

# How I became a Mousewife

WHEN I found out that Eric bred mice I was surprised - what a hobby to have! I was even more surprised that instead of perhaps ten mice (as I thought) he had eighty to a hundred! Where did he keep them I wondered? In the house? Under the bed? When he said he kept them in a shed I expected him to open the door and find them all jumping out. Instead they were all in wooden boxes safe, tidy and clean, and all of different varieties. I thought you could only have white mice. What a lot I had to learn!

Then he said about mouse shows. Thinking it was a joke I laughed. But it was no laughing matter and he was quite serious.

Like cat and dog shows I asked, 'Yes', said Eric, 'would you like to come to one?'

I said I would and ended up at Richmond Community Centre on a cold January afternoon to meet the breeders. We collected special numbered stickers and stuck them on bright green cages ready for judging to start. Everyone was so dedicated to mice. Everyone was talking mouse talk. It was like a foreign language to me!

All the mice were different ages, colours and varieties I did not realise there were so many different ones. The show ended with the annual general meeting with strong arguments about the mice. I did not know people could get so worked up over these small animals with a tail.

After a few more mouse shows Eric asked whether I would like to marry him (and his mice). I knew I wanted to marry him, but what about the mice? Could I put with them? He said that the mice were part of him and so in the end, I said yes.

I will always remember at our wedding last July giving a toast to the **Mouse Club**. I am sure of all the toasts made on wedding days this was the funniest.

When we first moved into our house in

Enfield I was pleased that the mousehouse was down the end of the garden as far away from the house as possible. I liked mice but to have eighty to a hundred next to the house horrified me.

This year we managed to get Eric's old shed transported from his parents house and now we have it backing on to the house and I do not mind. In fact I have ten Dutch mice of my own now which are doing very nicely at all the Richmond mouse shows. In fact this month I am one mouse point behind Eric who has been keeping mice for eighteen years!

We receive a lot of mousey telephone calls from prospective London and Southern Counties Mouse Club members (Eric being the secretary). Some callers have mice already and want better ones. Some are just starting. People who telephone us range from the ten-year-old wanting his first mouse to the granny wanting a mouse for her grandson/granddaughter. Few of the callers end up as active members of the club which I think is due to the fact that people think we are a mouse advice bureau. One person wanted to know the address of a mouse bookshop!

There is never a dull moment with the mice. Once I told them at the bank where I work that Eric and I kept mice. We had a write-up in the bank newspaper, and so everyone knew and now they say 'How are the mice!'

The pet shop owner has got to know about the mice and asks after them. Neighbours and friends and relatives are always asking after the mice and it makes a good talking point. If ever I am talking to someone I have never seen before I talk about the mice and I am never forgotten again!

At work I have a personnel report to fill in once a year. In the last one I mentioned the mice. I am sure whoever files my report must have a laugh when they see that I am a



member of the London and Southern Counties Mouse Club.

About six years ago I had my palm read and the palmist said I would do a lot of travelling. I thought I would marry someone who would take me round the world on various trips, to Spain, France or America. Instead here I am travelling to various mouse shows at Southsea, Dagenham, Shipley and Richmond. The gipsy never told me that I would be travelling around Great Britain with the mice!

With Eric and his mice there is never a dull moment. I would never have thought I would be a mousewife but, now that I am I really enjoy myself. I can't think of life without the mice. They mean so much to Eric and I. I never want to be without them. I love Eric and our mice too much to ever part with them.

ANGELA JUKES

## Club secretaries

**National Mouse Club:** Mr S Smith, 26 Grasmere Road, Bolton, Bradford.

**Airedale Mouse Club:** John Kellett, 56 Claremont Grove, Wrose, Shipley, West Yorkshire. Telephone Bradford (0274) 585621.

**Calder Valley Mouse Club:** E Longbottom, 109 Hopwood Lane, Halifax, Yorkshire. Telephone Halifax 54124.

**Faywood Hamster, Mouse, Gerbil and Fancy Rat Club:** Mrs F Johnson, 79 Burdett Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

**Greater Manchester Mouse Club:** D Taylor, 252 Stockport Road, Marple, near Stockport, Cheshire SK6 6EX. Telephone 061-427 2762.

**London and Southern Counties Mouse Club:** Eric Jukes, 26 Downs Road, Enfield, Middx EN1 1PB, telephone 01-366 6162.

**Midland Mouse Club:** C Harlow, 11 Holly Bank Estate, Austrey, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

**North Yorkshire Mouse Club:** Mrs N Horne, Edofiss, Echo Hill, Sleights, near Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 5AE. Telephone: Whitby (0947) 810272.

**National Fancy Rat Society:** Joan Pearce, 57 Myrtledeane Road, Abbey Wood, SE2.

**National Mongolian Gerbil Society:** Mrs M Brookes, 3 Tracks Lane, Wigan WN5 7BL.

**Northern Counties Fancy Rat Society:** Mrs H Dagg, 44 Bower Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, Lancashire.

**Yorkshire Hamster Club:** Mrs E Baxby, 8 Rawlins Court, Coal Aston, Sheffield.

**Midland Hamster Club:** R Hegarty, 36 Welbeck Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Telephone: Mansfield 36580.

**Southern Hamster Club:** W Drake, Rosewood, 29 Bardenville Road, Canvey Island, Essex.

## Obituary

### Ellis Fletcher

IT WAS with profound regret I heard of the sudden death in hospital of Ellis Fletcher on Monday May 21.

Ellis was one of the old school of fanciers and was a good judge of a mouse. In latter years he did not show but his services as a judge were in demand at Airedale, Calder and Manchester. He will be sadly missed and the Fancy will be the poorer for his passing.

On behalf of the National Mouse Club I send our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. GEORGE LUPTON

IT WAS with deep regret that I learned of the death, suddenly of Ellis Fletcher. Ellis was one of the quiet members of the Fancy, always preferred to remain in the background but always ready to give assistance in whatever way he could. A great friend and helper to the Calder Valley Mouse Club since it was formed, his passing will be a sad loss to the Fancy.

On behalf of the Calder Valley Mouse Club, we offer to those dearest to him, our deepest sympathy on their sad loss. E LONGBOTTOM

should contain a few punched holes, must be placed on the tin and as soon as the animals become unconscious the holes should be covered up.

When administering ether it should only be done in the open air, as it is highly inflammable. A breeder should always keep ether on hand in case of an emergency. Only small amounts should be kept at any given time and it should be stored in a cool place away from any naked flames and sunlight. NEVER smoke while using ether.

## General care

One of the biggest spreaders of disease are flies. They contaminate food and carry a whole range of bacteria. Flies in the hamstery can be quite a problem and endeavours to reduce their numbers must always be taken. The best method, by far, is the old fashioned fly paper. These should be placed at strategic points around the hamstery and changed whenever need be. Never use a fly spray in the presence of hamsters as it could cause them harm. If your stock is housed in an outside shed then during the months of September and October, as the weather gets colder, the warmth could attract flies inside. If the numbers become too high it may be necessary to move out all the cages and utensils and give the whole area a thoroughly good spray. For this operation you should close the door and all the windows and ensure that all crevices and corners are sprayed so as to kill any eggs. It is advisable that you wear a mask while spraying. After a couple of hours the windows and door should be opened and once the fumes have finally gone the cages can be returned.

Another point to bear in mind if you have an outside hamstery is that of wild rodents. Adequate precautions should always be taken to keep mice and rats out of the shed as they tend to carry a

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# Ailments in hamsters (Part 3)

Dennis Homes

## Overgrown teeth and claws

This is more common among old animals, who spend far less time exercising and gnawing. Teeth and claws can be cut quite effectively with a sharp pair of nail clippers. When trimming the teeth you should hold the animal by the scruff of the neck and trim off a very small portion at a time. When clipping the claws the paws should be held up to the light so as to show the blood vessel inside. Never cut up as far as the blood vessel. If by accident this vessel is cut then the paw should be dipped in cornflour to halt the bleeding.

In younger animals overgrown teeth may be the result of not eating enough hard food. If the hamster is kept in an aquarium and has no bars on which to gnaw then a piece of seasoned deciduous hard wood or a pumice stone should be provided.

Occasionally a hamster is born with a misaligned jaw. This may prevent the upper and lower incisors from rubbing against each other, which is very important for keeping the teeth at a suitable length. If the animal is to survive the teeth must be trimmed regularly or else the lower incisors could pierce the roof of the mouth. Hamsters suffering from this should never be used for breeding in case the affliction is hereditary.

## Paralysis

Paralysis can be caused from living in too small a cage or, in the case of old animals, through lack of exercise. In most cases it affects the hind legs, and the creature will try to drag itself around the cage while persistently toppling over. Spinal injuries resulting from a fall is another possible cause. If in this condition the hamster should be seen by a veterinary surgeon. In most cases, however, the only option is to put the animal down.

## Parasites

Parasites are very uncommon among hamsters, but if any of your stock does become infected then swift action is required. There are four main types of external parasite: fleas, lice, ticks and mites. Each of these have very many species.

Fleas are small wingless insects with powerful hind legs that enable them to leap several feet at a time. They live off their host by biting the flesh and sucking the blood. The bites become quite irritating to the animal who makes things

worse by scratching. Fleas lay their eggs in the fur and they can take up to six weeks to hatch.

Lice are also insects and are often mistaken for fleas. Unlike fleas, however, they spend their whole life cycle on one host. Lice also live by sucking the blood of the host.

Mites are arthropods. They are about the size of a pinhead and usually red in colour. They live in the follicles of the hair and, unlike fleas and lice, are difficult to spot. The first sign of a mite infection is a number of small sores and scabs, usually around the neck.

Ticks, which are quite rare in hamsters, are also arthropods. They have small heads attached to a large stomach. As they bite into the flesh of the host blood is sucked up into the stomach, which becomes black and enlarged. They attach themselves to the flesh by their teeth and must be removed very carefully with tweezers. When removing a tick it is important that no part remains attached to the host, as this could cause an abscess.

Infections of fleas, lice and mites can usually be effectively cured by dusting the animal with 'Lindane Dust' which is available from many chemists. The powder should be worked well into the fur with a toothbrush, and you should also ensure that the cage and bedding are treated too. Treatment should be repeated regularly for up to six weeks as the powder only kills the parasites and not the eggs. In a severe infestation a far stronger powder may be necessary. Pyrethrum or Malathion, which are obtainable from a veterinary surgeon, are both very effective. When using these powders they should be administered as per the manufacturers' recommendations.

By far the worst kind of parasite known is the itch mite. This is the creature responsible for causing mange. The previously mentioned powders are of no use in combating the itch mite, but Alugan or Tetmasol can be effective if the infection is caught in time. In all outbreaks a veterinary surgeon should be consulted who may, in rural farming areas, inform the local authority. If neglected, mange can be fatal. The first indication of trouble is a severe loss of fur and large sore patches on the body of the host. If an outbreak is discovered all hay and sawdust in your possession should be burnt, as this may have been the original source of the mite. Every animal that you own should be treated and all cages and equipment thoroughly scrubbed with

either Lysol or Domestos. The whole area where your stock is housed should also be scrubbed with a strong disinfectant. This mite can also cause scabies in humans, so great care should be taken not to infect yourself. In people it tends to affect the skin between the fingers, the nipples and genital regions. Special clothing should be used when handling your stock and hands should be thoroughly scrubbed, especially before going to the toilet.

Fortunately mange is very rare nowadays, but it is obviously wise to be aware of the condition.

## Wet Tail

'Wet Tail' is the name commonly given to a severe form of scours or diarrhoea. If immediate action isn't taken the disease will spread rapidly through the whole hamstery resulting in the death of the complete stock. For this reason it is regarded by breeders as the most dreaded ailment in hamsters.

It is caused by a bacterial infection, possibly of Escherichia Coli. A sudden loss of weight is often the first indication of the disease and the animal appears thin in the face and has a dull, open coat. The whole area around the anus becomes saturated with a yellowish fluid and an offensive odour may sometimes be present.

If caught in its early stages treatment with an antibiotic such as neomycin or terramycin may be effective. In most cases, however, the decline is so rapid that antibiotics are never built up in time to save the animal.

## Euthanasia

If a hamster is very ill it is often the kindest thing to put it down. This can be done either by a vet or at a RSPCA or PDSA clinic. Sometimes there are occasions, such as late at night, when it is impossible to get to a vet. Rather than prolong the animal's misery you must kill it yourself. This can be done effectively by holding it still on a table top and administering a sharp blow to the back of the neck with a hard object such as the handle of a hammer. Many people are repulsed by this method and rather than cause unnecessary suffering by squeamishly fumbling they would be better off using a less violent method. Liquid ether, which can be obtained from a chemist, is painless and effective. The creature should be placed in a biscuit tin together with a swab of cotton wool soaked in the ether. The lid, which

## Hartlepool

MAY 6. Judge R Watson. Best in show V Bailey's Self Black.

**SELF Black ad 4:** 1 V Bailey 2 L and F Davidson 3 P Avery **AOA ad 2:** 1 K Hiscok 2 P Avery **Black 5 mth 4:** 1 V Bailey 2 P Avery 3 P Sutherns **AOA 5 mth 3:** 1 M Usher 2 D Harrison 3 T Harrison **AOV 5 mth 2:** 1 P Sutherns 2 E Avery **AV Chalf 5 mth 8:** 1 V Bailey 2 P Avery 3 M Usher **AC Self 5-8 mth 2:** 1 M Turner 2 J Harrison **AV NON-SELF 5-8 mth 1:** 1 Mr and Mrs Davidson **Chalf 5-8 mth 3:** 1 Mr and Mrs Davidson 2 M Turner 3 J Harrison **AGOUTI ad 2:** 1 V Bailey 2 E Turner **DALMATIAN ad 1:** 1 E Avery **NOT WON Hartlepool 12:** 1 Mr and Mrs Davidson 2 P Avery 3 V Bailey **AV Boar 6:** 1 V Bailey 2 Mr and Mrs Davidson 3 M Turner **Sow 8:** 1 V Bailey 2 L and F Davidson 3 P Avery **Members 16:** 1 V Bailey 2 L and F Davidson **Breeders 5:** Repeat **Grand chalf 11:** Repeat **JUVENILE AC Self 7:** 1 K Hiscok 2 M Turner 3 P Sutherns **AV Non-Self ad 1:** P Sutherns 2 E Avery 3 E Turner **Members 11:** 1 K Hiscok 2 M Turner 3 E Avery **Chalf 9:** Repeat **PET Boar 2:** 1 E Avery 2 P Sutherns **Sow 1:** C Bailey **NOT WON Hartlepool 1:** P Sutherns **Members 2:** 1 E Avery 2 P Sutherns **Chalf 3:** 1 E Avery 2 C Bailey 3 P Sutherns.

## Cambridge

MAY 5. SCC Two star. Judges B E Berry, S Heard. Exhibits 113. Entries 483. Best in show Mr and Mrs Hudson's Self White. Best Non-Self Mr and Mrs Cutting's Abyssinian Tortie and White.

### Mr B E BERRY

WHAT A good show this was, after a journey of eighty-eight miles which we enjoyed immensely we found a show to match the journey. A friendly atmosphere well organised by Gillian Easton and Steve Norris, plus some super exhibits, one or two super whites and blacks, two very good golden classes, a top class vene. This is what Cavy fancy is made of. Many thanks to the Cambridge club for a most enjoyable day and I'm sure my co-judge Sam Heard will second my comments.

**SELF Black ad 7:** 1 J Brooks, nice type and colour, well prepared 2 Mrs Valins, odd white hairs spoil 3 R and J Jarvis, nice coat, white hairs in cheeks **White ad 3:** 1 P and S Hudson, very fit, well prepared, super type, shown to win, a credit to its owners, best in show 2 R Gascoyne, right ear spoils good cavy, long in coat 3 D Tomlinson, fair type, not colour of winners **Cream ad 5:** 1 R and J Jarvis, nice coat and colour, fit 2 R Gascoyne, close to first, beaten undercolour 3 C Davies, nice colour again, but long coated **Golden ad 9:** 12 M and J Woodward, super type, good coat and colour, well shown 2 close to winner but light on flanks 3 D Morgan, nice coat and colour, bit scurvy **Lilac or Beige ad 1:** 1 B King, odd ears, long in coat **Chocolate or Red ad 1:** 1 Mrs Finning, fair type and ears, fails undercolour **Black 5-8 mth 4:** 1 R and J Jarvis, good coat and colour, well shown 2 A Strange, nice cavy, up to age 3 Mr and Mrs Lane, fair colour, ear high set **White 5-8 mth 1:** 1 R Gascoyne, well prepared, nice colour **Cream 5-8 mth 1:** 1 R Gascoyne, nice type and coat, fair colour **Golden 5-8 mth 3:** 1 M and J Woodward, nice coat and colour, excels ears 2 A and B Wiles, same comments as winner, beaten frontal 3 D Morgan, same comments as second **Chocolate or Red 5-8 mth 3:** 12 Mr and Mrs Lane, good coat and colour, well prepared 2 long in coat, fails undercolour 3 Mrs Littlefair, lacks condition, not size for class **Black 5 mth 4:** 1 C Davies, very good type, nice colour and coat 2 P and S Hudson, fails undercolour 3 fails undercolour, bit young **White 5 mth 1:** 1 P and S Hudson, good type, nice big ears and eyes **Cream 5 mth 2:** 1 C Davies, nice type, ears high 2 K Stevens, fair type, ears spilt **Golden 5 mth 2:** 1 D Morgan, nice coat and colour, short on type 2 M and J Woodward, nice coat and colour, torn ear spoils **Chocolate or Red 5 mth 1:** 1 Mr and Mrs Lane, good coat, small eyes **JUVENILE Self ad 4:** 1 D Tomlinson, nice type, fair colour 2 A Strange, long in coat, handles soft 3 S Jones **5-8 mth 1:** 1 A Strange, up to age **SELF Chalf ad 26:** 1 P and S Hudson 2 B Brooks 3 R and J Jarvis **5-8 mth 9:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 Mr and Mrs Woodward 3 R Gascoyne **5 mth 9:** 1 C Davies 2 P and S Hudson 3 D Morgan **AC Members points 19:** 1 J Brooks 2 R and J Jarvis 3 C Davies. B E BERRY

### Mr S HEARD

NICE DAY and very happy conditions, Mr B E Berry and myself agree for Mr and Mrs Hudson's Black as best in show. In the Non-Self section, a nice Tortie and White Abyssinian of Mr and Mrs Cutting was my best.

**ABYSSINIAN Tortie and White or Brindle ad 9:** 12 Mr and Mrs R and J Jarvis 3 Mrs Turner **AOA ad 2:** 1 Mrs Finning 2 H Tomlinson **HIMALAYAN ad 1:** 1 A Strange **DUTCH ad 1:** 1 A and B Wiles **CRESTED ad 5:** 1 Mrs Valins 2 Mr and Mrs Lane 3 B King **UNSTANDARDISED 1:** 1 B King **Chalf ad 16:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 A and B Wiles **ABYSSINIAN Tortie and White or Brindle 5-8 mth 4:** 1 The Stud 2 H Tomlinson 3 Mrs Turner **AGOUTI 5-8 mth 1:** 1 Mr and Mrs Cutting **Chalf 5-8 mth 5:** 1 The Stud 2 A and B Wiles 3 H Tomlinson **CRESTED 5-8 mth 1:** B King **AOV 5-8 mth 2:** 1 Mr and Mrs Lane 2 B King **ABYSSINIAN Tortie and White or Brindle 5 mth 4:** 1 Mr and Mrs Cutting 2 Mrs Mundy **AOA 5 mth 2:** 1 The Stud **DUTCH 5 mth 2:** 1 A and B Wiles 2 D Morgan **CRESTED 5 mth 2:** 1 Mrs Valins 2 B King **Chalf 5 mth 10:** 1 Mr and Mrs Cutting 2

## mice

### Airedale

MAY 12. Judges E Longbottom, H Jowett, A Ridley. Entries 1007. Best in show D K Taylor's Cream. Best marked H Hartley's Agouti.

### Mr E LONGBOTTOM

A LATE telephone call from John Kellett resulted in my judging at Airedale instead of Ellis Fletcher, who regretfully had to go into hospital. Trust it is not too serious Ellis and you will soon be behind the table again. A good show with 1007 entries. Most Whites seem to be getting creamier than the Creams. Blacks still looking for better type, especially tail set. Many mice were in very open coats, perhaps a result of the long period of bad weather we have had. Best in show, best Self was a lovely Cream shown by D Taylor. Thanks to my stewards, they kept me going. We must have been on piece.

**SELF White ad 9:** 12 D K Taylor, doe, best colour in class, good type and condition, bit thin under 2 doe, similar to winner but beaten under 31 Davies, buck, large type mouse, good under, top colour not as pure as winners **8 wk 8:** 1 D Taylor, doe, good type mouse, in good condition, light in coat, nice head 2 C Beckett, good young buck, not as white as winner and beaten undercolour 31 Davies, good young doe, good type colour, beaten head and under **Black ad 6:** 1 J Whitham, good solid top colour, in good condition, solid feet, good under, falls tail set 2 A Whittaker, nice doe, smaller mouse, good top colour, type, good feet, beaten under 3 doe, similar to second but falls under, brindled round vent and flanks **8 wk 6:** 1 A Whittaker, good young black, nice type, solid top, should improve under, good feet 2 J Whitham, attractive young doe, good top colour, type, beaten under 3 doe, similar mouse to winner but mouly **Champagne or Fawn ad 9:** 1 C M Harlow, all Champagnes, many too dark in class, also pale tail roots and ears, winner attractive level shade, good type, good condition, level all round 2 G Booth, Champagne doe, good top type, light under 3 D Capstick, Champagne doe, good all round mouse but out of condition on day, very fluffy **8 wk 7:** 1 2 3 D Capstick, three good young Champagnes, winner level attractive shade, top and under, good type 2 similar mouse to winner but not as solid in coat 3 similar to leaders but beaten under **Silver or Cream ad 8:** 1 2 D Taylor, very good Cream, in top condition, solid colour, very level, good type, ears, eyes, went on to win best in show 2 similar all round to leader, good type and condition, not just as solid under 3 C Beckett, nice Silver doe, large mouse, level, a bit thin in coat round head and shoulders **8 wk 9:** 1 3 D Taylor, good level Cream, good type, excellent condition, similar quality to adult 21 Davies, Silver doe, good type and condition, ran winner close 3 type Cream, level, not as solid under **AOA ad 5:** 1 D Parkinson, large Chocolate buck, best all round mouse in class, good top colour, falls under, and white toe nails 2 J Burrows, blue, level colour, a bit light in shade, once again white toe nails 3 B Dickinson, red, small mouse, level colour, beaten type **8 wk 8:** 1 D Parkinson, young Chocolate, level colour, good under, chocolate could be more solid, should improve 2 A Brown, good level Dove, good type but thin under 3 G Davidson, nice blue, level colour, good condition, shade light under, again white toe nails **Chalf ad 36 1 3 D Taylor 2 C M Harlow 8 wk 37:** 1 2 D Taylor 3 D Capstick **Stud buck 24:** 1 1 Davies, large White mouse, big boned and good type all round 2 F Hawley, Satin, good type mouse of good substance, beaten under 3 D Taylor, large Cream, good type, nothing much to choose between these three **AC Doe ad 33:** 1 D Taylor 2 3 J Hartley **8 wk 34:** 1 2 J Hartley 3 D Taylor **Breeders ad 63:** 1 2 D Taylor 2 3 J Hartley **8 wk 80:** 1 2 J Hartley 3 D Taylor **Grand chalf ad 81:** 1 D Taylor 2 3 J Hartley **8 wk 89:** 1 2 J Hartley 3 D Taylor. E LONGBOTTOM

### Mr H JOWETT

A GREAT pleasure to be once again sorting out the Tans and the marked at the Airedale on May 12. It was hard for me to climb the steps

Mrs Mundy 3 Mrs Valins **NON-SELF Chalf ad 18:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 A and B Wiles **5-8 mth 5:** 1 The Stud 2 Mr and Mrs Cutting 3 H Tomlinson **5 mth 10:** 1 Mr and Mrs Cutting 2 Mrs Mundy 3 Mrs Valins **AV Members points 16:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 The Stud 3 A and B Wiles **JUVENILES AV NON-SELF ad 3:** 1 D Tomlinson 2 A Strange 3 Miss L Norris **Chalf ad 7:** 1 2 D Tomlinson 3 A Strange **5-8 mth 1:** 1 A Strange **5 mth 5:** 1 3 L Benstead 2 K Taton **5 mth 8:** Repeat **Grand chalf 13:** 1 D Tomlinson 2 A Strange 3 L Benstead **Members points 9:** 1 3 D Tomlinson 2 A Strange. SAM HEARD

### BOTH JUDGES

**AV Sow ad 17:** 1 P and S Hudson 2 J Brooks 3 R and J Jarvis **Boar ad 24:** 1 Mrs Valins 2 R and J Jarvis 3 A and B Wiles **Chalf ad 11:** 1 P and S Hudson 2 J Brooks 3 R and J Jarvis **5-8 mth 8:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 Mr and Mrs Woodward 3 R Gascoyne **5-8 mth 5:** 1 M Cutting 2 A Strange 3 H Tomlinson **Chalf 5-8 mth 13:** 1 R and J Jarvis 2 Mr and Mrs Woodward 3 R Gascoyne **Sow 5 mth 14:** 1 M Cutting 2 C Davies 3 D Morgan 3 P and S Hudson **5 mth 4:** The Stud 2 D Morgan 3 P and S Hudson 3 D Morgan **Grand chalf 59:** 1 P and S Hudson 2 J Brooks 3 R and J Jarvis **JUVENILES AV Chalf ad 7:** 1 2 D Tomlinson 3 A Strange **5-8 mth 1:** A Strange **5 mth 6:** 1 3 L Benstead 2 K Taton **Grand chalf 13:** 1 D Tomlinson 2 A Strange 3 L Benstead **Members points 9:** 1 3 D Tomlinson 2 A Strange.

up to the showroom but was well rewarded with a grand cup of tea made by Albert Brown. John Kellett and the boys at the table had everything ready for a good start. Now for the mice in the Tan section. The blacks were of good colour and good feet but had the inevitable throat spot and guard hairs. Where are all the chocolates? Not one today. Champagnes were too dark on top colour and had tan feet and ears. Silvers, good colour and strong tan. Doves are improving but again watch out for tan creeping. The blues are coming on well. The Marked section, some very nice Dutch with an assortment of colours. The winners in the adult and young classes were quite good. Brokens have plenty of size and type, spots are getting heavy, perhaps less spots and better markings would be better. Himalayans very popular, watch out for colour, some not white enough. A good class of Variegated, some good mice here. First three owned by Charlie Beckett were a good effort and all credit due, they are certainly getting back to the old days standard. My best Marked Variegated shown by Charlie Beckett, and best Tan a silver and tan shown by Jack Hartley. Congratulations to both. Best in show an Agouti shown by Jack Hartley. I did not get the exact total of entries but it was well over the 1000 mark, a very well run show.

Many thanks to my steward, Phil Hall, who gave a valuable helping hand. Thank you for a very nice lunch and to all who helped for a lovely enjoyable day. I think you all enjoyed yourselves in spite of the Cup Final on the television. Looking forward to seeing you all at Calder.

**TAN Black or chocolate ad 6:** 1 A L Edmondson, big black buck, good sound top colour, strong even tan, nice feet and tail set, good broad head and type, in beautiful condition, best opposite age Tan 2 3 G Davidson, another good black buck, again sound colour, lovely feet and head, not as rich in tan and falls slightly on tail set, in first class condition 3 black buck, not as good on top colour, fair tan and feet, fails as usual throat spot and guard hairs, in lovely condition **8 wk 5:** 1 2 A L Edmondson, a real grand little black buck, excellent top colour, good rich tan, very level, smashing feet and head, good all round, in sparkling condition, will make nice adult 2 again black buck, grand top colour, decent tan, good head and tail set, not as good on feet and tail set, very close 3 Mr and Mrs Sutcliffe, black doe, fair colour, not the sheen and finish, tan not through yet, spoilt with throat spot and guard hairs, hard lines, keep trying **Champagne or silver ad 8:** 1 A Young, beautiful champagne doe, excels top colour, correct shade, lovely even tan, good broad head and big ears, beautiful type and thick tail set, very level, in superb condition 2 J Hartley, silver doe, again excels on colour, very strong tan, nice type, not as broad on head and slight tan behind ears, in spanking condition 3 V Brown, silver doe, a darker shade of top colour, good tan, again tan ears and light tail root, nice condition **8 wk 7:** 1 J Hartley, an attractive silver doe, nice delicate shade of colour, good even tan, lovely head, feet and tail set, excels type, good all round and in smashing condition, wins best tan 2 V Brown, again silver doe, good top colour, nice head and tail set, falls on tan and not the finish as winner, keep trying 3 A L Edmondson, a little champagne buck, best of the champagnes, little on the dark side for me, nice tan and tail set, spoilt by tan ears and feet **AOA ad 6:** 1 J Hartley, a gorgeous dove doe, correct shade of colour, lovely rich golden tan, beautiful head, feet and tail set, very level, excels type and in splendid condition, I liked it 2 3 A L Edmondson, best colour of the blues, nice blue buck, shade dark on top colour but level, good even tan, good feet and head, falls on tan 3 again blue buck, not the top colour this time, decent tan, fair feet, not just the finish as leaders **8 wk 7:** 1 P Hall, a sweet bonny dove doe, excellent shade of colour, dazzling golden tan, lovely head and feet, very level, splendid type and condition, I liked it Phil, a nice youngster, well done 2 J Hartley, another dove doe, lighter top colour this time, not as rich in tan, lovely head, feet and tail set, nice type, slight tan behind ears, good condition 3 D Taylor, a spanking little blue buck, lovely shade of blue, good even tan, nice feet and head, a pity, up against it Donald, hard lines **Chalf ad 19:** 1 A L Edmondson 2 J Hartley 3 A Young **8 wk 18:** 1 J Hartley 2 P Hall 3 A L Edmondson **MARKED—DUTCH ad 7:** 1 2 H Jessop, cinnamon buck, best all round, good colour, well balanced, lovely clean saddle, well up the body, nice under, lovely cheeks clear of whisker bed, good stops, blaze, light ear 2 agouti buck, sound colour, lovely head and saddle, stops slightly long, otherwise very level, under decided it 3 B Dickinson, agouti buck, nice colour, low saddle, nice cheeks and fair stops, wavy under, all the three in smashing condition **8 wk 7:** 1 3 H Jessop, a sweet little blue doe, lovely clean saddle, excels on under, nice even cheeks, lovely blaze, very good stops, very clear, in sound condition, very fit 2 B Longbottom, nice baby chocolate buck, good colour, nice clean saddle and stops, well balanced cheeks, hard to separate, under decided it 3 chocolate buck, fails saddle and under, nice stops, slightly odd on cheeks, on the wild side, get it named Harry, it bit me **BROKEN ad 7:** 1 D Montgomery, lovely chocolate Broken doe, six spots, nice nose spot, clean solid spots, nice body distribution, lovely type and under, good head and tail set, in spanking condition 2 R Shaw, another nice black doe, eight spots, clear solid spots, nicely placed, good head and type, very close, a matter of choice, finish decided it 3 J Whitham, chocolate buck, eight spots, spots not as neat and some a bit feathery, bit heavy on rump, thin under, in decent condition **8 wk 7:** 1 2 D

Montgomery, a bonny little black buck, eight spots, with clear sharp solid spots, nice and uniform, well distributed over body, nice even under, good head, excels type, in superb condition 2 black doe, six spots, very neat spots, nicely balanced and uniform, good bodywork, nice as strong on under as buck, well done 3 R Shaw, black doe, five spots, not as neat spots, bit bare on sides, spoilt by the balance, also beaten on number of spots, nice condition **VARIEGATED 8:** 1 2 3 C Beckett, a really attractive Variegated doe, very pleasing, perfection in bodywork, evenly splashed and marvellous under, grand head and type, in smashing condition, a nice adult 2 a gorgeous Variegated eight weeks doe, again excels on bodywork and under, nicely flecked, lovely type and spanking condition, a bonny youngster 3 another Variegated from this stud, not as nicely splashed as leaders, not as clear and could be better under, nice type and condition **AOV ad 3:** 1 3 K Lomas, a really nice Himalayan buck, best body colour, nice and white, good markings, strong level under, good head and tail set, in grand condition, very fit 2 B Dickinson, lovely Himalayan doe, not as good on body colour, not as pure, nice markings, head and type, thin under, grand condition 3 Himalayan doe, falls on colour, pale on points and thin under, all the same nice condition **8 wk 5:** 1 2 D Montgomery, lovely type Himalayan doe, beautiful white body colour, nice clear markings, smashing under, head and tail set, excels on type and in superb condition, very fit 2 another type Himalayan doe, not as pure on body colour, little shading on rump, clear markings, falls under, nice type and tail set, in top condition 3 B Dickinson, Himalayan doe, bodywork not white enough, inclined to be shaded and points very light, good head and type, in smashing condition **Chalf ad 14:** 1 H Jessop 2 C Beckett 3 D Montgomery **8 wk 19:** 1 C Beckett 2 D Montgomery 3 H Jessop. H JOWETT

### Mr A RIDLEY

I SPENT a most glorious day at Airedale meeting many old friends after a somewhat long, enforced absence. The mice were of a very high standard throughout, especially the Satins which have improved out of all recognition. The Seal Points (eighteen in all) were all good mice and it is very heartening to see Doreen's children coming of age. When I recall our early struggles with the standard I am amazed and gratified at the huge steps made. Special congratulations go to Graham Davidson on setting down a smashing Marten, and I was much pleased with a Sable from J R Taylor, a comparative newcomer, may he reign a long, long time! My best AOV was Jack Hartley's young Agouti, a superb mouse, just piped for best in show when we three judges had to call in George Lupton as chief umpire or referee. It bodes well for the Fancy when three judges feel that the standard of their mice is so high that the president has to be brought in to adjudicate! I missed seeing my old friends Mr Maskey and Alf Horne, but all was compensated on seeing the original Self Silver Doreen once again.

**SELF Satin ad 10:** 1 3 P Burrows, dove, a class of the highest quality I have ever seen, the dove won it on correct colour, levelness and type 2 F Hawley, white, good colour, excels type 3 white, just loses on a somewhat poorer belly **8 wk 8:** 1 F Hawley, silver, correct colour, beautiful satination and on the whole a bright picture, best Satin and gets a much deserved medal 2 F G Moore, dove, almost as good all round but just piped on satination 3 A Whitaker, cream, I felt the colour was too near to white, a shade darker would have suited me better **AOV ad 6:** 1 3 S Hinton, seal point, wins on sheen, type very good indeed 2 A Whitaker, dove tan, just a little rough in the coat 3 seal point, same as second but some unevenness held it back **8 wk 8:** 1 2 S Hinton 3 P Hall **Chalf ad 15:** 1 3 P Burrows 2 F Hawley **8 wk 16:** 1 F Hawley 2 S Hinton 3 F G Moore **AGOUTI, CINNAMON or ARGENTE ad 2:** 1 2 J Hartley, cinnamon, wins best opposite age, a real cracker, just pips the Agouti on ticking and belly 2 Agouti, very fine but wants just a mite more fire **8 wk 3:** 1 2 J Hartley, Agouti, wins best AOV, excelled on ticking and had much more fire than either the adult or the runner-up in this class 2 Agouti, the overall picture was of a dark mouse 3 J Kellett, Agouti, sorry John, but this mouse was far too dull compared to the foregoing **SIAMESE Seal Point ad 12:** 1 A Myers, wins on shading (almost perfect except for one haunch), type excellent, I thought the points on the feet could have been a little stronger 2 J Kellett, in all ways as good as winner except for an unfortunate 'peck' on the back 3 S Smith, another fine mouse but shading somewhat patchy but still high quality, the colours perfect **8 wk 8:** 1 2 J Kellett, an incredibly good class of seals, this mouse won on shadings 2 a very close second, little separated, almost a question of choice 3 S Smith, the points could have been just a little stronger and no doubt time will remedy this **AOV ad 5:** 1 J R Taylor, Sable, what a beautiful creature, correct top and belly colour which was a little thin but not much, could we have a tiny more shading please? 2 B Longbottom, Chinchilla, good ticking and fine white belly, but a hint of brownness on tail root held it back 3 D Capstick, Pearl, a praiseworthy effort but there was some patchiness on the flanks, but what goo-goo eyes! **8 wk 10:** 1 G Davidson, Marten, colouring correct, fine type, congratulations to Graham, thicken up the belly and you will surely go places 2 B Longbottom, Chinchilla, only a hint of creaminess on the belly kept this in second place 3 D Capstick, Pearl, very similar to adult, my desire would be to have the tipping somewhat heavier **Chalf ad 17:** 1 2 J Hartley 3 J R Taylor **8 wk 18:** 1 J Hartley 2 J Kellett 3 G Davidson. ANGUS RIDLEY