

Give Us Your Suggestions on

HOW TO REVIVE THE
LESS POPULAR BREEDSBy
CYRIL YEATES

MR. BASNETT'S article in a recent FUR AND FEATHER deals with a matter of the greatest importance and will, I hope, have good results. I agree with him that the Governing Council should take steps to try to revive the "distress" breeds and I will raise the matter at the April meeting and, if necessary, call a special meeting to arrange in what way help can best be given.

The whole matter of reviving the almost extinct breeds bristles with difficulties. In the good old days there were in the Fancy a number of wealthy cat breeders who lived in big houses with big grounds and big staffs and breeding on a big scale was for them comparatively easy. There are very few of those left and many present-day fanciers live in flats. Even in the good old days the number of wealthy families was in the minority and the men or women who owned one or two cats were the backbone of the Fancy. It is, I think, to these small fanciers that we must look to revive the less popular breeds and whom we must strive to help.

As things are at present there is little to encourage anyone to breed, for example, Orange-eyed Whites, Smokes or Silver Tabby Longhairs or any British Shorthairs. Although I believe there is a market for almost any kitten to-day, it is nevertheless much easier to sell Blue Longhairs and Siamese at a better price than any others.

What inducement is there for anyone to exhibit cats of the less popular breeds? If anyone enters a cat it generally means that he receives a courteous letter from the show secretary saying that as there are so few entries—or that his is the only entry in the class—the committee regrets that the class will have to be cancelled or amalgamated unless the exhibitor is willing to guarantee it.

If it is a class for male and female and the exhibitor wants it separated he will, as a rule, be asked to guarantee both classes, unless he can find someone to guarantee the female class if it is the male you are interested in. This is one obstacle that must be surmounted somehow.

The G.C.C.F. guarantees some classes at all championship shows. I think it should guarantee more, even if it has to cut down expenditure in other directions. One obvious economy would be for the Council to give a championship certificate in place of the silver medals now awarded.

Mr. Basnett speaks of premiums and there are possibilities in that direction. It might be a good idea to have premium classes at every show confined to the breeds it is desired to encourage. For these classes there would be no entry fee and no prizes, but points could be allotted to the first three and at the end of the season the G.C.C.F. could award premiums to the breeders scoring the most points.

This is only a suggestion; I have not had time to think out details, but it seems to me that there are possibilities along those lines.

Such a scheme will cost money, which will have to be found. The G.C.C.F. has not boundless wealth and could not bear the full burden. Mr. Basnett suggests "a special fund which could be contributed to by any one interested." Why not?

Everything should be done to encourage



fanciers to exhibit their cats. I think the ban on sending cats to shows by rail if unaccompanied by their owners should now be removed. This was a war-time regulation put in force at a time when transport was very uncertain. It has now improved greatly and should soon be back to normal. With the present rule in force many small fanciers are deterred from showing, either because they are unable to leave home or cannot afford train and hotel expenses on the top of entry fees. If reasonable precautions are taken cats sent by rail come to no harm. More often than not queens have to travel unaccompanied when visiting the stud, so why not to a show?

Cats should always be sent off early enough for the railway to deliver them the same day, but it is better still if arrangements can be made for someone to meet them at the station and take them to the hall. Show managers are not anxious to go back to the old system, as having no rail cars to deal with saves them a lot of trouble, but I think they should be prepared to put the good of the Fancy before all personal consideration.

In the meantime no more cats or kittens must be sent out of the country until our stocks are bigger. This should be as Mr. Basnett says, "a code of honour for post-war breeders."

CYRIL YEATES.

An Opposite View

MARKETS HAVE TO BE
MAINTAINED

I WAS sorry to read articles in FUR AND FEATHER by Mr. Yeates and by Mr. Basnett which decry the export of cats and kittens from this country and seek to make it a point of honour for breeders not to do so in future.

Surely they realize that markets have to be maintained and that if we refuse the overseas buyers now they can hardly be expected to mark time until we are ready for them. Cats are prolific breeders, or should be, and well able to supply the demand at home and abroad.

In the past six months I have sent three kittens, two Creams and one Blue Cream by Ch. Waddington Warden, to Madam Raval, of Paris, and next week a young Cream queen by Warden and mated to him is sailing on the Queen Elizabeth to join Miss Hydon's cattery. I also have kittens booked from Holland and Denmark but there still will be kittens of the same breeding available for sale at home.

None of us would be so stupid to export irreplaceable stock. Be assured a demand will create a supply. Let Mr. Yeates and others of the G.C. work to popularise the lesser known breeds, and I am sure cats and kittens of these varieties will be forthcoming to meet the demand.

Let us not begrudge the Blue and Siamese breeders the outstanding position they hold in the Cat Fancy to-day, but go all out to emulate them.

M. SHEPPARD.

ABOUT THE BLUES

THE Cat Club de Paris will stage a show on April 12th and 13th at which Miss Langston and Miss Yorke will judge all the long hair cats. Judging will commence on Saturday afternoon.

My thoughts will be in Paris on this occasion as the last time Miss Langston judged there, in January, 1938. I stewarded for her, and it was a very enjoyable experience.

Opinions differ as to whether cats should be exhibited in decorated pens, but I was enchanted with my first introduction to a Parisian Cat show.

It was held in a lovely ballroom near the Arc de Triomphe, and I admired the gleaming silvery pens, which were all a uniform size, square and roomy, with large doors, which gave one ample room to remove the exhibits.

The interior of every pen had hangings of lovely materials, mostly in white, provided by the exhibitor. Some pens had white velvet or satin, and one had silver spangled chiffon over white satin, with cushions to match. Chinchillas reposed on these and the effect was lovely. Several pens were outlined with real flowers, such as camellias, lily of the valley, and stephanotis.

I remember vividly the late Madam Guyot's long-haired rears in their pens, which were hung with green velvet and outlined with marigolds. The contrast was most effective.

The method of judging is different in France and the judges stood on a rostrum in the centre of the ballroom and, as each owner was allowed to pen all his cats together, irrespective of the variety, we stewards were kept busy carrying cats over the polished parquet floors.

After the first day a gala dinner was arranged for prominent members of the French Cat Fancy and the British visitors. The atmosphere from first to last was that of a super cat show plus a social event, and it certainly put ideas into one's head.

The shows of the Cat Club de Paris are organised on behalf of charity, so there is no prize money.

Miss Langston, as judge, and myself, were graciously treated, and I remember vividly walking into my hotel bedroom to find a basket of lovely red roses tied with tricolour ribbon and a graceful little note of welcome.

The best exhibit in the show was Madam Guyot's Townfield Monarch, a very lovely Blue male bred by Mr. Bolton, and there were a number of excellent British bred Chinchillas and the exquisite Cream male, Mint of Hanley, bred by Mrs. Stevenson.

I was sorry to hear that Mr. Walter Chapman is retiring from the committee of the National Cat Club and the Governing Council. He owned some fine Blues in pre-war days, including a beautiful daughter of Ch. Mischief of Bredon, named Carlton Mitzi. She won well in her open class as an adult, but, unfortunately, she usually grew her coat very late in the season, so was sometimes beaten by less lovely cats, which happened to be in better coat.

Mated to the famous black, Ch. Hillingdon Jackdaw, she had a black daughter which excelled in type and eyes, and which was awarded many prizes during the 1938-39 show season.

Mr. Chapman will leave England on Oct. 12th for a six months holiday in California, and he sails on the Queen Elizabeth. It sounds delightful and I trust he will breed some more lovely cats on his return. Carlton Black Bess is his only cat at present.

MRS. F. H. THOMPSON
130, Wickham Way, Beckenham.

SPECIALIST CLUB NEWS

(Continued from previous page).

of receiving their Year Books. The subscription for the whole year, including the cost of the Year Book, is only 5/-.—H. Phillips, sec. and treas.

NATIONAL TAN CLUB

THE Young Stock show of the Nat. Tan Club will be held in Manchester on July 12th. The venue will be Moorside Farm Stadium, Droylsden, Manchester. Norman Palmer and F. Owen-Davies will judge.

Offers of specials and guarantees will be received with pleasure.

Although I have received many gloomy letters about bad losses, some members have some likely winners on the way.

New members are still coming along, but I would remind old members that I would like to hear from them.

Many societies have applied for specials, and many have forgotten to inform me after the show who the winners were.

If any member who has won a special drops me a line, giving the show date, I will forward it to him.

Many members have written to me about Adult Stock show, but at present I am unable to give the date. Kodak was elected, with Leighton Buzzard second choice.

Will members support the following shows at which Tan classes will be scheduled: Otley, May 17th; and Mablethorpe, May 31st. Mr. J. Marshall has guaranteed 14 Tan classes at Mablethorpe.—Bryn Jones, hon. sec. Bushbury, Pendraw Place, Cyncoed, Cardiff.

LONDON REGIONAL REX CLUB

THE London Regional Rex Club's first pen show will definitely be held on Sunday, April 27th, in conjunction with the Kentish Town Rabbit Club's show at the St. Pancras Men's Institute, Holmes Road, Kentish Town. The judge will be Mr. G. Baker. This venue is easy to reach, as Holmes Road is opposite Kentish Town Underground Station.

National Mouse Club Notes

Longtails Make Quick
Recovery from Effects
of the Winter

By R. WARD, 57, Chantrey Rd., Sheffield 8.

THE recent spell of bad weather has been a trial to all fanciers and I have heard from several sources of heavy losses. Mr. Skinner tells me that Tom Fitzwater has been a victim of the floods. At one time the water was up to the bedroom windows. I have not heard yet how his stock has fared but I know that if it were possible to save them Tom would do so.

One good thing about the long tails is their speedy power of recovery. Given a few weeks of good weather they will soon pick up and get their condition back.

Mr. Williams, of Patchway, Bristol, writes that the club will be holding a mouse show on May 31st with 25 classes and guaranteed prize money. This will be a show well worth support. Bristol used to be a hotbed of the Fancy and an open show down there will be a valuable propaganda effort.

I appeal to all members to complete and return ballot papers as soon as possible after they are issued.

It is often said that the age for fanciers is anything between 9 and 90. An illustration of this occurred last week when, by the same post, I received inquiries about the N.M.C. from a juvenile aged 10 and a gentleman aged 72.

Congratulations and best wishes to them both and may they find happiness and relaxation in the club.

DISTRICT NOTES

WALES

(Continued from previous page).

classes, and the Welsh Chinchilla R.C. is doing likewise.

Mr. F. S. Goodwin, Cardiff, is the chairman, and Mr. A. P. Williams, Whitchurch, is the general secretary of the show committee, and they are assisted by a good committee, and the power to co-opt as it makes headway. It is intended to make the show very attractive and interesting by inviting some of the big firms interested in livestock to take up trade stands at the show. There also will be essay competitions for school children.

The committee intends to make this the biggest show ever held in Wales. It won't be on such a large scale as the London National Show, but if this is successful it can be built until it is. To do this the committee will need all the assistance it can get, so the help of every club and fancier in the principality will be required. Write to Mr. A. P. Williams, 4, Homelands Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, and state in which way you can help. He will be pleased to acknowledge offers. Further meetings will be held from time to time.

It is also pleasing to find that the Monmouthshire Federation of Rabbit Clubs is making headway and is staging some good shows. It has issued to all members a club show fixture card which contains a full list of shows for the whole year. This is a splendid idea as all fanciers in the district know when and where shows will be held. It also prevents clashing in the neighbourhood.

One good show I was able to attend was at Newport where Mrs. I. Bareham and Mr. Colley judged. The show management was good, and Mrs. Shepherd, as usual, provided a refreshing cup of tea for the visitors.

The entry was not too good owing to the bad weather, but even so it was a most enjoyable show.

Cardiff F.F.S. is to stage an open pen show on Saturday, July 12th, and two Welsh judges will place the awards. Please support this show well.

Porth Club recently has been passing through a trying time. Since my last notes the society has had the misfortune to lose its treasurer Mr. Emlyn Jones, who died after a short illness. He had been a great fancier for a number of years both with covies and English rabbits. We miss him and sympathise with his widow and daughter in their bereavement.

The secretary of the club, Mr. A. G. Lewis, has been ill for the last few months. We hope he will have a most rapid and complete recovery and be able to help this very old society to take its place again among the best clubs in Wales.

The late chairman of the society, Mr. Jack Evans, has been ill for some time, but we hope to see him recover and take an active part in the society in the near future.

One bright spot is that Sergeant Tinkham has found time again to take up English rabbits and we welcome him back. I am sure his name will be among the winners very soon.

Porth Society will hold a table on Saturday, April 5th, and all members and fanciers in the district will be welcome.

I thank all fanciers who gave me their support in the specialist clubs' elections. I will endeavour to do my best to confirm the confidence they have placed in me.

Please send me any news of Fancy matters in Wales.
THOMAS H. FEARN,
7, Hannah Street, Porth, Glam.

(Continued from previous column)

Specials for this show have been offered by Messrs. Hook, Goddard, Tomlinson, Miles and Mr. and Mrs. Croft. In an effort to get a fine club together in the London region the committee invites every Rex fancier in town to come and "have a go."

I appeal to every member to make a special effort to exhibit at this show and thus support the spade work that has been put in by the secretary.—S. G. Abbott, Press representative.

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