

# Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE  
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2/6

CAT FIGHTS AND MARMALADE

JULY 1964

See inside pages



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# Our Cats

VOL. 16 No. 7  
JULY 1964

**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

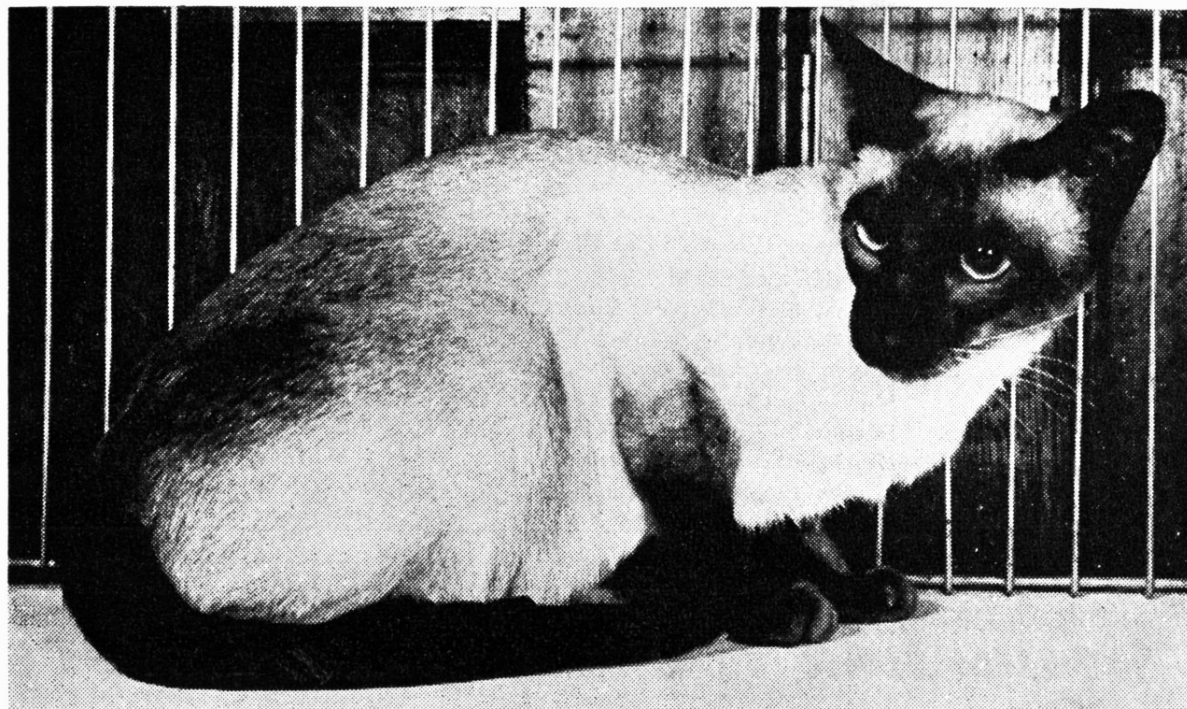
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Correspondent :*

MR. F. W. PEARCE, 33 OLD BEROWRA  
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**THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS**

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*Hugh Smith*

**LEYBORNE MELISSA** is a Seal Point Siamese female with a fine show record for one so young (born January 1963). Following on her Best Female award at the recent Championship Show of the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire, she was made Best Shorthair Cat at the Maidstone Show of the Kentish Cat Society. Melissa belongs to Mr. A. A. Bullock, of Kew, Surrey, who bred her from Ch. Katrine Sunhunter ex Leyborne Peta.

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# SHOWS FOR THE 1964/5 SEASON

Brief details of the show fixtures so far arranged for the coming season are provided below for the information and guidance of readers. A list giving fuller information may be obtained (price 6d.) from the Secretary of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, Mrs. J. Wakerley, 10 Farm Close, Cuffley, Herts.

1964	Promoted by	Venue
1 August ...	Hull Show ... ..	East Park, Hull
3 " ...	Urmston Show ... ..	Urmston
8 " ...	Halifax Agricultural Society ... ..	Halifax
12 " ...	Bingley Show ... ..	Bingley, Yorks
29 " ...	Northern Siamese Cat Society ... ..	York
3 September ...	Macclesfield & Dist. Agric. Society ... ..	Macclesfield
12 " ...	*Edinburgh & East of Scotland Cat Club	Edinburgh
19 " ...	*Herts. & Middlesex Cat Club ... ..	London
23 " ...	*Wessex Cat Club ... ..	Bournemouth
1 October ...	*South Western Counties Cat Club ... ..	Exeter
3 " ...	*Yorkshire County Cat Club ... ..	Harrogate
22 " ...	*Siamese Cat Club ... ..	London
24 " ...	*Midland Counties Cat Club ... ..	Birmingham
5 November ...	*Blue Persian Cat Society ... ..	London
13 " ...	*Croydon Cat Club ... ..	Surbiton, Surrey
21 " ...	*Cheshire Area Cat Club ... ..	Chester
5 December ...	*National Cat Club ... ..	Olympia, London
12 " ...	*Preston Cat Club ... ..	Blackpool
19 " ...	Hull & Lincolnshire Cat Club ... ..	Grantham, Lincs.
1965		
9 January ...	*Notts. & Derbys. Cat Club ... ..	Nottingham
30 " ...	*Southern Counties Cat Club ... ..	London
6 February ...	*Scottish Cat Club ... ..	Glasgow
13 " ...	*Lancs. & North West Counties C.C. ... ..	Bolton
20 " ...	*West of England & South Wales C.Soc. ... ..	Cardiff
27 " ...	*Coventry & Leicester Cat Club ... ..	Leicester
6 March ...	Northern Counties Cat Club ... ..	Newcastle-on-Tyne
13 " ...	Suffolk & Norfolk Cat Club ... ..	Ipswich
27 " ...	Ulster Siamese Cat Club ... ..	Belfast, N. Ireland

\*Denotes show with Championship status

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# *Cat fight*

By HUGH SMITH

**W**HEN cats are fighting they observe no rules. It's "all in—no holds barred", bite and scratch any part of the enemy's anatomy that gets within reach. But don't imagine there is any lack of refinement in technique. Not for nothing has the cat a most beautiful control of its muscular system and delicate sense of balance.

The moves in a fight are often too fast for the eye to follow, but they may be captured by the camera with a fast lens.

The early stages of combat are easy to follow. Movements are subtle and slow. Provocation by insult using unprintable cat language comprise the opening gambit. It takes some time to sum up the potentialities of the other fellow—the enemy.

The golden rule during the period before the fight really "hots up" is to watch the other chap's eyes. At the same time you flick your tail in such a way that he can just see the end of it out of the corner of his eye. Sometimes you may need even to positively lash your rudder to get him off guard. There's every chance he'll find this irresistible and take his eyes off yours for just a split second. That's when you leap in with the acceleration of a steel spring!

With luck you may bowl him over and put him to headlong flight. Then you can enjoy the flavour of swift pursuit. That'll teach him to come messing about in *your* garden!

Usually, of course, he's not

quite such a fool as you're tempted to think. He'll land you a smart clip just as you jump and it may be you who lands on the underside of him doing the biting and kicking. If that happens, you've got to disengage with speed and get on the defensive until you're ready for round number two.

Mind you!—a really clever cat never really gets into a fight. He makes himself look so terrifying that the other fellow sidles away and finds other urgent business. A clinching, spitting, tear-you-to-bits brawl is no joke when paws are armed with needle-sharp claws and teeth are young and strong. So it should be avoided by using the subtle lore of the feline mind—except, of course, when kittens are endangered or it is an affair of the heart, when one's metal just has to be demonstrated in full view of the beloved. That's when most of the scars are suffered and inflicted.

## **Dog fights**

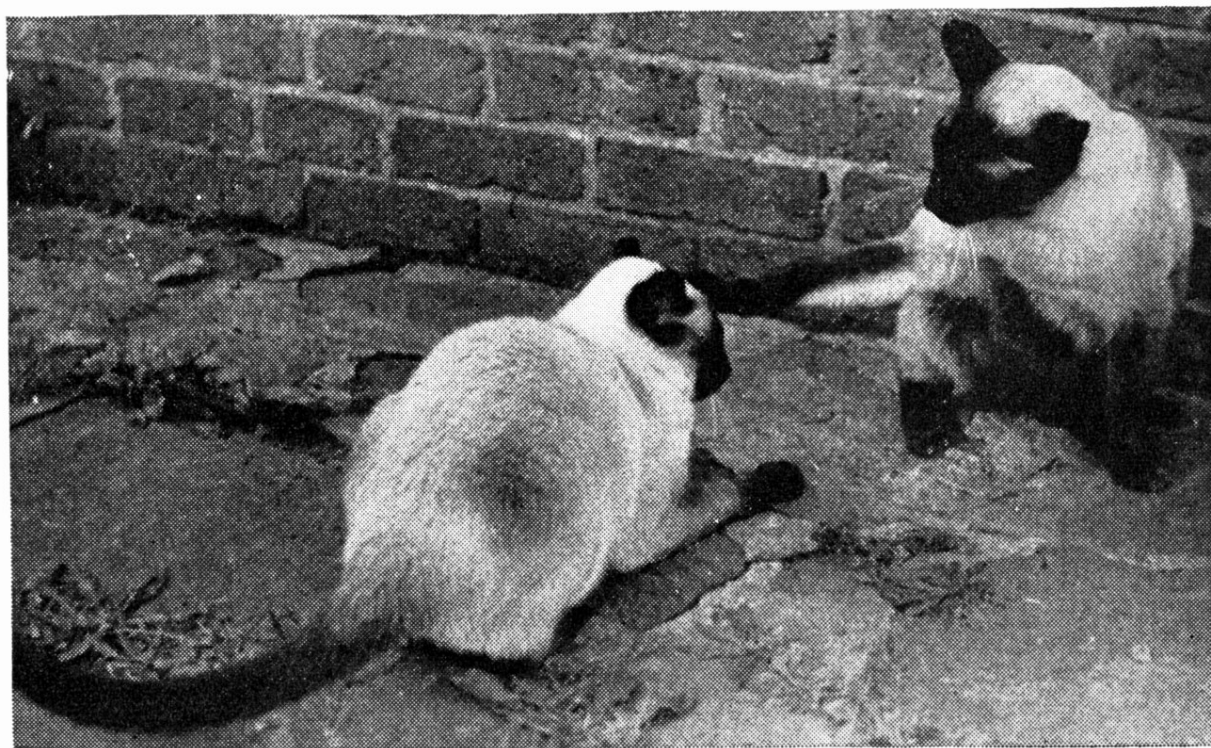
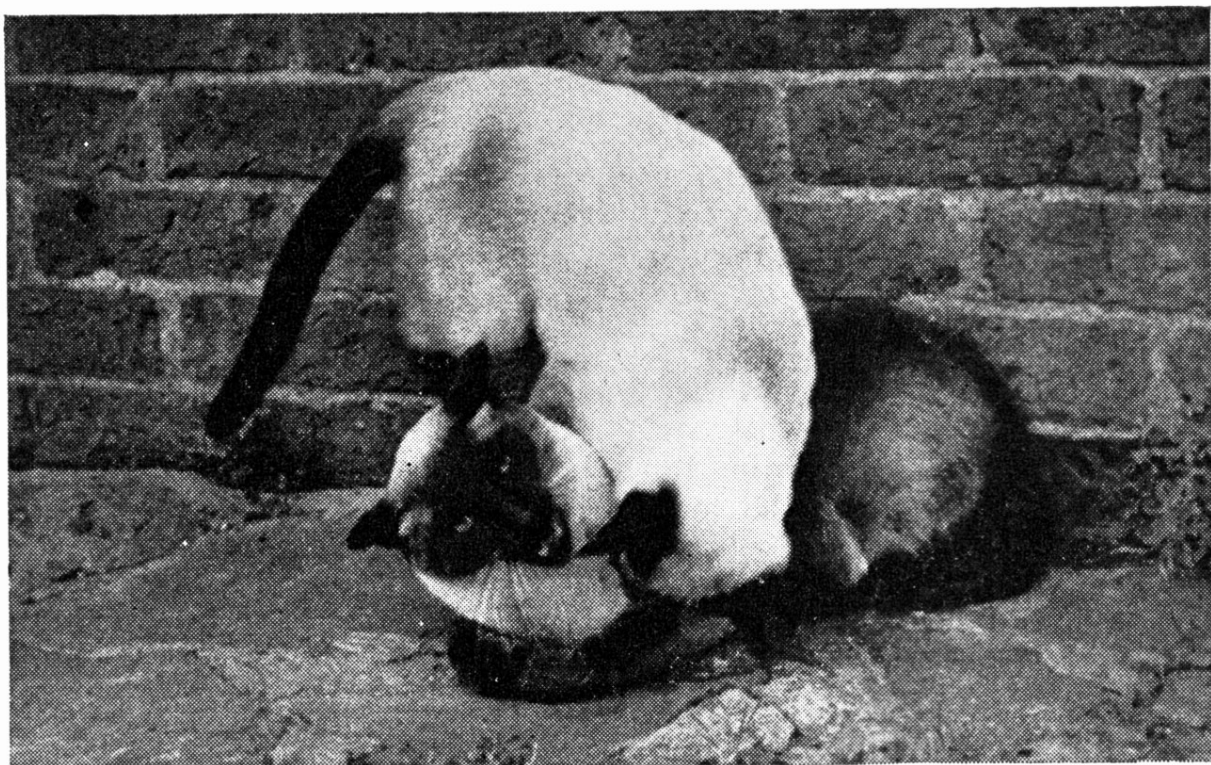
The trouble about these scraps is that they're so exhausting. They can leave you so whacked you lie down and just don't want to move for hours. And the wounds! Torn ears, nipped tendons, gaping tears in fur and flesh! The lot!

Dogs? Oh, they're just "kid-stuff". You've only got to growl, spit like tearing calico, balloon your fur out to twice your normal size and the chances are a dog will find an absorbing interest in the next lamp post up the street. If

not a clip across the nose—one of his tenderest spots—will as likely as not send him off yelping.

There are, of course, a few dogs who'll come at you like a shot from a cannon. You'd best jump for the nearest high spot like greased lightning then. A lot of good cats have lost all nine lives because they weren't smart enough to skip.

Of course, its a great help if a young cat has a good-natured older cat to act as sparring partner. I've never yet succeeded in photographing a real rip-snorting all-out cat fight. The pictures reproduced below are of friendly bouts between my own two Siamese. Nevertheless, they illustrate some of the moves in the real thing.



# Vaccines and serums

By JOHN PRYDIE, M.R.C.V.S. (*The Wellcome Research Laboratories*)

**We are privileged to reproduce the following extracts from one of the several interesting papers presented to breeders and cat lovers who attended the successful first Conference organized by the Feline Advisory Bureau in London during April. Consideration of space prevents us from giving the whole of Mr. Prydie's account of modern research into virus infections and his detailed description of respiratory viruses, their variety and complexity. We have therefore extracted the latter part of his paper and attached his answers to questioners which we felt would be of the greatest interest and value to our readers. Next month we shall present extracts from the paper on "Vitamin A Deficiency and Requirements" by Dr. Patricia P. Scott, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.M.S.**

LET us now briefly examine the different forms of *passive* immunity. The newly-born animal would be prone to attack by many infectious agents were it not protected by antibodies derived from its mother through the colostrum. This form of immunity which is called passive-naturally-acquired, is not long lasting and has generally disappeared by the time weaning takes place. The immunity is "passive" in the sense that the antibody-forming mechanism of the young animal plays no part in the development of the immune state. It is essentially a gift from the parent.

This resistance in the new-born, however, will only result if the young animal has access to its mother's milk within the first 24 hours or so of life. It is only during this period that the offspring is capable of absorbing the colostrum antibodies and, not surprisingly, it is also during this time that the colostrum antibodies are at their highest level.

The transfer of immune bodies from mother to offspring works very well under natural conditions but it creates serious difficulties in attempts to immunize young animals by means of vaccines when they approach weaning age. By this time the youngster will have lost most of its

mother's immune bodies but the small amount of these substances still present may, and often does, prevent successful vaccination due to the neutralizing, or destructive, effect they have on the vaccine antigen. Still later in life when the young animal has completely eliminated *all* its colostrum antibodies, it will be left completely unprotected or susceptible—even although it may have been vaccinated !

In any vaccination programme, therefore, it is necessary to strike a certain balance since, on the one hand, vaccination too early in life may not achieve the desired effect while, on the other hand, excessive delay obviously increases the risk of infection in the completely unprotected subject.

There is another type of passive protection—the *artificial* form which is achieved through the use of antiserum. Everyone is doubtless familiar with the tendency of blood to clot outside the body. If we collect blood, say into a bottle, from an animal and allow the blood to clot, after a while the appearance of a clear, pale-yellow fluid will be noticed above the clot. This fluid is termed serum. If the animal we have bled is immune to a certain disease then its serum provides a rich source of antibodies to that particular disease and the serum is then called an antiserum.

Antisera against all sorts of diseases can be produced, and are produced, on a

large scale, horses being the most commonly used animals for this purpose for several reasons. From the immunity point of view it does not matter whether the antigen injected into the horse is infectious for the horse or not. Antibodies will still be produced. If the horse antiserum is now injected into another animal then that animal will be protected by the horse antibodies. This form of artificial protection is usually used only when it is considered that a susceptible animal is in imminent danger of being exposed to infection.

The protection conferred in this way is immediately effective but it generally does not last longer than 2-3 weeks. The method also has the added disadvantage that it is necessary to inject fairly large amounts of the antiserum. There is also a risk of allergic reactions in the inoculated subject.

## **Natural immunity**

Yet another form of resistance is the phenomenon of natural species immunity which seems to be just part of an animal's biological endowment. For example, cats are not prone to swine fever; humans do not contract lamb dysentery; and so on. Under this heading there are examples not only of differences between species but also between races or breeds of the same species. For example, anthrax is particularly dangerous for sheep, yet the Algerian breed exhibits a high resistance.

One final word about natural immunity. It is very important to recognize that there is not one, but many, grades of natural immunity. Hence we find some animals that are solidly immune and as many more that exhibit partial resistance in every degree. The solidly immune may be expected to defeat re-infection, whilst the remainder can be anticipated to show degrees of illness that are of inverse proportion to their grade of resistance. Thus, when resistance is of high degree illness is mild if it happens at all. Much more serious disease is associated with low-

grade immunity. Moreover, in the poorly immune, there is always the chance that the invading microbes will suffer and that a more strongly resistant animal will result from the attack of infectious disease.

I would like to discuss, very briefly, some of the work we have been doing recently in my own laboratory on the disease called feline influenza. We have shown that a variety of viruses can give rise to this condition and produce the characteristic signs of sneezing, coughing, discharge from the eyes and nose, elevated temperature and so on. I don't think there is any need for me to spend time discussing the symptoms since you are all no doubt thoroughly familiar with them.

We have been able to isolate viruses quite readily from the nose, eyes, throat, lungs and, in one instance, from the faeces of affected cats. Recovery of virus from these parts of the body is achieved by rubbing the area with a sterile swab and then placing the swab in contact with living cells growing in a test tube. In these cells the virus multiplies and the cells are destroyed. The effect is readily seen under a microscope. The virus is released from the cells into the fluid which surrounds them which contains all the necessary ingredients for feeding the cells.

By this method, which is called tissue culture, we have an economical and ready way of studying viruses and by such techniques we can examine the behaviour of viruses under all sorts of different conditions. We can, for example, classify viruses and examine any relationships or similarities between one virus and another. We can determine how resistant a virus is to different disinfectants, or to heating, and so on. And we can also examine the serum from infected or recovered animals and measure the amount of antibody they possess.

What we have discovered so far is this. Firstly, there is not one, but several different types of virus causing cat influenza. Most of these are unrelated so that immunity following recovery from



infection by one type does not necessarily protect against another type. In other words the different virus types have different antigenic structures. This explains why it is possible for a cat to become re-infected at fairly short intervals. The second infection looks very similar to the first but is actually caused by a different virus. Secondly these viruses are not highly invasive. That is to say they do not, generally speaking, spread throughout the body and virus multiplication seems to be mainly limited to the surface of the upper part of the respiratory tract.

Because the viruses behave in this manner the antibody-forming mechanism of the infected animal is only poorly stimulated and antibodies are not produced to a very high level. Furthermore, such antibodies as are produced do not last for any great length of time. It would thus seem that resistance is predominately at the cellular level with little emphasis on humoral immunity.

## A difficult problem

We made an experimental batch of vaccine and tested it in a number of cats in our breeding kennels. We were not really surprised to find that it gave hardly any protection. We then tried producing an antiserum by giving horses repeated injections of one type of cat 'flu virus. Antibody levels were disappointingly low and although we have not yet tested this antiserum in cats it is doubtful if it will confer any worthwhile protection. The prevention of this disease through the use of conventional vaccine or antisera, as I see it, is going to be a very difficult thing to do and it may be that we shall have to tackle this problem from quite a different angle altogether.

In conclusion, may I suggest that we stop referring to any disease in the cat as "distemper". This term has become quite popular in many circles and has been applied to all sorts of conditions, so that it has now become highly confusing

when the word "distemper" is used. Anyway, I am not aware of any disease in the cat which even remotely resembles dog distemper in any way whatsoever. Let's leave "distemper" to the canine enthusiasts!

## Question time

In the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Prydie's paper, the following questions were dealt with:

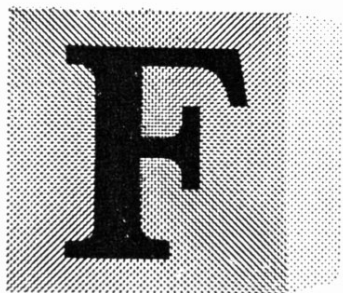
*Question: What do you consider to be a too early age for a kitten to be inoculated against F.I.E. and also what do you consider the latest age?*

Mr. Prydie: This would depend on the antibody level of the mother, the conditions under which the cats were kept and also the incidence of F.I.E. in your area. You couldn't vaccinate at one day of age, the antibody mechanism of the kitten is not operational then. It usually starts at about one week, certainly not at 24-48 hours. Provided that one can isolate kittens, then the best policy is to delay inoculation for as long as possible so that any chance of interference with the vaccine by the mothers' antibody is still in the kittens body. But of course if you delay it too long you run the risk of the kittens picking up infection. I would say as a general rule around 8-9 weeks for the first inoculation.

*Question: I wonder if you can give us some idea of the incubation period for the various types of virus diseases?*

Mr. Prydie: Incubation periods in cats, and in fact incubation periods generally vary very widely. For example, there is a disease in sheep where the incubation period can be as long as two years. In cats the incubation period for F.I.E. is round about 6 to 8 days, very occasionally a little longer. For cat influenza it is usually very short—2 or 3 days. It all depends on the volume of infection exposed to and the degree of resistance, and the interplay of these factors can result in some variation.

*Question: Some of the so called multi-spectrum antibiotics are reputed to have some*

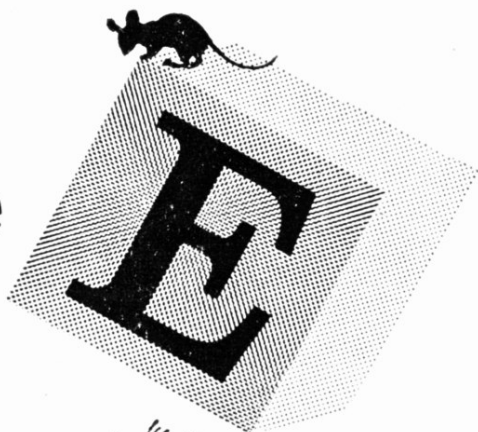


feline



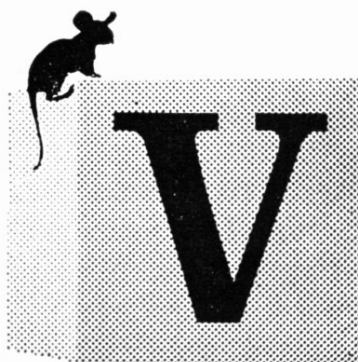
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effect on viruses. Is that in fact so or is the beneficial effect due entirely to the fact that secondary effects are dealt with by the antibiotics? It is a practice in the Fancy for judges who handle cats to wash their hands between cats in a solution of some unspecified antiseptic which is weak to start with and becomes weaker as the judging progresses. It is my feeling that this process is entirely useless—will you please confirm or deny?

Mr. Prydie: I will answer the second question first—I won't say that the practice is doing any harm! (Laughter). Concerning antibiotics, true viruses are not affected by known antibiotics. There is some talk about pneumonitis being caused by a virus. This organism is in the twilight zone between viruses and "something else" but most biologists do not recognise the pneumonitis organism as a pure virus. These are sensitive to penicillin and also to some of the tetracyclines, I think. This is as far as it goes—antibiotics are designed solely to overcome the secondary bacterial infections.

## **Pneumonia**

*Question: What research is being done in this country on feline pneumonitis?*

Mr. Prydie: None at all. In fact myself and some of my colleagues are a little dubious as to the existence of this disease. There has been a lot of talk of it in America and in fact one commercial organization there produced a vaccine against it. They've now withdrawn the vaccine—I don't know why. This

disease is by no means as common as is made out. I have never come across it in natural outbreaks.

*Question: Can it be defined in layman's terms?*

Mr. Prydie: Pneumonitis is pneumonia attributed to a virus but there is considerable argument as to whether it is a virus or not but one of the stronger arguments against is that it is sensitive to antibiotics. From what one reads in the literature, its very like influenza in its symptoms but it's only since tissue-culture methods became available that diseases like influenza can be studied. Now that we have such techniques we are realizing that many cases which were diagnosed as "pneumonitis" were very probably influenza.

*Question: At what intervals would you advise booster injections for adult cats that have been inoculated at the normal age against F.I.E.?*

Mr. Prydie: Ideally, annually. But if the cat is allowed to roam fairly freely it will almost certainly be exposed to the disease which will reinforce its immunity. But if the cat is isolated and kept in the house under careful conditions, I would strongly advise annual injections.

*Question: Have you any experience of a non-specific enteritis of a very virulent form which causes death within 24 hours, with symptoms very similar to F.I.E.?*

Mr. Prydie: I have not come across this disease but I have my head in the clouds most of the day in the laboratory and I would rather you asked one of the practising veterinary surgeons present.

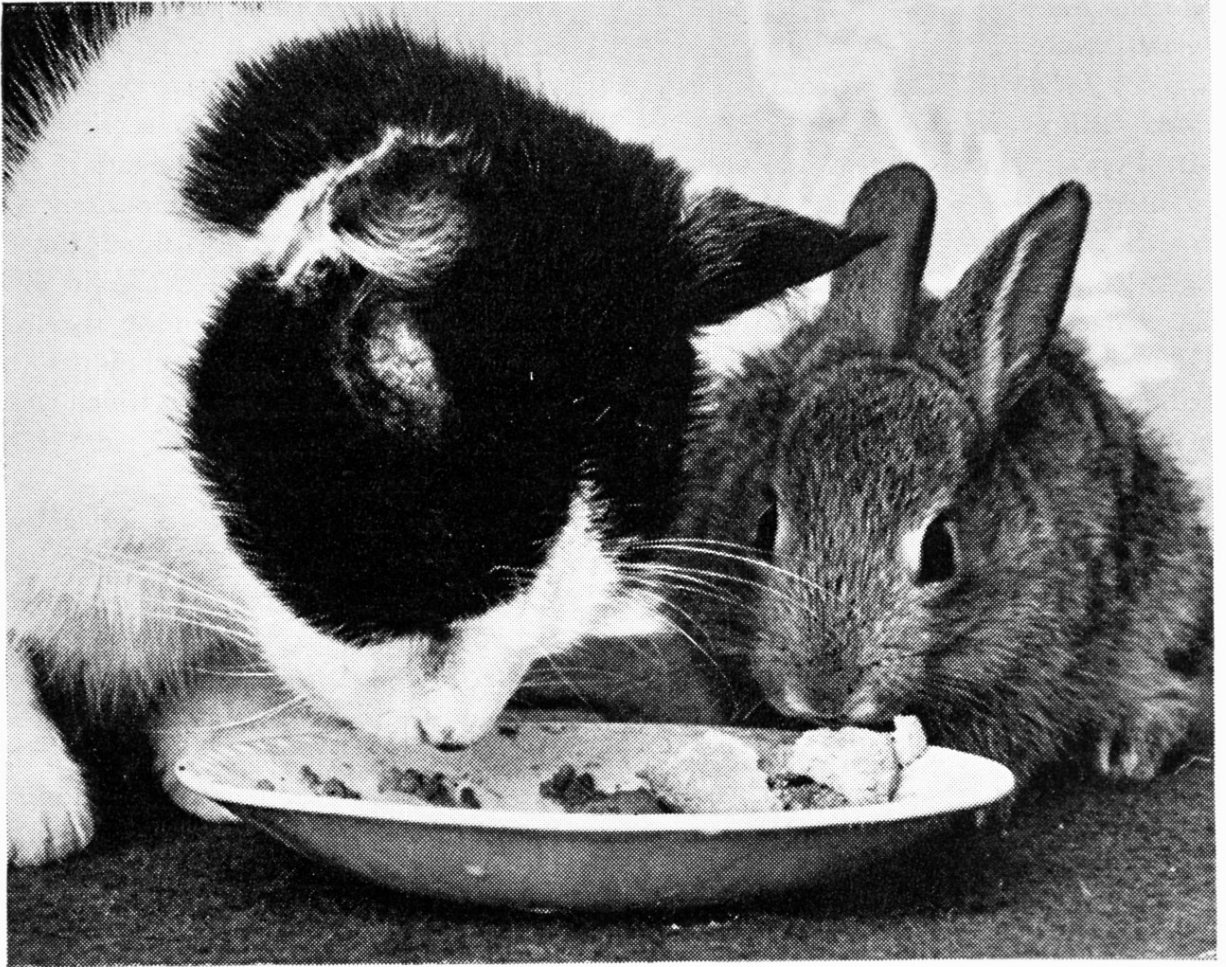
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*Everybody's Pet Doctor*, by William Hurst, well merits a place on your bookshelves because the author is able to write on his subject after many years of practical experience in handling pets and their owners. He is Chief Administrative Superintendent of the People's Dispen-

sary for Sick Animals. Few better than he are acutely alive to the fact that many pet owners are responsible for so much unintentional but nevertheless very real suffering to animals. The book is published by W. Foulsham at 12s. 6d.



**THE BEST OF FRIENDS**

Mr. Peter R. Elliott, of Manor Farm, Arnesby, Leicestershire, submitted the above picture with the following note: "When the cat next door brought home a baby wild rabbit, having dragged it across two fields, my wife rescued it and brought it home to recover. Our own cat Snuff took a great interest in it and finally adopted it. They are now the best of friends and spend a lot of time together".

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## **OUR CATS PICTURE BOOK**

When it first appeared in 1958 this book was acclaimed all over the cat world as "wonderful value" and "the cat book of the century". It contains over 200 photographs and linking articles by Sidney Denham which are amusing, entertaining, informative and instructive. Foreword is by the Dowager Lady Aberconway. For yourself or some cat loving friend, this beautifully produced pictorial symposium remains the perfect gift and a book that will be treasured for many years to come. Page size 9" x 6", 128 pages Price 19s. 6d. per copy including postage and packing. (U.S.A. and Canada \$3.25)

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# *A lament for Marmalade*

By GEORGE CRUTCH

TO lovers of animals—in particular that feline species known as cats—there is a communion of spirit and interest that reveals a sense of knowing and belonging to the clan of cat lovers. Whenever, that is, that cats are brought into the conversation.

To those that are unacquainted with the cat world we can only extend our kindly sympathy. There is as much genius, character and eccentricity among cats as ever there is among humans.

Some cats almost speak in their way of silent communication. We can learn much from cat habits. They have a perfect way of relaxing and the spirit of repose is manifested even in the lazy way they look at you, when reclining in their favourite spot.

Marmalade, my cat was indubitably a cat above ordinary intelligence. This alone was evident in his demeanour. His dignity and graceful bearing set him apart from those other types known collectively as “toms”. Had he been born into the human family he would have undoubtedly shone with light, wisdom and intelligence, and doubtless educated in the humanities. He would have had a classical education, for he would often sit at my elbow when I was reading Homer’s *Iliad*. Now and then he would stretch out his paw to touch me, as if he was reading with me and did not wish me to read too quickly.

He would take an interest in so many intelligent activities, even gardening. He would come down with me to the garden and stand in admiration of the rhododendrons. If I moved a rose-tree, he would be there, apparently wondering if I had moved it for his benefit. As a companion he was perfect. One could

read, dictate or hold a conversation and he would not fuss, or try to claim your attention.

He came to me when he was in middle age. Just came in one day and sat by the fire, as if to say: This is my home, this is where I belong. I never discovered where he hailed from. Like a god from Olympus he came, knowing with an inward certainty that he was among friends.

Marmalade was a philosopher by nature; he accepted life with the stoic calm of a 5th century Greek. He purred his way through the winter of discontent of 1947 when we all were as cold as polar bears. The cold he did not like. The snow left him no place to dig a little hole.

Usually, he liked to share my chair if I was not working. Definitely of the household, he had attached himself to me as if we were familiar spirits and our thought and experience were on a higher plane than the rest of the household. He came into our lives with the gentle bearing and passivity of a Chinese philosopher, bringing friendship and affection. Was there some form of communication between our minds?

## **A late riser**

He could tell the time, in his way. A Mrs. K. lived some five houses away from us on the opposite side of the road. It was on Fridays that she would bake for the week-end. Marmalade always turned up every Friday at about the same time to lick out the dish she beat her eggs in.

He became quite well known in the neighbourhood. So well known that I was once introduced as Marmalade’s father. To be called Mr. Marmalade by a small girl only meant that I was sharing

his popularity. In a quiet way the household seemed to pivot round Marmalade. If we went on holiday we took him with us. He liked company. At night he seemed to think that his duty lay in seeing that I got to bed safely before he curled up on the bottom of the bed. He was too gentlemanly to intrude into the bed.

Never an early riser, he had the civilized habit of getting up at ten. Not sleeping during these hours of eight to ten but apparently meditating on the day's quiet need. He would never eat when he came down, just a drink and then out for an airing, or to visit his friends.

## **A golden gleam**

He loved onions. On a sunny afternoon, he liked nothing better than to snooze on the onion bed. Sometimes he would consider that he had an obligation to increase the larder. The goldfish in a neighbour's garden were a great attraction to Marmalade. He would hook them out with his paw and leave them on the lawn. That this was wrong he knew, for he would try to hide his damp paws and look rather guilty over the escapade.

Several times I bought goldfish and put them in the pool. My neighbour would occasionally exclaim proudly at the rapid growth of the goldfish. I could not always obtain them of the same size, so they appeared to make rapid growth !

My other cat Nigger was occasionally a little huffed with Marmalade. It was due to Marmalade's habit of cuffing Nigger on the head when he came near my table. Perhaps he was demonstrating his right to be near me and help my work with his purring support. Once a cat of Marmalade's temperament takes you for his friend it is for always. As if you and he had travelled long together in previous incarnations and were just renewing an old association.

As cats go, Marmalade led a good life. And if there is a heaven for cats Marmalade will assuredly be a Peter among cats.

I can imagine him sitting at the gate of the cats heaven, appraising those who seek entrance with a wisdom that would be unerring in its decision. Though the hairs of his head were too numerous to mention I had often noticed a golden gleam in his eyes that seemed to be a manifestation of a light that is not of this world. Have cats souls? Many believe so.

So much love and affection are given to cats that they exude a sense of security and well-being. Like people they need affection to feel one with all, that is. And cats respond to affection in their own demonstrative way.

Marmalade seemed to have transcended his need for female cat companionship. He seldom sought them out, preferring the adult companionship of ourselves. I said that this was evidently a sign of the transcendence of mind and spirit over natural things. Others said that Marmalade was just getting past it. I do not care for this expression. Who knows, cats may experience a psychological development when the humours of instinct and the body are integrated into a single whole. The sense of quiet peace that Marmalade manifested was reminiscent of what one reads about those Indian saints who meditate on Brahma and live on a different plane of experience than we ordinary mortals.

## **Sun worshipper**

In a way, one can understand the Ancient Egyptians regard for the cat. When Marmalade was in repose his tail would often be touching his head, forming a circle, a hieroglyphic known to the Egyptians, possibly representing the sun disc. These metaphysical reflections cause one to reflect about the cat's place in the cosmos. There may be no zodiacal sign that especially influences cats. But if there is then the sun would certainly figure in Marmalade's horoscope. He just loved the sun. If there was just a

shaft of sunlight in my room Marmalade would be found lying in it.

Marmalade had one strange aversion. He did not like the vicar, good chap though he was. Whenever he came to see me, he always jumped down from the table and stayed under it until the vicar was gone. The vicar did not even notice Marmalade. Maybe Marmalade did not care for theology though I had a habit of reading the Bible to him. He lived in the Eternal Now.

I dreamed of Marmalade the other night. There he was, purring away, so pleased to see me. I talked to him and stroked him. The dream was sharp and clear cut. I awoke immediately after it and sipped some water. This is how I came to recall how vivid it was and to remain awake thinking of Marmalade and the things he would do.

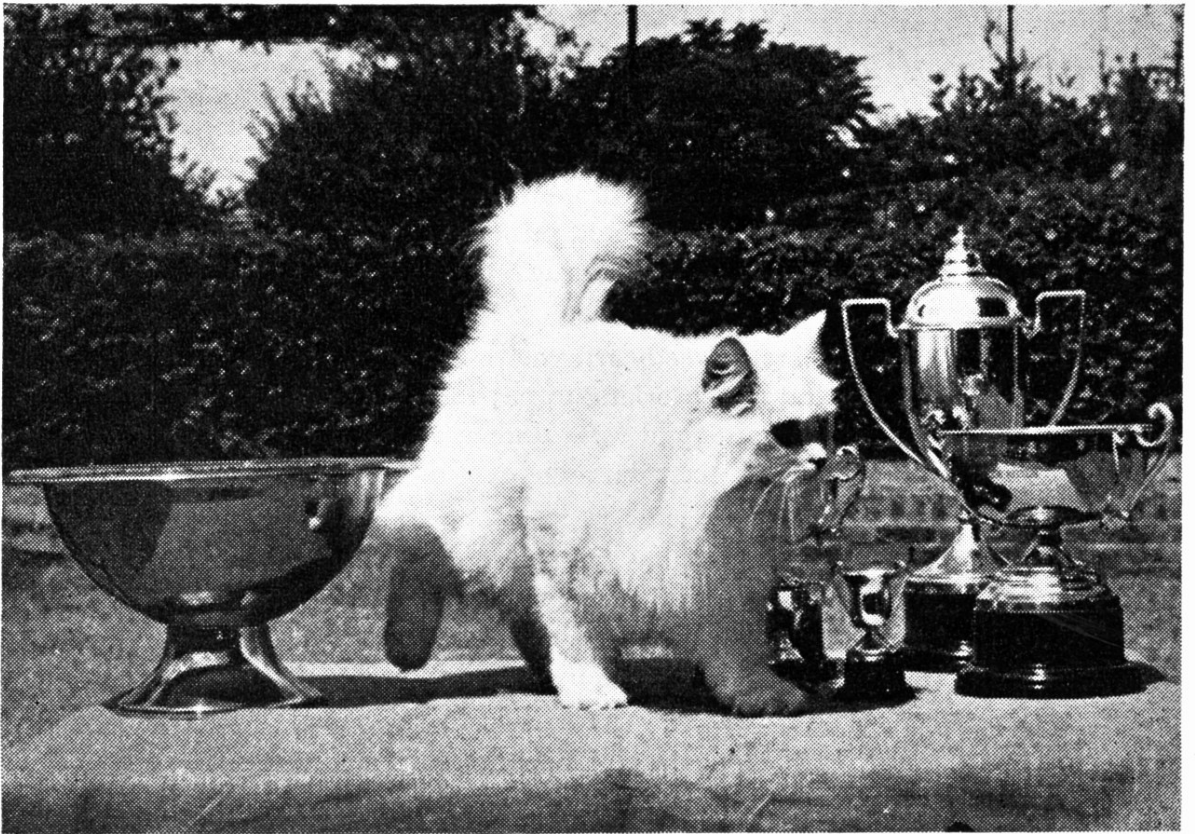
Opening doors was child's play to Marmalade. If a door was not properly fastened, he would insert his paw under the door as far as he could and pull it open.

Sometimes I would find him sitting on

the dresser in the kitchen with the light on. He had a habit of standing on his two back paws and drawing his front paw down on the light switch, which he could just reach, until the light came on. Often milk would be put down for him and he would be found dipping his paw in the milk jug and licking it! He thought this a more civilized way of taking his drink.

Once my neighbour's daughter asked me if she could take him to church. I said I was sorry, but he did not care for organ music. Bagpipes certainly disturbed him. And I knew he would not have cared to have met the vicar and endured the organ. I asked this little girl, by way of shifting her interest, what she hoped to do when she grew up. She just screwed her little face up and said, "Oh, I just think that I will be a muvver!"

Are cats like man, often imprisoned in their own activity! Marmalade was one of nature's gentlemen. He toiled not neither did he spin. His life was that of a superannuated man possessing an eter-



*Photo by R. Purdon*

**MOONFLEET DEPECHEL LARK, 9-month-old Chinchilla kitten admires the trophies she won at the last Salisbury and Bulawayo Shows, where she was Best L.H. Kitten and Best Chinchilla Kitten. Owned by Mr. G. E. Ewing, of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, Lark was bred in England's Salisbury by Mrs. Chater.**

nity of Sundays, an endless procession of sabbatical years gave a calm poise to his leisurely life and movement. Inexorably he was moving to the sunset of his life when he came to me. There had not been many cats in my life and until Marmalade came I had always regarded them with a kindly detachment. In short, I had never had a cat that singled me out for his special friend. We must remember that cats choose their own friends and will always have a special favourite in a household. Someone they always greet first and seek out at certain times.

When Marmalade left me I made no effort to fill the void he left. It did not seem quite right to replace him. For me, he was irreplaceable. Nigger was more friendly when Marmalade left us. Often

rubbing himself against my legs and chair as if to say "You've still got me" and to convey his sympathy.

And did the lamp within him seem to burn brighter towards his end! He would have been about ten or eleven years old when he died. Though he was ailing for a few days he did not change his routine but I suspected that he was unwell as when I lifted him he seemed much lighter than usual, more ethereal in appearance. Gentlemanly to the end and with quiet dignity, he slipped off to spend his last hour alone. Perhaps to tune into the Great Cat Spirit, to warn him that he was about to slip off his mortal coil. And so I found him, in his last sleep, in the onion bed.



### SILENCE FOR MUSIC

Oh my Siamese love, with your slender black paws,  
With your eyes that are sapphires, your delicate claws,  
Entrancing companion, and prince in the house—  
Is that yours on the hearth rug? that very dead mouse.

Oh my Siamese sweetheart, you're licking your dish,  
My husband's out working to pay for your fish.  
I must tell him tonight (*after* dinner is better)  
That you've chewed a large hole in his very best sweater.

Oh my Siamese darling you weave round my feet,  
You've tripped me up twice, but your motives are sweet.  
As I stroke and caress you I'm quite unaware  
That you've sharpened your claws on my Regency chair.

Oh my Siamese devil, all blackness and sin,  
You drive me demented, I'll be in a bin.  
You purr for forgiveness and bend your proud head,  
My Siamese angel, come sleep on my bed.

LEONIE WALTERS.





# Tailpieces

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



**E**IGHT recent cases of rabies in cats are reported in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. Two hundred more are under observation and a 25-square-mile area of the city is under quarantine. Numerous pets have had anti-rabies vaccination.

Mrs. Phyllis Lauder has been elected International Vice-President by the members of the Siamese Cat Society of America, Inc. At the May A.G.M. of this vigorous Society the Annual Awards were announced and top of the list as Best Siamese came Elo-Yse's Hi 'N Mytee, a Seal Point belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Magnan, of Richmond, California.

According to a newspaper report, Dutch diplomats have lived for three years with thirty "live" Russian microphones planted in the walls of their Moscow Embassy. The microphones were discovered by two cats who slept in the Ambassador's study. They arched their backs and started scratching at the wall. It was then, the report continues, the Ambassador suspected that the cats had heard the sound of a microphone being switched on—a sound too soft for the human ear.

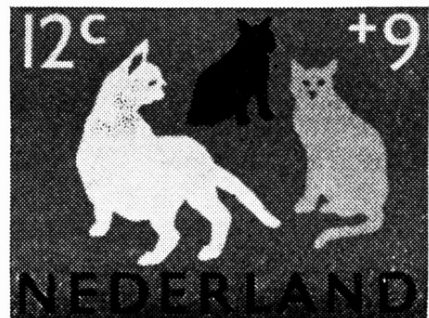
At the inquest held in Birmingham to inquire into the death by drowning on 10-year-old Jean Norman, a non-swimmer, her father suggested that she had lost her life in an attempt to rescue her pet kitten. The kitten had returned home soaking wet.

A design of orange and black kittens won a prize for 8-year-old Alison Little

of N.W. London, in a competition to decorate children's tableware. Now her design will be used by a pottery and put on show by the Council of Industrial Design. Alison was inspired by a neighbour's cat and kittens.

Quote from a film critic: "One should never despise a cat film—not only because cats are so beautifully conscious of their superiority but because they are such admirable and such snootily unwilling performers. A cat performance is generally the result of weeks of patience from a director, and the co-operative efforts of a whole team of cat doubles; for a principle of cat direction is that if an animal refuses on first asking to do something, there is no good insisting; you must either get another cat or give up the day's shooting."

On top of the Whittington Stone which has stood for 30 years on Highgate Hill to mark the legendary spot where London's famous Lord Mayor heard the bells foretell his future, there is now a life-size sculpture of a black cat. There was no ceremony when the cat, carved out of black Irish limestone by 20-year-old



**This stamp, which looks so much nicer with its amber background, has been issued to mark the centenary year of the Dutch R.S.P.C.A.**

Royal Academy student Jonathan Kenworthy, was placed in position by the stonemason. Jonathan, who said he was pleased with the result, spent 200 hours, carving it. The idea of the Whittington Cat came from Mr. Donald Bisset, actor and author of children's books. The total cost was £120 and those who contributed towards it were film director Paul Crosfield, violinist Yehudi Menuhin,, playwright Arnold Wesker, actor Ronald Shiner, pianist Clifford Curzon, novelist Stella Gibbons and other famous residents of Highgate.

The controversy over animals in food shops goes on. Numerous letters have appeared in the daily press and one male correspondent condemned the illogical shopkeepers who have notices on their doors saying "Clean Food—No Dogs Allowed." And there, he adds, are the shopkeepers' cats sunning themselves among the food. Another letter writer hits back with "a straight left": "I would rather see cats among the food than mice or rats. They would soon be there if cats were not allowed in shops".

A regular visitor to a P.D.S.A. dispensary in Cardiff, Mr Edbrooke, arrived one morning heartbroken. He had found his cat Sandy, a frequent P.D.S.A. patient, lying dead in the road outside his house. Having buried Sandy in his favourite patch in the garden, Mr. Edbrooke had come round to the dispensary to share his sorrow. The dispensary officer was therefore more than a little surprised when two days later Mr. Edbrooke turned up *with* Sandy, who had returned home with an injured paw after being missing for a day or two. The paw healed satisfactorily and Mr. Edbrooke was delighted to have Sandy home again—but, in spite of inquiries, he still has no idea whose cat he buried in his garden.

After several years of research and intensive testing, a pharmaceutical com-

pany—Upjohn Limited—has developed a safe and reliable drug which can be administered to female cats to postpone the heat period. This new drug is very closely related to the natural hormone progesterone, which is produced by the body and acts to prevent the occurrence of the heat period. At regular intervals usually two to four times a year in cats the body starts to cut down on the production of this hormone and levels fall and the heat period ensues. A single injection of the new drug given by the veterinary surgeon replaces the dwindling supply of the natural hormone and will delay the heat period for six months or longer. If the injection is repeated at regular intervals of six months, the animal will never exhibit the signs of heat. The drug is reported to be proved safe after years of testing and by simply withholding the injection, the heat can be allowed to recur.

I hasten to correct an error which crept into Hugh Smith's "Looking at the Breeds" series. In the article dealing with Silver Tabby Longhairs (May issue) it was stated that according to the Standard of Points, eye colour should be green or hazel. Miss Evelyn Langston, Hon. Secretary of the Chinchilla, Silver Tabby and Smoke Cat Society, has rightly pointed out that hazel eyes are now ruled out and only green is the permitted colour.

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***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



Presented by JOAN THOMPSON

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

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### Show for Kent

**I**T was a brilliant day for the Kentish Cat Society Exemption Show at the Corn Exchange, Maidstone, on June 27th, but it evidently did not deter visitors as the hall was comfortably crowded. There were 110 pedigree exhibits competing, 16 domestic pets and 7 pedigree exhibits not for competition.

Fifteen Longhairs inclusive of two litters, and seven neuters was a better entry than last year but whilst this Show is held in June it will not attract a really representative entry of Persian cats and kittens as the majority of adults are out of coat, and the queens nursing kittens, which are too young to exhibit individually at such an early fixture.

Longhair breeders would like to see it revert to its original date in August and if a date could be fixed between the Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club Show in July and the Herts and Middlesex Ch. Show in September it would not interfere with either and would give cat

lovers an opportunity of seeing all varieties at a near-London show.

Although competition was negligible, the three Best in Show Longhair winners were of real merit and worthy winners up to Championship show standard. They were: Best Longhair Cat—Miss Wright's White female Snowcloud Lucinda by Ch. Lisblanc Bambi and Passion Flower of Dunesk; Best L.H. Kitten—Mrs. Smart's Blue female Georgian Yasmin by Camber Gavin and Camber Penelope; Best L.H. Neuter—Miss Bridges' Chinchilla female Frin of Thame by Bluecroft Davy and Peri of Thame.

Best Shorthair Cat was Mr. Bullock's lovely S.P. Siamese female Leyborne Melissa by Ch. Katrine Sunhunter and Leyborne Peta. Apart from her other qualities, I admired her short close-lying coat with the gloss that perfect condition imparts. Miss Val Prentis who awarded her a Challenge Certificate at the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire Ch. Show on June 13th writes in her report in a contemporary publication: "Leyborne Melissa; a really elegant queen, excellent wedge head with very fine profile, oriental eyes of good colour, lithe body, a very pleasing exhibit".

Best S.H. Kitten was Mr. Tew's S.P. Siamese male Bradbourne Pi by Bradbourne Orion and Bradbourne Virginia, another very good exhibit. Best S.H. Neuter went to Miss Reed's Siamese female Halden Sherry by Samsara Saracen and Brackledown Gigi.

It was pleasing to see the spayed females giving a good account of themselves. This operation and the vaccines



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**TIBS**

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FOR CATS ARE A  
BOB MARTIN PRODUCT.

for Feline Infectious Enteritis I consider the greatest blessings which have ever been discovered for cats. So many cat lovers prefer females for pets now they have the satisfaction of knowing they can have them spayed if they find rearing a litter of kittens takes up more time than they can spare. Mrs. Grant-Allen's litter of three S.H. Silver Tabbies were charming and well deserved their first prize.

Last but not least appreciation and thanks go to Mrs. H. Philpot the Show Manager who is also Hon. Secretary of the Society, for organizing this enjoyable Show. She was ably assisted by the Vice-Chairman Miss D. Grainger. Miss Olwen Griffiths, one of the stars of Lionel Bart's show "Oliver" opened the Show assisted by two small boys who take the part of Oliver and the Artful Dodger. Miss Griffiths is a Club member and exhibited Safari Psyche and Safari Sulti by Killdown Sultan.

Miss Peake who organized the first Kentish Cat Society Show in the early 1930's in a marquee erected in the meadow adjoining Miss Ridley's house with whom she lived, died in January,

aged 90 years. Mrs. Green who had known her for over 30 years and helped at the first show said that Miss Peake was very cheerful and a wonderful personality to the end although she had the tragic disability of being blind for the last few years. My first recollection of Miss Peake was sitting beside her in the gallery at a Southern Counties Cat Club Show over 30 years ago when it was held at Kentish Town. She prophesied that my Blue Persian kitten, June, would win her Open Class of thirteen females. It was my first Blue kitten and the first show at which I exhibited. The kitten did win and June was the foundation of all that has followed since. After the award Miss Peake gave me a salutary lesson on how to really prepare a Longhair kitten for exhibition, and her kindness will always remain a happy memory.

### **A happy party**

The third anniversary party of the Longhair Cream and Blue-Cream Association was held at the Eccleston Hotel, London, on June 20th. The founder



**" YOU CAN KEEP YOUR FAREX "**

**This amusing snapshot of a 5-week-old Siamese—and the title—was received from Mrs. E. Lentaigne, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks., International Liaison Officer of the Siamese Cat Association.**

and Chairman Miss Kathleen Yorke had every reason to be pleased at the flourishing state of this "baby". Silver cups and trophies have been offered to members at every show of major importance. These two varieties appear to be increasing in popularity more than any other Longhairs so the Association should have a bright future.

The President Miss Sheppard was able to be with us and welcome guests were Mr. and Mrs. Wakerley, the latter the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy Secretary and their adorable baby daughter who behaved as though she had been attending parties for years. Mr. Stirling-Webb gave an interesting address supplemented by coloured slides and some really beautiful photographs of his Colourpoint cats also in colour.

Mrs. Dugdale, Hon. Secretary, had arranged a very nice tea so the party terminated with that and of course the usual cat chats.

## Letter from Australia

Mrs. M. E. Turner and her family, both human and feline, have emigrated from Durham to Victoria, Australia. They arrived in February and in her letter she writes "We have settled down happily and the cats who had to travel on another ship are now out of quarantine. I cannot speak too highly of the treatment they received on the ship *Ballarat* and at the quarantine station. In fact, they all returned home too fat !

"We caused much amusement en route by radio telegraphing from our ship *Orcades* to the *Ballarat* as to the condition of the cats. Although we did not see their ship she apparently came through the Suez Canal with us. I radioed three times on our journey and the master replied "Cats in good condition", "Cats in excellent condition", "Cats still in excellent condition". We were most relieved to hear about them as it must be such an ordeal for them. What a pity they are not allowed to fly even if the quarantine period was doubled.

"We brought our home-bred B.P.



**A happy meeting in Montreal, Canada, between Mrs. Frances Diorio (left), Honorary President of the Montreal Cat Fanciers' Association, and Mrs. Betty Beynes, of the Dutch Society of Cat Friends. The occasion was the annual dinner of the Association.**

Siamese Galeglow Florestan who was Best Siamese Kitten at the Notts and Derby Ch. Show three days before he sailed for Australia. He competed as an adult at his first Australian Ch. Show in June, and was awarded four firsts but not the Challenge Certificate as his coat is too open owing to the change of climate.

"We also brought with us our beloved B.P. Siamese Neuter Fenham Romeo bred by Mrs. Dunn. He is the first Siamese we owned. Our third cat was the first tabby-pointed Siamese to be imported here—Samsara Silver Shadow, bred by Mrs. Monica Buttery. She is now seven months old and was a great centre of attraction when she was shown for exhibition only in her pen decorated with red velvet and net, for which she won the trophy for best decorated pen.

"It is very pleasing to know we shall be able to enjoy cat shows and they are a means of making friends".

## Truly rural!

In anticipation of his retirement, Mr. Aitken purchased a house at Hindhead, Surrey, and recently I visited him and Mrs. Aitken in their new home.

It is surrounded by very lovely country, and being situated in a dell, the house is very secluded. The interior has been modernized and that is the way to enjoy country life.

The last few months they have been coping with the garden and have plans for various improvements which they intend to carry out themselves. The vista of trees is enchanting although they find a country garden has some disadvantages. Squirrels ate the cherries and one day they returned to find that a deer had been in and eaten the buds off the roses and helped itself to a few other items it fancied ! It was amusing to see the Corgi on the alert for squirrels. They do not intrude so much now they have sensed that they will be chased.

After employing help, they have the essentials to safely house the cats and enable them to have sunshine and exercise in their runs. These have link wire and to make them extra safe a layer of wire netting, but this does not mean the cats do not have a certain amount of liberty and what fun they must have in the ferns and dense undergrowth !

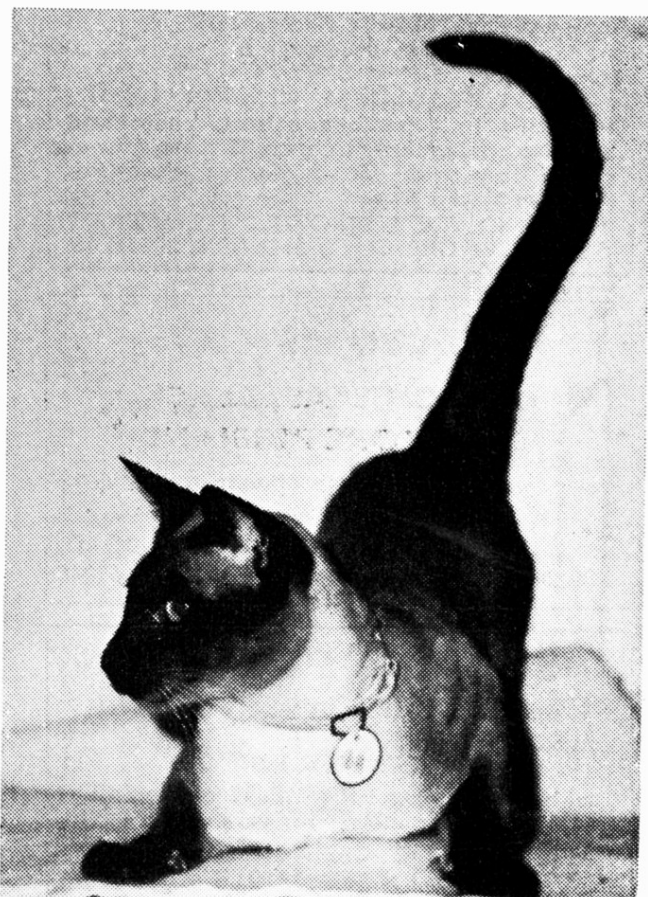
### CHAMPION TAILONG KULI

**Four times Best in Show and winner of 118 1st prizes and 20 trophies. Sired by Ch. Tailong Luki-Looki ex Ch. Roseway Cinderella. Last season Kuli travelled 16,000 miles with his owner-breeder Mrs. Anne Peck, of Helston, Cornwall. This fine S.P. Siamese male certainly lives up to his prefix !**

Three delightful Black Longhair kittens watched by an alert mum were playing around the house and a Blue-Cream had an adorable Blue-Cream kitten which was just beginning to venture out. A Black male and a Manx were also running around.

Champion Nevern David, son of Ch. Briaric Beauty, was in his run looking very fit. He is now a proved sire and a White queen had two promising White kittens by him. When Mrs. Aitken has time to watch him he also has some liberty. When the breeding season is over and males haven't so much inclination to wander he will have more freedom. But if he disappeared at present among such lush growth it would be quite impossible to locate him.

Mr. Aitken is very happy in his retirement and they both love country life, apart from the cats and kittens and their gardening activities. Their two daughters are often home for weekends and holidays. As Mrs. Aitken also has her judging engagements, they are leading a very full and busy life.



*Photo by Will Green*

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Robust stock, house-reared and trained.

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At Stud: **CH. BRUTON PEREGRINE**

Winner Stud Class Kensington 1961, Southern  
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World famous for type, bold copper  
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Sire of Ch. Widdington Winterstar, Ch.  
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Outstanding young Cream male. Best Cream  
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Kittens by above Studs and Champion Cream and  
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(Blue) Fee 4 gns.

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Sired Best Cream Litter, Croydon 1963,  
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Sired 1st. and Ch. Cream female adult  
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Queens: CH. AMBERLEY THISTLEDOWN & KIARA OF  
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sometimes available. MR & MRS D. WILSON,  
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with space for four generations are  
obtainable at 3/- per dozen, post free  
from

OUR CATS MAGAZINE  
4 CARLTON MANSIONS  
CLAPHAM ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W.9

A report from Halifax, Nova Scotia, reveals a startling change in the fortunes of the fishermen who catch swordfish. Last year, when the fish were being harpooned, they were being sold at the equivalent of 7s. a lb. Now, after years of research, they can be caught in nets

and their value has dropped. Said a spokesman for the industry: "No one wants to buy swordfish now. Because it is so plentiful, it is out of fashion and all they are being used for is to make cat food."



*The News, Adelaide*

Mrs. N. K. Russack and daughter Judith, owners of the King's Mead Cattery, Prospect, South Australia, grooming their entry for a local show. Latest wins include Champion ribbons for King's Mead Gay Mustard, a Tortoiseshell, and King's Mead Pandora, a S.P. Siamese.

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At Stud: CH. PHEENOI FUANG (B.P.)  
Shown as an adult for 1 year, twice Ch. of  
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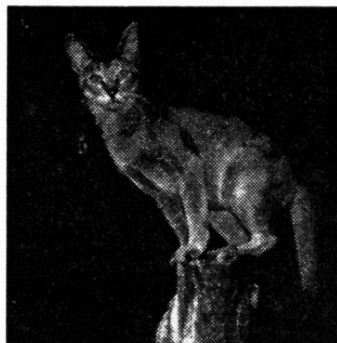
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At Stud: CH. CHINDWIN CHEE-KEE Fee 4 gns

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Visiting queens given every care and will be met at Nottingham,  
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By Ch. Samaikand Gallant Lad

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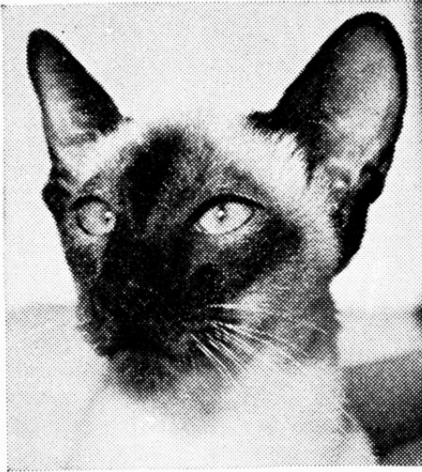
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At Stud:

**OAKAY BOY (S.P.)** Carrying blue factor  
Sire: Ch. Petruccio (B.P.)

Fine boned young male with true oriental eyes. Pale coat. Sired winning litter, Croydon, 1962. 1st & 2nd litters, National, 1962 and winning litter again, National, 1963.

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Young male with striking long head, wonderful eye colour and shape, excellent body and tail, very pale coat. So far—shown only 3 times—2 C.C.'s.

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Supra Serenity/Whiteoaks Malahide

Available to a few queens only. Outstanding winner as a kitten. Wonderful eye colour and shape, superb head, long pale body, whip tail.

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Seal and Chocolate Pointed Kittens  
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All producing Blue and Lilac kittens  
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CH. TAILONG LUKI-LOOKI (S.P.)  
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3 times Best Siamese in Show. 89 1sts.  
The famous CH. ROSEWAY CINDERELLA  
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At Stud: WATERMILL MINILYNX

Fee 4 gns.

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These are all sires of good quality kittens, some of which have become Champions  
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(Noted for Type, Eye Colour & Coat)

Queens: CH. BROUGHTON JANE  
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PENSYLVA BELLA Best British Blue  
National 1962. Two C.C.'s.  
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Exhibit National 1963. Six C.C.'s.

At Stud: TRALPARK AMBROSE (Best British  
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CH. PENSYLVA QUICKEE (Best  
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Visiting queens given greatest care.

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The Trubun Cattery has won 21 Challenge Certi-  
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Studs: Siamese Seal Pointed, Blue Pointed, Lilac  
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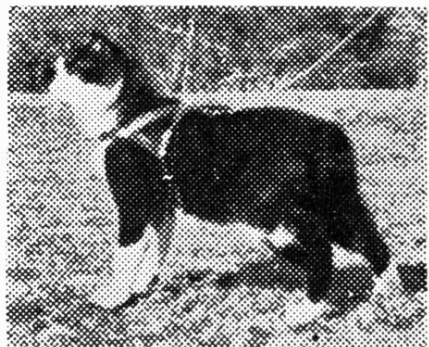
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Enquiries to: MRS. MARGARET WORSLEY,  
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At Stud 4 gns.

CH. CASA GATOS DAR-KEE  
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SEALCOAT RAMASHAN  
(Son of Folly Tou Po, U.S.A.)



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Also Williams Patent Cat Harness made to measure, all colours, soft calf leather.  
Large size 9/-, small 7/6, leash 1/-.

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Queens: CH. AMBERLEY TERESA (S.P.), AMBERLEY JOSEPHINE (S.P.), AMBERLEY KISMET (S.P.), MISSELF ORE LILAC LU (L.P.), AMBERLEY LOUELLA (L.P.), SAPPHIRE LOLLY POP (B.P.). Also MARISARNA SILVER VELVET (Silver Tabby) Inoculated kittens usually available. Visiting queens met at Salisbury or Bournemouth stations. Breeders: MR & MRS D. WILSON, "AMBERLEY", VERWOOD, DORSET. VER 2221

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MISSELF ORE OVID B.P. Male, 3 times first in Open Classes, 1963.

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Apply to MISS ELSIE YATES, WILLOW COTTAGE, TALLINGTON, STAMFORD, LINCS.

Greatford 200

## NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

(from page 31)

**Western Australia.** Had a smooth and enjoyable trip to Perth (nearly 6,000 miles there and back) to judge their first Championship Show. Mr. Frend, President of the Cat Fanciers Society of Western Australia, extended first class hospitality. For an initial effort, the show was wonderfully staged and managed with over 100 entries. As Secretary Mrs. Woodbury had left for a trip to England, Mrs. Guy agreed to take over but she found herself fully occupied with the birth of a son. So Mr. Orr finally became show manager, assisted by Mr. Guy. Best Exhibit was Mrs. E. L. Ross' S.P. Siamese female Maranda Tumpti with Mr. Giles' Yonalin China King as Best Opposite Sex. Best Longhair (and Best Opposite Sex to Best Exhibit in Show) was Mrs. Woodbury's Kingsmead Black Magic. The Town Hall was packed all day and visitors seemed loth to leave. I hope it is my good fortune to see such a grand lot of folk again soon. News of their progress will be most welcome.

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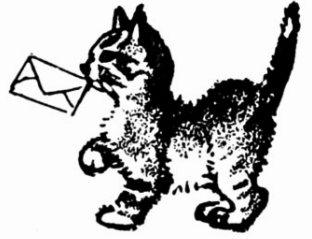
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# Correspondence Corner

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.



## Exports below standard

**D**URING the last few months, numerous importations have been received here from England. I have seen all of them, either at shows or in their respective homes, and must confess to having been more than a little disappointed in some instances. With three exceptions, these kittens and cats were bought "blind" on trust and in the belief that the animal sent would be a good specimen.

It is regrettable, therefore, to find that some have kinks, are squint and have coat colour and texture that is far from good. I am referring to Siamese, since with one exception all the new arrivals were Siamese. One breeder commented, when a kink was referred to, that it was not there when the kitten was born. Was it not there either when the time came to send it out?

In another instance, one breeder received two enquiries for a colour which is still rare here. Instead of passing one enquiry on to another breeder with a different strain, the two orders were executed from the same cattery. It would have been more generous and with the good of the breed at heart, for these two to have been as unrelated as possible. Now, in a year or two, our two breeders will find themselves up against breeding difficulties.

Emphasizing these points, I found it necessary to comment in my show manager's report on our last Johannesburg show: "One most interesting point has become obvious from the results of this show. The recent imports were 'put down' to local produce". In the past

this could not have happened, and I would like to stress to English breeders that anything short of the best is not good enough for South African breeders to-day.

It is quite understandable that a breeder would not export a really first class cat if it was required for his or her own future breeding programme. On the other hand, every potential champion cannot be retained by the breeder for his or her own use. The breeders and judges here are knowledgeable and nothing should be sent to us that English breeders would not be proud to put on the English show benches, knowing that particular animal had a more than even chance of winning.

During the past few years, I have personally imported six cats of various breeds. All of them have been up to standard, as has been proved by their prowess at the shows, and it does seem unfortunate that with the greatly increased interest in cats and breeding in this country we should now be faced with having to accept less than the best. No reputable South African breeder would sell a cat for breeding knowing it had such obvious faults as those mentioned above, and it is not to be expected that this would be done by overseas breeders.

MRS. LINDA EMERY

Edenvale, Transvaal,  
South Africa.

## A belligerent queen

In case it may interest your readers I send you an account of the following incident, which is unique in my experience.



My cats and dogs lived together in harmony until recently when Maria, my Russian Blue queen, turned savage after being aggravated by the dog next door. She had kittens, but this had never made any difference to her attitude to the other animals before.

The attack on my dog was therefore unexpected, and it was very vicious. I managed to push her off for a moment with my foot, but she immediately rushed after the fleeing dog to renew the attack. It was at this point that her mother, Anna, appeared and, leaping on to her back, succeeded in warding her off for a moment before Maria broke away and made her third onslaught. This time Anna held her long enough for the dog to get safely indoors.

After attending to his wounds, I shut the dog into the house. Then it started all over again, this time with our bitch. The poor little bitch had been surprised while

standing on the edge of a step. She missed her footing and fell on to her back under a garden seat. Being pregnant, she could not easily get back on her feet. The cat had her completely at her mercy, and I thought she would be torn to ribbons before I could do anything.

As I ran towards them, I prayed for Anna's help and she was not there. Then suddenly she was taking a long leap. She bowled Maria over completely, holding her this time (she is the heavier cat) until the bitch was well out of the way.

Later, from the window, I saw Anna serenely washing herself. She was wearing a look of complete indifference to everybody. This is her customary expression. It deceived me at one time, but now I know it is only affectation.

MRS. SHEILA GARNETT

Upper Norwood,  
London, S.E.19.

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## FRED W. PEARCE—Australia's leading judge—sends *News from "Down Under"*

**New South Wales.** I think everybody had an enjoyable day at the Sheep Show Cat Show on May 30th, as the C.F.A. Ch. Show is always referred to. It is run in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society's Sheep Show. An entry of 300 put a very satisfied smile on the Secretary's face. Miss Pinkerton of New Zealand could not attend to judge owing to a prior date in Victoria. Miss A. Vale acted in her place; later she left for a twelve weeks' trip to Europe. Twelve judges officiated and the main awards went to Mrs. Baxter's White male Honk Tonk (Best Longhair) and Mrs. Willett's Cream Elsinore Golden Elf (Best Opposite Sex). Best among the Shorthairs were Mrs. Burt's Blue Point Siamese female Coochie Blue Opal and Mrs. Meany's Seal Point male Ch. Lindfield Garcon. It was the Club's 40th show.

**Victoria.** The official *Newsletter* of the Feline Control Council of Victoria state that the rules have been amended to allow junior and novice cats to compete for Challenges. It has also been decided to surcharge entries by 1s. to assist in maintaining a progressive programme for the future.

**South Australia.** I must tell you of the new Cymric cat being produced by

Mrs. N. Bourne. A Blue Longhair male was mated to a Manx female and six strong kits resulted, all smooth coated, three jet black, three black and white. Two males and a female were kept, all long tailed. Having lost the Persian male and with no Manx male sire available, the young female was mated to her litter brother. Result: one long tailed male, two tailless males and one female with two joints of tail. Coats are now turning fluffy. I guess Queensland Genetics Club will be interested in Mrs. Bourne's activities.

**Queensland.** The State is co-operating wholeheartedly with Victoria in the fight to stamp out F.I.E., which took dreadful toll of one member's cattery—the loss of 25 cats and kits, all immunized stock, too. I have a nice photograph of Queensland's recent importation from England, seven-month-old Bayhorne Dominic. He should be a welcome addition to the Blue stock, especially now that Ambassador Duke has taken up residence in Sydney. Mrs. Shead's Cream male who took top junior honours at Sydney Royal Show recently should improve their Creams, as his sire and dam have done in New Zealand.

(Concluded on page 29)

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The rate for prepaid advertisements under this heading is 3d. per word per insertion (minimum 12 words) and instructions must be received by *no later than the 1st day* of the month of issue. Please write "copy" clearly and post with appropriate remittance to OUR CATS MAGAZINE, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Use of Box No. costs 1s. extra

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**AT STUD FIRST TIME.** Chinchilla ZIMALUS NICHOLAS, born 12.7.62, sire Silver Mesa Apache, Dam Bonavia Kutekit Chiquita. Fee 3½gns.—Miss Rolls, 485 Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex.

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**CAT BOOKS FOR CAT LOVERS.** Lists free. Little Bookshop, Farnham Common, Bucks.

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**SEVEN** very affectionate, house-trained British Blue Kittens. Six extremely beautiful, one (female) rather plain. All seem to have inherited mother's nature—gentle, lovable, inquisitive, eccentric. Sire, Fralpark Ambrose, dam, Bonaventure Cleo.—Willson Barrett, 33 Woodlane, Falmouth, Cornwall, Falmouth 1182

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### Photography

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**RAYMOND GARNETT, A.R.P.S.** Animal Photography.—7 Glenhurst Rise, London, S.E.19. LIV. 7799.

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### Miscellaneous

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**CATS' ACCESSORIES SHOP** now at 30 Mill Street, Bedford. Send 3d. stamp full price list everything for your cat, including Cat Doors, Show Pen Blankets, Litter Trays, Brushes, Combs, Toys, etc.

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**ELDERLY LADY** needing companionship (living in North Midlands) offers comfortable home to pensioner or similar where pet welcomed. Salary by arrangement. Daily help kept. Write Box No. 90, Our Cats, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.

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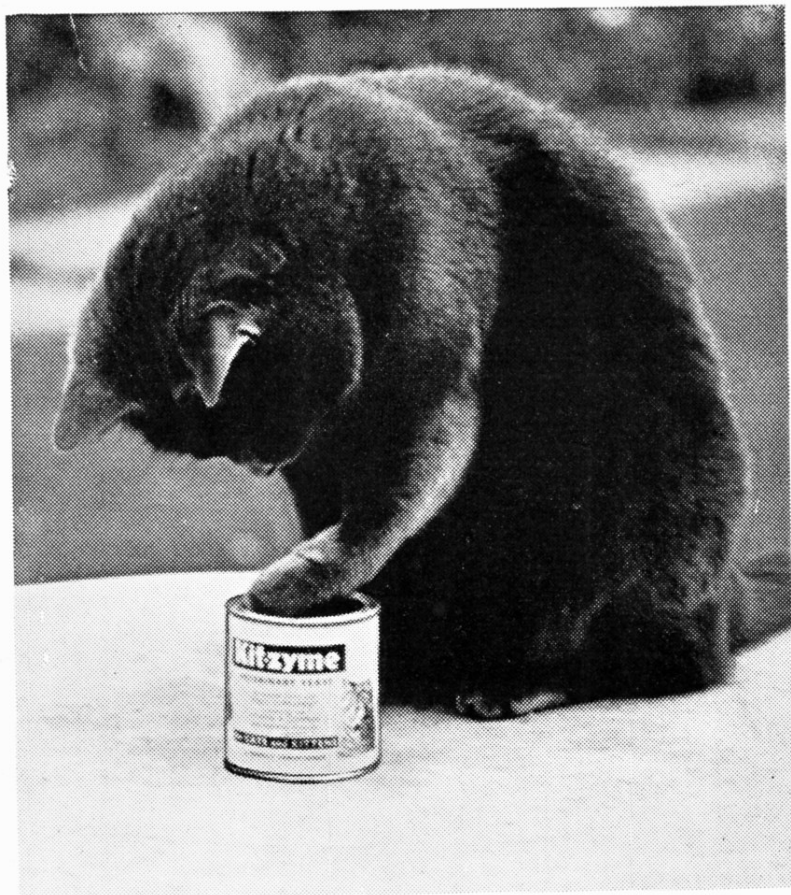
### CATS

I think that I shall never see  
A cat as lovely as a tree.  
A cat whose scratching claws are pressed  
Against the chairs that I like best;  
A cat who looks at me all day,  
As if I were a mouse at bay;  
A cat who may in summer bear  
A nest of robins in its lair,  
Cats will pounce on fools like me.  
I wish they'd all go climb a tree !

—PRISCILLA O'BRIEN MAHONEY

(With apologies to Paul Robeson and the lovely ballad "Trees!"—Editor)

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LOVES  
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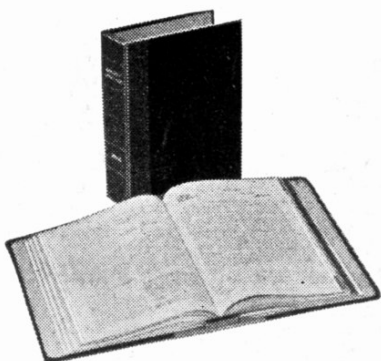
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