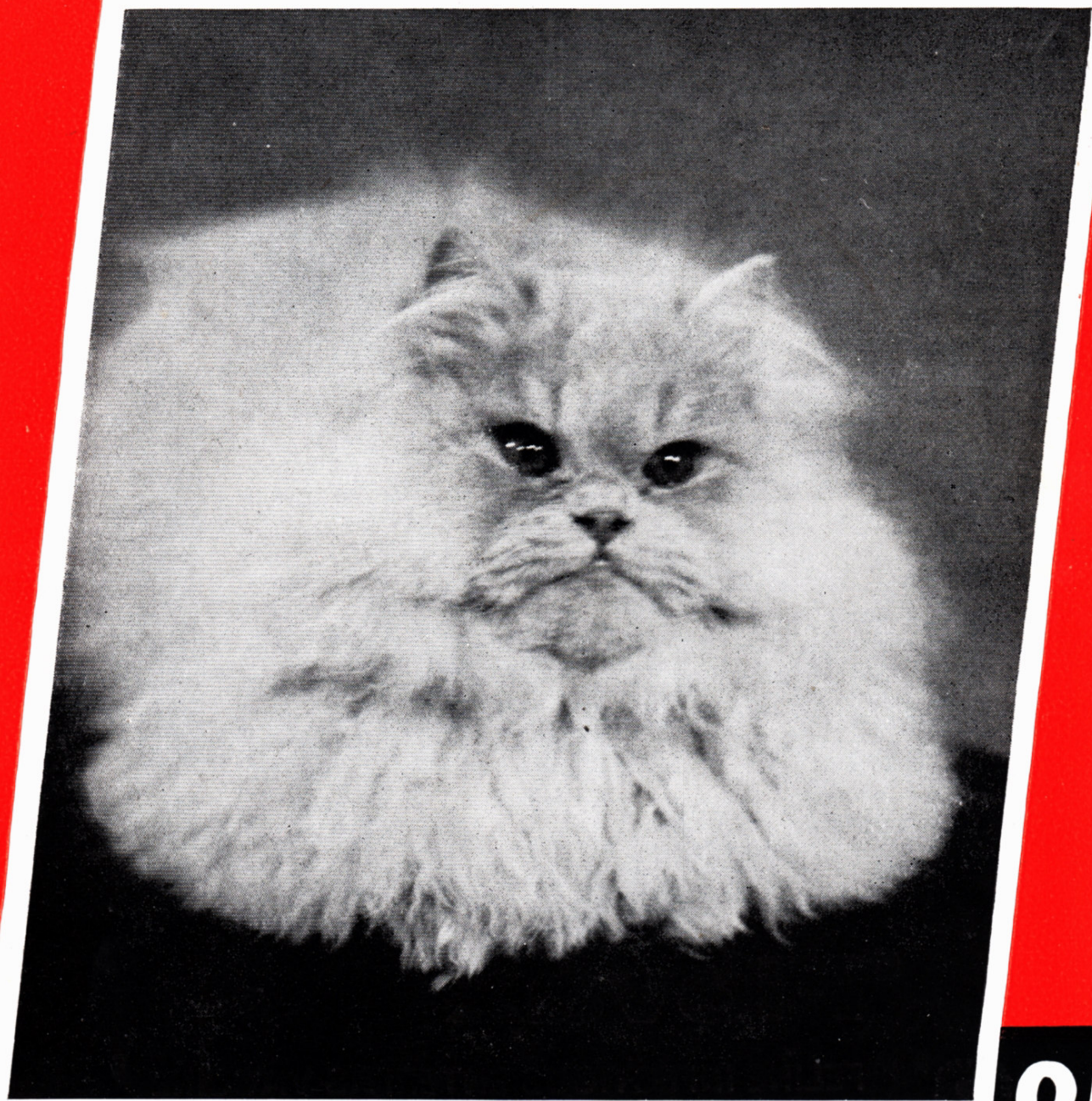


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



Cream Longhairs are the subject for this month's "Looking at the Breeds" . . . see page 3. A worthy representative of this popular variety is Mrs. B. Barron's DALAN SABIN, by Ch. Camber Mario ex Ch. Hendras Pepita. Sabin went Best Cream Kitten at the 1961 Croydon C.C. Show and Best Cream Male Kitten at the Southern Counties C.C. Show 1962. Photographers are Alan Hall Ltd.

JUNE 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.

Fix the vaccination date today

'Fiovax'
BRAND

FELINE INFECTIOUS ENTERITIS VACCINE

A BURROUGHS WELLCOME VETERINARY PRODUCT



Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

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

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

VOL. 14 No. 6
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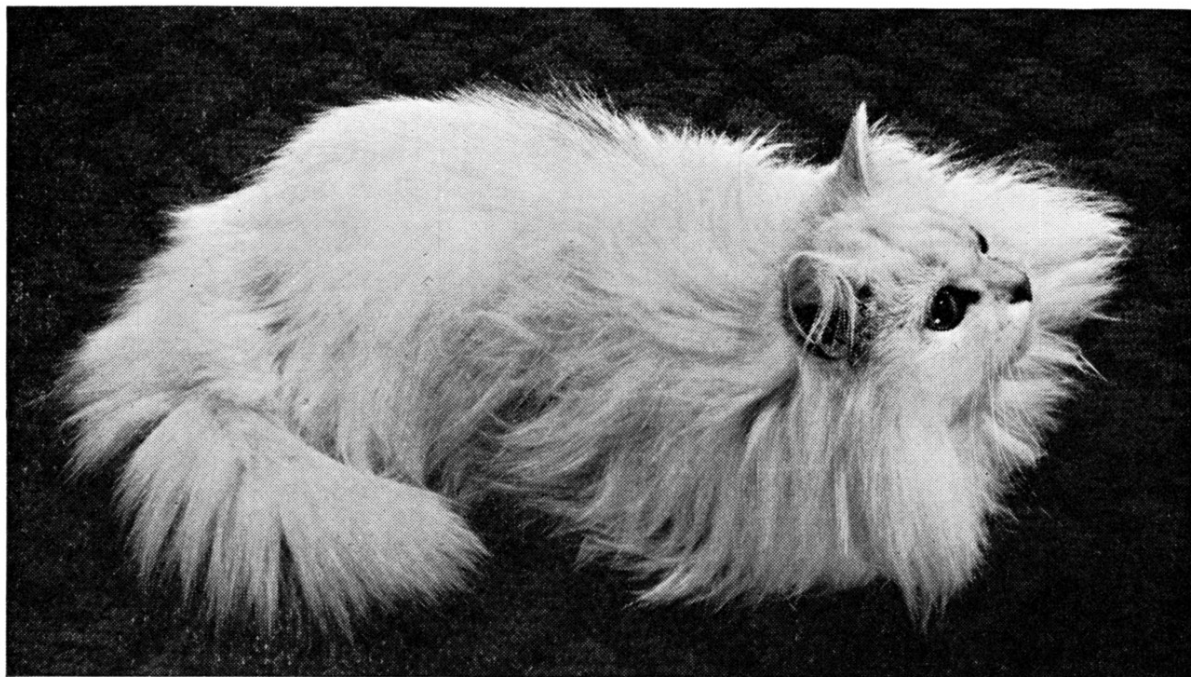
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ROAD, HORNSBY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



Courtesy Kossel Carpets Ltd.

POLDENHILLS PEREGRINE ("Harold" to his friends) is the much-loved Chinchilla neuter belonging to Mrs. E. F. M. Polden, of Crowthorne, Berkz. Sire is Jamie of Thame and his dam the 11 years old Poldenhills Mikelmas Daisy. "Harold" is four years old.

 **GENERAL INFORMATION :** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in **OUR CATS** is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, 378 CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9. (Macaulay 1462).

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Let's go to a show

1962	Promoted by	Venue
25 July ...	Kensington Kitten & Neuter Cat Club...	London
4 August ...	Hull Show	Hull
4 " ...	Kingsway Hospital Show	Derby
11 " ...	Halifax and District Agric. Society	Halifax
11 " ...	Surrey and Sussex Cat Association	Worthing, Sussex
15 " ...	Airedale Agricultural Society	Bingley, Yorks
18 " ...	Suffolk and Norfolk Cat Club	Ipswich
5 September...	Macclesfield and District Agric. Society	Macclesfield
6 " ...	Wessex Cat Club	Bournemouth
13 " ...	*Herts. and Middlesex Cat Club ..	London
22 " ...	*Edinburgh and East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
27 " ...	*South Western Counties Cat Club ...	Exeter
11 October ...	*Siamese Cat Club	London
27 " ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
7 November ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society	London
15 " ...	*Croydon Cat Club	London
8 December ...	*Northern Counties Cat Club	Newcastle-on-Tyne
15 " ...	*National Cat Club	Olympia, London
1963		
12 January ...	*Notts and Derbys. Cat Club	Nottingham
19 " ...	*Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
24 " ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London
9 February ...	*Lancashire and N.W. Counties Cat Club	Southport
23 " ...	Coventry and Leicester Cat Club ...	Leicester
28 " ...	West of England & S. Wales Cat Society	Cardiff
16 March ...	Hull and Lincolnshire	Lincoln
	Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire (date and venue to be fixed)	

* Denotes show 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.

Looking at the breeds

No. 9 - CREAM LONGHAIRS

By HUGH SMITH

CREAMS are said to have had their heyday between 1920 and 1930. But it is thought by some that returning popularity may lead them to rival the Blues. Certainly, they are extremely attractive and well repay the great care which must be exercised in breeding them. For, as with all self-coloured varieties, colour is all important. It must be pure and sound throughout and without shading or markings.

Not only should the overall appearance of the coat present the same shade of colour; each hair should have the same density of pigment throughout its length. Cats with pale undercoat are a danger to the breeder, for this is a trait easily transmitted to

offspring and is difficult to eradicate.

The kittens should have only the slightest sign of barring. They, or kittens which have no trace of barring at all, are the ones to keep for breeding.

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy publishes a Standard of Points for Cream Longhairs. It is as follows:

Colour—Pale to medium, to be pure and sound throughout without shading or markings.

Coat—Long dense and silky, tail short and flowing.

Body—Cobby and solid, short thick legs.

Head—Broad and round, small ears well set and well tufted, short broad nose, full round cheeks.

Eyes—Large and round, deep copper colour.



Hugh Smith

Mrs. H. Todd's young male AVIARY ROBERT shows how attractive a Cream Longhair can be.

SCALE OF POINTS			
Colour ... ..	...	...	30
Coat and condition ...	...	...	20
Body ... ..	...	...	15
Head ... ..	...	...	20
Eyes ... ..	...	...	15
			—
			100

As with many other breeds, the origin of the Cream is unknown. It has been suggested that the breed arose when a Cream appeared in a litter produced by the mating of a Red Tabby male with a Tortoiseshell female and that some of the kittens were almost solid in colour for cream and it was considered worth breeding for them.

Danger of smuttiness

Mating Blue to Cream has proved valuable in the production of modern Creams. For this purpose the blue colour must be solid and it is better to use a paler rather than a darker blue, as this may lead to smuttiness. From

the mating of Blue to Cream, Blue-Cream females will be obtained. The Blue-Cream females can then be mated back to Creams with good results.

If the Blue to Cream cross is made with a Cream male and a Blue female, then the female kittens will be Blue-Cream and the male kittens Blue. If the female is Cream, the mating to Blue male will result in male Cream kittens and female Blue-Creams.

The mating of Cream to Cream should not be carried on for too long or the type will deteriorate. It will also result in a redder or "hotter" colour as it is sometimes termed.

Mrs. J. M. Newton, of The Grange, Moulsoford, Nr. Wallingford, Berkshire, is Hon. Secretary of the Red, Cream, Tortoiseshell, Tortoiseshell-and-White, Blue Cream and Brown Tabby Society which serves the interests of this breed. There is also the Longhair Cream and Blue Cream Association founded last year by Miss Kathleen Yorke. Hon. Secretary is Mr. N. Boulton, 51 Rochester Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

Rand Cat Club

THERE was an excellent attendance at the Annual Championship Show of the Rand Cat Club on March 31st, despite the rain and cold weather. Entries totalled 123, half of which were Siamese, as is usually the case with South African shows.

Major award winners included some imported cats and it was encouraging to note that the Blue Points were well represented. The Shorthaired Grand Challenge winner was Mrs. E. Gluckman's Ch. Curlew of Copelands, a Blue Point. C.C. winners were Sin Ra of Cedar (sired by Penang Sia Punya who won the cup for the highest progeny points) in Seal Point classes and Miss E. Stoltz's Grand Allani of St. Audley (male) and Mrs. P. McConnochie's Petit Chou of Copelands (female) who became a full champion, among the

Blue Point classes. Mrs. L. B. Emery's Abyssinian female Taishun Diana of Selworthy and her Brown Burmese Shari of Bon Accord were both awarded C.C.'s, as was her very recent Chinchilla import Opaline Moonbeam of Selworthy, a male.

A new L.H. Champion

Longhaired classes included the Blue male C.C. winner Berrett of Malla, owned by Mrs. A. S. Madeyski. Mrs. H. K. Anderson's Cream male C.C. winner Deo Gratias Ivanhoe became a full Champion and her Deo Gratias Autocrat won the L.H. neuter class with top honours. Mrs. R. O'Toole's Blue-Cream Deo Gratias Zarina also achieved her first C.C.



Cyril Shaw

A varied assortment of the author's figurines are displayed here.

Collecting cat models

By AMY LEIGH SHERWIN

“**H**OWEVER do you dust them all?” That is the inevitable comment from those who inspect my collection of three-hundred-and-forty models of cats.

It has always surprised me that more cat lovers don't go in for collecting models of their favourite animal. It is such fun tracking down unusual specimens, and once you have started it is surprising how quickly the numbers increase.

I am no longer a headache to friends when Christmas and birthdays come round. I am just given another cat figure.

Children, too, take an immense interest in my collection. If mother says “We cannot possibly

give her another cat this year”, the children at once clamour “for another one for Auntie”.

In fact, almost my favourites, are a pair of china cats given me by two little girls. The markings and the prim expression on the cats' faces proclaim undoubtedly the Victorian period of their birth. And I know they are genuine Victorian images because they were left to my young friends when a 90-year-old grand-aunt died. And that was about eight years ago now.

Another Victoriana is a solid brass fellow, quite a weighty piece, which I got for a few shillings in a second-hand shop in Wimborne, Dorset. He cannot possibly be admired for his looks.

He was the type who earned his keep catching mice in the immense stone kitchens of the period. Quite a cut above him is a silver cat pepper pot of the same era.

Friends who go abroad for their holidays have brought me back many quaint figures. I have cats of all shapes and sizes from many countries—France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Holland, Norway, Denmark also from America and Australia.

Only last year a friend brought me an enchanting family of five

she was looking for something quite, quite small.

“Si, si senorita”, exclaimed the saleswoman, and disappeared through a door at the back of the shop. She returned almost at once, beaming all over her face, carrying a tiny live Siamese kitten in her hand.

After compliments and some excited chatter and gesticulations the little tortoiseshell glass family was produced.

I started my collection just over eleven years ago, when instead of buying a new hat I found a set of



A quaint milk jug and teapot

Cyril Shaw

minute glass tortoiseshells from Spain. They are the only torties I have; and it is almost unbelievable that such small figures are such perfect models. One of the little kittens measures only three-quarters of an inch from nose to the tip of its tail.

My friend told me that the owner of the Spanish shop showed her at first some quite ordinary ornaments, but shook her head vigorously and tried to make it clear in her halting Spanish that

three minute models of solid Austrian bronze, which are now a hundred years old. I found them in an old junk shop in Croydon. The mother, a tiny, grey tabby is teaching her kitten to catch a mouse, which is running away. The shopkeeper had been inspired to label the little animals “The First Lesson”.

Junk shops are indeed happy hunting grounds for collectors. I am very fond of a shining black pottery cat, bought by friends for

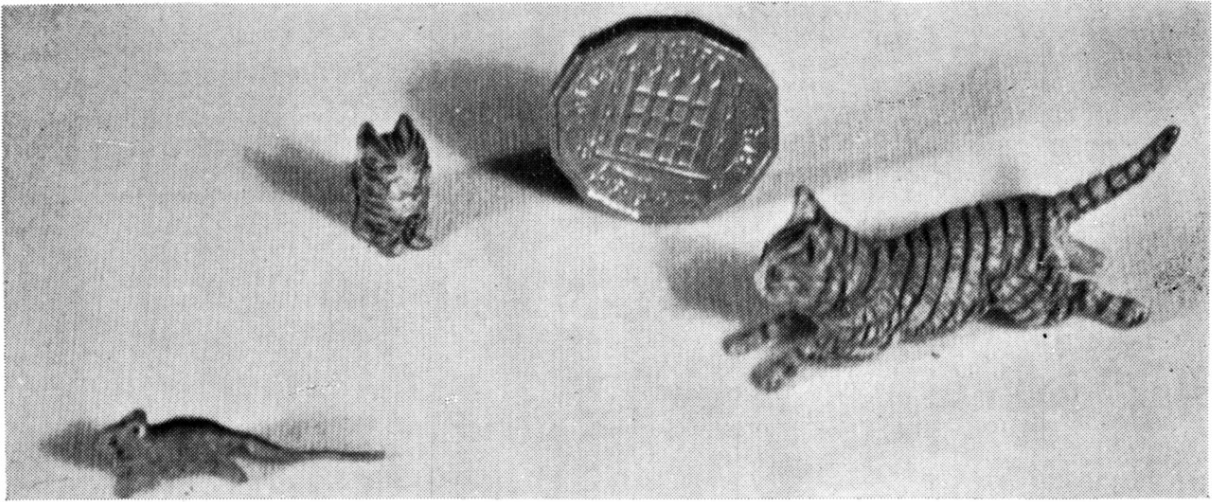
a few shillings in Weston-Super-Mare. He is eleven inches high, with a long, sleek neck. His expression of remote contemplation is superb. I call him "Homer" after the Greek poet, who said in his "Odyssey": "A gift both rare and dear". He certainly is one by himself, and a present dear to my heart.

Visit local sales

Local jumble sales are worth attending. My two Goss models, one a Manx, came from such a source. The highbrow will declare that Goss china is artistically worthless and quite out of fashion. Of course, it is. Nevertheless, these models are interesting re-

minders of William Henry Goss, who created the most popular holiday souvenirs of the early nineteen-hundreds. This china became known as armorial china, because each piece bore a coat of arms.

Sleeping beauties, the inimitable Siamese, the alley cats, busy washing, ready to fight; cats just sitting in peaceful feline contemplation, kittens playing—they are all there in my collection. Also cat money-boxes, pepper and salt pots, sugar casters, milk jugs and even a cat tea-pot. But I must confess I have never dared to brew tea in it. Could *you* bear it if someone broke it when washing up, and explained "I'm ever so sorry, it came to pieces in me 'and' "?



Cyril Shaw

"The First Lesson"

Mother cat, kitten and mouse, are of solid Austrian bronze, 100 years old. The threepenny piece is included to show how small the figures are.

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.

A page for the proletarian puss—No 100



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LITTLE OLD LADY PASSING BY . . .

Every night for 40 years Mrs. Hilda May Jones, of Swansea, has kept a tryst with the stray cats of her neighbourhood. At the same hour each evening, carrying a basket loaded with meat and fish, she sets out on her labour of love. A slight figure, coat drawn close against the night air, she attends to the needs of a colony of cats, their tails pointing to the sky. Their purring is music to her ears. Always at the same spots she distributes the food from her basket and in 40 years she has missed this nightly ritual only three times.

Often cats are brought to her by strangers and often they are old and sick. If she fails to find homes for them, Mrs. Jones takes them to the P.D.S.A. to be put to sleep. She is shocked by the callousness and indifference of people towards their pets. "I suppose," she smiles, "I shall go on doing this till the day I die—and if there is a life after this one, there are bound to be cats for me to look after. It would not be heaven otherwise, would it?"

More about alimentary diseases

By M.R.C.V.S.

(Reprinted from our February 1955 issue)

Salivation

The administration of ordinary medicines will not uncommonly excite profuse salivation in cats, the victim sitting morosely with its legs tucked under it and its head protruded forward, whilst ropy strings of saliva dribble from its mouth. Even the thought or sight of a medicine bottle and spoon will set many a cat salivating profusely. It is not a symptom accompanying general fevers, but readily occurs as a result of inflammation of the mouth or tongue, pyorrhoea, diphtheritic pharyngitis, nausea, indigestion, poisoning, foreign bodies, injuries, or abscesses located in the mouth or pharynx and ranula.

The writer has also known numerous dogs to become affected in this way whilst carried in buses, cars or trains, the salivation then being apparently of purely nervous origin. Fear is a common cause of salivation in the cat. The drug—pilocarpine—will, of course, increase the salivary secretion, whilst atropine diminishes it.

Stomatitis

(inflammation of the mouth)

This affection is in most cases of a mild character though in some it assumes great severity. It has various types, viz., ulcerative, vesicular, and catarrhal. The first-named is fairly common in aged cats, and when occurring is usually associated with pyorrhoea or tartar, an attack of influenza or mercurial poisoning.

The vesicular form is only occasionally observed in old cats, and is common in kittens, arising probably as a pure bacterial infection. In fact, it is a symptom of the sub-acute enteritis.

Catarrhal stomatitis is fairly common, arising usually from chemical irritants or thermal injuries. Occasionally, one meets

with cases in which an examination of the back of the mouth reveals grey areas and croupous deposits simulating those observed in diphtheria; but the cat does not suffer from true diphtheria, and in spite of the scares occasionally raised in the lay and medical press, there is no evidence that ulcerative or croupous conditions of the cat's mouth can be conveyed to man.

In simple cases, little more will be discovered than an enhanced redness of the interior of the mouth, the discomfort of which may induce the animal to forego its food; or if it feeds, it does so slowly and carefully, avoiding all large or hard portions, and preferring to swallow without mastication.

Slight salivation may be present, and the cat will seem rather depressed. Where the condition is deeper seated or more acute, all these indications will be accentuated, the animal showing marked depression, refusing all food, dribbling freely at the mouth, and sticking its head stiffly forward, particularly when the pharynx is also implicated. General fever and constipation are constant accompaniments, and the cat strongly resents all attempts at examination of the interior of the mouth, or the forcible administration of food.

The exact appearance of the mouth will vary with the type of stomatitis present, and its cause. In the ulcerative type, there are discrete shallow ulcers which may or may not be coated with a dirty greyish necrotic material.

The gums, lips, cheeks and edges of the tongue may show a readiness to bleed on the slightest provocation. In other forms the whole buccal cavity may be diffusely inflamed and the tongue coated. This is a very painful condition and calls for skilled and urgent treatment.

(continued overleaf)

Pyorrhoea

(Dental sepsis)

Probably this is a very much commoner condition in aged cats than is generally realized. Pyorrhoea may be general or local, and is frequently confined to one or more of the incisors or canines, which it generally evulses.

As the food of cats is mostly of a soft nature, there is no necessity to tear their food, and their teeth are not brought into contact with hard bones or biscuits (at least not to the same extent as are the teeth of dogs), the tendency to the deposition of tartar about their base is more pronounced.

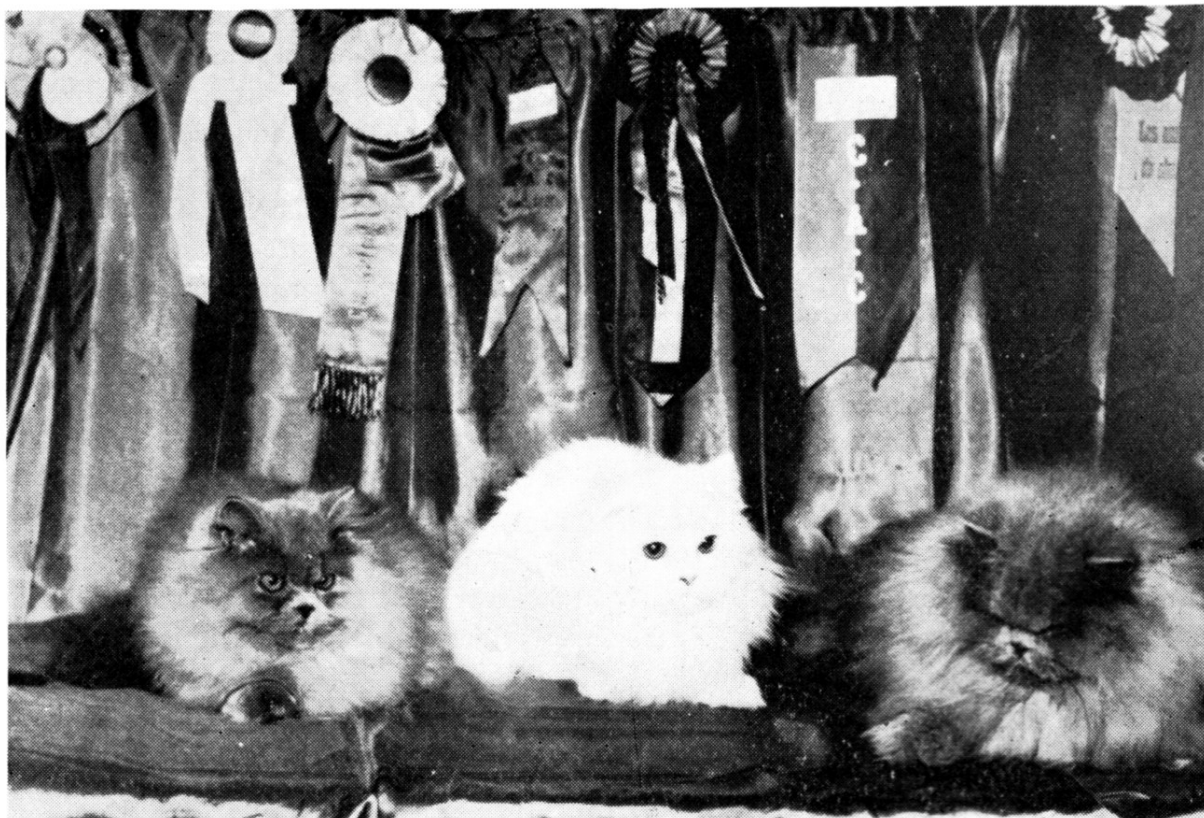
The tooth becomes eventually loosened, the adjacent gum is injured and recedes, with the result that the gum and the tooth socket (alveolus) are invaded by

bacteria which are normally present in the mouth.

There are many cases of pyorrhoea, however, in which no tartar is observed. Gingivitis (inflamed gums) is followed later by alveolar periostitis and suppuration, which gradually extends down the tooth towards its roots until the tooth falls out, or receives veterinary attention. When the disease has advanced so far, removal of the tooth is the only course.

Symptoms occasioned are excessive rubbing of the face with the foreleg, more or less salivation, picking over its food and not eating with the usual avidity; general irritability, foul breath, loss of condition, and all signs of pain and discomfort.

The tooth or teeth chiefly affected can be detected by tapping lightly upon each one with the handle of a scalpel.



Presenting three beautiful English-bred Longhairs now in the possession of Mme. Viselé, of Brussels, Belgium. They are GORGIAN PEDRO, a young Blue male, INT. CH. SNOWCLOUD BALLERINA, Orange-eyed White female and SUNNYVALE CHARMER, Blue female neuter. When presented at the November show in Paris last year they won a Best in Show award and three first prizes.

The passing of the Maltese cat

By KAY GLANVILLE

THE flat was on the ground floor of a converted house, still owned by a noble Maltese family. Seafarers will recognize its situation and envy my good fortune when I say that it was in Floriana, overlooking the beautiful harbour of Valetta. The tiled floors and the high windows were kept scrupulously clean by a young Maltese girl, Maria, who came twice a week, removed her sandals, and threw water about with a hearty pleasure in the simple methods she preferred. The highly polished antique furniture was kept gleaming, and the courtyard behind the house was another source of delight, and there I used to sit to write. Kitchen and bathroom both opened into it, down three broad stone steps, worn with age.

Around this lovely place towered tall, neglected houses, crammed with Maltese tenants, who waved to me sometimes from their balconies. They are a fine race; kindly, excitable, and deeply religious. I found them charming, but the noise was pretty awful—Italian radio stations pouring out “pop” music and opera competed with shouts and screams, laughter and curses.

One evening, after writing for some time, sustained by a rare patch of inspiration and a bottle of sparkling white wine, I wandered into the bathroom and ran the water into the bath. It had been hotter than ever, and a second soak was necessary that day because soon an English friend would be calling for me and we would join the crowded streets to take part in a local festa. Don't ask

me which saint was being given the honours; there were so many feast days—so many saints.

As I put the bath mat in place, I saw it. A paw! Under the bath. And it belonged to a cat. But what a cat! It was the ugliest I had ever seen. Thin, like all the hungry cats of Malta, and coloured (where there was any fur) with grey and yellow stripes. His ears were so chewed and bitten that they were just stumps. As he glared up at me, I realized that one eye was sightless and the other glared red. The shock sent me back against the wall for a moment. Then I hastily turned off the tap, and backed out.

A feeling of shame

In the lounge I sat down to consider my next move. I decided that I would go out as arranged, and leave the bathroom door slightly ajar, so that the animal could leave via the courtyard—whence it had come, presumably.

Elaine and I enjoyed our evening. We came back to the flat and talked about it over coffee, but soon she was tired enough to make preparations for leaving. Suddenly, I remembered. We went along to the bathroom, and I switched on the light. The cat had not stirred.

But as Elaine bent to take a closer look, he began to hiss and spit. She was horrified. “Good heavens, Kay. Get it out of here!” “Puss, puss”, I called sweetly. He hissed again, and his one red eye glared malevolently at us. My friend decided she really ought to be going, and departed hurriedly. I was left alone with my problem.

But when I had finally decided to telephone the police, a peculiar feeling of shame overcame commonsense, and I

fetches a saucer of milk, another of water, and some pieces of chopped meat, and carefully pushed them under the bath. The growling noises had stopped, but I dare not attempt to stroke him yet. I merely talked softly to him, telling him, rather foolishly, to “be a good boy and eat it all up”. He was so utterly repulsive. I retired for the night, again leaving the door ajar for his escape route.

In the morning, I was sure he would allow me to touch him. When I laid my hand on the battered head, I realized at once that he was dead.

When Maria let herself in a few minutes later, she found me weeping. After she had got the story from me, she pattered off to inspect the corpse. She was smiling as she came back to put a comforting arm around my shoulders. “Ah, madame, the food was untouched. It is quite clear that he came to die. He was a very notable cat—the fiercest warrior in Malta and he won every battle. It was from your bin that he fed himself, and it was in the coolest part of your house that he wished to die”.



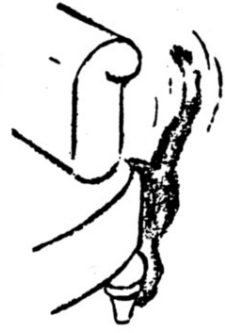
Courtesy "Soviet Weekly"

Irina Gurieva, a nurse at the veterinary polyclinic of Lenin Region, Moscow, examines the ears of Valya's sick cat.



Tailpieces

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



THE annual report of the National Anti-Vivisection Society reveals that running costs in 1961 were nearly £12,000 more than for the previous year. Nearly £18,000 had to be drawn from invested funds to meet the rising costs. Lady Dowding (Hon. Treasurer), wife of Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, stated that it now cost £6,000 a year to find homes for unwanted pets. During the year the Faithful Friends Guild found homes for 350 dogs and 100 cats, plus a number of other pets. She added that in spite of past efforts the tally of animals sacrificed to suffering and death in British laboratories for the year 1960 reached the staggering total of 3,701,187, nearly a quarter of a million more than in the year before.

A valuable aid in pet rearing is a 250W red-coated infra-red lamp introduced to the Osram range of lamps. It gives a gentle and safe warmth during sickness and the subdued red glow provides a restful atmosphere at night without the stimulation of bright light. It costs 25s. 9d. including purchase tax.

Mr. William S. Wholey sub-let his plush East Side apartment in New York to U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General. Now he is claiming £2,302 damage caused to the furnishings and the villain of the piece is said to be Mr. Thant's cat, who tore the damask curtains, ripped up the carpets and scratched the upholstery. "Mr. Thant is a fine gentleman," Mr. Wholey is reported to have said. "As soon as he realized what happened to the furniture, he had the cat's claws cut." Mr. Thant had offered to pay for repairs.

Mrs. Ivy B. Lombard, of Umbilo, Durban, South Africa, has suffered a most unfortunate and distressing experience. One of her most treasured Abyssinian cats was the male Pilgrim Crispin, which she imported from England, breeder Mrs. Pearson. In September last year she sent Crispin and two other Abys. to a Johannesburg show where he won a C.C. But he never returned home from that show and over the past months a frantic search has been going on and every day Mrs. Lombard is hoping that she will receive some good news.

Miss Ann L. Stubbs who has contributed to our pages over a number of years and whose enthusiasm for the British Shorthairs is second to none, will become Mrs. John Walker in July. Congratulations! When she moves from Staffordshire to her new home at The Grange, Keysoe, Beds, she will be taking her Whiston British Whites with her, including a new litter. Miss Stubbs has a book titled *Guide to Cats* due for publication shortly. Her contribution to our April issue dealt with Brown Tabbies and was very well received.

Take a tip from puss. According to a hospital doctor, chronic insomniacs who can afford it should take a half-hour catnap after lunch instead of sleeping pills at night. The catnap, he maintains, is the tip for shorter and sounder sleep; it may also lessen the chances of heart attacks by lowering the blood pressure.

"When the owner of this business leaves at night so does everything else of value such as cash, cigarettes and chocolates. Even the cat goes out.

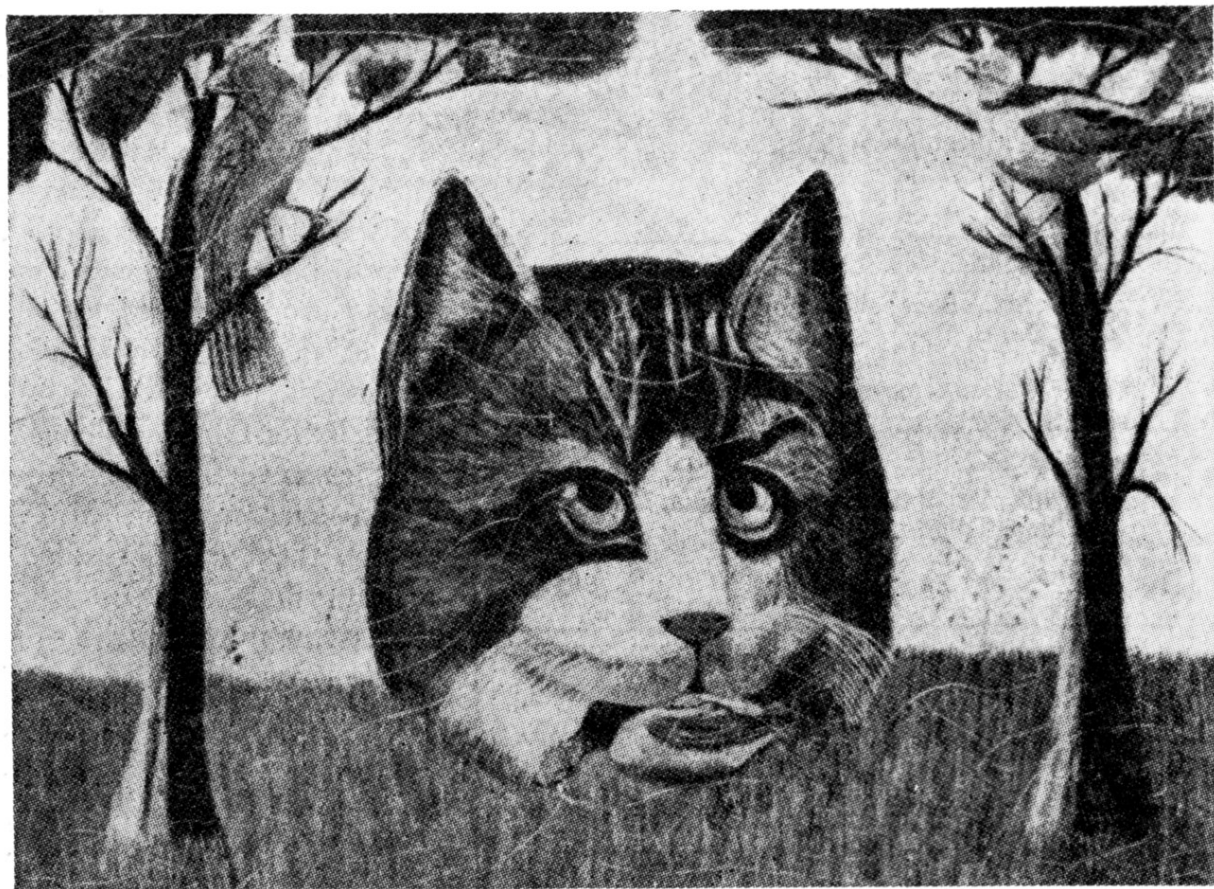
The pin-table isn't doing too well lately, but I've taken out the little there was in it. Trusting this will save your time and energy. G. E. Clark." So ran the notice in a London café window calculated to warn off burglars.

While on a motoring holiday in Scotland recently, a tourist was astonished to come across a cautionary sign which read "Beware of Cats!" It was some time later that he discovered it related to caterpillar tractors which are manufactured in that part of the world.

The unpleasant subject of cat paralysis has been under discussion among some groups of fanciers overseas. The "polio" condition appears to be a complicated one and is not by any means confined to Siamese. Two research workers, Hender-

son and Keywood, writing in the *Veterinary Record*, stated that the cause of the condition remains unknown. In submitting tentative theories they noted that the most severely affected kittens are those that have been fed no milk since weaning, only water. Furthermore, they have produced a similar syndrome in kittens by feeding a diet consisting only of meat. They also noted that lack of development of the thyroid gland in these cases comes into the picture but the exact result of this lack of development is rather obscure. They both state that there is no evidence of a hereditary factor. Correct diet is said to be the right treatment and the addition of Vitamins A and D and Vitamin B.12 and B1.

Extract from a letter received by one of my readers from a 70-year-old



A PRIMITIVE CAT

"In this painting we see the unfettered hand of the primitive painter . . . unhindered by the laws of perspective or gravity". This was said in the introduction to "101 Masterpieces of American Primitive Painting" which included this painting of a cat by an unknown artist about 1840. The collection belongs to Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch (Doubleday).



GINGER and TIBBY

MR. M. W. OVERETT of 21 Birkbeck Avenue, Acton, London, W.3, writes:—

“Tibby was a stray which we found in the garden three years ago and as you can imagine in poor condition. Ginger is only nine months old and was left behind when her owners moved away.

“Now both cats are a picture with beautiful glossy coats, thanks to a little kindness, regular meals and their daily dose of Kit-zyme which they so much enjoy. I really do think these tablets keep them in good condition.

“I would recommend Kit-zyme to anyone who wants to have a healthy cat.”

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Ref. No. 261

Canadian pen friend: " I still have my ten cats. My five black cats never come into the house; they are too wild. They are always at the door at feeding time. I never see them at night as they have plenty of straw in the barn to keep them warm. They have grown twice their size since they came here last October. It costs me ten dollars a month to feed them (they get large dishes of milk, meat and fish) and I should have my head read as one cat is plenty to have. But what can one do when a fellow likes cats? "

Dinky, the pet cat at Dover Marine Station, certainly knows a thing or two. He managed to get himself locked in a railway wagon which ended up 150 miles and four days away at Newark, Nottingham. When found he was quite fit and happy as the wagon he jumped into was bound for a fishmeal factory !

The March issue of the *Newsletter* of the Rhodesia Cat Club touches interestingly on hookworm infestation. Hookworm is a dangerous parasite in Africa and Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have recently introduced "Ancaris", a new and improved product for the treatment of hook and roundworm. They say that not very much work has been done to date on "Ancaris" in cats but they are able to recommend the correct dosage.

During recent weeks the controversial subject of quarantine has been making the headlines and receiving attention from the radio and television authorities. There is a prospect of a battle ahead as the Canine Defence League has launched a national fund to pay for a "full scale scientific investigation" into quarantine. The issue is clear cut. The League, backed by the humane organizations, maintain that it is unnecessary and cruel to lock up pets for six months under the quarantine rules. They claim that it is

bureaucracy gone rampant. The Ministry of Agriculture, plus leading veterinary surgeons, say that the regulations are the best protection Britain could have against rabies, a horrible and incurable disease which is far from becoming extinct. It was not true that preventive inoculation of dogs was wholly satisfactory or that vaccination of a human after a rabid dog bite was always effective. Doctors are apparently open-minded about quarantine and would be willing to consider relaxation of the regulation to eliminate the possibility of emotional distress over the separation of pets and their owners.

A 14-year-old boy who admitted maliciously killing two cats and causing unnecessary suffering to another by stabbing it was given a conditional discharge at Preston, Lancs, Juvenile Court after he had agreed to have psychiatric treatment. At an earlier hearing it was stated that the boy had said he had stabbed about ten cats after one had attacked his pet rabbit.

A 53-year-old electrician, of Camberley, Surrey, was found dead with his pet cat beside him, the West Surrey Coroner, Dr. J. Murray Robertson, was told at the inquest. The man was in a gas filled room—and the cat, his inseparable companion during five years' illness, was dead in a basket. Verdict: The man took his life while the balance of the mind was disturbed.

The Fifth Annual Congress of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association has been held in London. One of the subjects discussed was the use of tranquillisers for cats. The traditional bucket of cold water from a first floor window is not necessarily the best way of quietening cats with nocturnal serenading habits.

Tranquillisers are often used especially in preparing cats for operations. They do not, however, always react in the way that may be expected.

The Eastern Electricity Board has received a letter from a Norfolk rector explaining that his cat had eaten the unpaid electricity bill and asking for a duplicate.

The Blaine Award, a new presentation "for outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary medicine or surgery", has been won by Mr. S. F. J. Hodgman, M.R.C.V.S., Director of the Animal Health Trust's Canine Health Centre. This award, presented by Petfoods Limited, is to be made annually in future on recommendations made to the donors by the Executive Committee of the British Small Animals Veterinary Association.

THIS MONTH'S BACK-SLAP

A Hertfordshire subscriber has kindly sent us the following note with her renewal instructions:

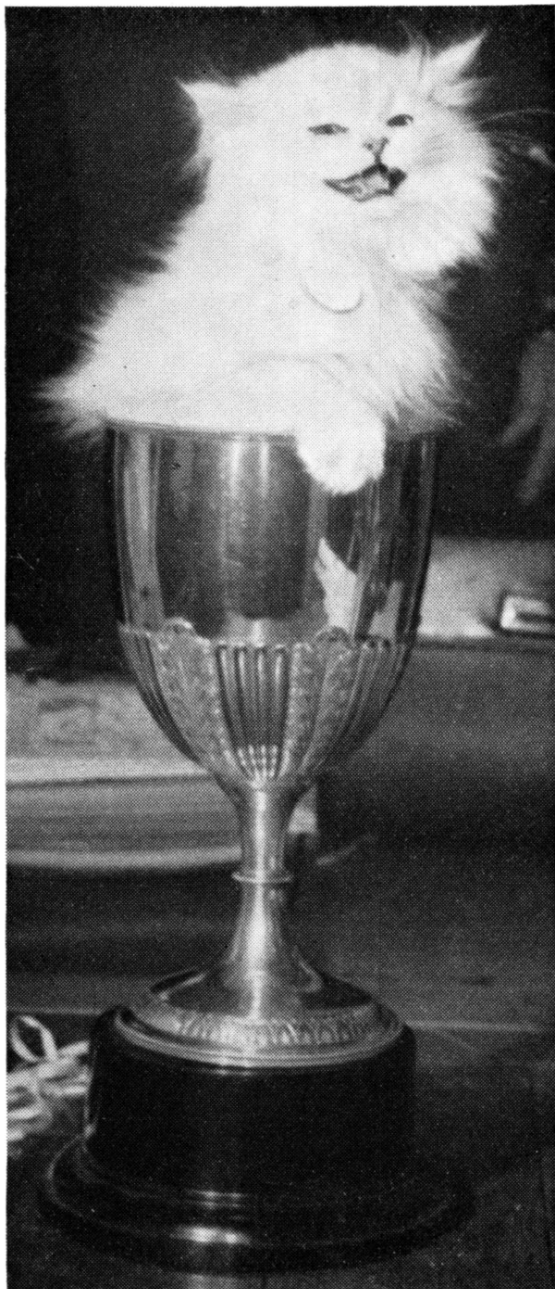
"Once again I feel I *must* write to thank you for another year's pleasure with **OUR CATS**. Even although you had to raise the subscription, I still say it's well worth the money."

"Long may you go on publishing **OUR CATS** and I hope for many years to be able to look forward to the end of each month with keen anticipation."

E.M.W.

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



HERE'S A LAUGH!

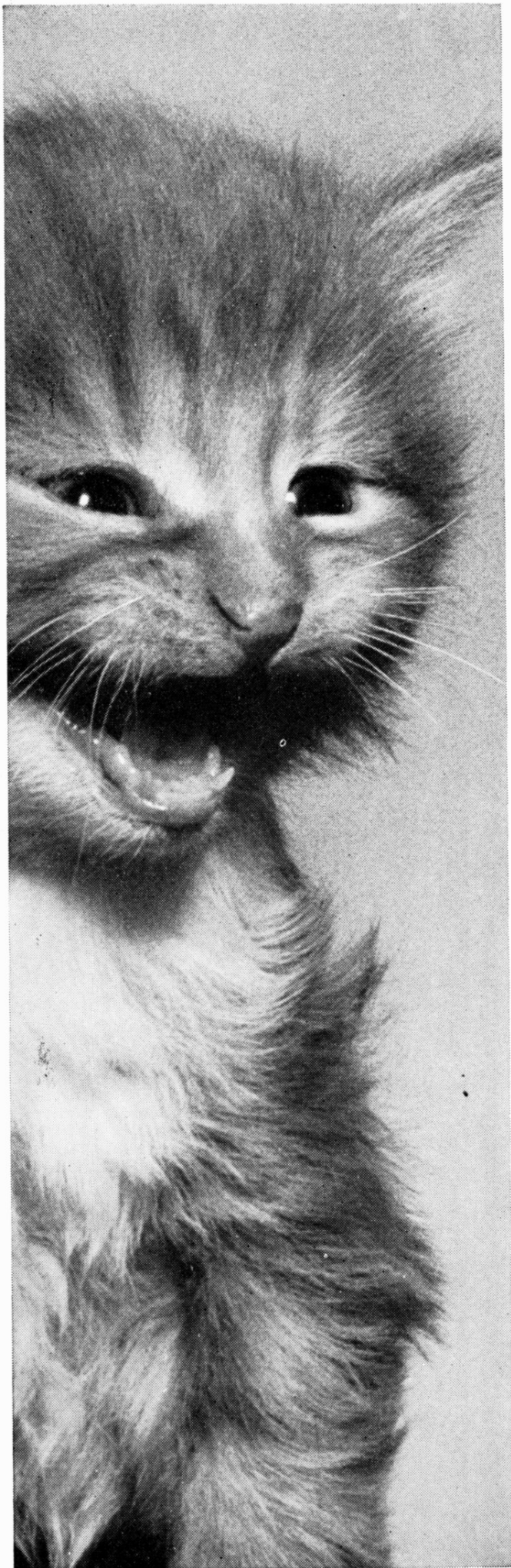
This tiny Chinchilla baby **AMBERLEY THISTLEDOWN** has just won her Open Class and four other first prizes at the West of England and S. Wales Cat Society's February show at Bristol. A daughter of Ch. Fidelio of Allington, Thistledown belongs to Mrs. Mary A. Wilson of Verwood, Dorset.

G.C.C.F.

The Annual List of Cats at Stud No. 19 (1962) is now available and may be obtained from the Secretary

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

Aby. lovers meet

THE Abyssinian Cat Club Social at the Kenilworth Hotel, London, was one of the pleasantest "cat" meetings of the season. Mrs. Earnshaw (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. Sidney Denham (Chairman) rightly surmised that pleasant surroundings and tea were the essentials for enjoyment. Cat breeders have few opportunities for a real exchange of opinions at any meeting. The invitation was from four to eight o'clock and many stayed nearly all the time and we certainly did do what the Committee proposed—"Exchange experiences and have a good gossip".

Lady Welby, the President, welcomed visitors and Mr. and Mrs. Denham and Mrs. Earnshaw made sure that no new member was left "out in the cold". Mrs. Aitken, Hon. Secretary of the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club; Mrs. Towe, Hon. Secretary of the Croydon Cat Club and Siamese Cat Associa-

tion; Mrs. K. R. Williams, Hon. Secretary of the Lilac-Pointed Siamese Cat Club accompanied by Capt. Williams; and Mrs. Cook-Radmore, Chairman of the Southsea Cat Club, were among those present.

A raffle was held to augment Club funds and I believe the two large boxes of chocolates and Mrs. K. R. Williams' and Mr. Sidney Denham's recently published book *The Cat Lovers' Week-End Book* were gifts. I was delighted to win the latter although I should have bought it later to add to my collection. It is a delightful book with a different approach to any other of the many post-war cat books. The sixteen photographs are all excellent but the Abyssinian Tia Maria with her kitten Rose of Sharon; and the Siamese Regency Regina with her kitten Poppy are especially lovely and appealing.

Another "get together"

The Shorthair Cat Society and Manx Club also organized an enjoyable social gathering in May at Princess Restaurant, London. Although many well known personalities were present, the cats "stole the show" although only six were brought by their owners. They were Mrs. Johnson's British Blue, Miss Lee-Meade's Russian Blue, Mrs. Richard's Blue-Cream, Miss Sywer's Chestnut Brown; Mrs. Shrouder's Burmese and Mrs. Towe's lovely Silver Tabby.

It was a good opportunity to compare them. For example the Russian Blue and the British Blue, also the Burmese

and the Chestnut Brown, when one sees good examples of the latter two varieties the difference is distinct but when they are moderately good specimens and they compete in Shorthair classes some confusion has arisen. Patterns of the correct eye colour in Burmese were distributed, which was helpful.

Kit "goes West"

Miss Kit Wilson, delegate to the G.C.C.F., was attending one of her last engagements before leaving London on May 22nd. We are certainly going to miss her. Kit was almost the first person one appealed to if one heard of a "lost" or "found" cat. Her work for the Cats' Protection League and her humane work for cats before she became associated with it will never be forgotten by her contemporaries. At almost every show we have seen her officiating as a judge and happily this will still be so. Her vast experience will be available for West Country shows now she is living in North Devon. Although the many breeders who live in and near London have a sense of loss they will gain a true cat lover in the West.

Liz Taylor's cats

Cat lovers were concerned some weeks ago when they read in the national press that two pedigree kittens purchased by Miss Elizabeth Taylor, the film star, as presents for friends when she was staying in London during the 1960-1961 winter had eventually been given to officials of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals so that they could find kind permanent homes for them.

After the news item appeared the P.D.S.A. were inundated with inquiries for them, so great care had to be exercised to find the right home as many were attracted merely by the glamour with which the cats had been surrounded.

Through the courtesy of this organization I was able to telephone their present

owner Mrs. Buckhan of Finchley who has owned them since March. The cats are Cream litter sisters and both have been spayed. Named Bonavia Honey-pet and Bonavia Honey Girl by the late Ch. Widdington Honey-star, they were purchased from their breeder Mrs. Turney. Two film stars who owned them at different times were Shelley Winters and the latest was Mr. L. E. Lodge, well known for his stunt acting, who lives at Chesham, Bucks, an area in which the P.D.S.A. has many supporters. He realized they needed permanent homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckhan are both cat lovers and the cats now have a happy peaceful life as house pets with high jinks in the garden when they are feeling skittish. Their two previous cats were also spayed females named Tweedledum and Tweedledee. They lived to be sixteen and passed on within a few weeks of each other.

Mrs. Buckhan was pleased when she mentioned grooming them with a nylon comb to hear of the much easier method with a Spratt's steel comb number 34. They can usually be obtained at London stores or branches of Boots the Chemists who sell veterinary supplies; if not in stock they will obtain them. I have never found any comb to equal these for Longhairs.

P.D.S.A. activities

The journal of the P.D.S.A. *The Animal's Magazine* issued monthly gives one a brief account of some of their activities on behalf of all animals needing care. Founded in 1917 by Mrs. M. E. Dickin, C.B.E. with the humane purpose "To give free treatment to the sick and injured animals of people unable to afford the fees of a private veterinary surgeon" in 1960 at the London dispensaries 262,625 animals were treated. In addition it has 84 permanent dispensaries in various localities and one of its mobile units is visiting famous agricultural and other shows.

In the official magazine of The Cat's Protection League, a tribute is paid to Mrs. Elsie Kent, Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club. At the Isle of Wight Industries Fair the C.P.L. had a stand and Mrs. Kent and her small band of helpers, some of whom had to travel from other parts of the island, were on duty from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday to Saturday inclusive. Much interest was shown and many enquiries made by visitors. The publicity achieved was excellent and the Secretary, Mr. A. A. Steward, states: "The expenses were heavy but the sales and donations balanced the account".

Mr. Rodenstein of Munich, Germany,

is very pleased with Bayhorne Eager by Ch. Bayhorne Ajax bred by Mrs. Benbow, and Georgian Natasha by Camber Gavin bred by Mrs. Smart which he purchased at the Kensington Kitten Show last July. Eager was first in his Open Class on that occasion and since then at his European shows. Exhibited in Vienna for the first time as an adult he was awarded a Challenge Certificate and was Best Longhair Adult. As he will be exhibited at Naples, Nancy and Vichy he may soon be a Champion.

Georgian Natasha was also first in London last July and unbeaten as a kitten in her Open Class in Europe and



Associated Newspapers

These are the Cream litter sisters purchased by film star Elizabeth Taylor who have at last been placed in a happy home in North London. See story on the previous page. Block kindly loaned by the P.D.S.A.

the winning adult Blue female in Vienna. Previous to these honours Mr. Rodenstein's Blue adult female Jelica de Rlichemont bred in France by Dr. Mezec attained her Championship and in Vienna in the class confined to Champions was awarded C.A.C.I.B.

Congratulations to Mr. Rodenstein and the breeders of these cats.

Visitors from Australia

Mr. and Mrs. Cains travelled to England with Mr. and Mrs. Vize from Australia last Autumn and before leaving to stay in France for a few weeks Mrs. Cains sent news of Bayhorne Athene's excellent awards at the last Championship show of the season in Australia, the famous Royal at Sydney. She was Best Female and Best Exhibit and her four Blue kittens by Regent Bunty, a son of Ch. Jasper of Pensford were awarded: Atlas (the male) Best Longhair Kitten, Adorable (the female) Best Female and the other two were runners up. They had previously attended two shows where they were Best Litter. At the Royal Show all kittens have to be four months of age and there were about 150 kittens competing. Mr. and Mrs. Cain's return to England for a few weeks before they go back to Australia in July. Mr. and Mrs. Vize return in September.

Cat breeders have never been so well served with books and club literature as they are nowadays. The first edition of the official journal of the Australian G.C.C.F. named *The Cat World* has been sent to me. The preface gives the names of everyone responsible for its publication and later in its editorial we are informed that it will be available quarterly at 2s. per copy from the Circulation Officer, Mr. Howard Scott, 8a Atkinson Street, Oakleigh, Victoria, Australia.

Various articles entitled "So You Are Going to Exhibit", "Buying a Siamese Kitten", "How to Give a Bran Bath", "Photographing Cats and Kittens", etc., are of general interest especially to a novice.

Mr. M. B. Raises, M.R.C.V.S., in his article "Focus on Health" poses a question which has often been raised here: "Why does a cat chew wool?" Answer: "The cat is suffering from a vitamin deficiency. Give it ascorbic acid tablets". Note for English breeders who may wish to take this advice "Redoxon" ascorbic acid tablets Vitamin C (each tablet containing 50 milligrammes) made by Roche are available at most chemists here. I have never heard of a Longhair cat with this habit; it appears to be some Siamese who are affected.

Dwarfs not wanted

One impression I should like to correct is that breeding miniature cats is "Something to look forward to". I doubt if any thoughtful breeder here would encourage anything so unnatural. One can imagine the complications which might ensue when miniature queens were trying to give birth to kittens, some of which would probably be a normal size. And what a temptation it might be to a less scrupulous breeder to underfeed to accentuate the result.

The final item in the journal will amuse editors of newsletters and those who contribute notes:

"Getting out this journal is no picnic. If we print jokes people say we are silly; if we don't, they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other magazines, we are too lazy to write them ourselves; if we don't, we are too fond of our own stuff. If we don't print contributions, we don't appreciate true genius; if we do print them, they'll say the Journal is filled with junk. Now, like as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other magazine. . . . We did!"

The Kitten Show

When these notes appear one of the loveliest shows of the year will soon take place—The Kensington Kitten and

Neuter Cat Club Show on July 25th at the Royal Horticultural Hall. The kittens, many making their bow to the public for the first time are irresistible and the magnificent neuters who seldom shed their coats so thoroughly as stud cats will be competing, many of them Premiers defending their titles against

the up-and-coming youngsters.

Mrs. Barron is again Show Manager, so with two successful and very well organized fixtures for this Club to her credit we can be sure everything will be in apple pie order. Come and bring your friends to see the many lovely exhibits.

Istanbul – city of cats

By DERRICK A. BOARDMAN

SOME of the regular readers of OUR CATS may remember an article I contributed in the issue of September, 1961, about the sorry plight of cats in communist Bulgaria. This year I have been living in Turkey and I thought you might like to hear how our furry companions fare in this country.

First, let it be said that, wherever you go in Turkey there are innumerable cats, many of them street scavengers without any definite home or owner. But—and it is a big but—nobody ill-treats them—a far cry from the conditions prevailing in neighbouring Bulgaria.

The fact that these homeless cats are allowed to thrive does, however, lead to an action which civilized people here would heartily deplore. Once every few years the government health department steps in and the street cats are rounded up and killed in their thousands. And it has to be admitted that a large number of cats which *do* have actual homes are accidentally caught up in this operation. (The street dogs suffer the same fate.)

Restaurant owners keep more than their fair share of cats and,

although I realize the main purpose is the utilitarian one of exterminating rats and mice, these owners treated the animals kindly and some few even gave them individual names. Educated families also kept cats purely as pets.

A cat conference ?

I was told that, the farther east I travelled in Turkey, the more cruel people became and, indeed, I did find that organized camel fights and cock fights took place with agonizing frequency. But this rule in no way applied to cats. In fact, even non-educated homes I visited not infrequently had anything from six to a dozen cats—and this number was not necessary for the killing of vermin.

Of all the cities and towns I visited, Istanbul had the most cats. There were so many—in streets, homes and restaurants—that I shall always remember this place as the “City of Cats”.

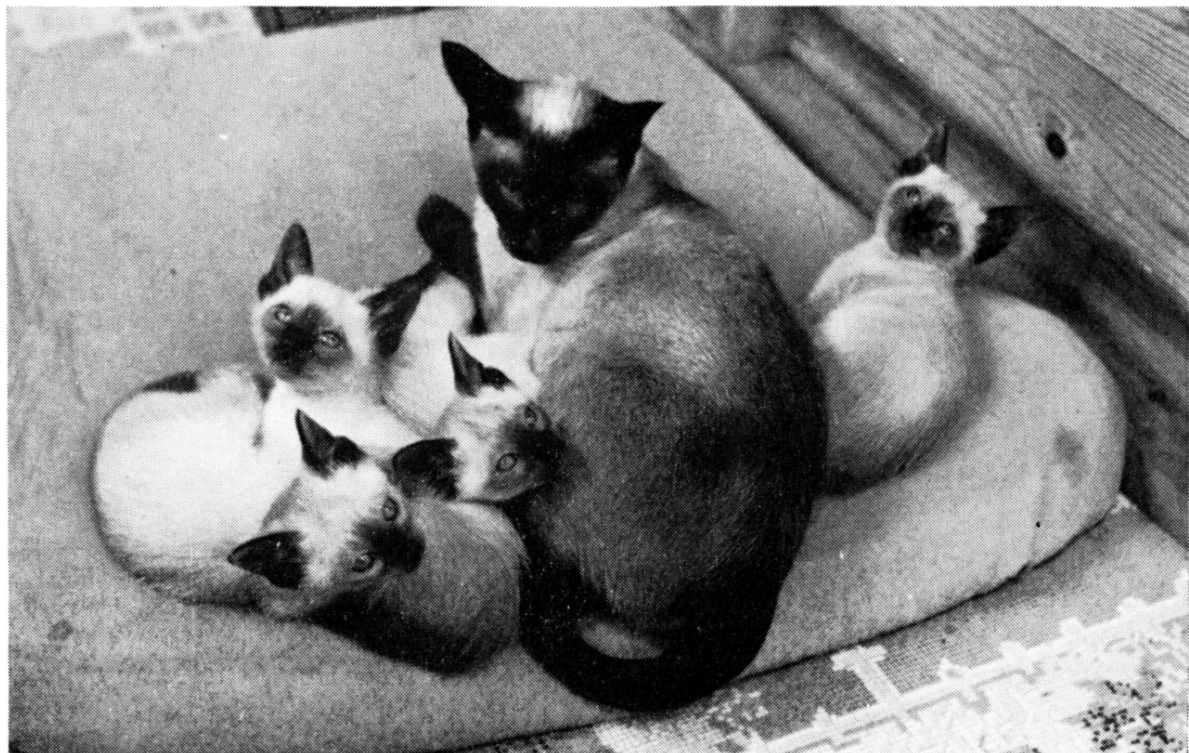
To give you a hint of what I mean, please allow me to recount this little story: One morning, very early, I stepped from my hotel into the street and I saw

the most amazing sight. Sitting in almost a perfect semi-circle were 50 or 60 cats of all shapes, sizes and colours! But the large number was not the only thing which arrested my attention. Why were they sitting there—and in a semi-circle? Was this a cat conference? Were they talking of the previous night's exploits or planning their day's

activities? Who can tell?

Of all the homes I visited in Istanbul homes where there were genuine cat-lovers I saw cats of every conceivable colour—except black.

I asked many Turks the reason for this and always got the same reply. "Black cats? Oh, dear no! Don't you know they are very unlucky?"



A familiar sight at this time of the year. The happy mother in this instance is SILVER THISTLE CINDY belonging to Miss R. Robertson-Ritchie, of Quorn, Leicestershire.

News from "Down Under" from Fred W. Pearce

(held over from last month's contribution)

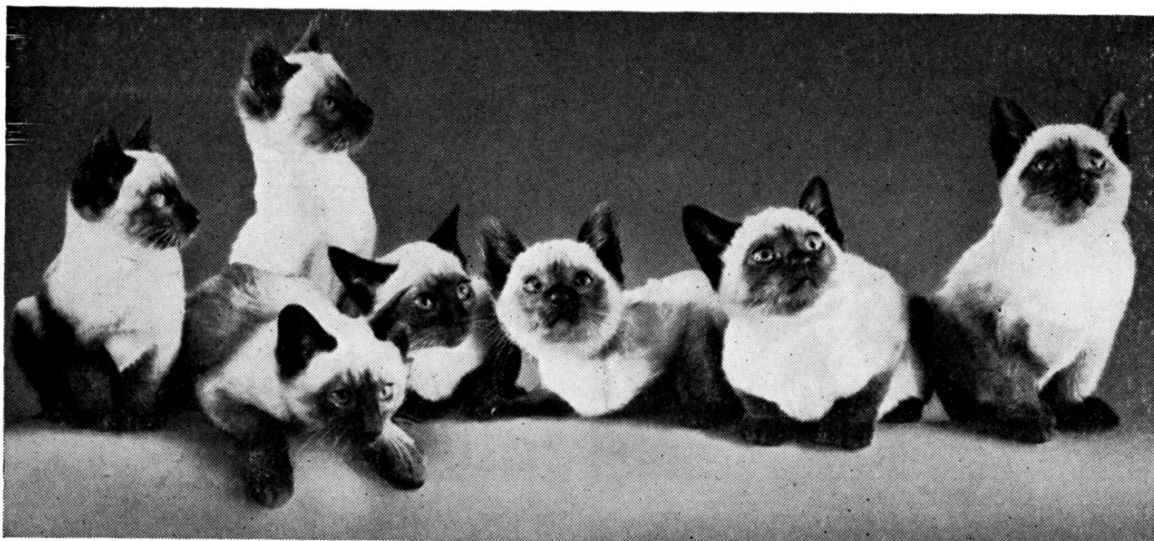
Queensland. I was honoured with an invitation to judge at the April Toowoomba Agricultural Show and flew over from Sydney. Quite an innovation, was introduced to the exhibitors and public, who were invited to watch the judging in the big hall and there was also a quiz and television to interest them. In the Longhair group C. J. Winten's Spada Dai Dante, a Blue, was the Best Exhibit, with C. Woodrow's Cream Langbank Butter-

scotch as Best Opposite Sex. Mrs. Henry's Coochie Perinjenni was the Best Shorthair, followed by Mrs. Peter's Valbert Blue Nile.

After the awards were given out, including six of five guineas each, I was invited to journey to Brisbane with Mr. and Mrs. L. Batten and daughter Lin in their lovely Jaguar car. We had a wonderful dinner at a new motel on top of the range. I was guest at the home of the Battens and spent Friday and

Saturday lecturing and then examining six judges for the Council of Federated Cat Clubs. A miniature show, correct in every detail, was set up by Mr. and Mrs. Batten and it was a great job they did in arranging for cages, staging, show manager, stewards, printing, meals and the cats. Time permitted me to visit the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Shead.

We rose 4.30 a.m. on the Sunday and drove out in a new Mercedes Benz to the Gold Coast and all points south to the N.S.W. border. We inspected three bird and animal sanctuaries and after a picnic lunch they put me on the jet plane for home. My grateful thanks to all for a grand time.



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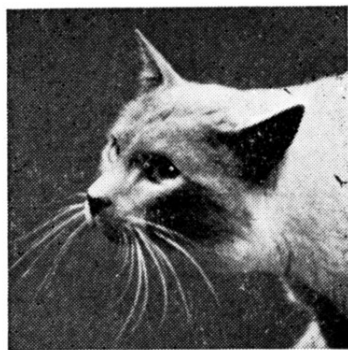
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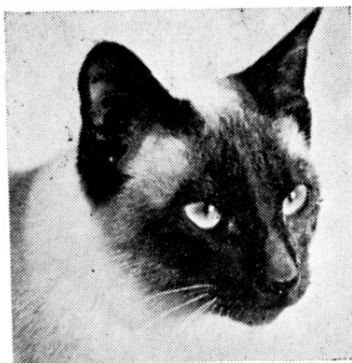
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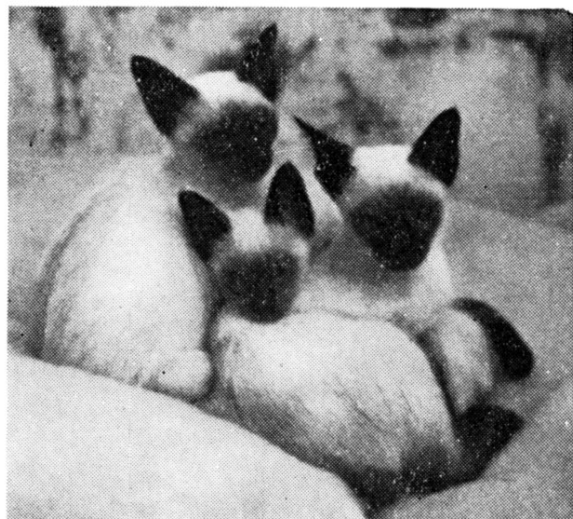
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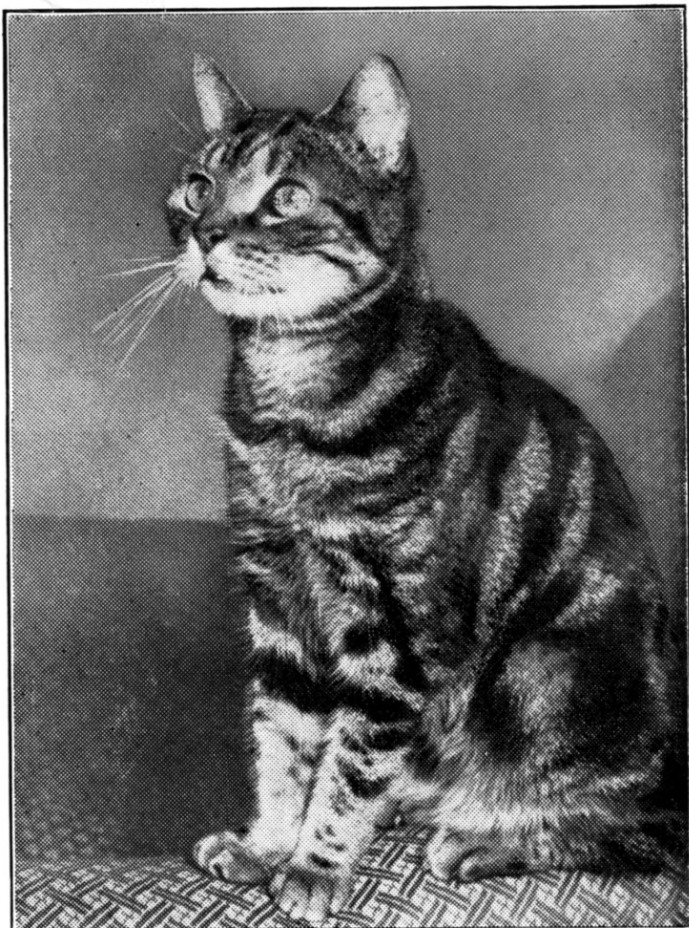
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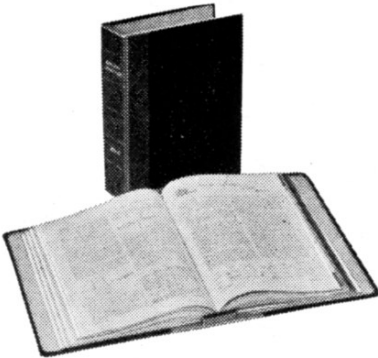
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