

# THE HISTORY OF THE RED CAT

## A VARIETY WHICH THROWS OUT A CHALLENGE TO FANCIERS WHO WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND DIFFICULT

By Cyril Yeates

BEFORE dealing with the two breeds (No. 4 Red Self and No. 9 Red Tabby) separately I think it will simplify matters if I trace the history of the Red or Orange cat from the early days of the Fancy. As far back as the Crystal Palace show of 1859 which is the earliest catalogue I possess, I find there was a class for "Brown or Red Tabbies," which attracted nine entries, including Rufus, owned by Mrs. Warner—now the Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison. By 1894 the classification had changed to "Brown, Dark Grey or Red Tabby without White." In 1896, at the first Crystal Palace show to be run by the National Cat Club, there were no classes for Red Tabbies, but there were two for "Orange or Creams." The cat club gave classes for "Orange or Red without markings" at its show held at Westminster 1902; by 1909 the N.C.C. was providing classes for "Orange Tabbies" and "Orange Self or Shaded," and in 1912 the classes were for "Orange or Red Tabbies" and "Orange or Red Self or Shaded." Newbury 1912 was the first show to declare boldly for "Red Tabbies" and "Red Self or Shaded."

At the time that Miss Frances Simpson wrote "The Book of the Cat" for Cassells in the year 1903, fanciers were striving after a self-coloured Red, and the following extract gives an idea of the position at that time. Miss Simpson wrote: "I have left out the term tabby from the heading of this chapter (Orange Persians), and I think advisedly, for in the Persian varieties the markings are gradually but surely vanishing, and Orange may be said to stand in the same relation to Orange Tabbies as shaded Silvers do to Silver Tabbies. I mean that most of the Orange Persians now exhibited have shaded bodies, with tabby markings on head, face or paws. The body markings, never very strong in Persian Tabbies, are even less distinct in the Orange than in the Silver varieties. It may, therefore, be said that in judging this breed as they are represented in the show pen to-day colour is taken into consideration first, and tabby markings are of less account. As regards other distinctive features of this breed I may say that it is the exception and not the rule to find good round heads and short noses."

In 1900 the Orange, Cream, Fawn and Tortoiseshell Society was started, with the well-known Cream and Red breeder, Miss Mildred Beal as hon. secretary. The club had only one standard points for "Orange Self or Tabby." "Colour to be as bright as possible and either self or markings to be as distinct as can be got." Miss Simpson foresaw the possibility of Orange Tabbies becoming extinct, just as Blue Tabbies had when the Blue Self was established, but for once this very clever woman was wrong, for both tabbies, selfs or shadeds continued to be bred and shown for many years, and in the end it was the tabbies that stayed while the selfs faded out.

Vol. III of the stud book covering the years 1923-1927 contained 37 tabbies and 27 self or shaded, but in the year 1925 there were sensational happenings in the Red Fancy. At the Crystal Palace show Mr. F. W. Western wrong classed five exhibits, including Garboldisham Red Lahrri, Lancashire Evening Sunset and Ch. Princess Salyana, and at the next show (Newcastle) Mr. C. A. House wrong classed three out of the four exhibits, and as two of the victims were full champions (Ch. Rutland Reddy and Ch. Shazada) it created something of a stir. To complicate matters Lancashire Evening Sunset, wrong classed at the Palace when entered as a tabby, was wrong classed at Newcastle when entered in the self or shaded class.

The Red, Cream or Tortoiseshell Society called a general meeting, at which it was unanimously decided to bring a resolution before the Governing Council requesting that the word "shaded" be deleted from Breed No. 4 and that henceforth Breed No. 4 should be for "Red Self."

Commenting on the season's Reds in FUR AND FEATHER, in February, 1926, I wrote: "The drastic action of Mr. Western and Mr. House in wrong classing the Red Tabbies and Selfs wholesale, while naturally causing annoyance to the owners of the cats involved was a blessing in disguise. It has spurred the R.C. and T. Society into action and it is setting its house in order. I feel sure it has hastened the coming of the Red Self by many years, and it will be interesting to see which of the many keen Red breeders will first produce a perfect specimen."

How wrong I was! In Vol. IV of the Stud Book Selfs and Shadeds dropped from 27 to 11. Vol. V contained four; Vol. VI two and vols. VII and VIII none. The truth of the matter was that the Red Self was a myth. Mr. House in his book, "Our Cats and all About Them," under the heading Red Selfs says:

"Why a chapter on Red Selfs? I can imagine the question being asked, because at the moment we have not a cat that can be truly styled a Red Self. A number have won as such. Some have won both as Red Selfs and as Red Tabbies, and there are some which have been disqualified in both classes. This state of affairs, which has seemed very contradictory, has arisen because when short of coat these cats have shown tabby markings, and later, when in full coat, these markings have been almost imperceptible."

(To be continued)

were present Mr. Yeates (in the chair), Miss Rodda, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Aitken, Miss Nichols, Miss Wilson and the hon. sec. and treasurer Mrs. Cattermole.

A vacancy occurred on the committee, and Miss Kit Wilson was chosen as a new committee member.

Nine new members joined the club during last year. This is very good, but I am still asking for more. I would like any new breeder, owning a black or white cat or kitten, long or short-haired, to get in touch with me. All the club's lovely silver trophies were on view at the meeting. A silver cup won by myself was replaced by a silver rose-bowl.

Miss Wrightson has two white short-hair queens with perfect hearing. That is splendid news, as white short-hairs are very scarce; I haven't seen any for years.

Mrs. Aitken's beautiful black queen, Ch. Cleone, has been on a visit to Miss Rodda's Chadhurst Barry, and Mrs. Aitken is looking forward now to a nice litter.

Mrs. Kitto is very pleased with her new blue-eyed white Persian male kitten, and thinks he will grow into a big cat. He has lovely eyes and a marvellous long flowing coat. I sold this kitten to Miss Kitto last year. He is to take the place of Lully Lad, which died of old age.

I would welcome any news of other black or white fanciers. A. H. CATTERMOLE.

### SIAMESE

THE News Sheet was posted on March 17th, so if any member who expected to receive a copy has not done so, I shall be glad to remedy the omission.

Recently I have received several letters on the subject of canker. One at least implied that Siamese were more subject to this trouble than other varieties, but I should not think this could be proved by experience. All varieties can, and do, develop this distressing complaint. When one's cats are afflicted in

this way one can blame oneself, for it is the result of either carelessness or neglect. Either one has brought the trouble with a recent purchase or neglect of one's own stock has produced the misfortune.

As with so many ills, canker is less trouble to prevent than to cure. Routine inspection of ears is the safest plan, and dusting with canker powder at such times will usually keep the stock free from trouble. To effect a cure often requires considerable patience, and treatment twice a day is essential. As the disease is caused by a parasite great care must be taken to see that all crusts removed from the ears are carefully burned.

I hear that Mrs. Mitchell may be going to Kenya in 1948 and if that happens she hopes to take her Siamese with her. When one wishes to carry on cat breeding in the colonies the question of studs becomes a difficult problem, but Mrs. Mitchell wisely intends to take her studs with her.

The recent cold spell seemed to have little effect on the "calling" of Siamese queens, but few breeders were prepared to run the risk of sending their queens away during such bitter weather. Consequently many litters will be later this year. This is not an unmixed misfortune, for kittens reared during the spring and early summer derive much benefit from the sunshine which one ought to be able to expect.

An accident which recently happened to one of my queens may be of interest to other breeders faced with similar circumstances. This queen was unconscious due to the giving of a drug to produce anaesthesia. In such cases warmth is essential as Siamese, perhaps more than other varieties, are very susceptible to shock, so she was placed on a well-covered rubber hot water bottle. She recovered without any apparent untoward results, but a few days later the hair began to disappear from her side and disclosed a large blister. I should not have considered such a result possible, but there was no other explanation.—P. M. SODERBERG, Mottrams, Caterham, Surrey.

### A CORRECTION

WE regret that a mistake occurred in Mr. Cyril Yeates' article in FUR AND FEATHER, of April 4th. The second paragraph should read "He proved a success at stud and sired that beautiful queen, Ch. Dream of Dunesk (dam Appleblossom of Dunesk), and the handsome Adonis, of the Court (dam Minuet of the Court)."

### PIGEONS

## A SERVICE MAN CHOOSES THE ENGLISH OWL

THE other evening a young man called at my house. His appearance indicated that he had recently left the Services, and the charming girl on his arm told me that he was newly married. He explained that they had bought a house, and that they wanted to settle down and "keep pigeons, like granddad had done years and years ago." The previous owner of their house had left them an aviary in the garden. I think it had been used for budgerigars.

Well, I began thinking around for some easy variety of pigeon. My ruminations were interrupted, however, by the young man saying, "I'd like something just a bit difficult."

That made me put my studying cap on. Are we too apt to think that the novice to a hobby must begin with what are known as the "easier" varieties? These youngsters with grit and determination are the ones who will make the really great fanciers of the future. I came to the conclusion that my young friend was right in asking for something "a bit difficult."

So I chose for him the English Owl—a hardy enough variety, but one which is not at all easy to produce to exhibition standard. There was another reason for my choosing this breed. I gathered that the young lady had a great affection for King Charles Spaniels, and it has always seemed to me that in head properties, anyhow, there is an affinity between these fine little dogs and the English Owl.

We talked about head properties first, and I tried to describe how the head of the English Owl should be as round as a billiard ball whichever way one looked at it, and how the beak should be curved like that of the wild owl and continue in profile the perfect circle of the head.

Then we talked about colours and the importance of the rosette or frill without which no English Owl is an exhibition bird. I found that my friend had a ready grasp of what was meant by combining quality with substance, and that he soon realised that in that, more than in anything else, lay the difficulty of the breed.

I explained, too, that the African required very regular attention in the way of rubbing down the wattles and of using the matchbox and fine sandpaper on the beak, and I did not forget to tell him that he would need feeders, too, for this short-faced breed.

Before my friends left we had replanned the budgerigar aviary and I think that with its open flights it will make the perfect home for the English Owls which by now will be in their possession.

I think that my experience with this young man contains some useful morals.

1. There are scores of young people who are anxious to take up a live-stock pursuit as a definite part of their plans for "settling down and making a home."
2. They only need to be told about pigeons to realise that they are among the ideal kinds of stock for the small garden.
3. It is wrong of us older fanciers to think that the novice always wants something

easy, and that there isn't a type of beginner who will do best with that variety which is just "a bit difficult."

In these notes I haven't mentioned the discussion I had with my young friend on feeding. This is the great snag at the moment. When that is relieved, live-stock of all kinds should forge rapidly ahead. ROUNDHEAD.

### MRS. H. N. HELLIWELL'S SILVER WEDDING

ON April 11th Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Helliwell celebrated their silver wedding at the Regent Ballroom, Sowerby Bridge, when over 70 guests were entertained to a dinner and dance. The great popularity of Mr. and Mrs. Helliwell amongst their friends and relations was fully in evidence throughout the evening. I was delighted to be present. It was a great night. We had an excellent dinner, a grand dance and much gaiety. Pigeon fanciers included Mr. John L. Sears, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Uttley, and myself. Unfortunately, owing to indisposition, my wife could not accompany me.

I was particularly pleased to meet Mr. L. Buckley, of Sowerby Bridge, who has been in partnership with Mr. Harold Helliwell in racing Homers since soon after the last war. Readers who are well acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Helliwell will join with me in congratulating them on reaching the first twenty-five years of their married life.

W. WATMOUGH.

### NORTHERN COUNTIES SHOW HOMER CLUB

I HAVE noted the news in brief regarding the new address of the Northern Counties Show Homer Club secretary, Mr. Besford, which is "Newlands," Thongsbridge, Huddersfield.

I remind members that the club has made arrangements with a number of prominent shows and wants support. If members do not enter, it will mean a deficiency which has to be made good by those responsible.

Specials and donations should be sent to Mr. Besford. Another of the club's shows will be at Great Harwood. HARRY FIELD.

### PIGEONS FOR PLYMOUTH

THE organisation originally known as the Plymouth and District Domestic F.F.A. has been re-named the Plymouth and District F.F.A. The reason for the new title was caused by the original association having gone outside fur breeds to include a classification at the recent shows for pigeons. This departure has proved such an outstanding success that it was decided to throw open the membership to pigeon fanciers, so that they may avail themselves of the full privileges of membership as competitors for trophies and specials in common with the fur fanciers. The subscription is 3/- per annum, payable to Mrs. H. S. Hockedy, 58, Cambridge Street, Plymouth, Devon, and a hearty invitation is extended to all pigeon fanciers to join this highly progressive association. There will be staged at the Pitts Memorial Hall, Plymouth, on July 19th, an extensive classification for pigeons of all breeds, with particularly liberal classes for Racers and Flying Tipplers, in addition to the usual classes for fancy breeds. On Nov. 21st and 22nd, 1947, at the same hall, a further 35 classes will be staged to include all varieties of pigeons. W. H. GAYTON.

### NAT. MOUSE CLUB NEWS

## NOTES FOR NOVICES

Conducted by

R. WARD, 57, Chantrey Road, Sheffield, 8.

I REMIND those members of the N.M.C. who have not yet paid their subs. to let me have them as soon as possible. It will not be long before the voting papers are issued and only paid-up members are eligible to vote.

I have been very pleased to receive the handbook of the Calder Valley Mouse Club. It is a very attractive and well-thought-out little book and will, I hope, be the means of many new fanciers joining our ranks.

Many fanciers will remember Mr. L. Ingham, one of the younger members, formerly of Bradford. He is now in the Forces and is stationed in Greece, but he still retains his old interest in the N.M.C. He tells me that FUR AND FEATHER reaches him regularly, although it is sometimes long delayed.

He read Jack Wormald's recent articles for beginners with interest and appreciation and sent me a few notes for novices.

If any of his old fancier friends would care to drop him a line his address is: Driver I Ingham, 1493971, 21 Coy. R.A.S.C., Inf Brigade, B.F.I.G.

### BREEDING FOR THE NOVICE

He writes: "To be successful with mice the beginner should have some knowledge of straight-forward breeding."

"Breeding is a big subject and books could be written about it, so I will content myself with a few lines for the novice."

"Before mating see that the mice are in good condition, then place the does, not more than three, in the buck's cage. The bucks should not be put in the does' cages."

"About 14 weeks old is the best age for breeding. Two weeks later the does should appear pregnant. Leave another four days and then separate the does into single cages to kindle."

"Give the cages a thorough dusting with Keatings powder beforehand to kill any insects there may be."

"The period of gestation is 18 to 21 days. When the does kindle see that they have plenty of food and good soft hay."

"After feeding wait till the doe leaves her nest, then gently place her in a nearby Maxey cage, and carefully inspect the young, removing any dead, and then replace the doe. Next day remove the smallest, and the next day do the same until there are only five left at the very most. Sometimes it is best to leave three only."

"When the young are about four days old the sexes can be distinguished. An experienced breeder can usually pick out the sexes at two days old with accuracy. At about 14 days old the youngsters' eyes open and they will then venture out into the cage and try to feed."

"With marked varieties, like Dutch, the markings can be seen at a few days old, so that mismarked ones can be discarded. When the young are five weeks old remove the bucks to a separate cage, but leave the does for a week or so longer with the mother. Then place the mother with other breeding does, and after a week's rest she will be ready to continue breeding. Here are a few hints:—

"Don't mate brother to sister."

"Don't let a doe have more than three litters."

"Always select the best."

"Quality is better than quantity."

"Don't start with more than one or two varieties."

"Never breed from a diseased specimen no matter how good it is in colour or markings. The best policy is to destroy it at once."

"Visit shows and don't be afraid to ask questions. Fanciers will be glad to help."

"Write to Mr. Ward and join the N.M.C."

The Spring cup show will be held at Sheffield on May 17th. I am grateful to Harry Booth and Mr. Skinner for their gift of specials for this event.

I close with rather belated, but none the less sincere, congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Marriott for having gained a championship with their Black and Tan doe; to Mr. and Mrs. Ford, who have also gained a championship with a Silver Tan doe.

### A POUND A WEEK EXTRA POCKET MONEY FROM FIFTY CAVIES

(Continued from previous page.)

leaves one with the knowledge that there will always be a safe and reliable market for one's produce.

Feeding is not a difficult matter as, if the youngsters are sold for research purposes, food for the staple diet—oats and bran—can be obtained on a Ministry of Agriculture permit. Thus, with hay and green foods—swedes are used in winter—will enable the pigs to be kept quite easily at a cost that will leave a profitable margin.

Most people who tackle a thing want to make it worth while, so a word on "expectations" may be acceptable. I would suggest making one's target the production of six youngsters per week on the average. This would bring in nineteen shillings, which, less cost of feeding, should leave a balance of fourteen shillings. To do this it would require a stud of approximately fifty adults, say forty-two sows and eight boars, thus allowing for a spare boar or two for replacements, or to rest the others. I think that with such a stud, capably managed, the result stated could be reasonably expected with ordinary good fortune. It would, I think, allow plenty of margin for ordinary losses.

Another way is to start with the intention of graduating from waster breeding to the production of stock for the show pen.

I know a few breeders who have started with just crossed stock and, as they have sold their youngsters, the money they have received from sales has been put on one side, less, of course, cost of keep for the stud. When they had a few pounds in hand they purchased stock from a reliable exhibition stud and turned over gradually in this way to combined breeding for wasters and the show pen. Thus they have become established as owners of reliable breeding studs at comparatively small outlay; they have, if I may put it that way, "worked their passage."

### BLACKS OR WHITES

THE Black and White Club held its annual general meeting, preceded by a committee meeting, at 96, Dalberg Road, S.W.2. There