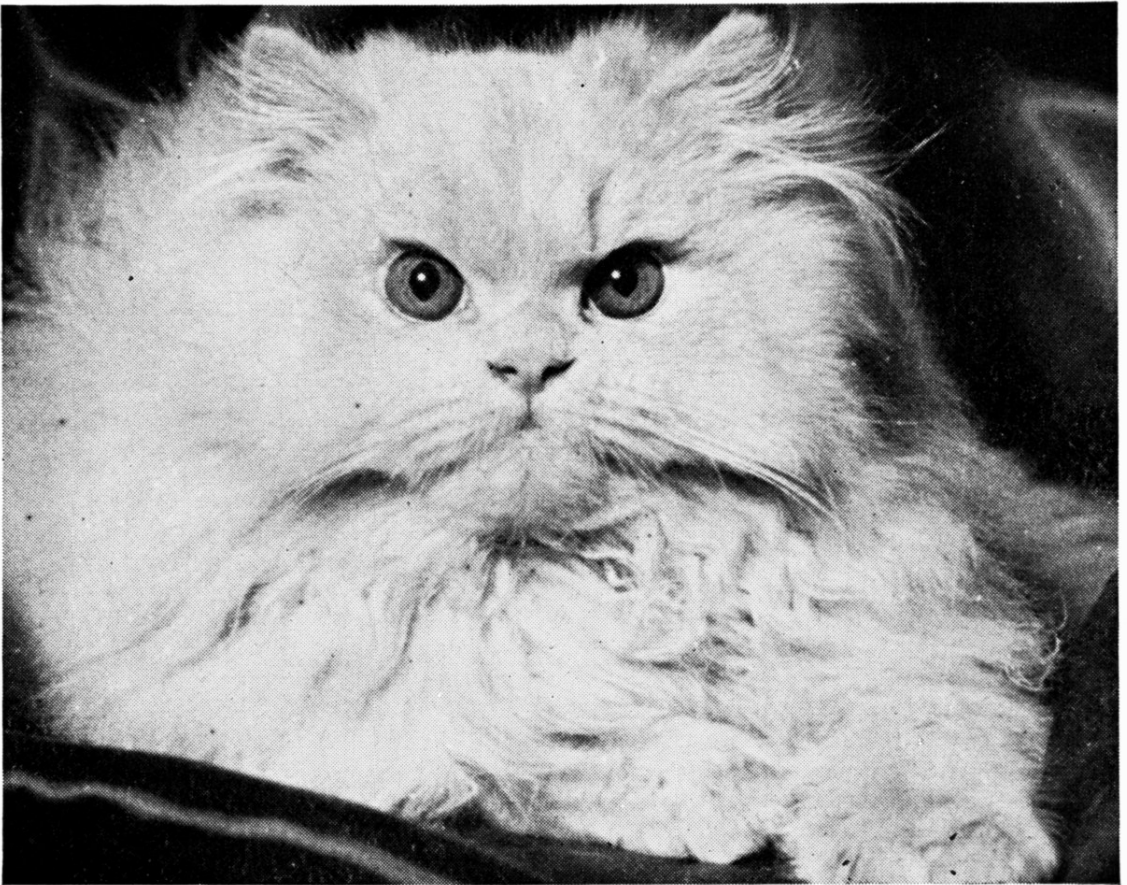
What
about
my
Tibs?

Champion Startops Starduster didn't have to wait long but it's easy to see he was impatient. Impatient for what? For his Tibs, of course.

This handsome young cream male now has a fine collection of prizes. Apart from becoming a Belgian Champion, Starduster has won many awards on the Continent, including being the best Longhair in show at Thiers in 1961; he is also now well on the way to becoming an International Champion.

Mrs. Dorothy King of Worcester Park, Surrey, who bred him, said "Starduster was introduced to Tibs when he was weaned and owes much of his wonderful condition and perfect coat to a good balanced diet fortified by the valuable vitamins and minerals supplied by daily Tibs."

Mrs. King gives Tibs to all her cats and the many Startops winners prove that yet another breeder is wise in the way of Tibs for her cats.



TIBS

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are a Bob Martin product.

barked, wagged their tails, and sometimes held up a paw which had previously received some treatment.

Immune from these

There are some maladies against which the cat appears to possess immunity. The following is a list of those which either never occur in cats, or do so on exceedingly rare occasions:—Rickets, osteomalacia, osteoporosis, leptospirosis, paraphimosis, phimosis, interdigital cysts, acne, urticaria, seborrhoea, rheumatism, diabetes, chorea, specific-parotitis, tetanus, hydrocele and bronchocele. Cats are also immune from snake poisoning; in fact they are snake killers. The pig and hedgehog share this immunity, although their blood does not contain immune bodies.

The world has every incentive for studying the diseases of the cat, for no other animal is its equal as a destroyer of vermin, and in exercising this power the cat is an important auxiliary to the preservation of the health and wealth of man.

Good health is the natural condition, and is characterized in the cat as follows:—Meals should be partaken of with avidity and relish, although the appetite should be continuously voracious; the cat should be bright and alert, and take a normal interest in its surroundings, as contrasted with the sick cat which shows no other desire than to sleep perpetually, sit perfectly immobile for hours, or to hide in dark corners or under furniture. The eyes should be clear and show no opacities on cornea or lens, no serous or purulent discharges or yellow discolourations; the breath should not be in the least foul; the tongue unfurred and of a pale pink hue; the coat should appear clean, soft and glossy, as opposed to the harsh, staring coat of the sick; skin supple and elastic, and free from eruption, scurf, or irritation; the nose moist and cold; the faeces should be firm in consistence, though not devoid of moisture, whilst their colour may be light or dark brown;

white or very pale faecal excrement denotes an abnormal absence of bile, whilst black evacuations may indicate the presence of blood or some medicinal agent. The urine voided should be clear and inoffensive, and of a hue corresponding to the various tints of amber, except in the case of the uncastrated male after the age of about five months, when the urine becomes increasingly offensive and remains so throughout life unless the animal is neutered.

A cat purrs as usual upon being fondled and made comfortable, and takes delight in rubbing its cheek bones against every adjacent hard object. The sick cat does neither of these things and is utterly unresponsive when spoken to or noticed in any way. The healthy cat has lost none of its hunting instincts, whether after mice, birds, or the contents of the pantry.

Pulse and temperature

Finally, the pulsations, as observed at the femoral artery (inside the thigh) will vary between 110 and 130 per minute, though rapidity of pulse is not an infallible indication of a cat's condition, since this may easily be influenced by fear, exercise, or strange surroundings, etc. The character of the pulse is more important, and in health it will be found neither wiry or thin, nor full and bounding. The temperature (per rectum) is normally 101° to 102° F. and the respirations 20 to 30 per minute.

The number of respirations is always greatest in small breeds, though in all breeds it is greatly influenced by the circulation, and to some extent by external temperature, excitement, exercise and fear.

When a cat ceases to wash itself, it can be taken for granted that the animal is ailing in some way or other, as the healthy cat is most assiduous in this duty.

There are no very decided indications of a cat's age except that as time advances the teeth gradually lose their whiteness and show slight though progressive wear of the points and cutting edges. Gener-

ally one can perceive a yellowish discolouration beginning from the gums and working towards the tips after 2½ to 3 years of age, though the teeth of a cat even 10 years old or more, may occasionally be found clean and white.

The density of discolouration and the degree of wear increase with age, although extraneous influences sometimes exist which may exert a considerable modification of the normal appearance.

The teeth of animals which are allowed few bones and subsist mainly upon soft foods, are subjected much earlier to deposits of tartar and to decay. Tartar is a ready cause of pyorrhoea and loss of teeth, and should be regularly looked for and removed.

The signs of senile decay in the cat are not so marked as in the dog, for it is the exception to find a cat going grey; nor does one frequently find the aged cat a subject of deafness or cataract. The other outstanding indication of old age

in cats is a loss of flesh and fat and this may be noted particularly by a sinking of the eyeballs into their orbits and by an increased prominence of the bony spines along the back.

Expectation of life

Cats have a fair longevity, the majority dying about the tenth year, although it is by no means uncommon to find a cat still alive and well at 15 or 16 years of age. This, however, cannot be truly attributed to the belief that cats have nine lives. On the contrary, when they fall really ill, they may rapidly sink, and die readily from the effects of actual disease.

That they survive in a miraculous manner after severe accidents is equally true, but this is ascribed to the fact that cats are so agile, soft and supple, and, in falling, exercise a knack of doing so with the least amount of shock and damage to their systems.

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 1961-62 Season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers.

| 1961 | Promoted by | Venue |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| 12 August ... | Halifax Agricultural Society | Halifax |
| 16 " ... | Airedale Agricultural Society | Bingley, Yorkshire |
| 17 " ... | Wessex Cat Club | Bournemouth |
| 19 " ... | Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire | Reading, Berks. |
| 19 " ... | Suffolk and Norfolk Cat Club | Ipswich |
| 30 " ... | *Hertfordshire and Middlesex C.C. | London |
| 23 September... | *Edinburgh and East of Scotland C.C.... | Edinburgh |
| 4 October ... | *The Siamese Cat Club | London |
| 7 " ... | *Yorkshire County Cat Club | Harrogate |
| 11 " ... | *Southsea Cat Club | Southsea |
| 19 " ... | *Blue Persian Cat Society | London |
| 28 " ... | *Midland Counties Cat Club | Birmingham |
| 7 November ... | *Croydon Cat Club | London |
| 25 " ... | *Northern Counties Cat Club | Newcastle-on-Tyne |
| 16 December ... | *National Cat Club | London (Olympia) |
| 1962 | | |
| 6 January ... | *Notts and Derbys. Cat Club | Nottingham |
| 20 " ... | *Scottish Cat Club | Glasgow |
| 25 " ... | *Southern Counties Cat Club | London |
| 10 February ... | *Lancashire and N.W. Counties C.C. | Southport |
| 24 " ... | *Coventry and Leicester Cat Club | Coventry |
| 28 " ... | West of England and S. Wales C.C. | Bristol |
| 3 March ... | Preston Cat Club | Preston |

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

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INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CONGRESS

Over 400 veterinary surgeons attended the International Veterinary Congress in London recently.

Lord Rank, who performed the opening ceremony, is perhaps better known for his connection with films than for his equally long association with sporting dogs.

Both he and the President of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, which sponsored the Congress, Mr. W. B. Singleton, M.R.C.V.S., referred to the urgent need for greater public support for research into animal diseases. Lord Rank, who has long been connected with the Animal Health Trust, has donated considerable sums of money towards this need in the knowledge that only by research can animal diseases be understood and therefore finally conquered.

Mr. Singleton also referred to the present tendency by well-meaning members of the public to donate money to welfare societies who, in many cases, offered competitive rather than complimentary "free clinic" services for animals whose owners were unable or sometimes perhaps unwilling to pay the fees of a qualified veterinary surgeon. Mr. Singleton suggested that the greatest benefit to the greatest number of animals might result if donations were more frequently made for research into animal disease rather than the bulk of the money being sent to the various welfare societies.

Among the scientific matters discussed, the eye received a great deal of

attention. The Conference was fortunate in hearing papers from world experts on this subject including Dr. W. G. Magrane from America. The progress in eye surgery and the treatment of eye conditions has been remarkable over the last 10 years and it was obvious that there was a considerable interest for veterinary surgeons in this important subject. A number of surgical procedures new to many members of the audience were demonstrated on closed circuit colour television. Particular emphasis was given to the repair of fractures and the control of joint conditions.

The high spot of the Congress was a discussion on hip diseases in dogs carried out by transatlantic telephone cable between St. Louis where the American Animal Hospital Association were meeting and the London Conference. A most enthusiastic audience on both sides of the Atlantic heard experts from all over the world dealing with this important subject.

This Conference marked an important advance in international co-operation between veterinary surgeons interested in the problems of dogs, cats and other pets and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association was officially formed. The new Association will play a major role in planning the scientific discussions at the World Veterinary Congress to be held in Germany in 1963.

G.N.H.

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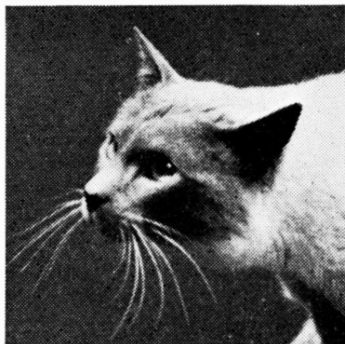
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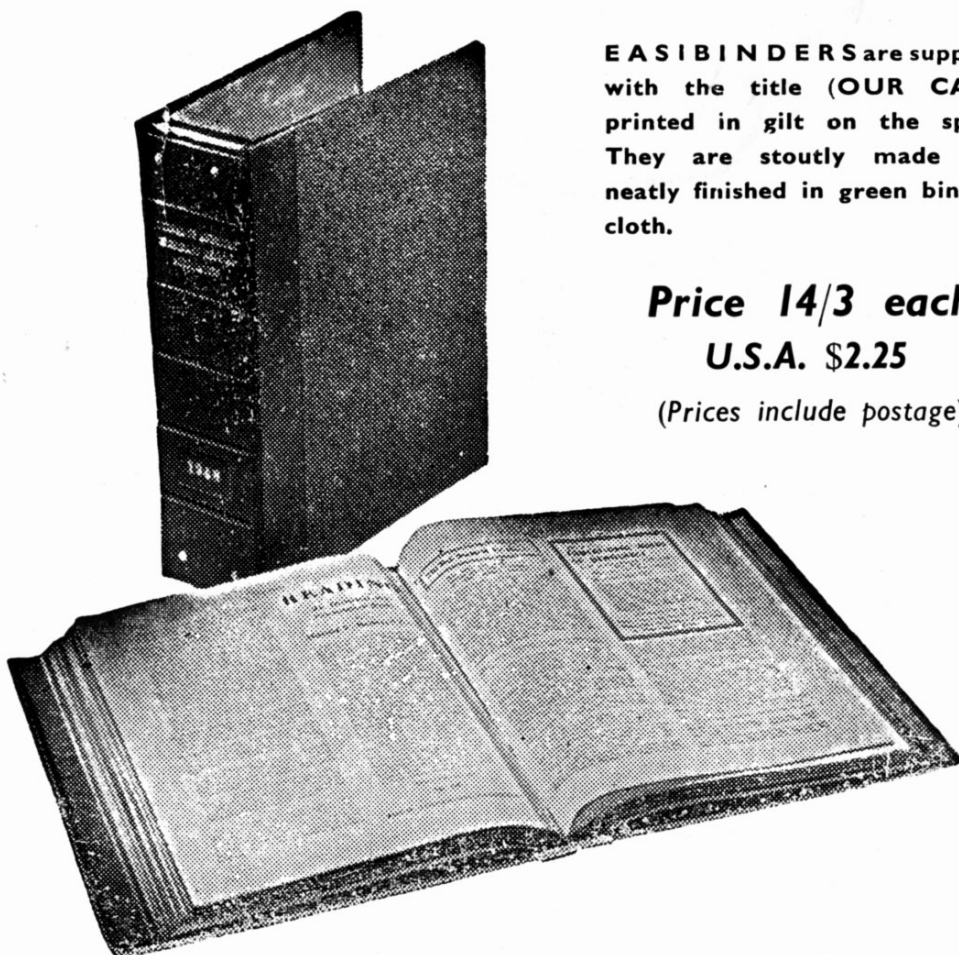
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