

pg.

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING  
COMPREHENSIVE



*BIG-EYED INNOCENCE*

*HASSAN HWANG, brown Burmese at one month bred by Mrs. Madge Shrouder, of West Moors, Dorset. Hassan is a grandson of her Ch. Oweenee. The photographer is Mr. Arthur Shrouder, well known for his unique collection of cat pictures in colour.*

**FEBRUARY 1962**

**2/-**





# 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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**'Fiovax'**  
BRAND

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE



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# Our Cats

**AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING**

Published every month with the best possible features and illustrations and circulated to Cat Lovers of every kind throughout the world. Our editorial purpose is :

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

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**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

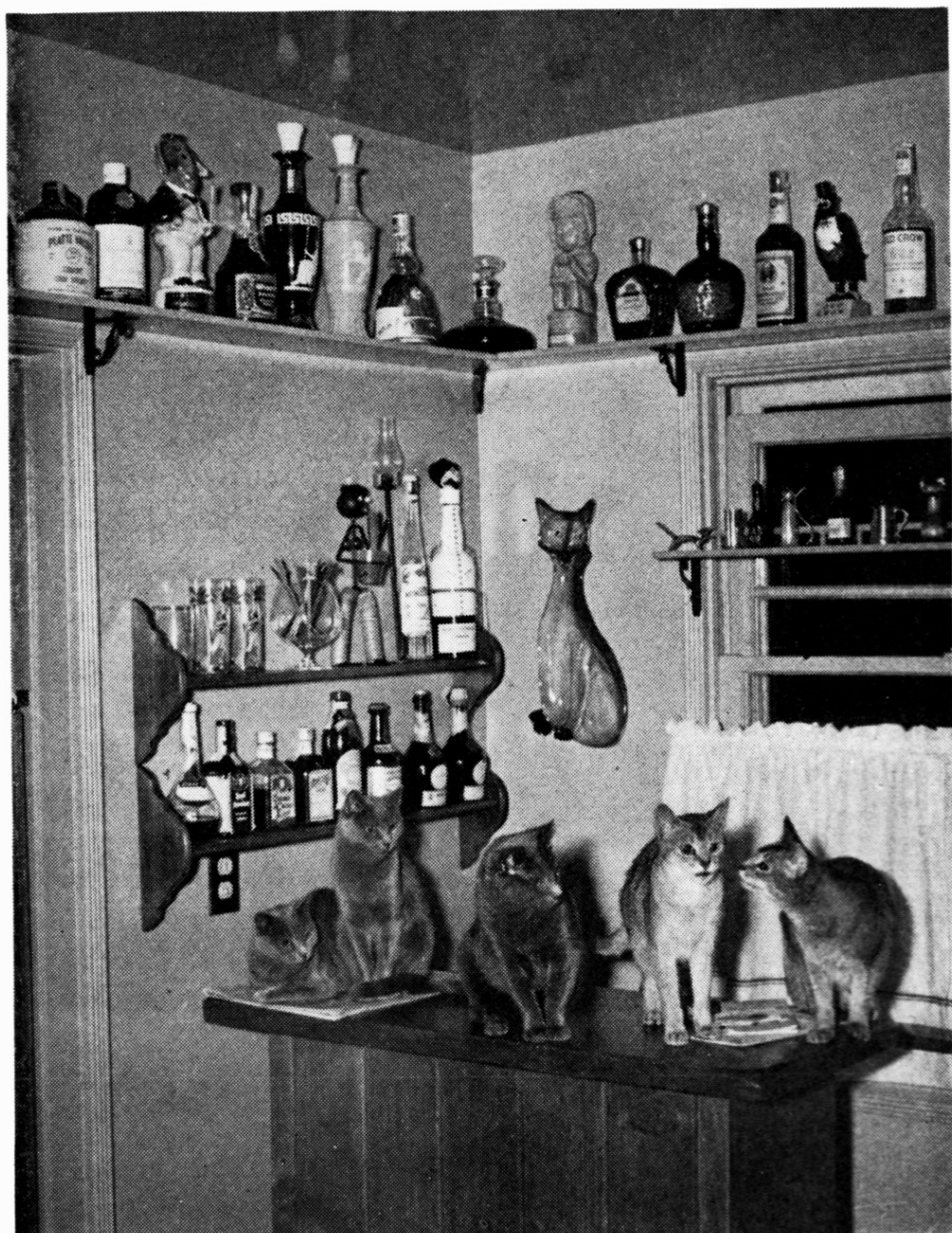
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## *From the Editor*

**W**HEN towards the end of last year I was compelled to take the unpleasant step of increasing our subscription rate to readers at home and overseas, I must confess that I was rather apprehensive as to the consequences. There was some small satisfaction to be gained from the fact that as the first three months of the year are far and away the busiest in our subscription department, the crucial testing time would be of short duration ! So it is with special pleasure and not a little relief that I am already able to report that the new conditions have been accepted with few exceptions. The responses have been quite remarkable and wholly encouraging for the future of OUR CATS. Please accept my best thanks for the incentive you have given me.

I hope very soon—probably commencing with the March issue—to ensure regular publication at an earlier date. The 20th of each month is my target. Next month's issue by the way will carry some interesting features, notably Phyllis Lauder's article on the Rex curly-coated cat and Dorothy Winsor's article on the New Abyssinians. Joan Thompson's popular "Just Fancy" will be restored with this issue and I should explain that indisposition of our diarist was the sorry cause of its absence from this month's issue.

A small batch of envelopes which became mislaid when the November 1961 issue was distributed has suddenly come to light. Copies are now being sent out and I hope the recipients will accept my apologies for the oversight which has caused such a long delay. Subscribers will be rendering a service if whenever they find their copy has not arrived they will notify us on a postcard.



### A BIRTHDAY OCCASION

Our picture was taken in the home of Sherman and Maxine Arps in Encino, California, U.S.A., for the occasion of the tenth birthday of one of their Russian Blues. The cake was made of chopped liver, kidney, mutton and beef and was frozen in two layers. As it thawed out the cats were allowed to begin their birthday feast, the lighted candles having first been removed. Mr. and Mrs. Arps are perhaps best known in America for the quality of their "Shermax" Abyssinians and the Aby. lady on the right is Abigail of Shermax, Grand Champion and All-American Abyssinian Female in 1957, 1958 and 1959. Perhaps we should explain, in case the picture helps to spread a wrong impression, that the Arps are collectors of unusual liquor bottles as a hobby!



## **Mr Wu and his 1,000 cats**

**S**IXTY-YEAR-OLD Wu Long is a Hong Kong beggar with a difference. Although he begs for titbits, the food he obtains is not for himself.

It is for the 40 stray cats he looks after in his little makeshift tent in Shek Kip Mei Street.

There the old man lives with his cats—fat cats, thin cats, emaciated cats, big cats, small cats, ugly cats, beautiful cats. In fact it is a hotch-potch selection of Hong Kong's feline fraternity.

His tent is small and is backed against the compound of a comparatively modern building. In terms of size, it is roughly ten feet by five. Roofed with a

large piece of cardboard, it is "weatherproofed" with sacks, mats and worn clothes.

In this, old Mr. Wu sleeps on a plank supported by four foot stools. Besides this, piled up on one another, are wooden boxes for his companions.

### **A thousand cats**

One would never believe that within this almost uninhabitable abode the old man has lived for three years in the company of well over a thousand cats.

They were the cats that nobody wanted and were left in the streets to die. He collected them from gutters where some were



*South China Sunday Post-Herald*

**Wu Long with some of his charges — "a hotch potch selection of Hong Kong's feline fraternity."**

panting their last breaths in hunger and sickness; or he snatched them away while they were trying to steal food from the cooked food stalls in the back alleys of Shek Kip Mei.

But he brought them all home, and fed them with what little he could beg from people. The surprising fact is that they all survived, lived contentedly with the old man, and were then adopted by those who would care to have them.

### **Beaming face**

Evidently, the old man is as happy as they are. His careworn and moustached face beamed while he talked about them—and himself.

He came to Hong Kong from a nondescript town in mainland China, shortly after the Sino-Japanese war. He earned his living by working as a manual labourer, for he was younger then.

But, one day three years ago he lost his job and could not find another because of his senility. He went begging. He was hungry. Then someone brought him to a charitable organization and he was given five catties of rice. (A catty 1 lb. 5 oz.)

He walked home with the

godsend. He chanced to see a dying cat by the road side. He brought it home and exchanged one of the five catties of rice for a can of milk for the cat.

The cat revived under his kindly care and from that day on, he has been virtually living with cats.

### **Good neighbours**

The neighbours came to know about this and they brought him remnants from their dinner table and some even asked him for the cats by paying him a small amount in compensation.

One night, a European police officer on patrol heard a staccato of "miaows" in the tent. He became suspicious and peeped into old Mr. Wu's home. "He was very much surprised when he saw the cats were sleeping with me," Mr. Wu said. "He whistled and went away." And since then, he said, he has never been troubled by any policeman. "I think they understand," he continued. "I don't call my cats any particular names—just 'miaow' and 'tangi'." Even as he spoke, two black cats and three brown cats came up to him and nestled in his lap. And the old man smiled.

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*Editor's Note:* **This remarkable story and the illustration which accompanies it appear through the kind co-operation of the South China Morning Post Ltd. They were first published in the "South China Sunday Post-Herald" in July last year. I would surmise that some of our readers will be moved by the story and feel anxious to help the humble old man and the wonderful efforts he is making to sustain the feline unwanteds in the teeming city of Hong Kong. The postman doesn't call on Mr. Wu but letters and donations may be addressed to him c/o South China Morning Post Ltd., Morning Post Building, Hong Kong. Any currency may be sent as it can be converted into Hong Kong dollars before it is passed on to Mr. Wu. This arrangement has been made possible through the kindness of Mr. T. G. N. Pearce, Managing Director of the newspaper company.**



# *“I would like to talk about my cats”*

By PETER BLACK, television critic of the “Daily Mail”.

FROM the squalid troubles of television let's turn to cats, easily my favourite animal.

I owe an apology, anyway, for an injury I may have done them by suggesting in print, not once but many times, that cats ought not to be tampered with but should be allowed full scope to the ardent fertility of their temperaments.

Now I'm not so sure that on balance the cat benefits.

I have had Oscar and Alice since the spring of 1952. A wiry tortoiseshell with vaguely Siamese characteristics, Alice had 42 kittens in seven years. Most of them could have been Oscar's, and the old fool never doubted it.

On the other hand, so could the kittens of three other females who lived within a quarter of an hour's walk, though they could just as easily have been fathered by Bob-tailed Bob, Tibbles, or Son of Tibbles.

It was a great life for Alice, caught up twice a year in so exciting and fruitful a dance. For Oscar the penalties were frequent savage fights and damage from exposure.

By the time he was seven he'd lost his two front tearing teeth, had a chipped ear and a permanent cold and suffered terribly from nerves. Even in his home surroundings he would take off at the slightest unfamiliar sound, even when made by a familiar shape, such as myself in Wellingtons.

This was the situation until a year ago. Then Alice had trouble

with her autumn litter and the vet recommended that she should give up. A similar renunciation was made on behalf of Oscar.

I was greatly concerned about the effect of the operation on two mature cats. In the event the poor old things did so well that they changed my opinion about the merits of cat control by these means.

Alice, though still basically wiry, put on enough flesh to bury her rib cage. She grew younger, healthier, better looking, like the poor woman in one of Shaw's plays who, prematurely aged by childbearing, was rejuvenated after her husband had fallen under a bus one Saturday night.

Her self-confidence, fastidiousness, and conceit, are as strong and exasperating as they ever were.

**Oscar took longer to come round. Although the vet denies that cats suffer psychologically from such a tampering I don't see how he can be so damned sure.**

Bodily he is as hard and heavy as one of those cast-iron cats that some households use to hold open doors. But it is in his temperament that we see the greatest change. He has become blandly, dotingly affectionate. From being an exhibitionist with a strong dash of the comedian he is now a ruminant.

He spends a lot of time in the kitchen, on a chair facing the door to the garden or on the floor next to the cooker. A good deal of the day he sleeps, but for long periods

he sits and stares, abstracted by thoughts of who knows what.

There is a sad amount of cruelty to cats in Britain, a good deal of it well meaning, stemming from sentimental imagination more than from viciousness. It's a great mistake for humans—and here I speak in my other identity as an honorary horse—to suppose that animals want what *they* want, and fear what *they* fear.

Both these cats contradict the superstition that the abridgment “spoils” a cat's nature. They are indubitably as they were, but

tranquillised; no pair of its, but still he and she.

**It's fair, I think, to end on a quote from Mr. W. P. Hurst, chief administration officer to the P.D.S.A.**

“Every year more kittens are born in the U.K. than there are homes for. When the spring litters develop, literally thousands of kittens are brought to us.

“Our advice is that all cats should be neutered at about four months old unless an owner really wants a lot of kittens or has some other special reason for wishing to breed”.

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## FRONT PAGE STORY

By KAY D. GLANVILLE

A JOURNALIST must be prepared for anything. Certainly, many assignments are interesting and the life is full of variety. But there is no avoiding the dull, the routine, the irritating job; these are accepted, and one goes cheerfully enough to the garden party or the council meeting in the hope that something unusual will be in the diary tomorrow.

I was therefore not unduly depressed as I walked into the small shop. It was full of furniture and carpets, and from behind a wardrobe came a bespectacled middle-aged man to whom I explained my errand. I had come to see the new extension behind the shop and the basement, which had been converted from a damp cellar into a lofty showroom with controlled temperature. He ushered me into the small but cheerful living-room which served as an office for the owner, Miss Dawson. As I sipped coffee and listened to her ideas and plans, I watched a black cat licking her paws on the hearthrug.

Then it was time for Miss Dawson to show me around the store, which, as it happened, was full of pleasant surprises in the way of decor and quality of fittings. On our return to the office, we were met by the cat, a distinguished looking animal with thick black fur, glossy after the ablutions.

### Tracing back

Then I asked the first casual question. “How old is she, Miss Dawson?” “As a matter of fact, my dear, she is 26 years old”. Miss Dawson was highly amused by my astonishment, and really laughed when my reporter's instinct made me ask, “Are you sure?”

She went to a writing desk, and pulled out family albums and old letters, and together we traced the life of that extraordinary cat. I was told of the days during the war, when they had sheltered together under the table whenever the siren warned of enemy aircraft; friends had

*(concluded on page 14)*



# THE PENANG CATTERY STORY

By H. P. T. NASH

SOME 38 years ago I first went to live in Borneo and Malaya on business. It also included what we called Siam but what is now known as Thailand, and I conceived a liking for the oddly coloured cats found there.

My memory in England goes back to the Prestwick cats of which we had several prior to 1939—the days of the squint and kink, and so you will see, Mrs. Nash and I have been “in” Siamese cats for well over twenty years although the Penang Cattery is only five years old. Mrs. Nash visited Malaya several times with me and as we have happy memories of Penang, Mrs. Nash decided to name the cattery after that lovely island.

The war put an end to my activities in cats. I came out of the Army in 1945 and returned to the East in 1946. We settled in Cape Town in 1950.

## English foundations

We both felt that the time had come to have Siamese again, but although we looked locally we found nothing to measure up to our standards. Eventually I wrote to England and arranged for a pair to be purchased for me, and gave a specification—based on my personal knowledge—of what the cats had to be and have. It took nearly two years to fill the order and the outcome in 1957 was the arrival of lovely incomparable Anya and her wonderful mate Bradgate.

Anya's seven firsts in England—she was never beaten—and 28 trophies in South Africa are her record to date. They include the trophies for “The Best Adult Siamese on Show”—the Kintyre, Fairlawns and Eileen Orpen Cups for the Western Province, Natal and Rand Cat Clubs respectively (she is so far as I know, the only cat ever to do

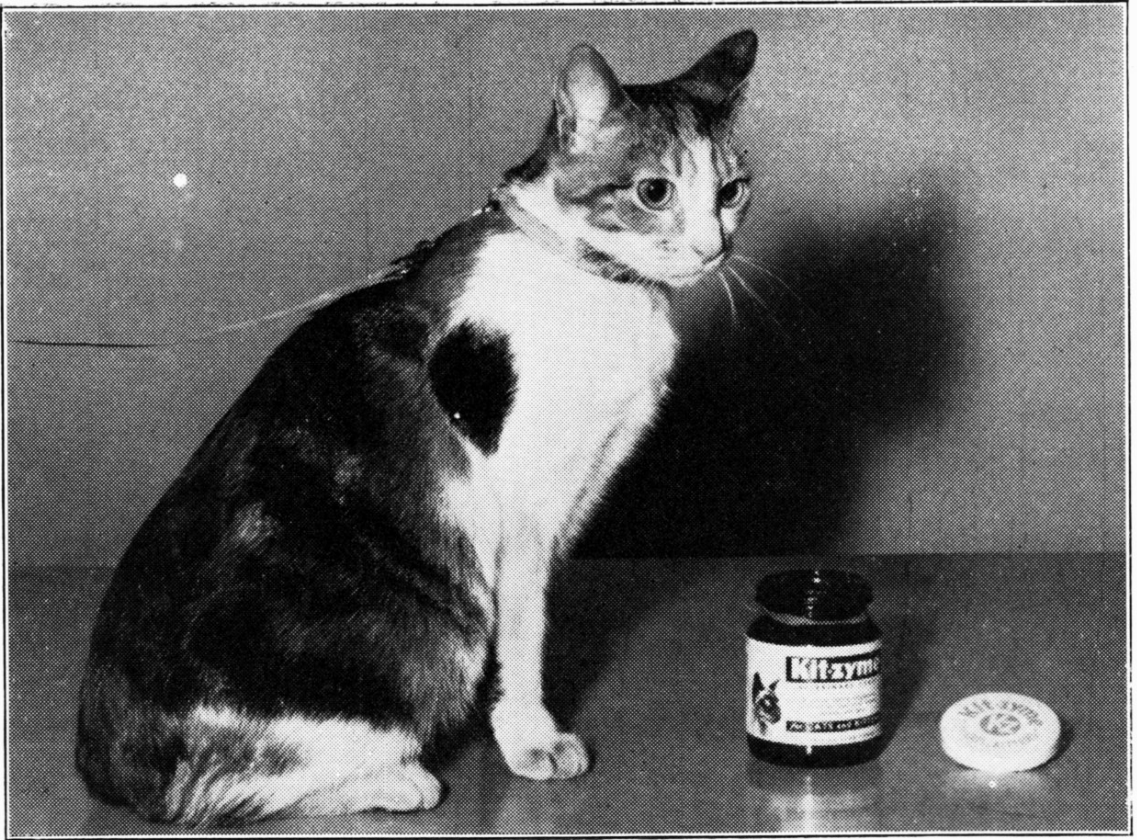
this); “Best Cat on Show” twice; four Challenge Certificates and two Grand Challenge Certificates. As I write this, standing on the desk in front of me are the four cups won by her in the last show. . . .

Turning to Bradgate—or to give him his real name: Penang Bradgate Sherry—he is not a show cat; he hates shows! His record is short and sweet: First National Championships London 1956 and Challenge Certificate W.P.C.C. 1957. His great forte is siring winning kittens. In 21 classes he had 16 winners, 4 seconds and one loser. He is king here in Cape Town and I believe his son Penang Sia Punyah is king in Johannesburg (he has no progeny in Durban). . . .

## Malay names

Every kitten we sell (and we sell *all* and keep none back) is given a Malay name which has some connection either with a trait of the cat itself or the new owner. For example, Penang Rimau means “tiger”, because he was the tiger of the litter (he was also “Best Kitten on Show”); Penang Mem meaning “Lady”, because she was so well behaved (also “Best Kitten on Show”); Penang Kasi meaning “gift”, because Mrs. de Villiers purchased her as a gift for her husband; Penang Lapar meaning “hungry”, because he was always feeding; Penang Sia Punyah meaning “mine—to own”, because Mrs. Nash meant to keep him for stud but Mrs. Emery of Johannesburg persuaded her to sell him to her for stud. These are examples, but all the names have a meaning. . . .

[Reprinted with due acknowledgements to the author and publishers of “Cats Calling”, the magazine of the Western Province Cat Club, South Africa.]



# Dixie

**M**ISS W. CARTWRIGHT of 676 Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, Yorkshire, writes:—

*“ I find Kit-zyme an excellent conditioner for my cat, Dixie. She treats the Tablets as sweets and since having them her coat has become glossy and her eyes are really beautiful.*

*“ I am extremely proud of Dixie and you certainly have a right to be proud of Kit-zyme. I have tried several other conditioners but nothing compares with your tablets. I am really grateful for Kit-zyme and sincerely recommend it to anyone.”*

*Kit-zyme will benefit your cat too*

IT IS A NATURAL TONIC AND CONDITIONER

# Kit-zyme

**VITAMIN  
-RICH!**

## YEAST TABLETS

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**PHILLIPS YEAST PRODUCTS LTD., Park Royal, London, N.W.10**

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# *Looking at the breeds*

## **No. 9 — BLUE BURMESE**

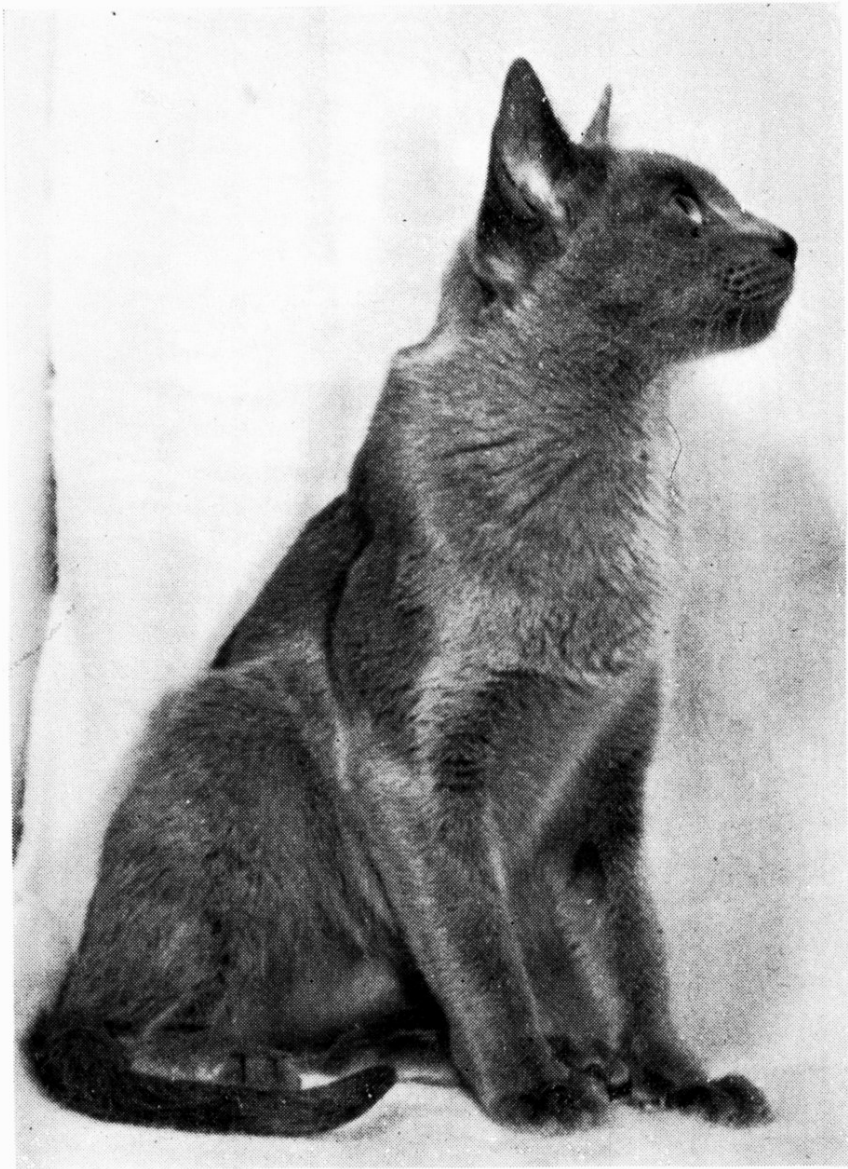
By HUGH SMITH

**T**HE human urge to produce something new is never-ending. Mercifully, the cat world has been spared the spate of monstrous distortions of form which has emerged in the dog world. Experimental cat breeders have in the main, so far (and long may it remain so !) only succeeded in producing

variants of colour and coat texture, without interfering with the exquisite grace of feline form.

They have nevertheless come perilously close in shortening the face of some of the Longhair breeds to producing the kind of distortion that afflicts the bulldog breed !

A blue Burmese was perhaps inevitable



*Hugh Smith*

**Mrs. Shirley Wallington's ARBOREAL BLUE PANDORA, a Blue Burmese female bred by Mrs. Dyte from Lamont Patrick ex Pussinboots Blue Squirrel.**

and is now recognized by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy. I personally could have been well content with that beautiful sleek and glossy deep brown coat of the original Burmese, indulging my fancy for foreign blue with the Russian breed. Nevertheless, the Blue Burmese is a truly beautiful cat and should be assured of a secure future.

## Standard of Points

The Governing Council has published a Standard of Points for this breed.

*Body Colour:* The body colour of the adult should be predominantly bluish grey, darker on back, the overall effect being a warm colour with a silver sheen to the coat. The tail with the same colour as the back, no white or tabby markings. Ears, mask and feet shading to silver grey. Kittens lighter in colour.

*Body Shape and Tail:* The body should be medium in size, dainty, long and svelte. Neck long and slender, legs proportionately slim, hind legs slightly higher than front, feet small and oval in shape. Tail long and tapering to a point. A slight kink at extreme tip only is permissible.

*Head and Ears:* Head, short wedge with slight rounding on top. Ears pricked, relatively large and wide at base.

*Eyes:* Yellowish green. Almond in shape and slanting towards the nose in true Oriental fashion. Blue eyes and squints inadmissible.

*Coat:* Fine, glossy, short and lying close to the body.

*Condition:* Excellent physical condition, not fat, inclined to muscle.

*Note:* It is recommended that only cats of true Burmese parentage should be eligible for Championship status.

### Scale of Points

Body Colour	...	25
Body Shape and		
Tail	... ..	25
Head and Ears	...	15
Eyes	... ..	15
Coat	... ..	10
Condition	... ..	10
		100

The Blue Burmese arrived when it was found that a Brown imported into the U.S.A. carried a factor for dilution of the blue colour. When the cat was mated with one of her offspring, the all-over blue body colour resulted and bred true.

## Need for outcrosses

A word of warning may, however, be necessary. Since all the blue in the Blue Burmese derives from one cat, it would be unwise to breed blue to blue indefinitely. Sooner or later, and preferably sooner, outcrossing must be resorted to. For, not only is the blue recessive handed on but all such undesirable as well as desirable traits as were contained in the original strain.

The Blue Burmese bears all the desirable attributes of temperament of the Brown ancestor. It is gentle, lively and affectionate.

The Hon. Secretary of the Club is Mrs. Somers, Two Chimneys, Manor Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.







## “ ANNELIDA LILAC ZEPHIRE OF SICAT ”

affectionately called “LIMEY” in his new home, won his first Blue Ribbon at his show debut in December last. At the February Championship Show of the great Miami Florida Cat Fanciers’ Club he was BEST KITTEN in the Shorthair Show and BEST SIAMESE KITTEN in the All Breed Show.

**A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!**

to all the British Cat Fancy from

**SAM AND LILY SCHEER and the SICAT’S OF GABLES**

**1020 Mariposa Avenue, Coral Gables, 46, Fla., U.S.A.**



This was the scene at London Airport when “LIMEY” (in the arms of a stewardess) said goodbye to England to join us at Coral Gables. Also in the picture is his mother Phoca Violet (Lilac Point) and breeder Mrs. Alison E. Ashford who did so much to ensure a safe and comfortable trip for “Limey”, who to us is like a breath of dear old England. There is an old adage in America: “You can take the boy from the country, but you can’t take the country from the boy”. That’s how we feel about “Limey”.



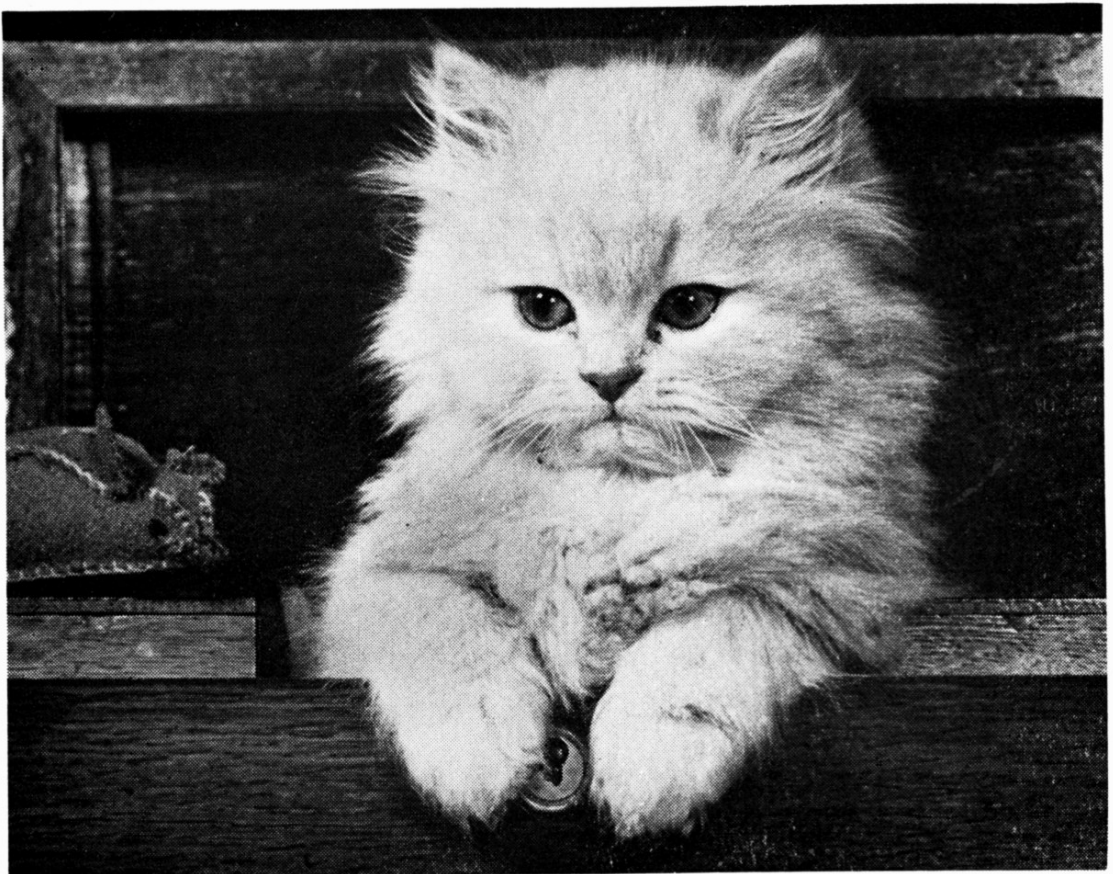
*(The above page advertisement was unavoidably omitted from our New Year Greetings Number last month.)*

Coming  
up for  
Tibs  
time

The kitten in the casket knows a thing or two. He's one of the Bournside Longhairs bred by Mrs. E. G. Aitken of Banstead, Surrey. As the up-and-coming kitten in a famous cattery, he inherits a great tradition—a tradition that includes daily Tibs.

Bournside cats are noted for their intelligence and sweet dispositions. They are healthy and happy and full of life. And they all love their Tibs. Which is just as well, because Mrs. Aitken knows they need those vitamins and minerals that a Tibs tablet every day adds to their diet.

Mrs. Aitken has used Tibs regularly ever since they were first introduced. They're as important for developing the full potential of a winning strain from generation to generation as for keeping a single kitten fit. Take a tip from Mrs. Aitken—give your cats Tibs daily.



**TIBS**

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



# ***Wanted! Close season for breeding***

Says P. M. SODERBERG

*(Reprinted from our January 1953 issue)*

I AM always surprised around Christmas and the New Year to hear of many kittens for sale, but not in the least surprised that the breeders find the task of economic disposal more than a little difficult.

Theoretically, I suppose, it is ideal to have a nice litter of kittens just ready to be bought as Christmas presents, for at that time one could expect a good price. Indeed, the facts are very different, for the majority who hope to make something by catching this seasonal trade are doomed to disappointment.

The basic fact at present is that kittens of all breeds are difficult to sell at remunerative prices, and it is no joke having to keep a litter until the kittens are four months old. Feeding costs are high, and, although the well-known breeders will always sell their best kittens profitably, the breeders in general are not well-known and really good kittens are few and far between.

## **One litter limit**

It is far wiser that the breeding of winter kittens should be abandoned by all and sundry, whether they are well known breeders or the veriest novices. Such a policy would be better for the Fancy in general, better for breeders in particular and certainly much more natural for the queens as well as the kittens. It takes more than a little skill on the part of any breeder to rear kittens of size and stamina during the winter months.

Domestication may mean that some queens are capable of breeding at any time during the year, but it is open to doubt whether that ability is a good thing. Happily there are many males whose enthusiasm for the opposite sex is at a low ebb during winter.

No breeder of sound sense ever thinks of allowing a queen more than two litters during the twelve months, and on the whole I am inclined to believe that the best queens from the point of view of progeny are those which are limited to only one litter each year. There may be Siamese queens which will present a difficult problem if restricted in this way, and the breeder made distraught by the continuous calling may in self defence permit an extra litter against his better judgment.

Siamese are, however, a law unto themselves, but few of the Longhaired breeds ever seem really troubled by the desire for a family. Fertility is not what it was, and it is even possible that it might improve over a generation or two if litters were kept down to just one a year. Thus, let there be a close season for the breeding of cats. It would not be a bad idea if the last date for mating did not go beyond the end of May.

It may be argued, of course, that the pedigree cat we know has progressed a long way from its natural state, so much so, in fact, that even the period of gestation may have extended from somewhere round about fifty-seven days to the now normal sixty-three to sixty-five. There is not much validity in such an argument, however, for not all the changes which have taken place during the past seventy or eighty years have been for good. There is no need to enumerate the advantages and the disadvantages which have resulted from breeding methods and practices during that period, but I shall no doubt return to them in more detail at some later date.

From the point of view of the kittens and the novices who will later own them, there is no shadow of a doubt as to the best time for such kittens to be born, and conversely there can be small disagreements as to when they should not be born.

Speaking quite personally, I am in favour of kittens which are reared out of doors. I should never want to buy any kitten which had not enjoyed free access to fresh air and sunshine, and I should not worry about a few gusts of wind and rain as an accompaniment to the process of growing up. It is by no means everyone who will agree with this attitude, but there it is.

I want sturdy kittens which do not wilt at the least provocation, and to achieve this condition they must be really tough. They must not develop diarrhoea at the slightest variation in diet, nor should they start to snuffle within an hour or two of a slight east wind blowing on them.

### **Hothouse reared**

No, if we face it squarely, spring time is kitten time and by winter the kitten should have become a sturdy youngster and have almost reached the state of being a young adult.

If winter kittens are reared out of doors, most breeders would feel that artificial heat was essential. If satisfactory growth was to be maintained, they might be right, but I want no kittens reared in the atmosphere of the hothouse. The variations in temperature which out-door kittens experience in spring and early summer are good for them; they help to harden them off without subjecting them to the much more extreme temperatures of winter. Then outdoor

rearing might well mean the survival of the fittest. There is something to be said for that from the point of view of sheer toughness, but a pedigree cat which is often an exhibition cat needs more than that to be acceptable to most buyers.

### **Sunshine for kittens**

Sunshine is of great value in the rearing of kittens. Not so much perhaps because of the ultra-violet rays which reach the skin; few of them do, but all kittens love sunshine and in its genial warmth take the exercise they need for growth and appetite. When they are tired they just stretch out and bask in it.

Satisfactory growth and development depends very much upon activity which the kitten only displays during the hours of daylight. At the back end of the year daylight is short and the kittens spend much of their time huddled together.

There is just one other point and then I am finished. I like to breed from queens when they are in full coat. Moulting is a perfectly normal function, but to grow a full coat of hair must take something from a queen which would otherwise go to her kittens. With an early litter, most queens are still in full coat although they will probably moult as soon as the family is weaned.

Yes, spring time is kitten time, and it is far better not to indulge in breeding during the dull, short days of winter. Don't you agree ?

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### **FRONT PAGE STORY (concluded from page 6)**

left the town or breathed their last, but Miss Dawson assured me "My best friend is still with me, and in the best of health, thank you". She told me that she stopped counting kittens after 250 had been reached; it seemed that most of the feline population of the town were born in that furniture shop !

I thanked Miss Dawson, stroked her friend, and dashed back to the office. Dutifully, I typed out a good description

of the shop, giving full credit to Miss Dawson's initiative. Then without further delay, I telephoned the photographer, who dashed down to meet the oldest cat in town—possibly in Yorkshire. (I heard later that she proved to be an excellent sitter, slightly condescending, but quite affable).

And so it was that an ordinary routine assignment led me to a remarkable cat—and a front page story.

# ***Black and white colour sketch***

By SALLY KELHAM

**S**OFTLY she glides on velvet slippered silence; through a world of dew-drenched dampness into night. Fingers of moonlight caress her silken brow, and her eyes, twin guiding embers, direct her away from the safety of the lighted window into a dream world.

Behind the torch of her perception an unknown tinder awaits the moment to kindle a flame. And the stars above wink knowingly. Slowly, silently she crosses the gravel path, unaware of the lunar glow on her virgin-white coat. Across the lawn, she moves under the pear tree where the half formed fruit huddles in the darkness ready to swell with tomorrow's sun. From the branches a restless bird cheeps sleepily.

Through the rose bed, beyond the kitchen garden, she pauses, considering her course. On her left is the aged oak tree, and from her right comes the sound of the gurgling river; ahead, the tall grasses of the jungle, the neglected fringe of the garden. Overhead the shrill police whistle of an owl pierces the silence, warning curfew of the nocturnal law. And through the branches of the oak a gentle breeze whispers,

“On, on.”

But still she hesitates, and the night smells assail her senses; herbs, lavender that borders the path, and the sweet, heady scent of roses. A pigeon coos from the nearby copse. There is smoke from the smouldering bonfire and a musty odour from the compost heap close by. The smoke is a friendly smell.

Earlier in the day she had basked languorously in the sun and watched as the gardener prodded with his fork and the damp mound of refuse burst sparking into flame. Then she had rolled in a resilient bed of pinks.

Turning her head to one side she breathes in the tangy mud smell from the river, and suddenly she tenses. Deep down within her something stirs; a river memory, long forgotten, but the fear remains.

As she stands there, apprehensive, puzzled, uncertain of action, the instincts of a million years dart through her. All at once fear lashes; she leaps before the whip, straight ahead through the weeds and grasses to the bridge beyond. The owl is there before her.

“Beware, beware,” hoots the night bird.

She raises her dainty chin towards the source of the sound and the owl swoops to its victim, imprisoning the field mouse inside the dark cell of its throat. And the wind whispers, urgently now,

“On, on.”

## **Towards her destiny**

Cautiously she moves a few paces on to the narrow bridge, then pausing: glances downward on the dark face of the water where the river claps against the timbers of the bridge; applause to the spectacle of life. Encouraged she moves on; halfway across the rotting structure she pauses again, slender body silhouetted against the sky. Suddenly something is sparked off within her, and the wind fans a small flame.

Now she is over the bridge, running up the far bank towards the thicket,



moving by compulsion towards her destiny, drawn by a law of attraction as strong as gravity, and as unalterable. The leaves rustle menacingly.

“Now there is no escape, you are a prisoner of night, chained by the law.”

She stops as a sound from the undergrowth warns her. Motionless, alert, shoulders hunched a little she is about to draw back, but she cannot turn away as her fate confronts her. A small, stifled moan forces up through her throat and escapes into the darkness. She quivers, breathing fast, but she does not attempt to escape: she accepts the force she is powerless to reject, for this is the present. The future does not exist, for she cannot look ahead.

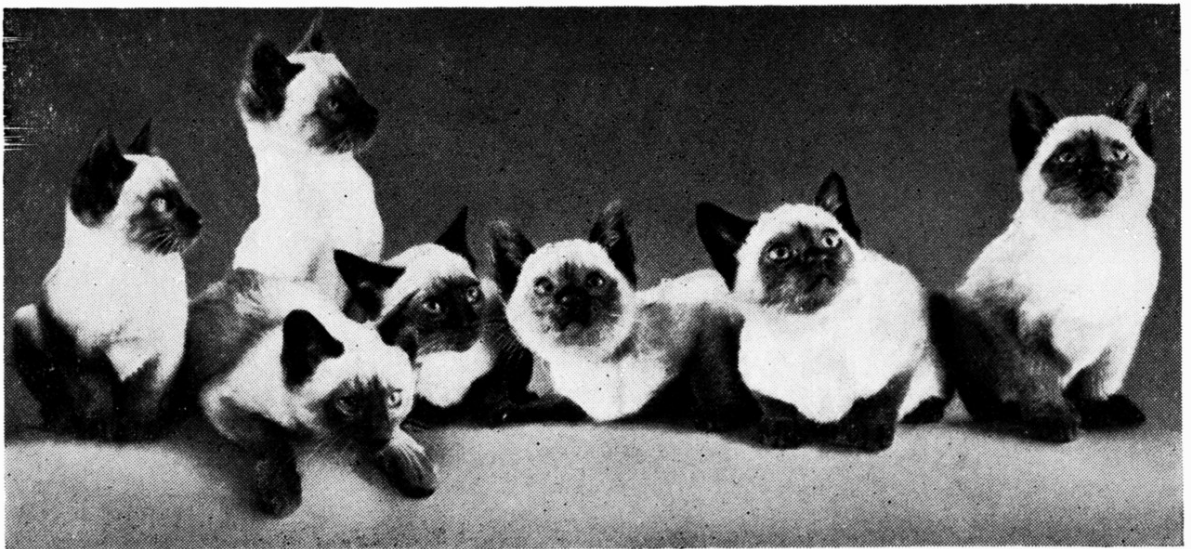
As time pursues her unremitting quest the chorus of bird-song becomes a harmony to late summer days in the leaf-laden boughs of the pear tree and the oak. The gardener reaps a harvest of fruit and flowers from the seed he planted

in the spring. Now he has cleared the tall grasses from the bottom of the garden. And the river smiles at the ever-recurring miracle of life, from the growing seed to the harvest.

And on the doorstep of the river-side cottage, the black cat stretches, licks his sleek coat, then moves towards the saucer of milk placed there by a benevolent hand. He laps greedily, stretches again, then flops once more on to the hot stone to luxuriate in further slumber.

But beneath the pear tree, in a bed of moss, the virgin whiteness of Mitsi is soiled by the first falling leaf. She too lies in the late August sunshine. She is unaware that the sightless balls of black and white fur beside her are in any way connected with the black cat of the riverside cottage.

But she is content, as all are content where the fever of reasoning is not. And the river smiles its inimitable smile, as rivers do, until they melt into the sea.



*How many of them will you rear?*

Normally — all of them. But suppose just *one* of your cats contracted Feline Infectious Enteritis? You might lose the lot in a few days.

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# Tailpieces

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



**T**HE exemption show originally planned by the Surrey and Sussex Cat Association as a February fixture did not take place. Instead, it is hoped to hold the show at Worthing in August.

A young visitor to Cruft's Dog Show this month was proudly wearing a badge embroidered with the words "I prefer cats". And so say all of us!

"Few people realize that cats are just as good house-guards as dogs. Their keen sight and hearing make them aware of intruders at once and they can growl to rouse attention at a stranger. My own cat prevented a housebreaker by tapping me awake in time to stop his entry by a half-forced window."—Mrs. H. Smeeton, of N. Ireland, in a letter to a London newspaper.

A note from Mrs. M. Finch, who has been engaged in Red Point Siamese breeding in New South Wales, Australia, over the past few years, mentions that a kitten recently registered by the Royal Agricultural Society for Mrs. Stockley, breeder of Linley Siamese in Sydney, was given the name of "Linley Armstrong-Jones". It is also interesting to note that Mrs. Finch has produced a Shorthair Blue sport in the process of her Red Point experimental breeding.

And here's a short letter received from Mrs. M. Hewitt, of Radlett, Herts: "I have a cat who eats raw potato peelings, mushroom peel, raw

cauliflower and cabbage. She has the usual proprietary brands of tinned cat food, also boiled fish and raw and cooked meat. Is she trying to get some vitamins necessary for her diet or is she just peculiar?"

Details have just reached me of a nice idea which is being developed with considerable success in America. "Pet Pride" is the title given to a non-profit, humane foundation organized for the benefit of pedigreed cats and other dependent animals. It seeks to encourage breeders to provide better housing conditions and to promote higher standards of care and management. It will help novices to get a good start and promote an informative programme on the care of cats generally. The Board of Governors of "Pet Pride" includes doctors, authors, attorneys, editors and judges. The Directors are a group of dedicated cat breeders who seek no personal status in the common cause. Any movement that fights ignorance, dirt, disease and neglect has the good wishes of this magazine.

There appear to have been conflicting reports concerning the animals left behind on the island when the inhabitants of Tristan da Cunha were evacuated after the volcanic eruption. One report with the weight of authority behind it referred to the cat population as being undomesticated and living wild as their predecessors have done for a hundred years. Now comes the astonishing news that when the Royal Society's

12-man expedition landed on the island they were welcomed by a black cat, *one of the abandoned pets* (The italics are Mickey's). The cat met the scientists and sailors on the beach, purring and rubbing itself against everyone in the landing party. The report continued to say that the cat, christened Volcano, was the only cat to survive the 120 days. Four dogs were seen.

Sally James, feature writer in a popular magazine, refers to "great drama in my house". Her cat Sam has learned how to open the refrigerator and help himself to what he fancies inside. Sally says she can't afford a new 'fridge with a cat-proof handle and tying a piece of rope round the one she has would be most inconvenient. There must be a solution, she concludes!

Peter Bennett, another newspaper correspondent, suggests that the idea

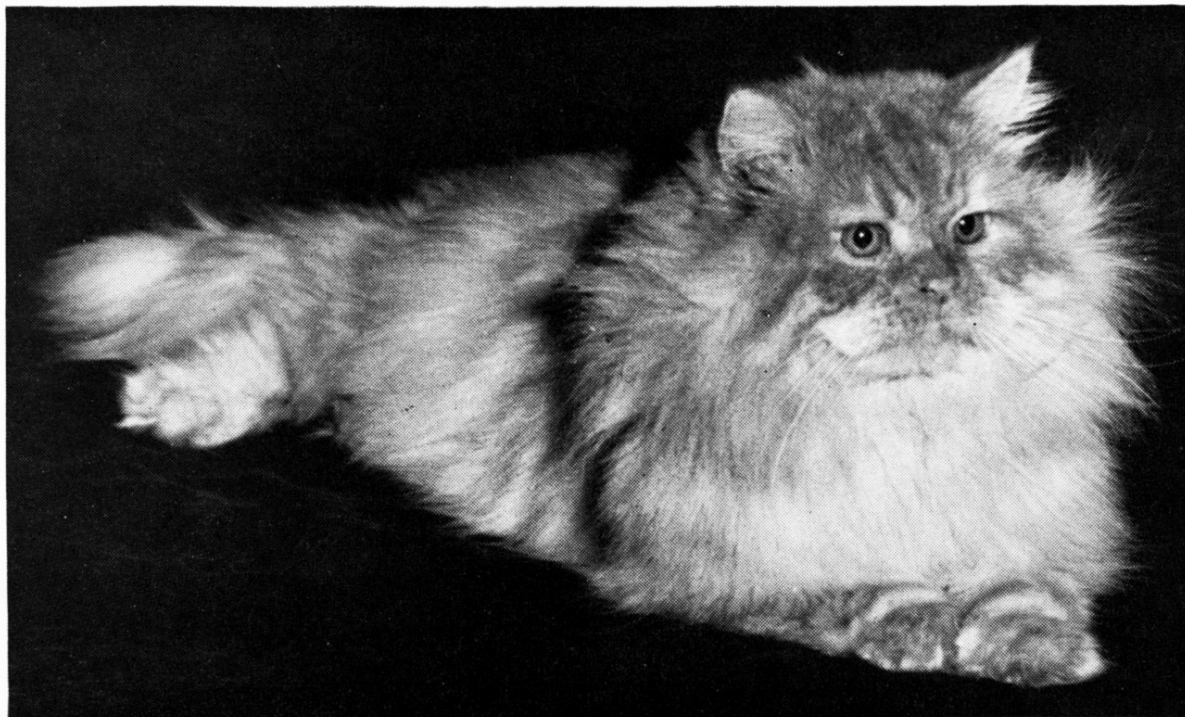
that you should never kill a mouse on a Sunday may have come originally from a piece of verse by Richard Brathwaite, published in 1638:

"To Banbury came I, O profane one,  
Where I saw a Puritane one,  
Hanging of his cat on Monday  
For killing a mouse on Sunday."

---

***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



*Clyde Powell*

**ROYAL MERIT GR. CH. FERGUS'S GINGER BEAR** is a magnificent 20 lb. Shaded Cameo male bred by Mr. A. D. Fergus, of Spokane, Washington, U.S.A. A winner of several major awards during the 1960/61 show season, Ginger Bear has helped substantially to widen the interest in this new and attractive variety which has won official recognition by the American associations. He was bred from H.M. Gr. Ch. Fergus's Prince Juba (a Black Smoke) ex Chatami Babette of Fergus's (a Blue Cream).





**These two outstanding examples of the photographic art of Serafino were taken of exhibits at the November Show of the Cercle Félin de Paris. (Top) Madame Thiébault's Chinchilla CH. IRWIN DU GWEN-RAN invites his pigeon friend Phi-Phi to promenade with him in the Champs-Elysées. (Lower) Madame Jacques Noël's INT. CH. ETINCELLE poses prettily against the background of a Seine bridge.**

## News from "Down Under"

**H**ULLO, everybody! My, how the time does fly. In no time at all it will be Easter again. We saw the lovely pictures of England's White Christmas. As regards weather, we have had it in the neck for some time now. When I was a boy we could count on four distinct seasons a year. Now we often get the four seasons in one day—drought, floods, the lot!

**South Australia.** The *Newsletter* for January is full of information and good advice. I quote from paragraph three: "I guess everyone sees the Queen as a Corgi lover only, but she once had a Siamese kitten. Personally, we have never seen any reference to the Royal Family and cats." I advise Tom to ask Jerry to turn up OUR CATS for October, 1953, the cover of which shows the Queen (then a Princess) with the proudest puss that ever trod. It's charming, as are the pictures inside the cover.

Th Adelaide Royal Show will stage a second cat section at their September agricultural fixture and a local judge has been invited.

**Victoria.** I would like to add my congratulations to those of the President of the Melbourne Siamese Cat Club when hon. life membership was conferred on that hardworking Secretary, Laurie Wilson, for services rendered over the last three years. I have received no advice either way but I was concerned to read in the papers a short while back that a David Chandler had suffered injuries, including a broken arm, when fighting bush fires near Melbourne. Clyde and Beryl Chandler have a son David. There are many in the cat world

who would wish me to convey sympathy in case it was *their* David.

Have just received schedule and entry form for the Annual Melbourne Moomba Festival which includes a cat section each year and is staged in the Alexandra Gardens, March 10th and 12th. Mr. L. Wilson is cat section manager and Mrs. N. B. Scott Secretary. The seven judges are Mrs. Matheson, Mr. Makra, Mrs. Welsh, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler and Mr. and Mrs. McDonald.

**New South Wales.** My copy of our local *Cats Digest* has come from editress Del Armit. We have not seen much of Del and hubby Keith lately. It's a pity the ticket writing team of Mrs. I. Paris and Mrs. Armit was broken up at the shows; they both were so efficient and obliging. The Siamese and Shorthaired Club has a judges training class running at present organized by Secretary Mrs. Meaney. Secretary Mullins of Southern Cross All Breeds Club has sent me a schedule for their kitten show in the early days of March at Chatswood, with five judges on the panel. Northern Feline Fanciers Club (Secretary Mrs. E. Cummings) also have a kitten show next month at Army Drill Hall, Manly. This is a new venue for a club which has done a lot to promote the common cause in all North side centres. Mrs. Hazel Taylor's lovely old "pensioner" queen Craigholme Hinemoa has given birth to two kits by Ch. Illawarra Candy Chief. As the queen is 12 years old it may be reasonable to think she needed nourishment, not punishment!

News from other centres is missing this month . . . but I still have hopes.

---

**If you know any cat lovers who are likely to be genuinely 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.**

# DIRECTORY OF LONGHAIR BREEDERS

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Sire of Ch. Lisblanc Azalea, Ch. Lisblanc  
Adonis and many other lovely cats.

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Chinchilla, Blue, Cream & Blue-Cream

At Stud: OWLEYCOMBE JESTER

Palest cream coat, lovely head and type, siring  
beautiful kittens. Fee 3 gns.

Strong healthy kittens, house reared and  
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Dams Beamsley's and Pensfords

Excelling in type, eye colour, coats and  
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All inoculated f.i.e.

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Kittens excelling in stamina, type and sweet temper-  
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All inoculated (f.i.e.)

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*Lovely kittens by above studs usually for sale*

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Beautiful Blue and Orange-eyed kittens. All  
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Red, Tortoiseshell, Black, Cream and Blue-Cream kittens, reared in ideal surroundings. Are loving, healthy and house-trained.

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Well known for their beauty and wonderful disposition. House reared kittens available to exceptional homes. Queens: Poldenhills Mikemas Daisy, P. Fleur de Lune, P. Ladybird, Fronie of Allington, Du Bu Prudence.

Up-to-date BOARDING CATTERY.

Cuisine a speciality. Inoculation a necessity.

Personal care of MRS. EMILIE F. M. POLDEN,  
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### Blue & Cream Persians

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**CHAMPION BRIARIC BEAUTY (Blue)**

Strong and healthy pedigree kittens sometimes for sale.

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## DEEP COPPER-RED TABBIES BRILLIANT TORTIES, BLACKS

Robust stock, house-reared and trained.

Brood queens: Ch. Bruton Perdita, Ch. Bruton Orange Flower, Ch. Barwell Garnet Princess.

At Stud: CH. BRUTON PEREGRINE

Winner Stud Class Kensington 1961

Fee £3.3.0 & carriage

MRS. N. ROSELL, 13 CELTIC AVENUE,  
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## THE WIDDINGTON CREAM LONGHAIRS

World famous for type, bold copper eyes and palest cream coats.

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Winner of ten Championships, four times Best in Show, exhibited only 14 times. Sire of Ch. Widdington Honeystar, Ch. Widdington Stardust and many other winners.

### CH. WIDDINGTON WINTERSET

Sire of Ch. Widdington Winterstar and many other cats winning highest world awards.

### CH. WIDDINGTON ORION

Enquiries for kittens and bookings for above Studs to:

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Tel. Clavering 266

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Blue, Cream & Blue-Cream kittens house-reared and trained.

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**CH. ASHDOWN NUTHATCH  
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The home of the lovely Colourpoints

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Sire of 1st Prize Litter Kensington Kitten Show 1960 and other winners.

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Fee for each 2½ gns. Strong, healthy country bred kittens sometimes for sale. All inoculated against f.i.e.

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ODIHAM RD., ALTON, HAMPSHIRE

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Prize winners every time shown

Queens: CH. BONAVIA FLORA  
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World famous for their quality, eye-colour and physique

MRS. JOAN THOMPSON has bred post-war 11 Blue Champions, 10 Cream Champions, 10 Blue-Cream Champions, many of them by her internationally famous male CH. FOXBURROW FRIVOLOUS, winner of 10 Challenge Certificates, 81 Firsts and the sire of 27 Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream Champions.

130 WICKHAM WAY, BECKENHAM, KENT (BEC. 6904)•

One of our readers, Mrs. G. Cousens, 35 Butts Road, Sholing, Southampton, is anxious to make a world-wide collection of cat and kitten photographs. Any odd, unwanted prints would be welcomed, preferably of postcard size and details should be recorded by the senders on a separate slip.

A case of some interest to cat breeders was opened recently in the Edinburgh Court of Session. A damages action was brought by the owners of a mink farm against a firm supplying poultry offal. It was claimed that the whole of their high-quality mink breeding stock was destroyed by stilboestrol poisoning in poultry offal bought from the defenders. Damages amounting to £47,000 were claimed and the action was expected to last two weeks. The mink stock had been built up over eight years and food had to be carefully chosen to ensure that it did not contain chemical substances containing female hormones which are used for caponizing chickens. When the mating season came round not one male mink showed inclination to mate. The defenders alleged that the condition of the mink was inconsistent with poisoning by stilboestrol from poultry offal and claimed that it was due to insufficient care, including improper feeding.

Some concern is being expressed in Parliament over the fact that neither air guns nor shot guns are subject to the rigid controls applicable to more lethal weapons. Reports from police forces throughout the country point to the conclusion that an increase in accidents is mainly attributable to the careless or malicious use of airguns by young people. Any moving creature seems to be an acceptable target for some youths.

Several R.S.P.C.A. inspectors have reported youths shooting at cats.

A very attractive "Pets Guide" was recently published as a supplement to the big circulation weekly journal *Woman's Own*. A child and kitten picture in colour occupied the prominent position on the front cover and there were several more kitten pictures in colour and monochrome among the inside pages. And cats were also given a fair ration of editorial space.

The January issue of *La Vie Feline* (Cat Club de Paris) carries a list of the International Champions for 1961 which includes the following English-bred cats: Startops Starduster (Cream Persian), Smoky Bob of Dunesk (Blue Persian), Melody of Pensford (Blue Persian), Rangoon Blue Safir (Blue Point Siamese), Startops Thais (Cream Persian), Briarry Hester (Blue Point Colourpoint), Amaska Blue Masque (Blue Point Colourpoint) and Doneraile Lilac Marcella (Lilac Pointed Siamese).

By the death of Mrs. V. E. Major in Bexhill Hospital last month this magazine has lost a valued friend and supporter. She was an amateur photographer of considerable ability and her work appeared at intervals in this and many other publications. Abyssinians were her pet subject and up to a few years ago Mrs. Major exhibited with considerable success. One of her best cats was Ch. Kreeoro Sheba.

The new address of the Secretary of F.I.F.E. (Federation Internationale Feline D'Europe) is Mrs. Brita Axelsson-Remborg, Stadshagsplan 6, Stockholm K, Sweden.

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**AT STUD to approved queens :**

**MISSEFORE CHOCOLATE WHEY**—  
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Fudge, carrying Blue and Lilac factors.

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Kittens from the following prize-winning  
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**ANNELIDA VENUS (S.P.)** Dam of  
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and

**PHOCA VIOLET (L.P.)** 2 C.C.s and Dam of  
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All kittens House-trained and immunized  
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Winner of 60 First Prizes. Siring C.P.'s

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The lovely young son of Ch. Sabukia Sir Galahad.  
Twice Best Exhibit in Show and winner of 41 First  
Prizes in his first season.

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Queens: **SUMFUN SHIKARI**  
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All prizewinners wherever shown

Seal Point and Blue Point Kittens  
sometimes for sale

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Blue Pointed and Seal Pointed. Excel pale coats,  
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Many winners include CH. FREFOLK BLUE  
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Sire: Ch. Bluehayes Foxy. Dam: Ch.  
Coohey Pinup. Won 43 Firsts as kitten,  
14 at S.C.C.C. Show 1958. Awarded many  
Firsts and 3 C.C.'s in a row last season.  
Siring tpy S.P. and B.P. kittens.

Fee: 3 gns. and carriage

also

**SOUTHWOOD LUKI (S.P.)**

Sire: Ch. Killdown Jupiter. Dam: Chula  
Dah. Winner of many prizes. Siring  
kittens with gentle dispositions, oriental  
eyes of good colour and light coats.

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Kittens usually available from Champion  
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Sire: Ch. Misselfore Ryken, Dam: Ch.  
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Winning son of Dbl. Ch. Misselfore Lysander  
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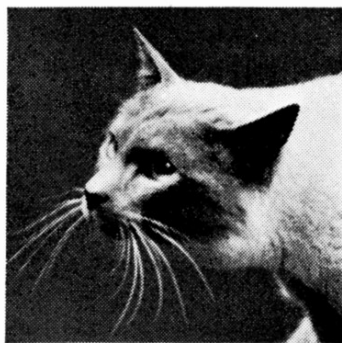
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At Stud

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Blue Pointed Siamese

Sire: Ch. Prestwick Blue Crackers

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Siring Blue Point, Chocolate Point and Lilac Point

Accompanied queens only please

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Waverley Blue Herald was in Best Litter S.C.C. 1958. He sired 1st Chocolate Point kitten in Open Class in the G.C.C.F. Golden Jubilee Show 1960 and 1st in the Lilac Pnt Open Class in the Croydon C.C. Show 1960.

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Sire of Ch. Bradgate Folly, Bradgate Coral (1st & Ch. National Cat Club Show 1960), Bradgate Yippee (1st Open Kitten Midland Counties Cat Club 1960, National Cat Club 1960).

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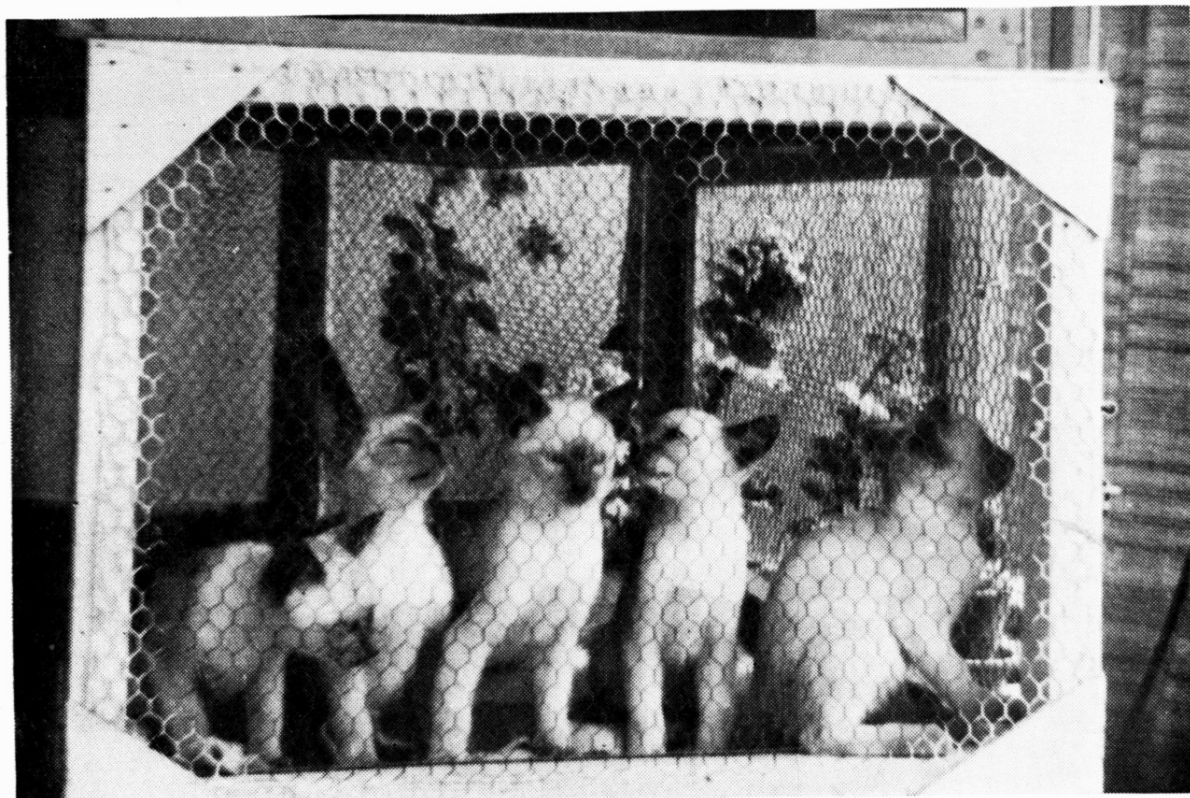
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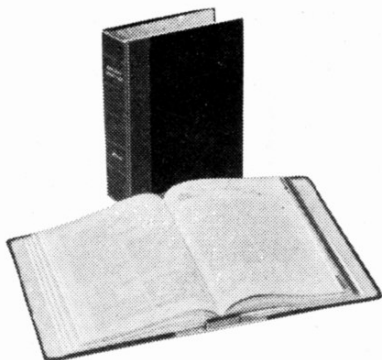
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