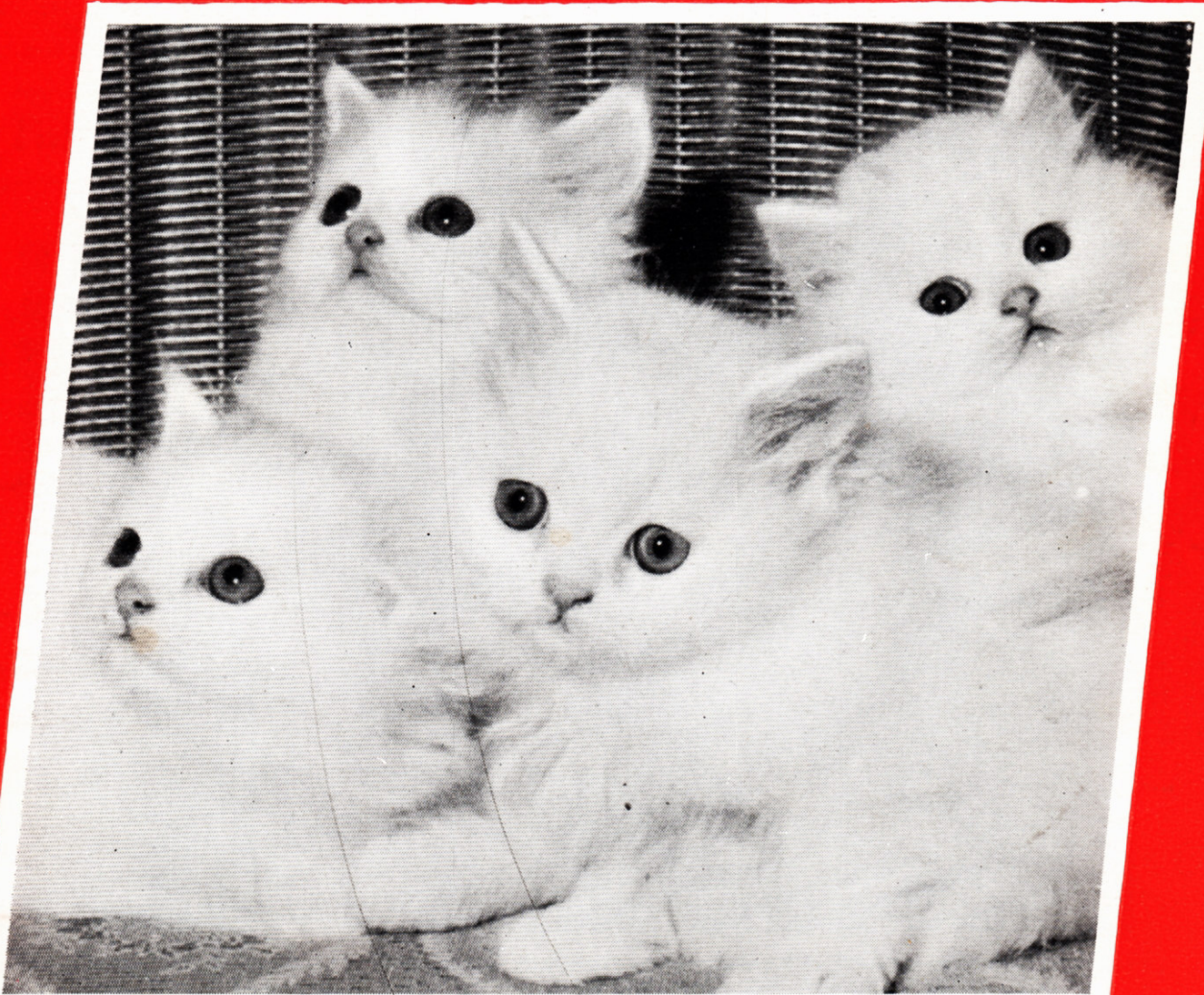


Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE
INSTRUCTIVE



ENTERTAINING
COMPREHENSIVE



"right lovesom, white and small"

How well these words of William Dunbar, a 15th century poet, fit into our caption for this charming litter of Orange-eyed White Longhairs. The kittens are 10 weeks old and were bred by Miss M. Bryce, of Hurst, Reading, Berkshire, from Ch. Lisblanc Bambi ex Glenbury Blue Cloud.

FEBRUARY 1963

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



1849

Our Cats

VOL. 15 No. 2
FEBRUARY 1963

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.

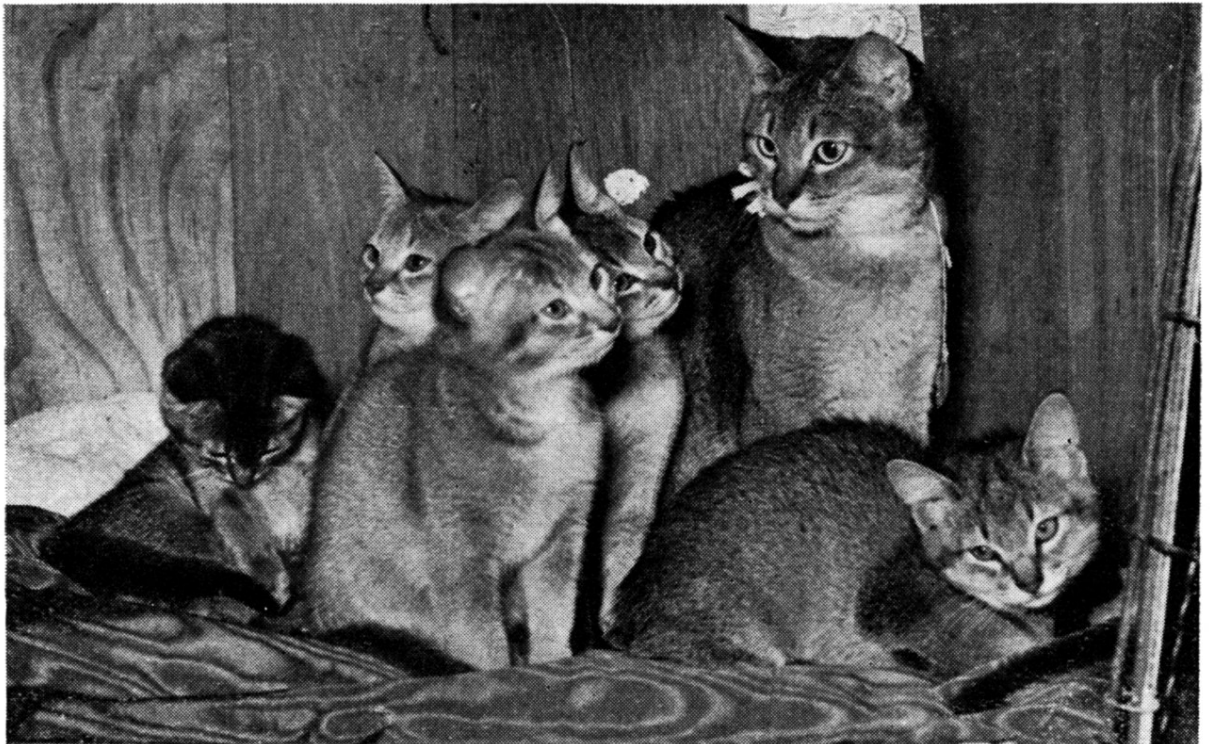
Managing Editor :

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


*Australian and New Zealand
Correspondent :*

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



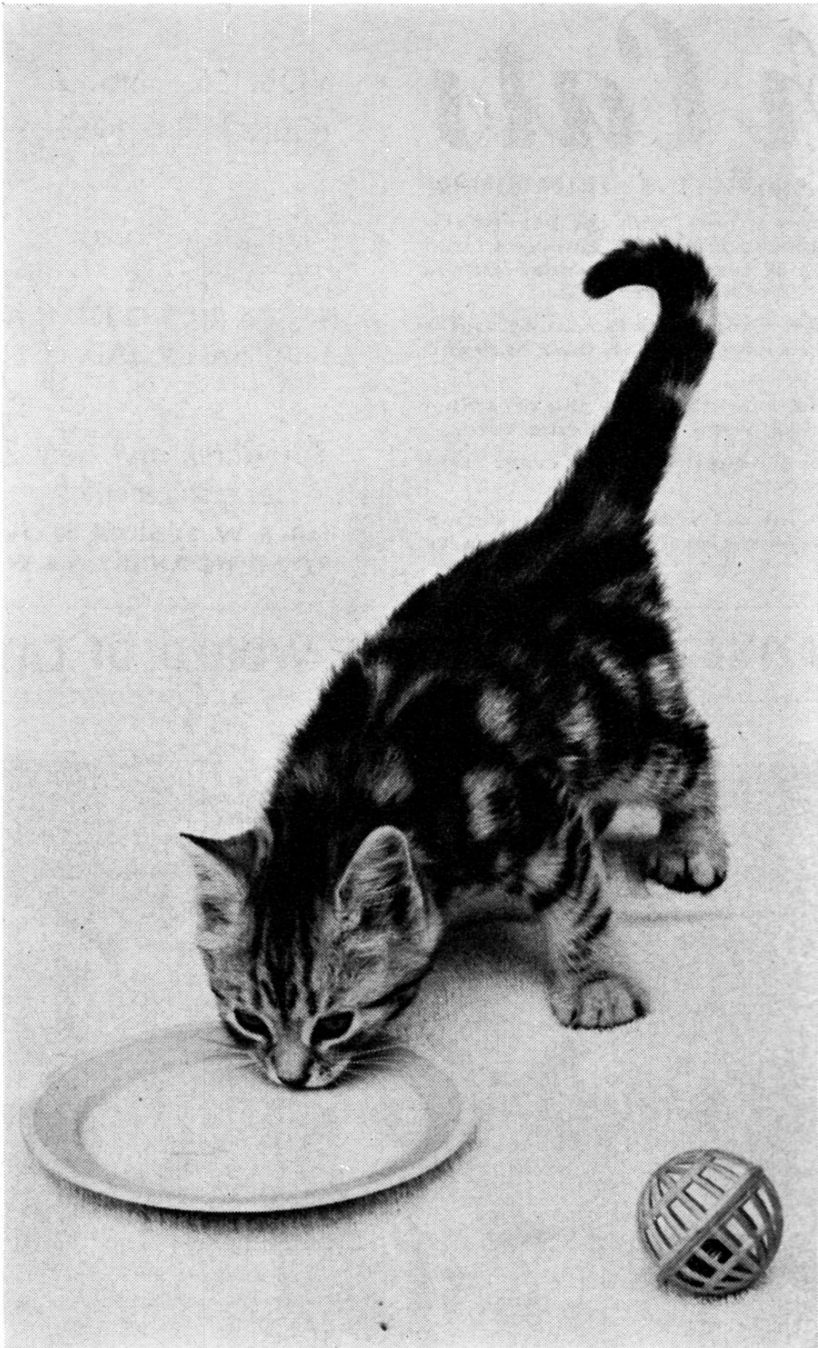
Abyssinians in New Zealand! This happy domestic scene shows Ch. Finisterre Shendi with her five kittens by Ch. Skyways Abdul at the home of Mrs. Margaret Davies, of Wellington. Their names are (left to right) Wenvoe Cleopatra, W. Isis, W. Rameses (a red male), W. Nerida (a red female) and W. Ptolemy.

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Yearly Subscription Rate is 25s. for 12 issues post free (U.S.A. and Canada four dollars). Single copies 2s. post free.



This delightful arrangement by Sally Anne Thompson sets the highest standard in feline photography. The kitten, **FLIXTON SILVER MIMI**, sire Ch. Culverden Maurice, dam Silverseal Shelley, was bred by Shorthair enthusiast Mrs. Mary Johnson, of Hampstead, N.W. London.

Let's go to a show

1963	Promoted by	Venue
7 February ...	West of England & S. Wales Cat Society	Bath
16 ,, ...	*Lancashire and N.W. Counties Cat Club	Southport
23 ,, ...	Coventry and Leicester Cat Club ...	Leicester
26 March ...	Hull and Lincolnshire	Lincoln

* Denotes show with Championship status. A detailed list of these fixtures may be obtained price 6d. from the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mr. S. E. Barnes, O.B.E., "Mosgiel," 4 Elim Court Gardens, Crowborough, Sussex.

Feline patients

By MAJOR HAMILTON KIRK, M.R.C.V.S.

Advice to veterinary graduates and students contains much of interest and value to cat breeders and pet owners.

WHILST patience and consideration should be extended to every creature with which the veterinary surgeon has to deal, the cat, on account of its highly nervous temperament, could prove one of the most difficult and most exacting patients he has to treat. His difficulties will therefore be enormously increased if any method is adopted of dealing with feline patients other than those which would be normally activated by a real love for the creature.

Cats brought for examination or treatment are sometimes wild-eyed and agitated, but only rarely are they wicked or intentionally spiteful. They are not usually aggressive, but if they are frightened by noise, quick movements, dogs or rough usage they may then assume the offensive, often very effectively.

On handling

A stranger confronted with such a nervous cat should deliberately spend some time fondling and talking to the animal, endeavouring to gain its confidence and goodwill before proceeding to carry out an examination. On the other hand, such manipulation as is necessary can frequently be effected quietly and unobtrusively during the act of stroking and fondling the cat. Persuasion, finesse and anaesthesia are far better and more certain of success than are unnatural or rough handling.

It is a fact that cats resent and resist restraint of any kind more than they do the treatment for which it is employed.

Thus, endeavour should always be made to do all that is necessary with a minimum of restraint and with the cat standing upright. A cat has more confidence whilst its four feet are squarely on the table; it dislikes being held so that it cannot move, or being held upon its side or back, under strange conditions. So that if the legs must be held—and they often must—then the assistant should grasp the elbows whilst the surgeon administers any substance by mouth, or makes an examination of that cavity. This slight restraint is usually all that is necessary to prevent the operator from being scratched.

Minor operations

If a more definite restraint is needed, the assistant should grasp two fore legs about the elbows in one hand, and the two hind legs above the hocks in the other hand, whilst the operator retains a firm grasp at the back of the neck. Do not hold the feet only. In extreme cases of resistance or when one is single handed, recourse may be had to fastening the cat to an operating table.

All restraint is unnecessary where anaesthesia is employed and I do make a strong appeal to all graduates or students to use it in every case where pain is inflicted, or where better work could be done under its influence. Of course, one must except such cases as male castrations under five months of age, or the opening of abscesses, and such other minor operations as can be performed in a few seconds.

General anaesthesia is so easy and safe for cats by the use of nembutal, provided the correct dose-or-weight is strictly adhered to. Its intravenous

introduction to cats is frequently very difficult, but intraperitoneal injection is quite easy and nearly always satisfactory. The exceptions might be due to the carelessness of the operator in not selecting the best site for injection. This site is in the vicinity of the umbilicus, but it may change according to the condition of the abdominal contents. For instance, a full bladder might reach that far forward, or an overloaded stomach might receive the dose instead of the abdominal cavity. In either case no harm would be done, but the cat would not sleep. In some few cases the correct dose fails to produce complete surgical anaesthesia, and in such cases I usually administer a little ether by inhalation. This is a safe and satisfactory method.

I, personally, prefer the use of nembutal to pentothal sodium, because the long sleep which follows keeps the cat still and quiet, and oblivious to pain for those several hours which immediately follow an operation. By the time full consciousness has returned much of the pain will have declined. Why should anybody perform upon any animal without anaesthesia, operations—though minor—which they know would be painful and which they would not permit to be performed upon themselves

except under local or general anaesthesia?

Anaesthesia should be regarded as part of the job and charged for accordingly. It is sheer callousness to fail to induce it. General is far in advance of local anaesthesia for cats; permits of a more precise, safer and cleaner operation, and is considered to be the most humane and laudable procedure.

Pill giving

So far as the administration of medicine is concerned, pill-giving is usually very easy once the operator has mastered the technique. Holding the head in the left hand, a fingernail of the right hand is used to depress the lower jaw, and the pill is dropped squarely on the centre of the base of the tongue. The mouth is quickly closed and the glottis may be lightly pinched to induce swallowing. In nineteen out of twenty cases the pill is at once swallowed, but a sulpha drug tablet is too large for such administration and has either to be broken into two or three pieces, or crushed to powder and placed inside the cheek.

Another method is to mix the powder into a paste with some butter or margarine and smear it over the cat's teeth.



A trio of bonny Blue Longhair kittens by Ch. Thiepvall Paragon bred by Mrs. S. Knight, of Harehill, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Many cats effectively resist the oral introduction of liquids, especially those of disagreeable flavour, and they do this not so much by struggling or scratching, as by profuse salivation, in which the potion is completely ejected. I have known one or two cats to salivate merely at the sight of the bottle, and one cat in particular merely at the sight of the veterinary surgeon. In such cases there are two methods open: one is to resort to subcutaneous injection, and the other to the use of a dose syringe fitted with a 6-inch pipe. For the latter purpose the cat rests on its abdomen and is firmly held so that its head, neck and body are all in a straight line. The nozzle is then inserted between the teeth, down the back of the tongue and into the oesophagus. To be sure that the pipe is in the oesophagus and not in the trachea, wait for the cat to cry, and then press the plunger whilst the cat is still crying.

Receive with caution

All cats will greatly fear and resent this treatment, so that subcutaneous medication will be found much better. With a little thought one may draw up quite a substantial list of drugs which are practically tasteless, and there seems to be a drug for practically every disease which can be introduced hypodermically.

Hypodermic medication is very simple in the cat, provided that a site is selected where the skin is thin and easily penetrated. This site is in the flank. Many attempts to pierce the skin about the back of the neck fail, because the skin there is so very tough in most cats. The sharpest and finest possible needle should be used, not only for cats, but for all animals. Solutions injected warm occasion less alarm or discomfort than cold ones.

A word about the care necessary in the reception of a cat will not be out of place. Recognizing, as most people do, the great agility of a cat, and its readiness in strange surroundings suddenly to jump out of the receptacle in which it

was brought and escape, one must release it slowly and with caution, and be prepared at any moment to counter a possible attempt to escape.

Before opening the basket, therefore, it is wise to close all doors and windows. Cats have even been known to run up the chimney, from which they have had to be smoked out.

Inexperienced assistants should be warned of these possibilities. Having got the animal safely upon the table, it would be most unwise to allow dogs to remain in the room. Even the noise of an electric fan would probably frighten the cat and impel it to bolt.

The simple matter of inserting a thermometer may become difficult unless one remembers to vaseline the bulb. The cat's anal ring contracts very tightly and discomfort is caused unless the thermometer is lubricated. Wetting it with water is not enough.

When cats are boarded for any period over about two days, it is important to know and to remember that the only way to avoid outbreaks of distemper or specific enteritis in the cattery is to build the latter, or place your cages in the open air.

Whilst such cats should always have access to the open air, they need not necessarily be cold, as deep and comfortable beds should be provided, and protection from direct wind or rain afforded by an overhanging roof, or by a glass outer door to each cage, partially closed.

Off their food

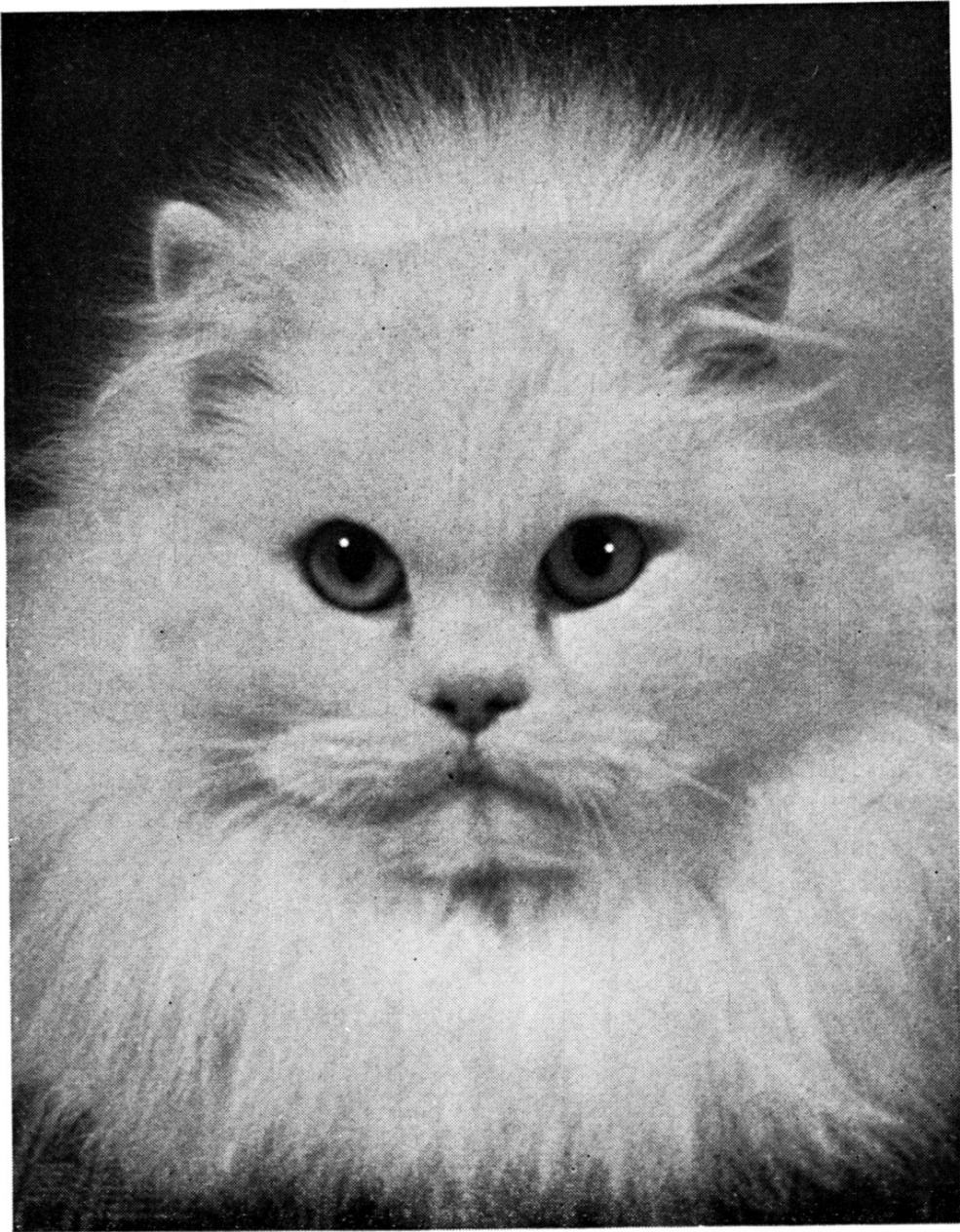
It is notorious that cats in strange habitats frequently sulk with their food, sometimes up to three or four days. They commence feeding then only during the hours of darkness. The presence of a dog or of other cats is a deterrent to feeding. On the other hand, refusal to feed may be the result of persistently offering food which the cat may loathe, or of which it has never previously partaken. Some owners

always feed fish, others always feed meat, and such cats become accustomed only to those diets and will refuse any other. I have known cats which, having invariably eaten cod, would spurn whiting even for days, but upon cod being at last offered it would be consumed voraciously.

Another quite important point is that cats should be fed only in the evening, if the dishes are not to be collected within a short time. The reason is that

when plates of meat are set in the cages during the day time—in summer—and left there until the food has been consumed, they become very contaminated with blow-flies, and in the space of hours multitudes of maggots will be found.

Study the whims, fancies and peculiarities of the cat, pander to them, and cats will then be appreciated as docile, affectionate, and not-so-difficult patients after all.



SNOWCLOUD ICE MAIDEN

A lovely cat so aptly named! This Orange-eyed White Persian won seven 1st prizes at the South Western Counties Show at Exeter last September and also gained her first Challenge Certificate. Ice Maiden was bred by owner Mrs. K. M. Mearns, Rushton, Taunton.

Diary from Daru

By ELSIE OUTRAM

Mrs. Outram, a prominent figure in the Australian Fancy, has recently returned home to New South Wales after spending many months in Papua, where her husband was on a Government educational assignment. In 1959 she was in England, visiting our shows, meeting breeders and making many friends.

HERE on the island of Daru, the subject of cats, cat shows and cat politics seems remote indeed. Where the people themselves fight for their existence it is not likely you will find healthy, well-fed pets such as are in the rich and thriving cities of the world. Here it is the fortunate few who can afford a household pet, and though the children may be fat and healthy, the dogs and cats are very thin.

The cat, perhaps, being a natural forager for its own food, fares better than the dog, who depends primarily on man for its needs. Starving, scraggy animals are the rule rather than the exception in the outlying districts, and there is a periodic round-up by the police department to capture and destroy all strays and neglected animals.

Meat is precious

Nevertheless, it must not be supposed that the Papuans are not fond of their pets; it is just that conditions under which they themselves exist are those under which the animals must also live. If your own staple meal is taros, yams and sago, then that is what you will offer your animal, although it is primarily carnivorous. Meat is not easily obtained, and must be hunted with shot-gun or bow and arrow. It is therefore a valuable commodity, and not to be lightly flung to the dogs.

Except in settled towns and

villages where the natives are regularly employed in Government offices and trades, and where they are able to learn by example, and also have a regular income from which cheap dog food can be regularly purchased, the animals are left to forage for themselves, living on scraps and refuse, and there are to be found in the outlying districts of Papua some of the thinnest, scraggiest canines in the world.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals now has a branch in Port Moresby and is endeavouring to educate the natives to an awareness of their responsibilities towards their pets. A booklet entitled *Our Animal Friends* is published each month in two languages, English and Motu, and the following extract is a sample of the way in which animal care is suggested in simple language which most people can understand: "When you take your puppy or kitten home it will need to be fed at least four times a day. The mother's milk is much stronger than the milk you use for yourself, so if you are going to give your pet milk put a teaspoon of brown—not white—sugar in the milk, or honey if you have it. Best of all for your pet is coconut milk. Several times a day you should give him a little Tuckerbox*. If you can't buy Tuckerbox for him, then teach him to

* *Tuckerbox is a brand of Australian dog and cat tinned food.*

eat bananas, coconut and paw-paw”.

“Try to give him a little bit of meat each day. Never feed your pet on white rice alone for there are no vitamins in white rice, and your puppy or kitten will get a large stomach and become sick. A sick animal is no good to anyone. He is unhappy and you won't be happy to see your pet sick. If you feed him well he should grow up into a strong healthy animal. When he is grown up, after about a year, he should have at least one *BIG* feed a day”.

Long and lean cats

Although there is a New Guinea wild dog, the vast majority here are descended from animals brought into the country by Europeans. Being unable to take them back to Australia and elsewhere because of the quarantine restrictions, they are bandied about from home to home, and passed on to some newcomer when “leave” comes round again. On the island of Daru a veritable dog's paradise exists for those animals under European hands. There is a minimum of motor transport, only about eight vehicles on the island, and so dogs are free to roam the street at all times. A curfew was found to be necessary at night time to prevent fights and howls. Every dog must be restrained between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. How I wish this were so in Sydney!

The island cats, as I have previously stated, are all of the long, lean variety, and mostly black. However they are not numerous, and in our forthcoming Daru Show have not been included in the Pets Section, although such things as snakes, lizards and baby crocodiles have

their own classes. Cats must compete in the Other Unusual Animals section.

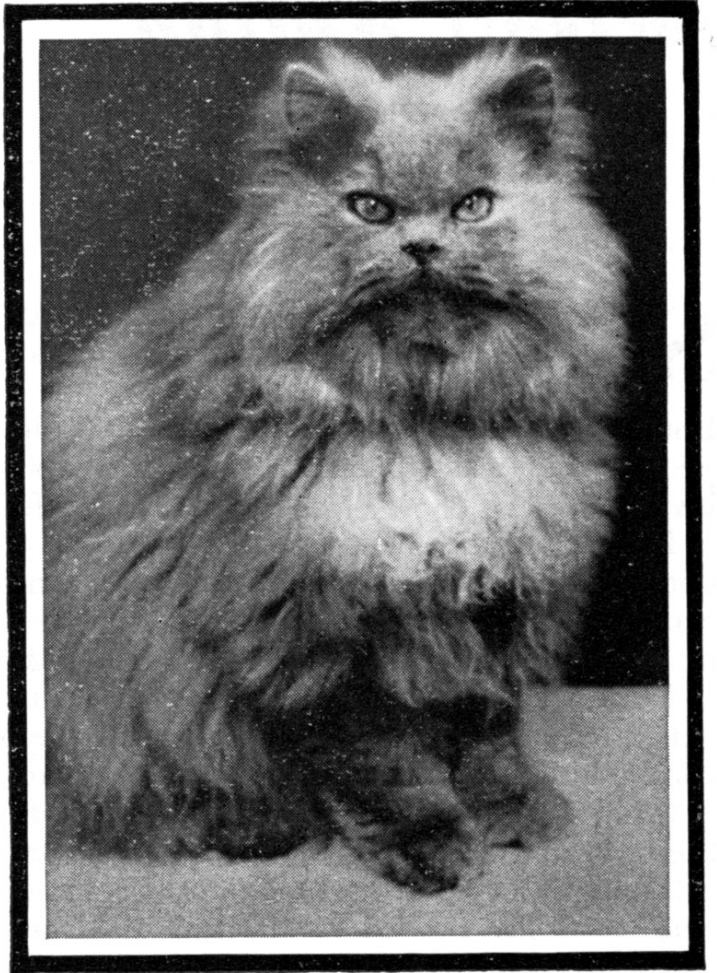
Despite the fact that I am known here as “The Cat Woman”, I have not been asked to assist in the animal sections, but have been assigned to steward in the cookery display!

The local people here are known as Kiwais. They originally came from the island of Kiwai in the mouth of the Fly River, and history says they killed off all the Daruans in a mighty raid on the island, with the exception of one male child hidden under a turtle shell, and took over the island, where they have remained ever since. The male child was allowed to live, grew up and married a Kiwai girl. Their son, who is still alive on the island, was considered by the Government to “own” the land, and received the purchase price on all the land acquired by the Government on Daru.

The Kiwai is reputed to be the most sophisticated of the Papuans, and he will not demean himself to accept the lowly position of “houseboy”, considering that to be women's work, and not fit for men. Hunting, fishing and dancing are the prerogatives of the male.

The singing here is truly beautiful, the natives have a natural harmony, and no song is taken up merely in the melody, but thirds and fifths are instantly found, and even tiny school-children make a joyous rendering of such little songs as “Polly Put the Kettle On”. The Kiwai dancing is considered to be some of the best in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, and there is a certain “beat” of the drum which is peculiar to this area alone. They are excellent choreographers.

*“...and
that’s my
final word
-Tibs!”*



This fine prize-winning Blue-Cream is no long-haired intellectual. Under that beautiful coat, Ronada Mayblossom is a practical little body. She takes Tibs daily.

Leastways, her owner and breeder, Mrs. Doris Brice-Webb of Bramcote, Nottingham makes sure this young, up-and-coming cat has a Tibs tablet every day.

“It’s part of the regular routine in my cattery,” she explains. And

when Blossom’s dam Ch. Twinkling Star of Pensford, was in kitten, daily Tibs kept her in grand condition the whole time.

Mrs. Brice-Webb, herself an international judge, appreciates the value of Tibs. Time and again she sees how much those extra vitamins and minerals in Tibs tablets help to keep a cat in perfect condition. Follow her example—make Tibs part of your cat’s daily diet.

TIBS
CONDITION TABLETS

Famous breeders say
OUR CATS ARE TIBS CATS

Tibs tablets for cats are
a Bob Martin product.

Swishti Wallah

By JACK GRIFFITH

SWISHTI WALLAH was a cat. His name is the Hindustani equivalent of Lazy Bones. And like many lazy people he was charming and lovable.

I inherited him from one of the doctors of the Indian Convalescent Depot at Shillong, high up in the Khasi Hills in Assam.

I don't know where the doctor got him, but the people who claimed ownership over him were not important as such. *He* was the only important one!

At night he used to sit on my chest as I lay in bed in my hut on the edge of the jungle, snuggling as close to me as possible. Sometimes we would hear the yelping of a pack of marauding jackals as they passed nearby, or the raucous pseudo-laugh of a hyena. Then he would lift his head and look fearfully towards where he knew the jungle was, and the source of possible danger. Then he would snuggle even closer.

Swishti Wallah was possessive, and would not permit anything to interfere with my interest in him. I was not even allowed to read when he was with me. As soon as I picked up my book and held it close enough to be read comfortably by the light of a hurricane lamp, he would push it aside with his head and move up so close that nothing could come between us. Then he would sit on my neck and purr with satisfied possessiveness.

He was one of scores of cats at the camp. Wherever cats and

dogs find soldiers they never leave them except under pressure of departure or of death. With soldiers they not only get food and other material things, but also affection and friendship. There is a comradeship between them which extends across the barriers dividing humans and animals.

Unfortunately, the number of cats in the camp had increased beyond all reason. Every mess had a few, every hut had a few, every officer and senior N.C.O. had one, and the various cook-houses—Hindu, Muslim and unclassified—possessed cats beyond estimate.

Order for destruction

As the war was now over and most people had little to do, energetic generals diverted their activities to tours of inspection to ascertain that the troops were as well cared for as possible. One of them was Lord Auchinleck. Another was a doctor, and our O.C., a major of the Royal Army Medical Corps, thought that having so many cats in the camp would arouse his strong disapproval.

So he issued an order that all cats found in the camp on a certain date would be destroyed. He was a kind man who had a cat of his own. Naming the day when the cats would be eliminated gave every cat owner an opportunity of hiding his particular pet until the painless slaughter had ceased.

The Regimental Sergeant Major was a huge man, lean and tough

and with the face of a Chicago gunman. He terrified other ranks with a look, unnerved colonels by raising one eyebrow, and made generals stammer with embarrassment by standing stonily to attention. It was he who was ultimately responsible for seeing that the O.C.'s orders were carried out.

Sanctuary

On the day the cats were being destroyed he was sitting at his desk in the Orderly Room. Everyone else there worked silently and diligently, for he was a man whose presence did not encourage slackness or unnecessary conversation.

Half-way through the morning Swishti Wallah walked in. He was not my cat then or I should have got my bearer to keep him out of sight.

Although he had never been known to enter the Orderly Room before he walked straight to the fireplace where he sat down and looked thoughtfully at the flames. The camp was 7,000 feet above sea level, and although it was warm in the sunshine, fires were needed in the shade or at night. After some moments of enjoying the warmth he raised a leg and began certain ablutionary activities.

No one in the Orderly Room took any notice of him, but one of the men detailed for cat destruction had seen him enter, and, intent upon his duty, followed him in. Seeing the R.S.M., however, he stopped in the doorway.

The R.S.M. glanced at him. Nothing was said, but the soldier looked questioningly at the cat sitting in the fireplace. The R.S.M. followed the line of his gaze, saw Swishti Wallah, then turned sharply back.

"What do you want?" he snapped in his best defaulters manner.

Assuming that the cat belonged to the R.S.M., in which case he wanted nothing to do with it, the man stammered, "N-nothing, sir."

"Then get out."

The soldier went.

Time to go!

Silence returned to the Orderly Room, the clerks being almost too afraid to breathe. After a while Swishti Wallah decided it was time to go. With complete assurance he walked slowly towards the door.

The R.S.M. looked at him, something faintly like a smile warming his tough face.

"The best thing you ever did was come in here today," he said to the nonchalant Swishti Wallah.

The cat glanced back at him as if to say, "Yes, I *am* a lucky dog, aren't I?"



THIS MONTH'S BACK-SLAP

A S.W. London subscriber writes:

"Please find enclosed my cheque for another twelve copies of OUR CATS plus two Easibinders to keep my precious back numbers in good condition."

"Many thanks for yet another year of pleasure afforded by OUR CATS, the little magazine with the big heart!"

A.S.

The foster mother

By TESS WILSON TAYLOR

IT was on a November day that a deep friendship was severed when I lost my dear little queen T'Asha. I suddenly found myself foster mother to her four-weeks-old Siamese babies, and after a few days I came to realise how really hard these mother cats have to work. Pumping nourishment into those tiny kittens was a thoroughly harrowing task.

The family rallied round me, and three kittens would be fed at once, so that only one at each meal would be put off by the loud protesting screams of the others. We used doll's feeding bottles with rubber teats, and gently squeezed drops of pre-digested Bengers into the little mouths. The kittens, without any preamble, used the toilet tray in a corner of their curtained playpen, and then struggled back into their electrically heated bed. They had not, however, learned to clean themselves after using the newspaper, and would roll in the bed blanket. Twice a day I "topped and tailed" them all, and changed the blanket. Several times a complete bath was necessary.

The kittens seemed restless and unhappy. By watching their stools I had to decide each day if I was administering the correct amount of nourishment to each one, and on several occasions I gave too much, with consequent diarrhoea. One evening while I was sitting brooding over them, I saw to my horror that three kittens had rolled the fourth on to her back and were sucking

her tummy. The kitten was squealing and her fur was soaking. Something had to be done about this pretty smartly!

Out of the nursery cupboard I brought a teddybear—about the size of a mother cat—and carefully sunk pencils criss-cross across its abdomen and under the furry skin, with rubber teats fixed on the ends. These I smeared with milk, and then proudly presented the make-believe "mum" to the kittens. They sniffed all over it—then walked sadly away. My plan had failed!

My sacrifice

A friend of mine, just back from Kenya where she had kept every possible kind of animal (domestic and otherwise), advised me to give the kittens a piece of sheepskin or fur. By this time the three stronger kittens had once more been dragged off the baby, so she was put in a bed on her own, wrapped in a blanket. However, she refused to stay there, and made all haste to get back into the nest. I looked through my drawers and cupboards, and decided to sacrifice my fur hat—my precious fur hat! This was an immediate success.

The kittens pounced on it, fought over it, trounced and kneaded it and sucked up little hard nipples of skin. Peace reigned at last! Even the tiny one got her share of hat.

“ Perhaps the fur (Indian lynx) will poison them?” I worried, “ But surely the excellent psychological effect of this comforting sucking will off-set the poison ”. Anyway, the kittens thrived.

At five weeks they suddenly discovered an interest in food. At six weeks they were so fond of humans that everyone who enters their room is made hugely welcome and climbed upon. As soon as their room door is opened they tear up and down the long corridor. In the evening when the family gather round the fire and watch television, first one tiny face appears round the door, followed by the others. All the kittens sit sedately on the hearth-rug—at least for a few minutes—and then start choosing knees to sit on.

Although the fur hat has proved such a useful foster mother, I am afraid that in other ways I have failed my little family. Obviously the mother-cat gives her babies long lectures on “ dangers encountered daily in the home ”.

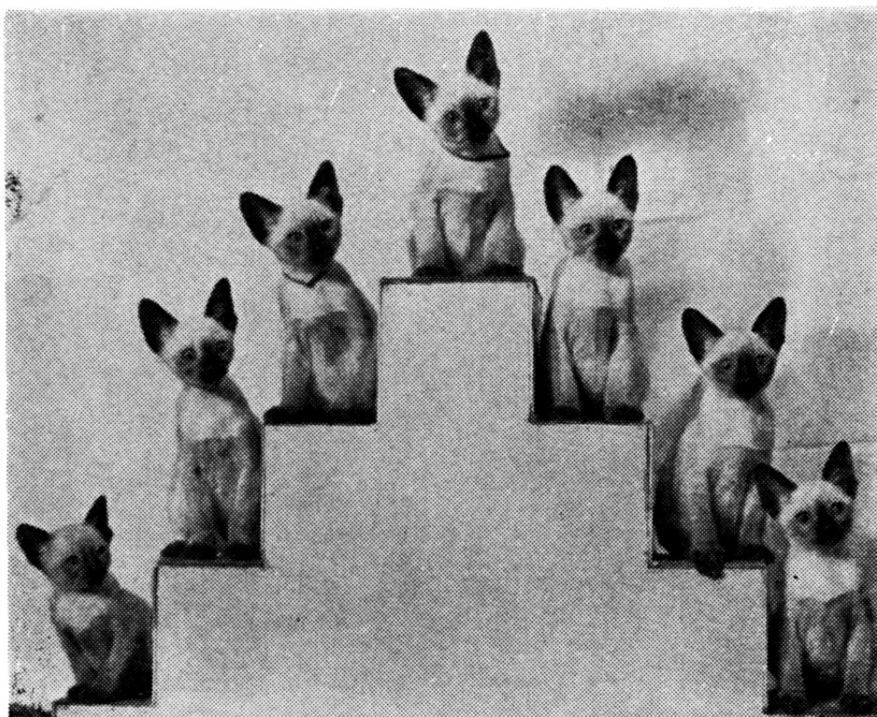
My kittens are without fear, and completely without any sense of caution.

Bad manners

The other evening they all started playfully running up the fire-guard. The leader stood poised on the top, ready to jump into the heart of the flames. During a split second, I visualized her doing it and all the horror attendant on it, and at the same time sprang across the room and grabbed her to safety. There were scuttles and squeaks from the kittens and sickly groans from the family.

No one warned the kittens about dogs. When one kitten was playfully biting his nose and two were nipping his tail, our dog's patience gave out and he suddenly started snapping in all directions—until mollified.

Then there are the social graces. Never have I seen such bad manners at mealtimes. It



A novel arrangement for the next picture of your Siamese litter ? Go ahead—if you have a few hours to spare ! Sweden's prominent breeder of Siamese—Mrs. Margit Lans of Ektorp—kindly supplied this shining example.

is useless giving each kitten a separate plate, because they just go from plate to plate pushing the kitten in possession out of the way, and there is soon a scrum for all, and very little interest in the food. The best plan is to give them a very large plate with lots of elbow room.

Feminine rule

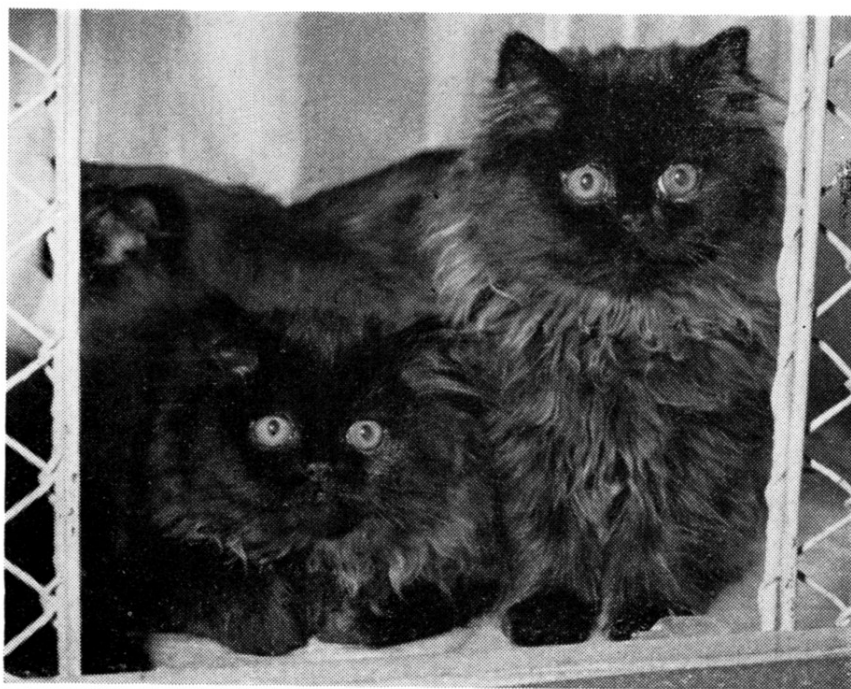
The leader—a female—bangs a paw into the face of each kitten on right and left of her, and when gobbling up the food she pushes hard with her paws. This still does not dispose of the kitten opposite her, so she releases her paws, climbs into the middle of the plate, and covers the food with her body while aiming blows in all directions. A real little tartar she is, but the bonniest in the family.

Curiously enough the other kittens seem to get lots of fun out

of it—seizing the food in various cunning ways. Anyway, they must realise by now that there is never a shortage.

When T'Asha died the kittens were fat and contented. During the following week they became fretful and emaciated. I could hardly bear to look at them. The foster mother in the form of my fur hat helped to stabilize their sad and lonely little lives. Today they are plump, lively and lovable. Never have I known such humanized kittens. Parting with them is something I prefer not to think about.

The hat—mauled and mutilated as it is—will always have some sentimental value for me. I hope I may be forgiven if I turn up to some of those dressy little Siamese Cat Club tea-parties—wearing it. After all, a hat of such importance *should* be worn!



PASCALE DE COQUAILLE and YOURI DE COQUAILLE, a pair of superb Black Longhair kittens bred in Holland by J. de Hoan from Ch. Patrick of Pensford and Int. Ch. Carina of Frisia State. One has been purchased by Mr. W. Rodenstein, the well-known German breeder and exhibitor.



Tailpieces

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



THE famous Crufts Dog Show was held this month with a bumper entry. It was reported that it was a disturbing occasion for Jemima, the Siamese pet of Mrs. George Janson-Smith, who lives opposite Olympia. Every time the dogs arrive in West London in their hundreds Jemima develops asthma!

An American store is offering gold-plated imitation mice—price £13 each. And perhaps you were thinking that *your* pet had *everything*!

I have news from Australia of the formation of a Blue and Cream Longhair Society in Queensland whose object will be the study and improvement of the two breeds by the importation of new blood lines from New Zealand and Great Britain. President is Mr. C. Woodrow and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Beale, 22 Yeronga Street, Yeronga, Brisbane, Queensland.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Saudi Arabia served to reveal the sad story of the cat who lived and died at the Saudi Embassy in London's Millionaires' Row. When the Ambassador packed his bags to return home in 1956 after the Suez affair, he left behind a chauffeur, a caretaker, a gardener and a house cat. Four Cadillacs were subsequently reduced to one. For years the cat stalked around in splendid isolation until he sickened and had to be put to sleep. "It got too much for him," said the chauffeur, "and I think the loneliness killed him more than anything else."

To what depths of cruelty can man sink! Peter Milne, a 21-year-old crane driver of Sheffield bought a greyhound with the idea of racing it. It was too gentle he thought to win races and was in need of a blood lust. So he stole the tabby cat which was the pet of the firm which employed him and held it while he encouraged the dog to tear it to pieces in a field. In a statement read to the court where he was prosecuted by the R.S.P.C.A. Milne said he had no alternative but to give the dog a cat and hope this would make it fit for racing. Fining him £10, the Chairman remarked that it was disgraceful conduct.

The Chestnut Brown group continue to make steady progress at the shows and to win more devotees. Crossways Hydena (owned by Mrs. Warren of Reading and bred by Mrs. Joan Judd) and Elvyne Billy Budd (owned and bred by Miss E. Swyer and pictured in our last month's issue on the inside back cover) are now Champions. On the Continent, Crossways Heritor (a brother to Hydena) has won full status for his owner Mrs. De

Now available!

JOURNEY FROM THE BLUE NILE

**a history of the Abyssinian
Cat published by the United
Abyssinian Club U.S.A.**

Copies (9/- post free) obtainable
from OUR CATS, 4 CARLTON
MANSIONS, 378 CLAPHAM
ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9

Haas-Zanen, of Holland. Also in Holland, Revel Chestnut Flame, bred by Mrs. Clavier and owned by Dr. Dams-teeg, has gained her final Certificate. Another Chestnut Brown destined for top honours is Anavis Mahogany Thor, owned by Mrs. Harrison in Frankfurt and bred by Mrs. Patricia Keith.

In *How to Live with a Calculating Cat* (Muller, 18s.), author Eric Gurney reveals that a survey showed that out of every 250 people, 116 are cat lovers, 54 are cat haters and the remainder didn't trouble to record their preference.

Here is an important item of Parliamentary news—at least a change from the Common Market and Polaris! The Home Secretary has announced his intention to set up a Departmental Committee to enquire into the working of the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876, under which experiments on live animals are licensed.

The R.S.P.C.A. has recently opened a new Suffolk East and Ipswich Branch clinic. The sum of £2,500 was raised to pay for the building and its reconstruction largely through the effort and enthusiasm of the Branch Hon. Secretary

Miss O. R. Cossons and local helpers.

An advertisement in an American newspaper ran as follows: "Aggressive, bossy, courageous baby tomcat. Persian/Siamese accident. Both parents ch. stock. Long-hair coat, lilac-tinged grey. All shots. Prefer home with cantankerous single person with ulcers who wishes to annoy neighbours and run all other cats off the block. Reasonable."

Featured in a new P.D.S.A. film, "The P.D.S.A. in Scotland," is the Society's first home for stray and unwanted cats and kittens. It is situated at Cumbernauld, a few miles from Glasgow. Here, in fine open country, with their own "wee but and ben," the inmates will wait for new homes to be found. The 16mm. film runs for 20 minutes and is available, as are other P.D.S.A. films, to anyone with a suitable projector.

The Perpetual Challenge Trophy presented by Kosset Carpets Limited and awarded annually to the Best Chinchilla Kitten at Olympia went to Ivelholme Emblem, owned by Mrs. K. A. Bacon, of Southend-on-Sea.



GENTIAN HEIDI won for owner-breeder Mrs. M. E. Claxton, of Grays, Essex, the trophy awarded by the Blue Persian Cat Society to the Best Female Kitten at the last Kensington K.N.C.C. Show.

Thinking about holidays? Here's something new for cat folk although alas! the journey starts in far-off sunny California and of course involves quite a bit of time and quite a few dollars. A travel agency announces a suggested itinerary for a Cat Fancier's Tour to Europe via Pan American Airline. The tour starts on 12th March, first stop Paris via the Polar route. Here the visitors will have three days in which to attend a cat show. Later, on arrival in Hamburg, they will be entertained by the well-known Continental breeder of Persians Mrs. Wagner. Local fanciers will also be present. On arrival in London, a full day is allocated for the tourists to visit cat breeders (details to be advised later, says the brochure). Yet another trip will take them to the Isle of Man where a visit to Knockaloe Experimental Farm where Manx cats are being bred is the high spot of the day.

Congratulations are due to the winners in the International Photo and Snapshot Contest recently organized by the Abyssinian Cat Fanciers of Canada through their admirable journal *The Canadian Aby Purr-View*. Main awards were as follow: Best Picture—Mrs. Elsie Outram, N.S.W., Australia; Best Colour Picture (Overseas)—Mrs. L. M. Bradbury, Warwickshire; Best Colour Picture (North America)—Mrs. Margaret Peters, California, U.S.A.; Best Colour Snapshot—Mr. A. Gow Harvey, Ontario, Canada; Best Photo (black and white)—Mrs. Marjorie Pallady, Oklahoma, U.S.A.; Best Snapshot (black and white)—Mrs. D. W. Field, Ontario, Canada; Best Photo (black and white, overseas)—Mrs. Margaret Davies, Wellington, New Zealand; Best Junior Entry—John Cockburn, Ontario, Canada; Honourable Mention—Mrs. Falkena, The Netherlands. The Contest was directed by Mr. George Wright, a professional photographer and ardent Abyssinian fan.

“ Yet again,” writes Mrs. F. J. Collier, “ I have reason to doubt the statement that cats have no sense of colour. I always use sand in their sanitins. The other day I left a bowl of Barbados brown sugar—which looks exactly like sand—on the table. A few minutes later I heard scratching and my White Longhair was busily emptying out all the sugar. I'm still wondering what might have followed in the sugar bowl if I hadn't intervened!”

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

TO A BLACK CAT

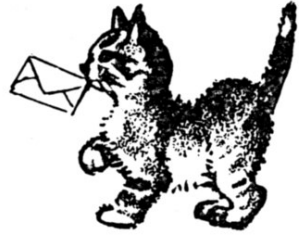
*“ I told you once when, from your maw
I drew the little thrush, in awe,
That you had stopped the Voice of Spring,
You merely looked up wondering
Why I was sad when you were proud,
Why all that April morn was cowed.
Useless to punish or to blame,
You had the hunter's love of fame.
And none so brave and strong of will
To trap all rodents and to kill—
Or keep at bay the errant hound
That trespassed on our private ground ”.*

The extract above is taken from one of several delightful poems in the traditional style by Adrian Bury, the well-known painter and writer on art. “ The Black Cat ” is one of his earliest and longest poems and it is included in a miscellany of odes and sonnets published recently at 12s. 6d. by Charles Skilton Ltd. under the title “ *Look Back in Love* ”.



Correspondence Corner

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



Siamese eating habits

THE eating habits of our Siamese always seem to give rise to discussion and I have noticed that whilst the breeders will assure you that they never have any trouble in this direction, we fanciers who only keep our cats as cherished companions often come up against difficulties undreamed of with the ordinary cat.

To begin with and I think no one will deny us this, the Siamese is a highly intelligent animal and his brothers and sisters who have been left as nature made them through the mere pursuit of the natural way of life, always have healthy appetites. However, our good natured eunuch or dainty spayed lady, who after all and without their consent have been suddenly altered to fit into our scheme of things and who as Michael Joseph said have been "denied all hope of posterity", lead a comparatively peaceful but at the same time boring life. They miss the hurly burly of the mating season and also are denied its undoubted mysterious delights. Nor do our females ever have the questionable satisfaction of presenting their irate owners with a litter of black instead of white. What an interesting experiment this always is! It never fails to bring a sly smirk to some aristocratic Siamese lady's face.

Admittedly, there is the occasional mouse or lizard, the stray and for some puzzling reason, forbidden bird. There is always a nice soft bed to sleep in or a lovingly warm lap for the afternoon snooze, but do these compensate for the feel of the cold roof tiles beneath one's

feet at night, or the joy of raising one's voice in song to the golden rays of the moon when it is full? I think not.

A cat must have his fun and when one's tummy is eternally full, when one is not called upon to make any great or sustained effort to support life or produce like, surely he cannot be blamed for making his dotting slave jump through the hoop occasionally.

He will show you in so many endearing little ways that he bears you no ill will, doesn't really mean to be difficult and hopes that you will understand. After all, you know, you are his other self.

MRS. M. BATTEN.

Queensland,
Australia.

A holiday treat

Recently, while on holiday in the South it was my great pleasure to pay a visit to Mrs. Madge Shrouder and her cats at Cats Cottage, West Moors, in Dorset, a charming house surrounded by large pine woods.

Never have I seen cats so beautifully housed. Mr. and Mrs. Shrouder have laid out the cats' quarters in a half-circle in the garden. The cedar houses have electric heating thermostatically controlled. One house was divided into six compartments one on top of the other to serve as a sick bay and for isolation purposes when necessary. The outside runs were laid out in crazy paving.

Inside Cats Cottage a room has been set aside and is used as a dormitory with a specially wired-in partition for mothers

and babies. It was then occupied by a Siamese queen with her litter of four females just three weeks old. Mrs. Shrouder breeds both Siamese and Burmese cats and has her own Siamese stud, by name Perijinks.

After tea, Mr. and Mrs. Shrouder put on a film show of some of their lovely coloured films of cats. Surely a treat in itself!

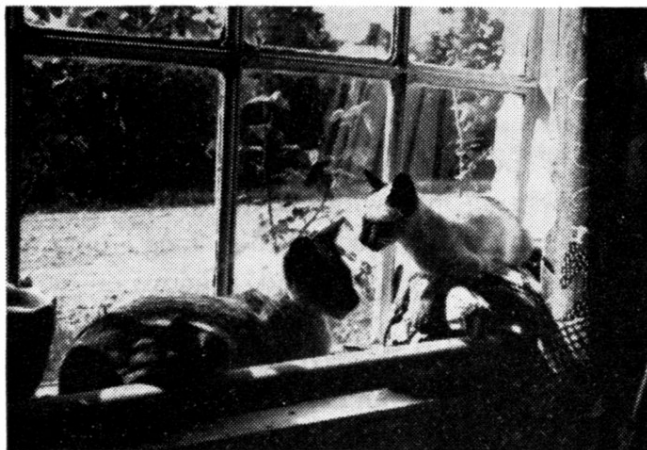
I carried home to Scotland pleasant memories of a charming little lady and her very happily feline family.

MRS. J. E. COLQUHOUN,
(*Scottish Cat Club*).

Glasgow, E.1.

Information sought

I am very interested in tracing back the pedigrees of my cats and I would be glad therefore if you would insert the enclosed advertisement (p.32). I know this information will be limited but I hope I might discover details about the cats from some breeders. It seems a fascinating study and I've already had lots of fun from the current year's Stud List.



Window warmth for Miss Yates' Siamese in Lincolnshire—HADEN CHERANG and WHIPTAIL LORD PETER.

I enjoy your Magazine, which is full of interest. I have not seen any articles of this sort so I wonder if you could sometime include articles on famous cats of the past, with judges' comments, personal reminiscences and possible details of environment. I personally would be thrilled if Major and Mrs.

Rendall could do an article on their famous Missfore cats; how they judged their best kittens and their plan in breeding. I am sure there are many such breeders who have a wealth of information for cat lovers.

MISS E. YATES

Tallington,
Stamford, Lincs.

SCOTTISH SHOW

The Scottish Cat Club's 6th annual Championship Show was held in the MacLellan Galleries, Glasgow, on 19th January.

The Show is getting bigger every year and this time the number of entries topped the 200 mark, approximately three-quarters of this total being registered cats.

In addition to the pleasing increase in the total entry there was a greater variety of breeds and types than before. The team of judges and about one-third of the exhibitors came from the South, some of them making very difficult journeys in arctic conditions in order to attend. The Club is very grateful for this magnificent effort. Among the distinguished visitors we had the Van cats kindly brought all the way from Buckinghamshire by Miss Laura Lushington. Unfortunately, Miss Kit Wilson who was to be the referee judge, was imprisoned in her home by the snow. She has been a good friend to the Club and was greatly missed.

Main awards went as follows: Best Longhaired Cat—Mrs. M. Steele's Tortoiseshell Titwood Thalia; Best Longhaired Kitten—Mrs. S. Knight's Blue Mooncoin Mr. Charmer; Best Longhair Neuter—Mrs. W. Mackay's Blue Pr. Galibraes Julie; Best Shorthair Cat—Mrs. V. V. Bowles' Siamese Blue Point Pheanoi Funag; Best Longhaired Kitten—Mrs. N. G. Denny's Siamese Lilac Point Khubsurat Sweet Sultan; Best Shorthair Neuter—Mrs. S. Beever's Red Tabby Pr. Ch. Briarry Demon.

A.L.B.

News from "Down Under"

HELLOA, folks! Here we are in 1963 and Xmas seems far away now. We have read of your deep freeze while we have been sweltering (at times!) but most states, including the real dry areas, have been blessed with beneficial falls of rain. Wonderful crops of luscious fruit have resulted.

New South Wales: Cumberland Show at Punchbowl was a great day for all and as efficiently run as usual by Mrs. Savage (President) and Mrs. Paris (Secretary). A very good entry of 130 on a fine, warm day kept the eight judges busy and Show Manager K. Armit and Chief Steward Mrs. H. Gillard saw that things ran smoothly throughout the day. Mrs. Wood was R.A.S. representative. The local Girl Guides movement benefited.

Mrs. Mullins' lovely imported Cream male Ch. Highland Gold Star was Best Persian Male and her Orange-eyed White female Ch. Minaloo Loga Best Opposite Sex. Best Siamese Male was Mrs. Tchan's Kongsu Blu Piccolo with Mrs. Wyatt's Pasht Ching Song Best Opposite Sex. Col. and Mrs. Scott motored from Melbourne and exhibited their lovely Red Abyssinians, a dam with her three kittens. A fourth kitten had left for Hawaii just previously, I understand. Local breeders were interested to have a good look at this extra attraction. Mrs. Scott has been invited to judge in New Zealand in March at the lovely city of Dunedin.

Mrs. Buckland brought along her trio of Colourpoints and they created great excitement all day, being the first of their kind to be benched in Australia. This stock is registered as experimental at present but due to the rapid strides

which Mrs. Buckland is making, it should not be long before they gain recognition. I think they will be a great show attraction.

Victoria: My only correspondence just recently has been from Mrs. E. Birtles, enclosing a splendid photo of her black and white cat Jimmy, who is now entitled to vote, having reached the ripe old age of 21 years. He is intently watching the 21 candles burning on his iced cake, which has a golden "key of the door" in the background. Jimmy received over 200 letters of congratulations from admirers in all the states.

Queensland: Things "cat" are very active here. I have just received a copy of their constitution, show rules and regulations, also a copy of their nice magazine *Purrs and Paws*, on which I should like to compliment them. Their judges lectures and get-togethers are very popular and are breeding and cementing goodwill. With their eye to the future, Queensland's long term policy is very sound. Toowoomba Agricultural Show with its cat section has been well catered for and I understand both Councils are in accord. A grand show should result. Mrs. Whyte will travel from N.S.W. to judge.

A show was held in December at Mordialloc under the Victoria G.C. rules and designated 1st Victoria Blue Riband Ch. Show. Mr. Laurie Wilson was show manager. Their big Moomba Show is to be held in March.

Finally, may I thank Mr. Editor and friends in nineteen countries for their wonderful cards and heartwarming messages and greetings.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

A reader has kindly copied the following show report from an issue of *The Queen* journal dated Saturday, 26th January, 1901:

The Cat Club has held its third annual Show at St. Stephen's Hall, Westminster. This show has always been a pecuniary success; last year it gave £150 to the War Fund, and the profits of the present show are to be given to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street.

Some of the most picturesque cats are characteristically figured by Mr. Wardle in our present number. The central figure represents Mrs. Harper's first prize longhaired white male, a very beautiful specimen. At the bottom of the page is the head of Argent Puffy that secured the first prize in the shaded silver female class. This is a characteristic example of the results of fancy shows, which are not devoted either to beauty or to utility, but to the development of what may be termed artificial fancy points.

Like a bulldog

The cat is regarded by fanciers as an almost perfect type of head, precisely what all cat breeders are trying to obtain. It is not, however, at all like the natural formation of a cat's skull but a modification of the natural form, which

more resembles the ugly and useless bulldog of the fancier's shows of the present day. By continuing to breed for a few generations from animals of the same type any amount of unnatural exaggeration of any deformity can be obtained, and that is the object of the fancier.

Free from odour !

Taking the other animals in the order represented, at the top of the page we have Mrs. Bonar's black longhaired Forest Beauty, a cat not inappropriately named. Miss Atkin's White Knight, also longhaired, Mrs. Stewart's Ayrshire Ronald, a blue longhaired cat which took first prize in its class. Miss Chamberlayne's kittens are very characteristic. On the other side, we have Mrs. Vyvian's Siamese, Suzanne, which took first prize. We do not think the breeders have improved this variety since its first introduction, when it was characterized by much more strongly defined black extremities and muzzle than is the case at the present time.

The Cat Show was well managed by the officials, remarkably free from any unpleasant odour, and was well patronized by female members of the upper ten thousand, who have taken to fancy cats as vigorously as their male relatives have to fancy dogs.

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 SHORTHAIR BREEDERS

FOR RELIABLE STUDS AND STOCK (Arranged alphabetically)

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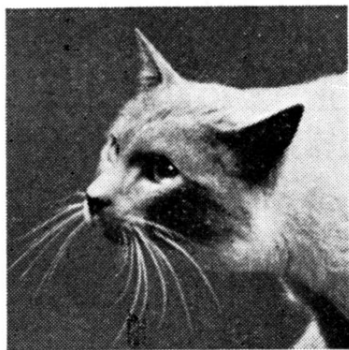
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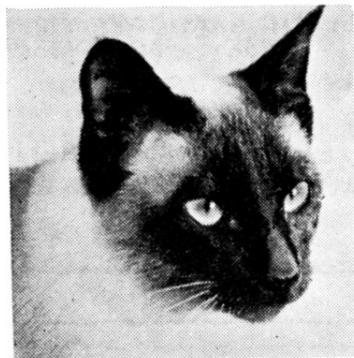
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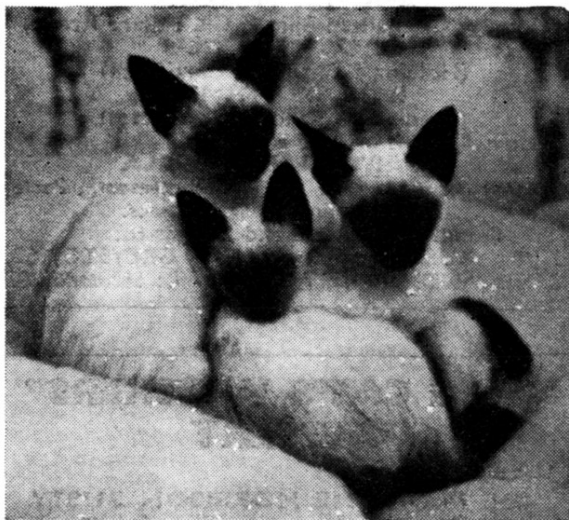
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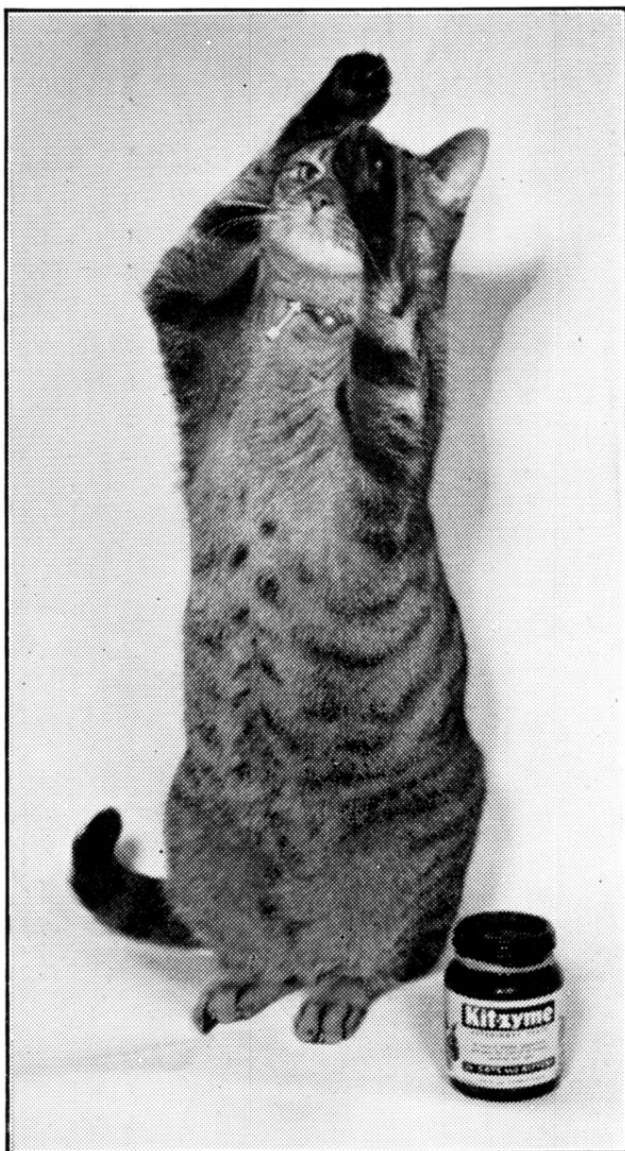
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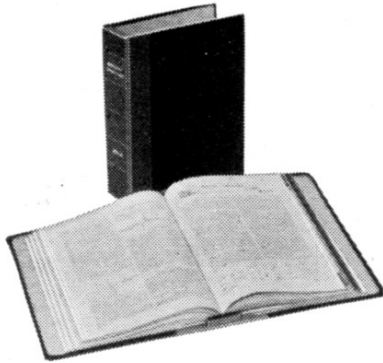


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