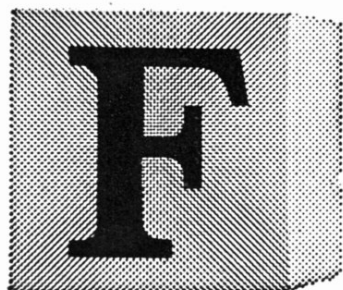


OUR CATS



JUNE 1966
SINGLE COPY 2/6d.
(plus 5d. postage)

ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST
TRIPLE GRAND CHAMPION BEAMSLEY SUNSHINE OF GAYLAND'S Sire of 3 Double Grand Champions and many Champions during the past season and his great-grand children are also well up in winning circles. Bred in Yorkshire by Mrs Madge Smith, Sunshine was purchased by Miss Verner E. Clum, of Florida, U.S.A. who exhibited him so successfully. The proud new owners of this lovely Cream are Dr. and Mrs. David Bromwell, of Iowa

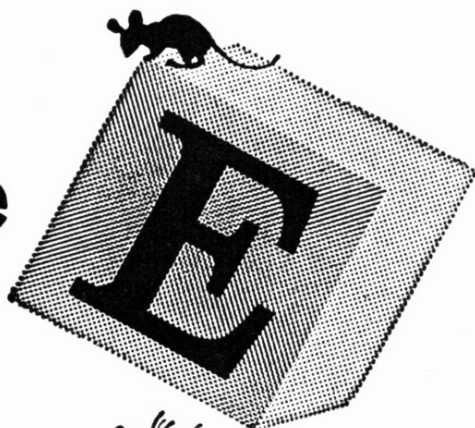


feline



infectious enteritis vaccine

for the



protection

of cats



Feline infectious enteritis is a highly infectious and dangerous disease of cats: it kills 9 out of 10 of those that contract it. Treatment is usually unsuccessful. The best protection against this dreadful disease is vaccination with FEV. Choose a time when your cat is fit and healthy then ask your veterinary surgeon about protection with FEV feline infectious enteritis vaccine.

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OUR CATS

AUTHORITATIVE · INSTRUCTIVE · ENTERTAINING

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

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

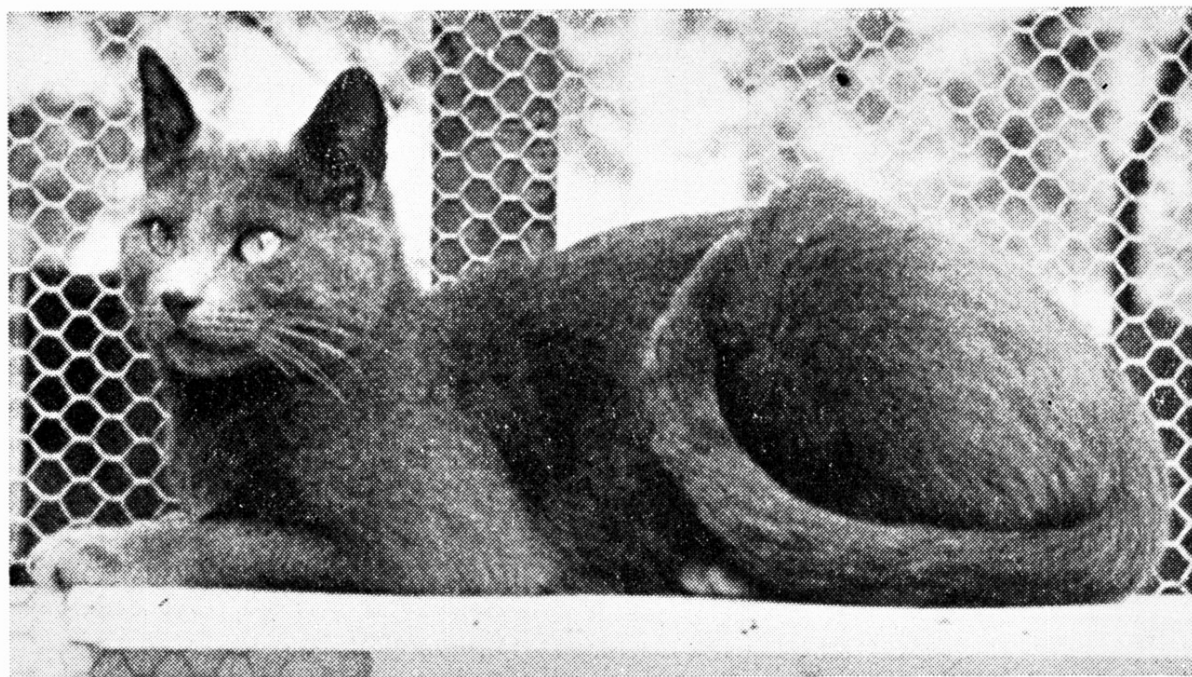
VOL. 18 No. 6

June 1966


Managing Editor :

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

THE MAGAZINE THAT SPANS THE WORLD OF CAT LOVERS



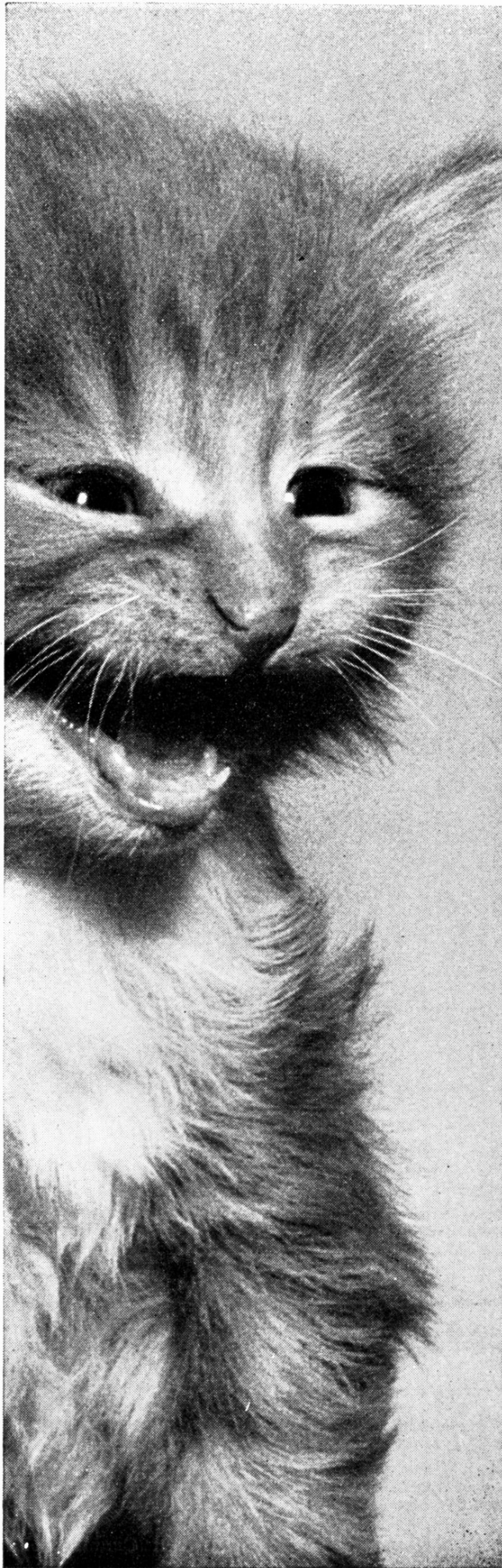
An attractive Russian Blue female CHAMPION PETROVNA BLUE ROSE bred by Mrs. Margaret Petre, of Bournemouth, from Ch. Meadliam Larkspur and Ch. Blue Willow. Blue Rose won her C.C.'s at three successive shows and was runner-up for the Champion of Champions Shorthair award at Olympia last year. She has the attributes of the breed—"gentleness and sweetness".

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

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FAMOUS BREEDERS SAY...

"our
cats are
Tibs cats"

Champion cats are pampered cats. They win prizes. They deserve a little fuss. But not all the fuss is fussiness. Famous breeders are practical people (they wouldn't be famous otherwise). Which is why they see that their cats have Tibs Tablets daily.

Tibs Tablets play an important part in keeping a cat in peak condition. In conjunction with the daily diet, daily Tibs supply vitamins essential to good health.

Right from weaning age, Tibs are invaluable. They promote strong bones, healthy growth and perfect coat. They go a long way to giving a cat that feline liveliness which is a sure sign he's feeling fine.

That's why famous breeders throughout the country make sure their cats are Tibs cats. Why not take a tip from the experts? Make your cat a Tibs cat, too—every day. He'll be much better for it.

TIBS

TIBS CONDITION TABLETS
FOR CATS ARE A
BOB MARTIN PRODUCT.

BRUSH UP YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY

By **HUGH SMITH**

(who also supplied the illustrations)

THIS is the time of the year when cat owners feel the urge to photograph their cats. Some of them will achieve results that will win the admiration of their friends and they will be well satisfied.

I have never known a cat be satisfied—or even interested in the end results of a modelling session—except when it takes the form of a saucer of cream, which usually raises a purr. Many people who have photographed their cats have cause, whether

they admit it or not, to wish they had done better. And probably they'd like to know the reason.

I suppose cats and children are both the most revealing and at the same time the most difficult subjects to photograph. Dogs don't count. You just say 'sit!' and the dog sits. Cats are far too independent to sit when they are told and now that we have moved out of that age when children were "to be seen, but not heard" they too are not likely to stay still for long.



"Most delightful photographs can be taken of the cat in the arms of its owner—particularly if she is a pretty girl!"

But that is just why both these subjects offer such a challenge to capture "life" in its most attractive manifestations.

Get a helper

Since I have now spent several years specializing in cat photography perhaps I can offer a bit of worthwhile advice.

First, you must fill the frame of your picture with the pet, unless you have the dual purpose of taking cat and human together.

Of course, the most delightful photographs can be taken of a cat in the arms of its owner—particularly if the owner happens to be a pretty girl. Men usually look a bit self-conscious holding a cat. Possibly, they feel more manly squatting with a dog between the knees—or holding a gun with a Labrador sitting obediently at the feet.

If you are set on a portrait of puss—get the whole cat in the picture more or less filling it. If you have an inexpensive camera this will probably mean using a close-up lens, following the maker's instructions. With a more expensive camera you can often have a special long focus lens for your camera, which enables you to fill the frame of the picture while standing well back. But generally you have to come in close for your picture. The closer you get the more careful you have to be that movement of the cat doesn't spoil your photograph. Probably it will be best to have a helper who can fix the cat's attention while you press the shutter release. You are not then so likely to finish up with a headless cat on your negative. The friend can also prevent the presentation of the tail view to the camera at the critical moment.

Of course, you may have a sedate comfort-loving kind of cat, for whom a comfortable cushion is all that is required. But the liveliest pictures are those with a lively cat for subject. Sleeping cats somehow don't register.

There are only two main positions in which a cat's portrait can be taken. Either its body must be parallel to or at right angles to the lens. It can be either sitting up or lying down. The head can be turned sideways or to the front. A three-quarters view, a head, paw or tail thrust forwards towards the camera spells disaster, for it will look enormous owing to the foreshortening effect of the camera lens. This only applies to a camera with a normal short focus lens. If you are the owner of a camera with interchangeable lenses then a long focus lens will overcome this difficulty. So try and keep the cat as far as possible in one plane—either at right angles to or parallel to the front of the camera.

Suitable backgrounds

The most frequent cause of blurred pictures in all amateur photography is camera shake. It really does need concentration to avoid this. I personally cannot avoid it with when using a hand-held camera at shutter speed of more than 1/100 second duration. Some people can use 1/50 second shutter speed. The golden rule is: stand with the feet apart. Squatting in front of the cat you are unlikely to get a clear picture. It is better to have the cat on a table in front of you. Hold the camera firmly to the chest or face with elbows pressed into the sides. Hold the breath when you are ready to shoot and squeeze the release gently.

Of course, you must focus the camera accurately. If the camera is a simple one you will have to measure the distance from the camera to your model and set the focussing adjustment of the camera accordingly. With a coupled-range-finder or reflex camera this is not necessary.

The background is almost as important as the cat. It should be unobtrusive and if possible out of focus. Crepe paper makes an excellent cheap background material. Dark grey or even black

should be used for a light-coated cat, but not for Siamese or Colourpoints. Lighter shades or a cream coloured blanket are suitable for darker cats.

If you are photographing in colour a range of coloured backgrounds in crepe paper can be obtained at small cost and you can choose your colour to suit your cat. But it is well to remember that there are good and bad coloured backgrounds for different coloured cats. These make good combinations:

CRIMSON for Seal Point Siamese and Shadow or Lynx Points.

GREEN or **PALE BLUE** for Reds or Torties.

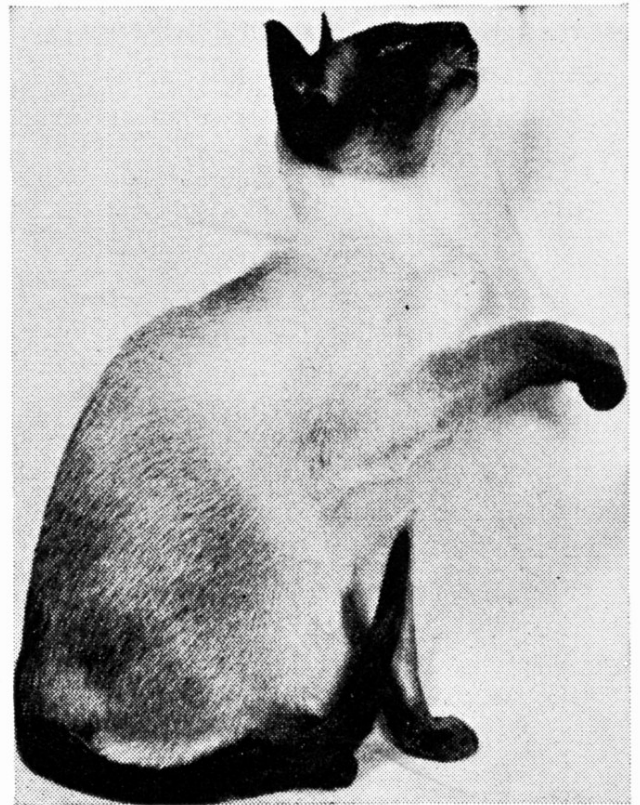
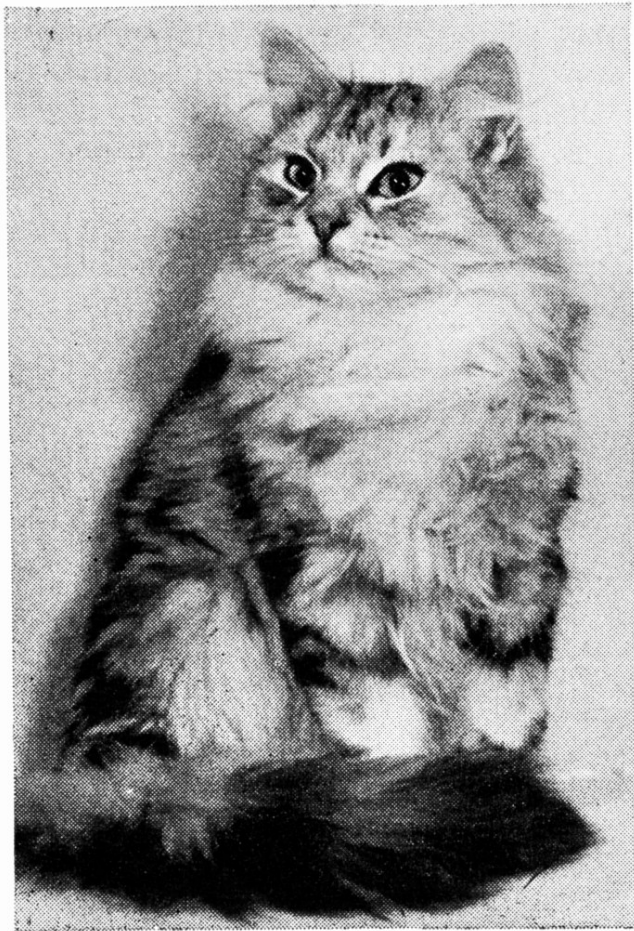
PURPLE or **STRONG BLUE** for White cats.

YELLOW for Black cats.

ORANGE for Blue cats.

The most successful and eye-striking exhibition pens at shows will be found to have this kind of combination of colouring. The intensity of the colour needs to be matched to the colouring of the cat. Striking coat colours require brighter tones of background. Soft gentle coat colours are best with pastel shades.

A word about the cat. Do be patient. You can't force a cat to do anything. Gentle persuasion works wonders. I rarely find a cat that with patient persuasion cannot eventually be got into the position I want. And when it does what I want I am grateful to the animal. I hope you will be too.



Here are two positions for portrait pictures: (left) cat with body parallel to the front of the camera" (right) cat with body at right angles to the lens.

Next month: The first in an interesting new series "Meet the Breeders" deals with the Pathfinder Tortoiseshells bred by Miss N. Woodfield. Many other fine features and illustrations, including history of the Lynx Point, will be included in this issue.

A FINISHING SCHOOL FOR CATS

By **MAY EUSTACE**

THERE is a new kind of Siamese cat owner today, and this new kind of cat owner requires a new kind of kitten. The following short extract from a letter written by a new bride to her Irish mother is printed below because it supports so well this theory of mine: "We have everything we want. We have our modern semi. We have a new Mini Minor. We have oil-fired central heating, washing machine and spin dryer, fridge, slim line TV set and Siamese Cat!"

So, it would appear that a Siamese cat is now a necessary "something" in the scheme of things, an important adjunct to

the new home of many of our young married couples, a home builder of no mean calibre.

There is a certain caché today in owning this new kind of "Home Builder". At one time, ordinary folk scorned the companionship of a cat, and real cat lovers were only found amongst lonely ladies, isolated husband-and-wife teams, and amongst the odd few who were breeders and members of the Cat Fancy. But today the Siamese cat has carved for himself a new niche in society and thanks to his insinuating ways and delightful and impressive appearance he has firmly established himself.

So thoroughly has he done his



They are happy days for the Siamese breeder when the kittens have reached this stage of their development. The author Mrs. May Eustace, who has done so much to popularize the breed in the North, appears here with one of her litters.

job that he has converted many indifferent folk into frantic cat lovers, and these new converts are mostly to be found amongst young people setting up home for the first time. For this new role of extra-special-domesticity Siamese cats need some extra-special tuition, as it is quite clear that a ten weeks' old kitten, fresh from its mother's care, could not, without specialized help, adapt himself readily to his new way of life.

School Requirements

So now all cat breeders must agree that the time has come to establish a Finishing School For Cats. A draft syllabus will soon be presented to the Governing Council for their approval.

Candidates for the Finishing School should be

(1) Only neuters or those about to be neutered. This must be an essential for admission.

(2) Kittens must be at least 12 weeks' old, inoculated, registered and properly transferred to their new owners. This is another essential.

(3) Kittens must be completely house trained and clean in all their habits.

(4) Kittens should be accustomed to a varied and interesting diet, and a previous introduction to a good cat food is advised, as this is a considerable help when busy workers have to arrange a diet sheet.

(5) Kittens must be of nice temperament and with accommodating ways. Vicious or bad-tempered cats should not be considered.

The period of extra training should be at least of 4 weeks and the main ideas in the school curriculum should take the form of "Hardening Off". Certain

ideas are mooted but open to re-consideration and discussion.

Occupational Therapy

As the new owners will possibly be bread winners and the new kitten will be left alone all day, it must be taught to occupy its time as gainfully as possible. If this is ignored, the bored kitten will most likely become a wool eater or a house wrecker. There are many toys and similar objects on sale in pet stores, which, when played with can act as occupational therapy, and kittens will enjoy tearing them to pieces. The only drawback is that the supply may not be equal to the demand.

Window Gazing

The art of graceful window gazing should be encouraged and perfected, for lonely cats can get great solace from "just looking out". The School would try to get the cat's co-operation by constantly going in and out, passing slowly by the window, waving "Goodbye" energetically for several hours. In this way the cat will learn to watch and wait, deriving considerable benefit therefrom, and when the time comes he will learn to give a hearty welcome to his returning bread-winners. This must be an important lesson in the Finishing School, and a good window performer can be singled out in later life as "an Old Boy".

Sex Education

This should not be necessary, for the new pupil will have been deprived of his manhood, or about to be. Nevertheless, some explanations of his future state would be best whispered by the matron herself.

Book Knowledge

The Finishing School matron should set aside a period of training in cat management for the new owner, and explain carefully what is expected of her by the cat. She should have some cat books to hand out and encourage the new owner to buy a book or two, so that authors can afford to bring out new titles.

The Finishing School should encourage new owners to buy "Home Builders" in pairs, then friendships would develop during pre-graduation days. There is nothing so nice as a well-trained neuter, except, perhaps, two well-

trained neuters. This pairing of two equals is superb, and nothing is surer but that they will live happily together.

An Appraisalment

Cat fanciers today must congratulate themselves on having brought cats to almost parity with humans.

The disbanded pupils from the Palace School will have the choice of Sunningdale, Frances Holland School, Miss Irene Ironsides' Girl's School, and Weatherby School, so why not something on the same lines for our Royal Cats?



F.A.B. CONFERENCE

THE 3rd Annual Conference of the Feline Advisory Bureau held in London last month, was opened by Mr. Maxwell Knight, O.B.E., who was also conference chairman, after an introduction by Mrs. Joan Judd, the chairman/secretary of the Bureau.

The first paper was presented by Mr. A. I. Wright, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., on "Zoonoses Relating to the Cat and Man". Of the virus infections communicable to man the speaker sounded a note of warning about rabies and pointed out the necessity of the quarantine regulations in force in this country. He then outlined the bacterial infections which come under the zoonoses and emphasized particularly sepsis following cat bites. The other infections covered were ringworm, toxoplasmosis and parasitism. Mr. Wright discussed the life history of the *Toxocara* species.

The second morning paper was entitled "Infertility and Neonatal Diseases in the Cat", and was presented by Mr. R. H. Johnson, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

In his paper Mr. Johnson spoke of his approach to the whole problem and the type of examination necessary to determine the pathogenic organism. He outlined the difficulties in trying to isolate virus from these samples due often to the fact that the virus does not survive for very long at normal temperatures. He said that in the cases he had examined there was no evidence of venereal infection and stressed that at oestrus the uterus is very much less susceptible to infection.

He then went on to discuss the causes of infertility which could be implicated and some of the methods by which they could be avoided. He discussed infectious agents and stated that several new organisms had been isolated. Other causes of infertility and neonatal disease

included nutritional deficiencies, especially Vitamin A and calcium deficiency, and hormonal imbalances.

Mr. Johnson then discussed fading kitten disease, and compared it to fading puppy disease and listed the criteria for diagnosis. The connection of this and Eperythrozoon which has been constantly found in blood smears is of unknown significance.

Finally the speaker gave some of the possible causes of this disease and suggested that blood groups and sub-lethal genes associated with inbreeding might be important factors in this syndrome. Approaches at present being made towards control of these conditions include resting affected queens from breeding, check on diet adequacy in relation to Vitamin A and calcium, and the use of autogenous vaccines and antibiotics where the presence of infection is established.

Mr. Johnson gave this paper as the result of a small grant made to him by

the Feline Advisory Bureau's Central Fund for Feline Research, and as a result of his talk many members present requested that this work be continued and that an appeal be launched so that funds could be raised. Many questions were asked and Mr. Johnson's paper was received with great enthusiasm.

After lunch Miss Joan O. Joshua F.R.C.V.S., presented a very interesting paper on "Sepsis in the Cat" and stressed how important it was that cat bites received attention. She listed the common organisms found in the cat's mouth and throat and pointed out that *Pasteurella multocida* may be present in as many as 95% of cats. She stressed the importance of having any cat bites received by humans thoroughly cleansed and treated as so often they can cause serious reactions and sometimes systemic infection.

The last paper of the day, "Is the Cat Breeder a Friend of the Species?" (by Mr. Sumner-Smith, B.V.Sc., F.R.C.V.S.), appears at length elsewhere in this issue.



At six weeks a kitten loses the natural immunity it gains from its mother's milk and becomes susceptible to the most deadly of cat diseases—Feline Infectious Enteritis. This killer strikes quickly; epidemics can sweep through a district without warning. Nine out of ten cats that contract the disease die; from first symptoms to death may be only a few hours; THERE IS NO CURE. The *only* safeguard against Feline Infectious Enteritis is to vaccinate.

Vaccination with TVL Enterovax will give your cat effective protection. Six weeks is the most suitable age to vaccinate, but a healthy cat can be vaccinated at any age. If your cat is to be shown, or is going into a cattery, vaccination is essential. Ask your veterinary surgeon to protect your cat with TVL Enterovax Feline Infectious Enteritis Vaccine, and to give you a vaccination certificate.

T V L ENTEROVAX

A PRODUCT OF TASMAN VACCINE LABORATORY LTD. · NEW ZEALAND



Tailpieces

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



HERE are a few interesting facts about the dog population of Britain, which is estimated at 4,750,000. The dog licence was introduced in 1796 to raise money for the war with France and the fee of 7s. 6d. has held since 1878. Licences issued last year totalled 2,659,629. So we are left to assume that the licence dodgers are responsible for a loss of revenue amounting to £750,000! Dog owners prosecuted for not having a licence numbered a few under 4,000. The maximum penalty—£5.

The National Pets Club of the *Daily Mirror* (271,000 members) has come down heavily in support of the campaign to "stamp out cruel and shoddy methods of pet dealing". Under the 1951 Act, pet shops are subject to inspection by local authorities but very few of them employ veterinary surgeons for this purpose. The inspection of pet shops is often delegated to the public health officer who, as the *Daily Mirror* rightly points out, "does not know canine distemper from athlete's foot".

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy has approved the addition to the list of Shorthaired cats two new breed numbers—No. 30 for Spotted Cats and No. 31 for Bi-coloured cats.

Extract from the June *Newsletter* of the Siamese Cat Club: "The Oldest Cat? Shantung was born the day after D Day, so she was 21 last June and was given the key of the airing cupboard. Full of beans and the only sign of old age is

deafness. She rules the household as she always has done. Kay Giles."

At the fine old age of 92, the Baroness Agnes de Stoeckl with her fifth book recently published has started on another one while she takes a rest in a nursing home. Irish by birth, the Baroness married a Russian diplomat Baron de Stoeckl in 1892 and her daughter was Lady-in-Waiting to the late Tsarina of Russia. She moved in royal circles throughout Europe. She now lives in a cottage on the Duke of Kent's estate at Coppins. Once the owner of 50 cats, she now has 15 and is always ready to reminisce about the special pleasures they have brought to her during her long life.

The Traffic Department of Boston, U.S.A., have a pet cat named Van Esta who is rearing four kittens in a street light in the storeroom. The kittens have been named Jaywalk, Crosswalk, Walk and Don't Walk.

Another news item from the same area is culled from *The Boston Herald*. It relates to an official annual food allowance of 50 dollars for Lopez, the town hall cat—that's about £18. The *Herald* comments: "We believe that every town hall should have a cat and we think that every town hall cat should be fed on a regular basis—they cannot be expected to feed themselves completely. . . . Actually, we wonder if 50 dollars is enough".

The magazine *Sunday* recently carried a

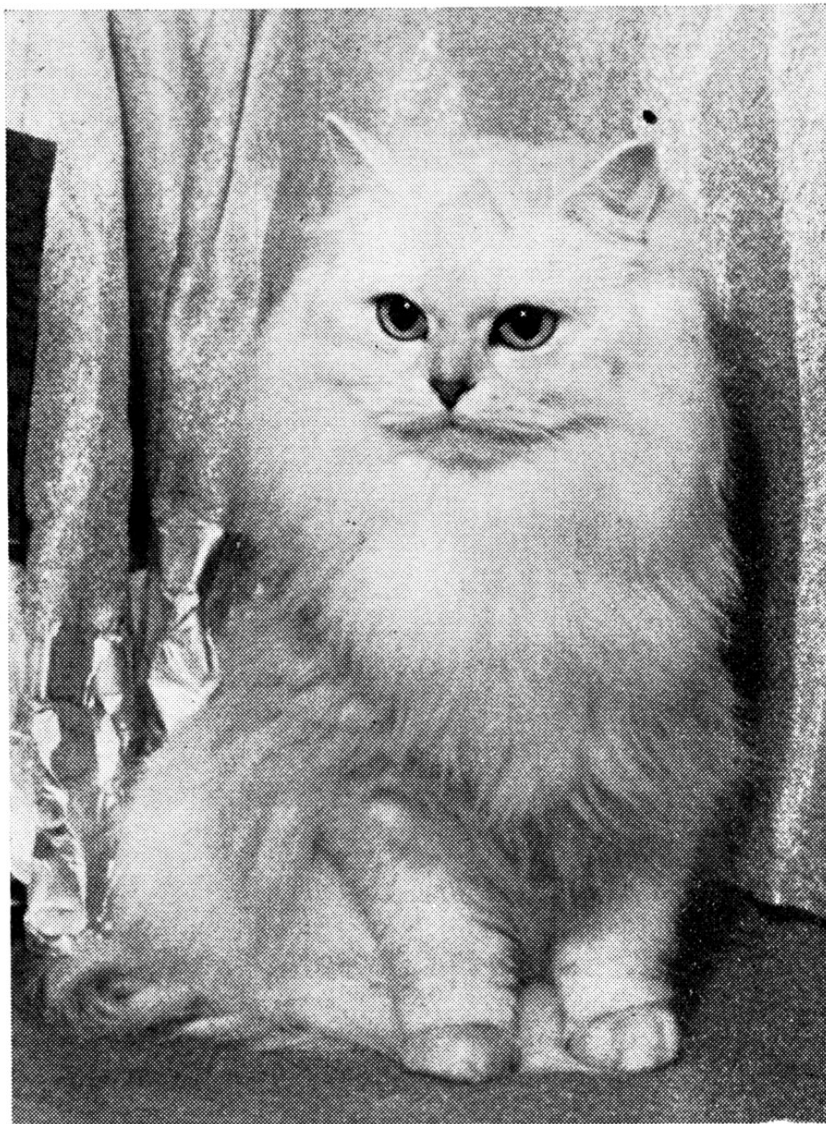
delightful full page picture in colour of the evangelist Billy Graham and his family at their home in North Carolina. Mr. Graham has two boys and two girls and one of the latter is holding a nice-looking Seal Point Siamese.

The cat noises in Evelyn Laye's film "Theatre of Death" are supplied by Sumfun Siamese bred by Mrs. Mary Dunnill, Hon. Secretary of our Siamese Cat Club.

Many of you will have watched a child drawing a cat—two circles on top of each other, ears, some protruding whiskers, a tail and perhaps a funny face. In a recent report presented by a group of art teachers belonging to the Surrey Educational Research Association there was

a warning to adults not to encourage children to draw in this manner. "Adults", the report says, "can check the normal development of children's pictorial symbols by teaching trick methods of drawing. The habit of drawing a cat by placing a small circle above a large one is particularly undesirable . . . such a drawing gives a child a one-dimensional impression of a cat".

Quote by the Rev. Charles Warner, Rector of Farnham Royal, Bucks., who took exception to an obituary poem to a cat which appeared in the local newspaper: "Sentiment is good. But sentimentality is awful". I would like to ask the reverend gentleman why sorrow at the death of a cat should be any less



Here is a lovely Chinchilla who has been taught to "sit up like a lady". She is PINCOP POLLYANNA, bred by Mrs. Lamb from Poldenhills Merlin ex Poldenhills Rose Azalea, now owned by Mrs. E. Polden, of Crowthorne, Berks. Our picture was taken at the National Show at Olympia 1965.

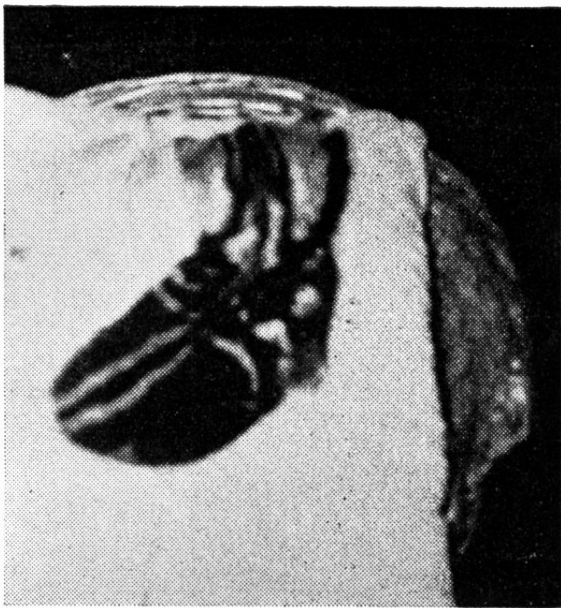
valid than sorrow at the death of a relative?

Mrs. E. Durbin, of Paignton, Devon, has won the first International Trophy of the White Persian Society, U.S.A., with her young White male Nineveh Dream Boy. Congratulations!

We received the following pathetic little note from one of our valued subscribers the other day: "Much to my regret I cannot renew my subscription. I lost my Siamese cat tragically a month ago and am unable to afford to buy another. Your magazine is really first class but it tugs at my heart strings too much. I hope you understand".

A reader writes: "I have recently discovered that one can send a cat by rail by Recorded Delivery for a 5s. fee. Everyone has to sign for it and there are no missed connections. It is well worth it for a long journey with two or three changes".

A reader kindly brought to our notice a cutting from a northern newspaper which reported the arrival of a little tabby kitten with most unusual markings . . . see picture below.



Fuller details and a print were subsequently obtained by us through the

cooperation of Mrs. Yvonne Klepper, of Kirkham, Whitefield, Lancashire, who wrote: "In the first week of Lent this year, my mother's cat gave birth to this kitten, which soon developed a distinctive double-lined cross on its back. As it has grown older, the markings are just as perfect and even more noticeable than ever".

Although she has reached retiring age, Miss Irene Smith, of Chatham, Kent, has decided to carry on with her clerical job at the local dockyard so that she can continue to feed the cats who have their home there.

In reply to enquirers: The delightful sketches which illustrated the feature "Pusscats in the Pink" in last month's issue were by Mrs. Gillian Greenwood, wife of Mr. Anthony Greenwood, M.P. We are sorry we omitted to mention this.

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

Caption Competition

There was an excellent response to our invitation to readers to write a caption for one of the illustrations in our March issue. It showed a parent cat with a corrective paw on the head of one of its kittens. So many entries appeared to be of equal merit that it was difficult to isolate the winner. The book prize was finally awarded to Miss L. M. Hayter, of Penzance, Cornwall, for her caption "Don't you call *me* a square!"

DIRECTORY OF BREEDERS

LONGHAIR SECTION

Your guide for reliable studs and stock from among the various breeds of Longhair Cats. The panel advertisements are arranged as far as make-up permits in alphabetical order of breeders' names. It is a point of policy that **OUR CATS** cannot participate in transactions involving sales of stock or stud services. Please mention the Magazine in your first contact with our advertisers

BOURNESIDE CATTERY

Black, Blue, Cream, Blue-Cream & White Persians

At Stud:

Ch. Nevern David (Blue) Fee 5 gns.

Pagan of Pensford (Blue) Fee 4 gns.

Bourneside Cream Jolyon Fee 4 gns.

Pedigree kittens usually for sale

MRS. E. G. AITKEN, BOURNESIDE,
KINGSWOOD LANE, HINDHEAD, SURREY.

Tel. Hindhead 833

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At Stud: **CH. ORION OF PENSFORD**

Constant winner every time shown. At twenty-two months holding five Challenge Certificates. Siring lovely kittens.

Queens: **CH. BORROWDALE SUSETTE** and **BEAMSLEY WENDY** Kittens sometimes for sale from this stock, excelling in type, eye colour, coats and stamina, carefully reared, inoculated F.I.E.
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Queens:

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CH. BROCTON'S ANNA (Chinchilla)

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Kittens from these queens will be available this year

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GUILDFORD SURREY. Guildford 62046

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Sire: **Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous**

Dam: **Ch. Mooncoin Judy**

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Lovely kittens reared in ideal surroundings
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At Stud:

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At Stud: **Blues: CH. GIPPESWYK JAKE**
& **PERIVALE NICHOLAS.**

Colourpoints: KALA JOKARI (S.P.) &
KALA SHAH (B.P.)

Smoke: KALA MOONDUST

Blue, Smoke and Colourpoint (Himalayan) Kittens sometimes available.

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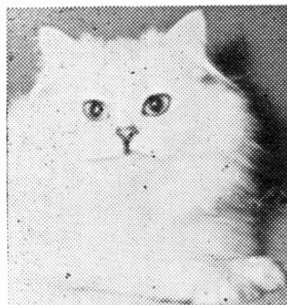
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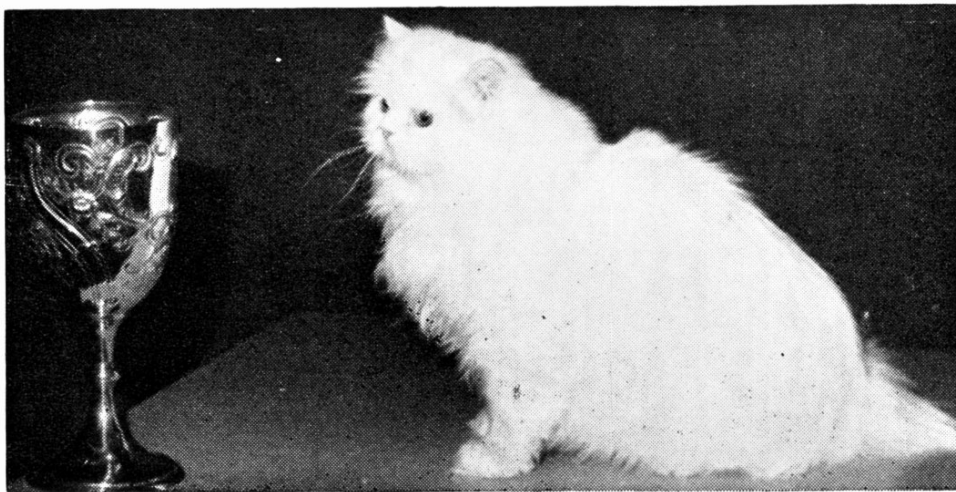
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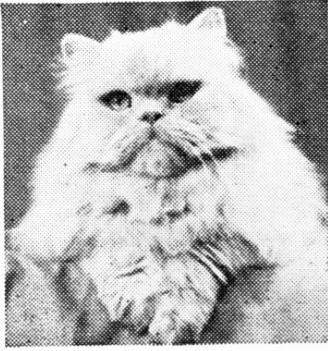
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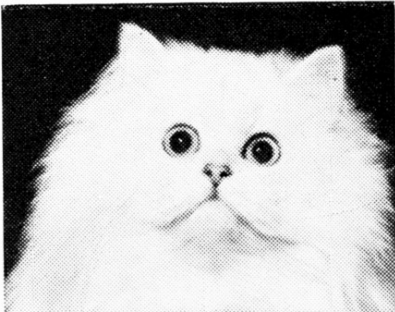
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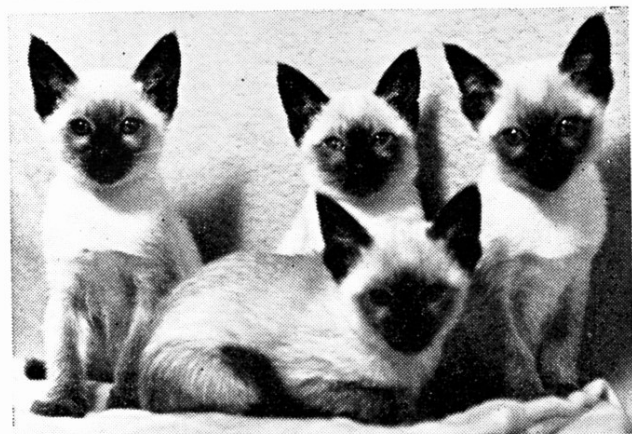
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SHORTHAIR SECTION

Your guide for reliable studs and stock from among the various breeds of Shorthair Cats. The panel advertisements are arranged as far as make-up permits in alphabetical order of breeders' names. It is a point of policy that **OUR CATS** cannot participate in transactions involving sales of stock or stud services. Please mention the Magazine in your first contact with our advertisers.



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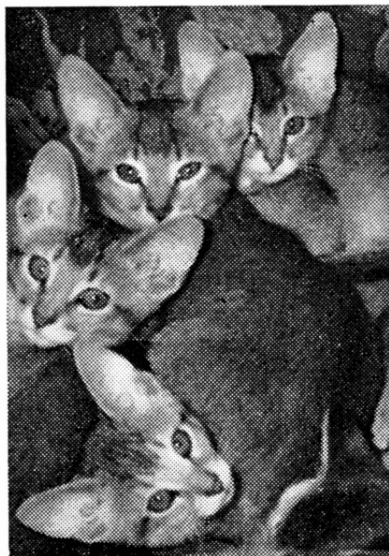
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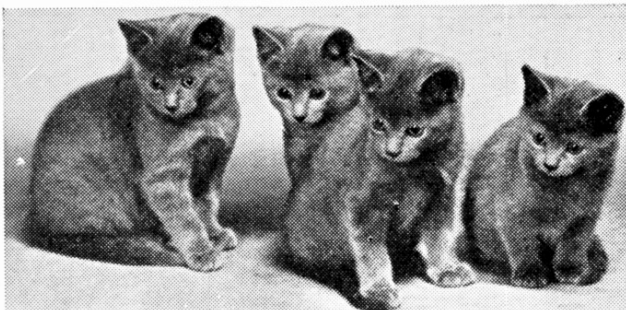


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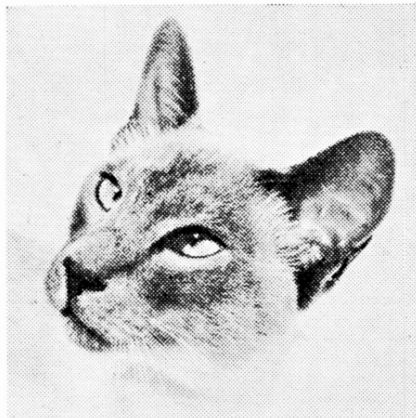


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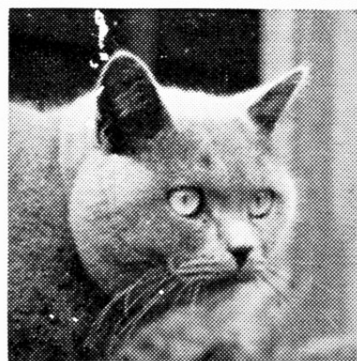
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If you know any cat lovers who are likely to be genuinely interested in a sample copy of OUR CATS, we should be glad to have their names and addresses. Just jot the details on a postcard, address to 4 Carlton Mansions, 378 Clapham Road, London, S.W.9,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

JUST FANCY

A monthly diary by JOAN THOMPSON, (International all-breed judge)

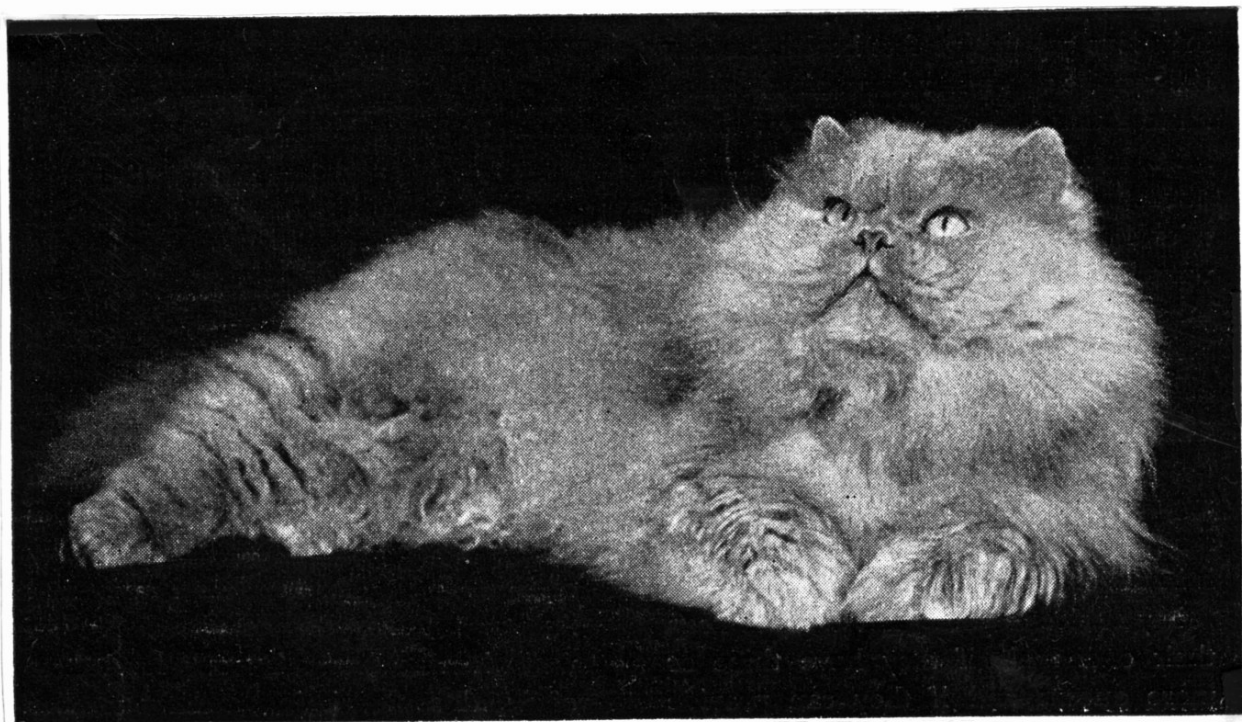
THE passing of Champion Fox-burrow Frivolous on April 22nd has brought me many letters of sympathy.

Born in July 1952, he was destined to become one of the most successful Blue Persian sires of all time in England with over 40 Blue, Cream and Blue-Cream Champions to his credit in this and several overseas countries. He also had a marked influence on Orange-eyed Whites through two of his Blue daughters, namely Ch. Camber Suzanne (mother of Ch. Snowwhite Giselle, Best Exhibit in Show, Olympia 1964, and Best Longhair kitten Snowwhite Herald in 1965 at the same venue and many other winners).

Passion Flower of Dunesk, the other Blue (owned by Mrs. Mearns) is the mother of Miss M. Bull's White male Ch. Snowcloud Crispin; also Mrs.

Durbin's Ch. Snowcloud Goliath, Ch. Snowcloud Eros in New Zealand and other winners bred by Mrs. Mearns.

Although I had realized for many years that the most satisfactory method of breeding was to keep ones own male. I was reluctant to do so as the limited number of queens I have always owned have never been sufficient to satisfy a male and stud work did not appeal to me. However, chance stepped in and I suddenly found myself with a "ready made" family of five bonny pale Blues bred by Mr. P. M. Soderberg, author of *Cat Breeding and General Management* and later *Pedigree Cats*, two books which have been of immense help to breeders. Mr. Soderberg was also a valued contributor to this magazine for a number of years. I had ordered a female kitten from him by Ch. Dylan of



A great Blue Longhair—the late CH. FOXBURROW FRIVOLOUS.

Allington and Herries Helga. But when Miss Burgess, matron of Caterham Boys Preparatory School, suddenly had to have an emergency operation and his secretary would be too busy to look after five kittens as the boys were returning from summer vacation, he asked me to have the family. This was my first and only experience of buying a litter of kittens.

Mr. Soderberg was informed where each kitten went as I have always frowned on any transactions which involved buying and reselling kittens.

Foxburrow Frivolous was always adorable and I decided to keep him. He became a Champion at eighteen months when the competition in Blue male adult Open Classes was much more exacting than it has been over the last few years. His brother Foxburrow Firefly became a Premier Neuter in Norway and when his owner Mrs Judith Saether came to England she visited Mr. Soderberg at Caterham and later myself.

Advice to novices

So that is how my vague thoughts of keeping a Blue male turned unwittingly to reality. Until February this year Frivolous enjoyed perfect health, and by the way he was never immunized or had an injection in his life. But now shows have become more numerous and are attracting larger entries in many varieties immunization is a necessity and when I exhibit this precaution is always taken.

At present I feel Frivolous is irreplaceable, but I am quite sure if ones queens can be mated at home one can prevent the anxieties and some of the disappointments which arise when one sends queens away, however careful one is in the choice of a male.

My advice to young novices is to keep their own male if they have three or more queens and if they can provide suitable accommodation and are pre-

pared to spend a substantial amount on housing a male in a congenial house and run.

Although the number of Blue Persian stud cats has declined, the outlook is improving and some eligible youngsters have made their debut, or will be doing so this season.

Mrs. Graham's Ch. Borrowdale Romeo (pictured in May OUR CATS) has made a flying start by completing his title at under a year at Bournemouth. Mrs. Lamb is keeping Pincop Beau by Ch. Camber Mario and Petula of Pensford. Born in May 1965 he should be an asset to the Blues when his stud career commences.

Mrs. Brine will be exhibiting her young male Marmsbury Beau by Ch. Briaric Beauty and Ch. Fennella Sue of Pensford. Mrs. Grace Pond has a new well-bred youngster but as I do not know the names of his parents, cannot quote.

Dr. and Mrs. Sharp will be exhibiting Valentino of Pensford, Ch. Foxburrow Frivolous's son. They brought him down for me to see in May. He has quite recovered from the accident which has prevented him from being shown. The accident occurred because they wanted him to enjoy liberty but although their grounds are spacious and ideal, the country has dangers which we living in the suburbs do not have to consider, e.g., foxes and other predatory animals. Valentino's liberty is now supervised and he also has a spacious run. Miss Wash has his brother Cadet of Pensford but she prefers to keep him for her queens and those of a few friends.

A lovely litter

Visiting Mrs. Brunton in May with Mr. and Mrs. Jewell we saw one of her young male's first litters. Sugar Daddy of Dunesk by Ch. Camber Mario and Ashdown Amaryllis acquitted himself well when he sired this lovely level litter of six, all so flourishing, and the mother so devoted to her large family. The

Dunsk queens have liberty in the enclosed garden and looked so happy and contented. Sugar Daddy is allowed a certain amount of freedom, but in an enclosed garden he is safe with all the exercise any cat needs.

Although Mrs. Jewell has taken a less active part in exhibiting over the last two or three years owing to her queens getting on in years, and her business interests, she has not lost her enthusiasm and when she sees a Cream female kitten suitable to mate to her Cream male Ch. Brynwood Casanova she will buy it and continue breeding Creams and Blue-Creams. Casanova has sired some outstanding winners among them Mrs. Stansall's Ch. Harpur Kipling, Madame Radovitch's (France) Ch. Harpur Sunflower, Mrs. Fawell's Blue-Cream Ch. Barwell Athene, Mrs. Plew's Blue-Cream, the late Ch. Harpur Cottonsocks and several other winners.

Certificates for stewards

The Joint Committee for Siamese Cats have made a sensible innovation in issuing a Steward's Certificate before prospective candidates can be considered as eligible for appointment as probationer judges for Siamese. Stewards must

obtain twelve Certificates signed by not fewer than six judges stating (1) name of steward; (2) name of club sponsoring show; (3) place at which show was held; and (4) date of show. They must not include any testimonial matter.

This is a step in the right direction in my opinion and it would be advisable for some of the Longhair specialist clubs to initiate something on similar lines. We have the anomaly among Longhairs of judges being appointed who have never presented a Longhair winner or even bred them in some cases or have seldom acted as stewards, whilst breeders who have bred outstanding Champions are not on the judges list.

Two successful Blue Persian breeders who immediately come to mind are Mrs. Daphne Fisher, breeder of Ch. Halcyon Boniface, Ch. Halcyon Candida, Ch. Halcyon Devina, Ch. Halcyon Fiona (U.S.A.) and several winning kittens. She needs to do some stewarding but she is young and incidentally is not giving up breeding Blue Persians because of the arrival of her own baby daughter in November. Many young mothers nowadays like to have a hobby.

Another successful Blue breeder not on the judges list is Mrs. Burrows, of Leeds, who has done a tremendous amount of stewarding and bred Ch.

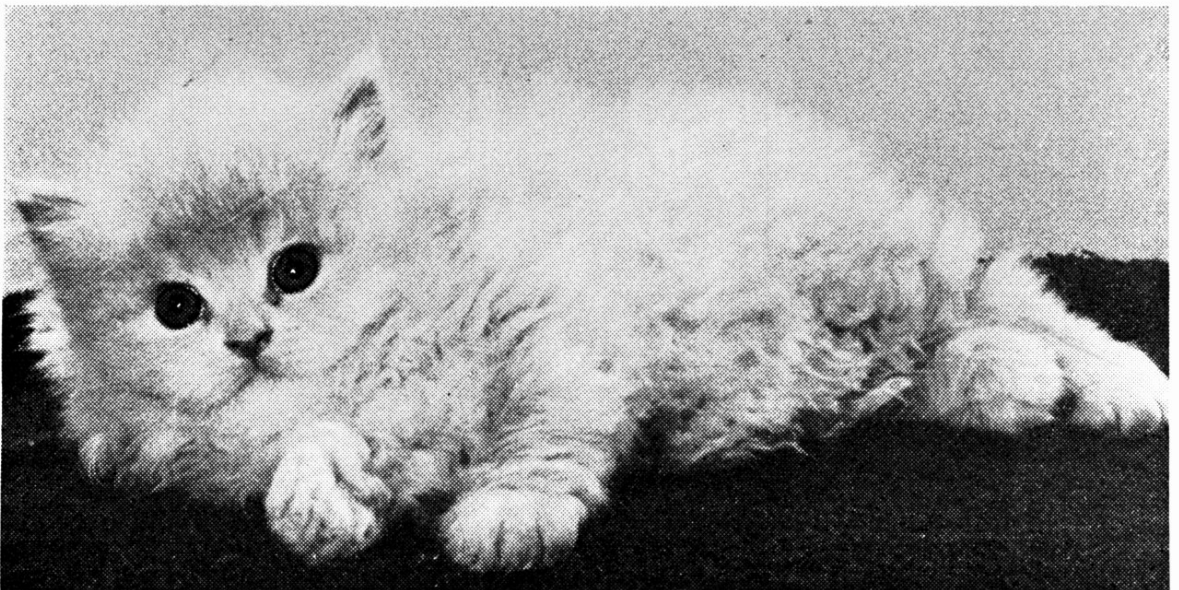


Photo by Hans Bomskow

TOIREH TRISHA, a delightful Cream kitten belonging to Miss Geraldine Schwaderer, President of Pet Pride, U.S.A., who has just concluded a visit to this country. Bred from Quad. Ch. Hadleigh Serena, Trisha's pedigree includes some well known English Longhairs.

Borrowdale Susette and two outstanding 1965-1966 winners namely Mrs. Brice Webb's Ch. Borrowdale Playgirl and Mrs. Graham's Ch. Borrowdale Romeo. She also owns their sire Ch. Orion of Pensford, who has had such a brilliant show career.

The first post-war judges who were eligible to judge all breeds had a vast pre-war experience of breeding and stewarding and were already judges of several varieties in 1939. These were the first to go overseas after the war as Ch. shows in Europe had been so depleted by the exigences of over five years strife and there were few judges in Europe with equal experience. When I judged in Copenhagen in 1947 I did the whole show—a strenuous but enjoyable assignment.

Nowadays, there is no necessity for a judge to be eligible to officiate for all breeds if he, or she, goes overseas as the shows are infinitely bigger and at least three or more judges are appointed for Championship fixtures, usually specialists in Longhairs, Shorthairs, or Siamese.

So there is no excuse for some of the anomalous appointments which have been made in recent years in Longhair judges. Unless breeders have had exceptional experience and shown they really take an interest in all breeds, I am sure the most satisfactory solution for the people who actually breed and exhibit the cats would be all-round Longhair Judges and All-round Shorthair Judges selected from successful exhibitors of the varieties.



AMBERLEY BLUE MIST being a sensible young lady decides it's best not to argue with a prickly fellow like this that wants to share your saucer of milk! Blue Mist, the pet of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Scott, Winchester, Hants., was bred by Mr. and Mrs. D. Wilson.



by courtesy London Evening News

Here's a Siamese mother who knows more than most about parental control. She is HILTONIAN SNORK MAIDEN ("Porkers" to all her friends). At 10 years, her offspring to date number 102! Our picture shows "Porkers" with her latest litter by Ch. Sabukia Sirocco at the home of Mrs. Eileen Lentaigne at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks.

OUR SAM

By a 14-year-old contributor — JANE SHUTTLEWORTH

EVER since my mum was married, fifteen years ago, there has only been one thing she really wanted. A Siamese cat.

It was a warm Saturday afternoon, when I saw my dad and young sister whispering in a corner of the living room. They went out and returned two hours later, with Sam.

If ever a cat was mis-named, it was Sami, a Seal Point Siamese kitten, who at the time this article was written had reached the age of nine months.

Sam or D.C. (Damn Cat) as he is known locally considers himself boss of the house and the road in which I live. When he first arrived at our house he was a timid kitten of eleven weeks. At first he never stirred from the back of the sofa, he just sat and stared at us with large crossed-eyes, of a heavenly blue colour. As the weeks passed he gained courage and began to dominate our once peaceful household.

When he reached the age of four months Sam was vaccinated against Feline Enteritis and for the space of three weeks, (the time it took Sam to get over his two vaccinations,) there was peace for the first time since he arrived.

Down the middle of his stomach there is a long dark brown streak which almost covers the length of his tummy. When he arrived that spot was almost a microscopic dot.

I can now safely say that Sam is a meat-eater (Carnivor). Who-ever gets up first in the morning has to feed D.C. or his meows of protest can be guaranteed to drive even the most sane person to drink.

We daren't leave any meat around where he might get at it. Right now he's getting ready to settle down in front of the fire, after eating my salmon! He practically lives by the fridge door

and has, more than once eaten our Sunday joint, or made it unfit for human consumption by dragging it around the kitchen floor. Once he had a tug-of-war with Tiggles, a tortoiseshell and Bob, a Border Collie.

Sam eats his own dinner, then helps the dog finish his. The two of them eat quite happily off the same plate and are usually the best of friends, except when it comes to bones.

Some-time ago a parcel of bones was placed on top of the fridge. Sam jumped up and sent one crashing to the floor. He jumped down to claim it, only to find that Bob had carried it off. Disgusted Sam jumped back up and helped himself to another.

That doesn't always happen. Sam will often stand guard over Bob's bones, when they have been put out-side, to stop other dogs running off with them.

A home wrecker

One of the things Sam likes most is attention. When he feels neglected he jumps onto the side-board and waits until he's noticed. Another place which is out-of-bounds to Sam, though it never stops him jumping up there, is the mantle-piece. It used to have several prized ornaments on it, but now, owing to circumstances beyond our control, there is only one—Sam!

The floor in my bed-room is covered in a slippery linoleum. Near the foot of the bed there is a small piece of carpeting. Sam runs up the stairs and along the landing. He thunders across my bedroom floor, pounces on the carpet and slides across the room on it.

The light in my bedroom is one of those which are turned on and off with a piece of cord. It isn't the cord that attracts Sam's attention, but the golden bauble on the end of it.

D.C. is classed as a home-wrecker' in *my* books if no-one elses. If you saw my bedroom I'm quite sure that you would agree with me. He sharpens his claws on my chair and it is now almost in shreds. The wall paper surrounding the light cord has been missing for some time. The bed head, which is directly below it, is covered in a plastic fibre, of a floral design, has little tears in it. I think I have learned my lesson as I now keep my bedroom door firmly closed!

Sam shuns the toys we bought for him, like the little red mouse with big yellow eyes, that smells of cat-nip. He insists on walking round the house with the remains of a red plastic rose clasped firmly between his teeth, though I must admit he looks rather cute.

To the despair of our neighbours Sam is no longer the "timid little thing" he used to be. Several times now he has been found in bedrooms, kitchens and sitting on car bonnets.

Other cats in the neighbourhood give our garden a wide berth. Sam seems to enjoy chasing them, though he has come running in home when the dog

he'd been chasing decided to turn round and chase him. When something like this does happen, the hair in his tail stands on end, and the tail is as thick as a man's wrist. Every time this happens Sam goes wandering round the house 'swearing' to himself. He's usually nervous when this happens, but is always ready to go and chase that dog if it dares to show its face in his domain.

Every time Sam is scolded he sits down and closes his eyes. He must think that we can't see him when he does this. When he's being chased down stairs, he stretches himself flat out on one of the steps about halfway down the flight. He even has the grace to look surprised when he's picked up and hugged.

Now, as I look out of the sitting room window, Sam is peering over some long grass at the bottom of the garden, at a bird. Sam is now a member of our family, whether we like it or not, and I cannot imagine how we ever managed to live without him.

I have only one thing left to ask. Anybody want to buy a Siamese cat? The price? One million pounds!



INT. CH. OMAHEENI BELLA was a well-known Burmese on the Continent. English bred and nearly 9 years old, she died recently while having her 18th litter. Her distressed owner Mrs. M. Svenningsen, prominent Norwegian breeder and judge, described Bella as "a really fashionable English lady with genteel manners". Our picture shows Bella with her babies in happier days.

“IS THE CAT BREEDER A FRIEND OF THE SPECIES?”

This query was the theme of a paper presented at the 3rd. Annual Conference of the Feline Advisory Bureau by Mr. G. Sumner-Smith, B.V.Sc., F.R.C.V.S.

THE dictionary defines a friend as “one joined to another in mutual benevolence” and it is my intention to pose a large number of questions in support of the query outlined in the title of this address. I do not intend to state the answer to the original question, but rather to let my audience answer it in their own hearts, in the light of some of the topics which I shall mention.

Here it is only proper for me to state that any opinions that I express are entirely my own.

The veterinarian for his part must decide in which field he intends to keep his knowledge up to date. If, as is most likely with a non-urban practice, he is only going to attend to one cat for every two hundred patients of other species that he sees, he cannot afford the time to devote his energies to the particular study of the ailing cat. The breeder of cats, however knowledgeable and however accomplished, will have problems with their animals and the friend of these animals would ensure that they live in an area adjacent to a veterinarian who makes it his practice to attend to the feline species.

To improve a species is indeed an impertinence on the part of man. But this is what he often has the temerity to pretend to do. On occasions he succeeds, at least by his own yardstick, but on most occasions his careful and selected planning goes sadly astray. For generations when children have attended the circus they have laughed at the antics of dwarf clowns and as they have become

older, their laughter has become tinged with a note of pathos at the sight of one of nature’s wonderful creations that has somehow got its nuclear chemistry out of step. And yet breeders are forever attempting to produce miniature (dwarf) individuals in the different species. A purposeful and selected breeding programme is undertaken to breed these creatures.

Ones emotions become extremely divided on observing the results of this tampering. On the one hand one is distressed for the animal who goes through life with many additional handicaps. On the other, ones attitude towards the breeder varies from righteous anger to outright compassion for the sick mind that has directed these efforts.

Other forms of selective breeding produce an appalling number of structural defects. Brachycephalic heads that cause respiratory distress and problems with tear drainage, Entropion, cleft palate, “split hand”, extremes of temperament, are all exacerbated by trends in “breeding for type”. Distorted bone structures are one of the commonest problems that one encounters—ridgebacks, brittle bones, and “collapsed” pelvises occur as hereditary factors in association with incorrect diet. In some cases veterinary surgeons have had to advise a special operation to enlarge the pelvic canals of cats and to insert stainless steel wedges to keep the bones apart. And the purpose of this major surgery—to permit the cat to defaecate!

A particular colour becomes fashionable—to match the furnishings or the wallpaper, and all else is forgotten in an attempt to “out do” Mrs. Bloggins of the

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X-shire Club. The fact that this 'beautiful' coat is carried by a miserable specimen is ignored. I wonder if these policies are the action of "a friend", or are they to satisfy the neuroses of the breeder.

Many veterinary surgeons in practice have listened to tales from breeders of how they have stayed up night after night with a kitten born in a very weak or premature state and of how the cat has always been "rather delicate". How shocked they have been when I have stated to them that they would have been doing more good for cats if they had culled the animal on day one.

The role of a friend is not always easy to take, and it often requires one to sacrifice one's own desires and emotions in furtherance of common sense. We have far too many individuals unable to stand the normal rigours of life without adding to them, or perpetuating lines that are defective.

Faults perpetuated

I do not suggest that breeders do not cull. Many do. They cull the kittens that show a point that would be a disadvantage in the show ring. It might be the healthiest and most sound kitten in the litter—but it is the wrong colour and so it is destroyed. Other kittens are culled because they have such a severe defect—absence of palate or a major umbilical hernia—both hereditary defects that destruction is unavoidable.

A queen has a litter of five and one has a major defect. It is destroyed and the owner "swears blind" that she only had four and the fault is perpetuated when these kittens mature and breed themselves. But then it would not do for the Fancy to learn that Mrs. Y's stud was not quite perfect. In my humble opinion the worst possible thing that can happen to any species is for someone to want to "show it". Would we had a show for cat owners!

I wonder how many owners have taken a cat to a show because it was an important show to them, knowing full well that they had a sick cat at home . . . one suffering from one of the contagious viruses. They know that they can get past the vet at the show because their entry is not showing any symptoms. They know, though, that it is 10 to 1 that it is incubating the same virus. And yet at the most contagious period in the course of the disease this "friend" takes the cat amongst others of its kind!

Facts are hidden

In turning to disease problems, a most peculiar state of affairs sometimes exists. A breeder will spend hours and hours nursing and medicating an ailing individual. They will seek advice from a multitude of sources, and then if all else fails the vet is called in. But he is not told how long the cat has really been ill, or what number of potions, concoctions have been sprayed, wiped, or

dosed into the animal. Some vaccinate their own stock with a syringe sterilised in an antiseptic and vaccine that has been kept in the kitchen cupboard or on the living room mantelpiece. A delicate thing like a virus vaccine treated in this barbaric manner!

One could spend the rest of the day talking about the peculiar ideas that some people have about feeding cats, but enough has been said about this subject and if people do not wish to follow the advice of the feline nutritionists, one cannot make them.

I have learnt, with surprise and distress of some of the appalling conditions in which certain individuals keep their studs and queens. Would one care for a "friend" in this manner?

Stud fees have only risen 100% in fifty years. An extraordinary state of affairs when one compares the inflation of all other commodities. I believe that all stud fees should be trebled. The advantages are obvious. Especially when one realizes that



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many undesirable queens could be turned away by the discerning owner of a good stud. I speak of "good" in the veterinary sense.

Veterinary surgeons in practice and in research are for ever being prodded by worried owners and breeders concerning 'X' disease and 'Y' disease. They are told how frightful it is that so very little is done to discover cures for the many problems that still beset the cat. Just how much do they contribute to these research problems?

Breeders should pay

Last year the Central Fund for Feline Research income was in the region of £30, and if that figure is set against the membership of the F.A.B. it means less than 8½d. per member! If it is set against the number of breeders of cats in this country alone, it is not measurable.

The breeders are the people who should be paying for the work from which they and their "friends" will be the main beneficiaries. If every breeder put aside only 1s. per week, the £2 12s. 0d. they donated at the end of every year would absolutely swamp the research centres and the wheels would really begin to turn. I am not impressed with the "friends" of the species who are anti-research, etc. They shout loud enough when the vet can't find the answer to their problem. The answer is obvious: there are bankers orders payable to *The Central Fund for Feline Research* which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Feline Advisory Bureau so that you can show how much a friend of the species you really are.



This little English-bred Chinchilla girl met American judge Mrs. Harriet Wolfgang at the Norrköping Show (Sweden) last November. Result—she was awarded Best Kitten in Show. **BONAVIA LINDY LOU**, bred by Mrs. Mollie Turney, is owned by Mrs. Brita Remborg, Secretary of the Federation Internationale Feline D'Europe.

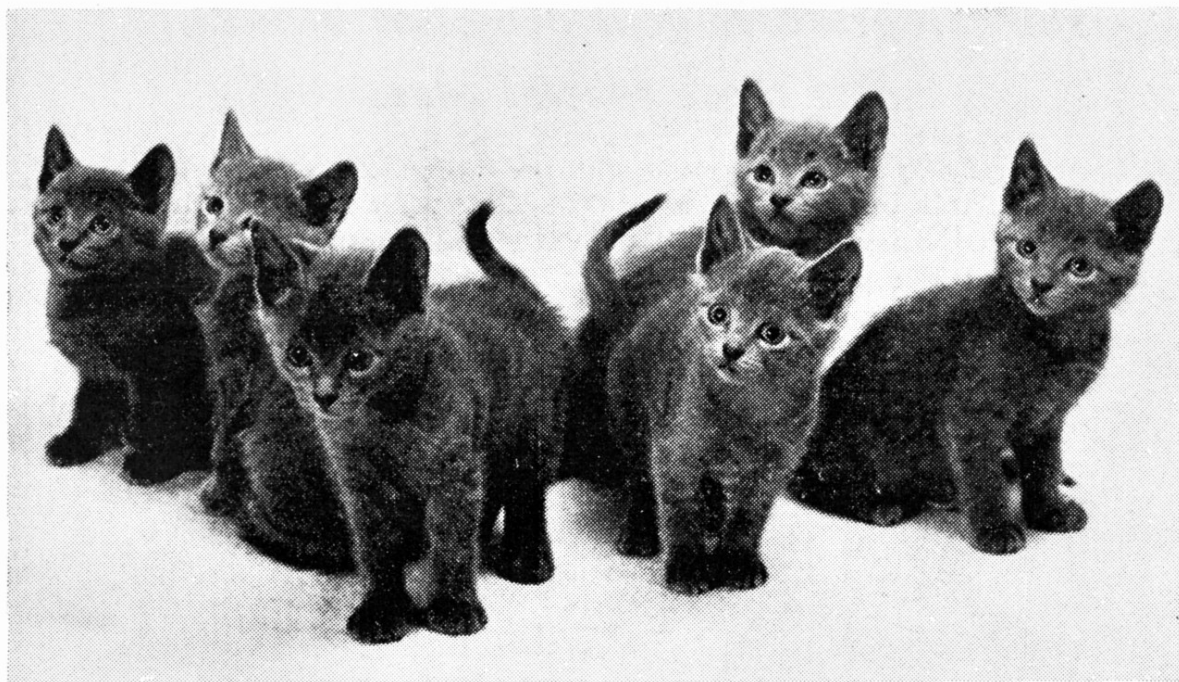


"CATS BY THE HUNDREDS"

In last month's issue we included a feature describing the remarkable collection of cat figurines belonging to Stella Lady Bailey, of Cape Town, South Africa. The picture above shows some of the most interesting items in this collection. It unfortunately arrived too late to be included with the feature.

In a charming note, Lady Bailey writes: "I am most amused to hear how far the story of my collection has spread. It is now dotted over my house—bronze ones in the drawing room and those with flowers and crazy hats, all old French or German, are in my bedroom. I have now become very selective and only buy rare or very unusual ones.

My two live cats are the rulers of my household. One is a large fluffy tortoiseshell called Thomas and the other is a younger brother, black and equally fluffy, named Mickie. A few years ago I lost my pair of dark ginger toms—they were beautiful, clever and good".



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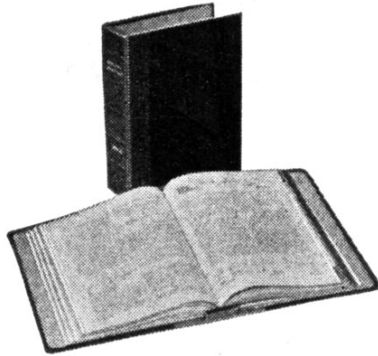
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