

National Mouse Club Notes and News INBREEDING AND LINE BREEDING

Discussed by A. C. JUDE

MR. WARD, the secretary, is away on holiday, taking a well-earned rest, so, once again, I am writing a few lines for Mouse Notes.

I find it difficult to choose a suitable topic, because during the last few months Mr. Ward has provided us with much of interest from a wide range of subjects. The fact that he has been so ably helped by our members in this respect is much appreciated.

With my thoughts for our new-comers in mind, and because some have written me about their breeding problems, I select two questions for my lead.

The first is: "Do you advise that when fresh blood of a particular variety seems necessary that I should purchase from the original source of supply, rather than from a different breeder?" The second question is: "Why is it necessary to keep a record of stock bred?"

We read and talk from time to time about two schools of thought on methods of breeding. One advocates inbreeding and the other outcrossing. I linked up with the former we have what is called line-breeding.

Outcrossing is no method at all. Generally speaking it is just a chance affair, only to be used on special occasions and for a very definite purpose on those occasions.

Inbreeding is a system, and if it is properly carried out in conjunction with rigid selection will give progressively good results in the shortest space of time, always making sure that the foundation stock is perfectly healthy and normal in every way. Probably the only main difference between inbreeding and line-breeding is that with the former close relationships are used and in the latter the more distant ones.

Let us go to the individual who supplied the original stock. The chances are that he built up his stock into a strain by the proper methods of inbreeding, thus giving him individual stock carrying well-fastened characteristics. Without going more deeply into this point, I think it will be understood that where something good has been established it would be unwise to introduce something fresh to form a combination the merit of which is not proved and which is therefore, questionable.

If an outcross is indicated—i.e. if a certain characteristic is not appearing in the line of breeding as it should—then an outcross strong in the required characteristic may be purchased and experimented with. But the progeny should only be further introduced if the experiment has given the desired result and

without other detrimental factors appearing. In building up a strain the cataloguing of the pedigree of stock is essential. This does not simply mean numbering of bucks and lettering of does and marking of cards on boxes with these numbers or letters, just to prevent too close inbreeding.

It means that some easy method of keeping a record of the characteristics of the individual mice should be devised. In this way you will be able to trace the method or line by which a particularly good specimen has been produced. Over a period you will have got what is termed your "own strain," which will have been produced by a certain form of inbreeding and which may have included an occasional outcross.

It may be that from time to time, in working up a strain, some form of close inbreeding is advisable. For instance, a certain mating may produce a litter—say in Tans—having a particularly good tan. In such a case mate back son to mother, or daughter to father, or even brother to sister.

Usually the result would be the fastening of the good quality of tan. Seeing, however, that depth of tan is not the only good quality needed on a Tan mouse, this close inbreeding must not be continued without due regard to the other points.

Try to remember that this close inbreeding must be considered an experiment, just in the same way as the outcross was.

If strength or health seems to be impaired, scrap the progeny at once. The mating of brother and sister is always a useful experiment, for it brings out at once and to full light any recessive weakness, and if one shows to any marked degree, the original stock is not worthy of a place in breeding operations.

In conclusion, I would suggest that if the maximum discretion is used in the selection for matings, on the lines given above, the results under ordinary conditions will be better than by the introduction of outcrossings from other sources. A winner purchased from here and another from there is not the secret of success; in fact it can be the reverse.

If the health and strength shows a sign of failing, it is bad policy to fly to strong outcross, for quite often its introduction will be too strong, with dire results for the progeny, and, more often than not, the doe as well.

You must work for your winners, and therein lies the true satisfaction to be gained from a small live-stock hobby.

PIGEONS

SHOULD ALL SHOW PREPARATION BE BARRED?

By F. A. Sparrow

MR. WATMOUGH'S recent article on how to get birds ready for the show pen was very interesting, but owing to the space at his disposal he could not say much about the more difficult breeds that have to be put through their paces for the small or great events.

With regard to some of the marked breeds such as Mottled Tumblers, Whiteside Tumblers, Balds and Beards, quite a lot of preparation must take place beforehand. Many feathers are taken from birds of these varieties before the show. There is no hard and fast rule as to how many feathers may be removed so long as the bird looks a good one on the day of the show.

One has to be a good "dressmaker" to prepare a Mottle Tumbler for a show pen; many have been shown in the pen that have looked just near perfect, but if one could see those same birds after a moult has been completed, no one would wish to look at them for very long.

In my opinion, trimming should be very little. Breed the birds, don't try to make them by human hands. Many a beginner has been driven from the Fancy by buying trimmed birds. When they have moulted out those same birds have looked very much like crossbred pigeons.

In Whitesides, and many other breeds, flight feathers have also to be pulled out, so have secondary feathers and even tail feathers, before the moult of these feathers are the right colour for the exhibitor. It does not always work out right, but many have been successful this way.

Modenas are another breed that have been trimmed well in the past. The best way to trim is to use scissors, so that the bird can be shown the whole show season through, without any more trouble to the fancier that season until after the next moult. Some people pull the feathers out, which is an inhuman way of "faking." Many hours have been spent by fanciers trimming one particular bird for the show pen in order to beat his brother fancier for the red ticket.

The marked Tumblers, such as Mottles and Whitesides are going through a lean period and undoubtedly because so much trimming is needed.

Carriers and Barbs have had their day for the same reason. The modern generation will not be troubled with them. Here again, wattle and cere preparation is greatly needed with some birds. Eye cures have to be cut back with scissors. Too much eye cure causes "spouts" and watery eyes. Wattles in Carriers can be cut to give the desired shape required. When cures and wattles are cut, ointment has to be used immediately after the operation has taken place. The parts affected heal very quickly if the bird is in good health.

With the watted varieties the birds intended for showing must be at their best, showing the real bloom on their wattles and cures. These varieties are, or should be, at their best when around three years of age.

Very often the wattles of Carriers need to be cleaned by a small brush.

In the blowing varieties trimming is not made a practice of. Most of these birds are shown as bred and this is as it should be. Get your intended show birds fairly tame, but not too friendly, otherwise when put into the walking pen instead of giving a good show they will keep on pecking at the judge's stick and fail to give an account of themselves.

To trim any pigeon for the show bench, one needs to be gifted to the job. The rising generation needs a breeze to send out at any time. Many new beginners are driven out of the pigeon fancy because they find that so much trimming is needed in some of the marked varieties. My opinion is that no trimming should be allowed in any variety. Breed 'em, not make 'em. If a strict rule had been in force regarding trimming years ago, and the judges in the past had played the game and left birds out of the money that had been trimmed, the Fancy would have been in a much better position than it was in pre-war days. A definite rule should be made once and for all time. Get the fancy moving with the times. Too many old-fashioned ideas are holding the pigeon world back.

L.C.C. Institute News

I ATTENDED the semi-final of the Inter-Institutes' Cup, Islington v. St. Pancras, at Crafton Schools, and it was well worth watching, the result being a dead-heat right through each class: Rex 5-5, Fur 5-5, Fancy 5-5. The two clubs could not agree as to the best way to come to a decision, so it was finally left to the Federation to deal with the matter. The query still remains: Who will meet Hammersmith in the final at Deptford on Oct. 11th?

The show held in conjunction with the competition was a marked success. There were 30 rabbits and 100 entries. As it was confined to Islington and their guests, it was a true indication of the enthusiasm of the Institute members. The judging was admitted by both contestants as being very fair, which was a tribute to Mr. Thomas, who made the journey from Peckham. Mr. Holden won the Fancy, Mr. Bateman the Fur, and Mr. Wood the Rex.

A correspondent asks: "Is it possible to produce a Chin-Dutch? I paid 6 gns. for a Chinchilla and had it mated to quad champion (B.R.C.) from the same rabbitry. The litter produced one ghost, one showable Chin, and two Chin-Dutch (one mismarked). I took one of the Chin-Dutch to Hammersmith Men's Institute for Mr. R. Blake to give his opinion to the class. I afterwards mated it to a pure-bred Chin. of my own breeding, the resulting litter being four very small Chinchillas and three Chin-Dutch. I have eaten the mother and given the youngsters away as pets. Chin-Dutch can be produced, but don't ask me how I prefer to stick to Chins." W. J. CARTER.

REPORT OF KITTEN SHOW KENSINGTON

THE Kensington Kitten Show was, in spite of the size of the hall, the weather, and the light refreshments, an unqualified success, and our most grateful thanks are due to all those who helped to make it so. To the chairman, Mrs. Sharman, who has forgotten more about show management than we ever knew, we owe a great debt for the many ways she has helped us throughout the preliminaries and for the many times she has gone to the printers, and corrected proofs.

Miss Beckett worked like a black the day before the show, and with Mrs. MacDonald stewarded first for the veterinary surgeon and then for the household pets, no light task as there were nearly forty of them. Mrs. Vize came the day before and stewarded for Miss York on the day. We thank our judges, Miss Laxton, Miss York, Mrs. Sayers (making her bow as a judge), and Mr. Yeates and their stewards Miss Harmer, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Hancock (who made the long journey from Nottingham just for the fun of the thing), Mrs. Corke who sold out of catalogues, Miss Prentis, who helped to rake in the shekels, the office with Mrs. Sharman cool and collected on the book, surrounded by her scribes, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Chappell, Mrs. Barnard, the guardians of the door, Mr. Rees, Mr. Stirling Webb and Mr. Whyte, and the press steward Mrs. Brice Webb, another who came from Nottingham. The vice-President, Miss Rachel Ferguson presented the prizes, and Mr. Keith Robinson, of O.D.F.L., judged the household pets and shop cats. To all these and to those who so generously subscribed to the show fund, gave specials and guaranteed classes, we say thank you very much. It was indeed heartening that our first post-war Kitten Show should have had such wonderful support.

About 500 people visited the show throughout the day, and sometimes it seemed as if the Hall would burst its sides there were so many people jammed in the aisles. Several kittens changed hands, and Mrs. Hinds, at the sales table, was kept busy.

Our able veterinary surgeons were Mr. and Mrs. Shephard, M.R.C.V.S., and to them we tender our most grateful thanks for their thorough vetting of all the exhibits.

J. M. NEWTON & KIT WILSON
(Joint Show Managers).

Mr. Cyril Yeates's Classes

The Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Clubs held a most successful show on July 10th, and the joint secretaries and managers, Mrs. J. M. Newton and Miss Kit Wilson, must have been well satisfied with the result of their labours. Exhibits numbered 155, and entries 486. The public rolled up in such force that in the afternoon the hall was uncomfortably crowded, and the judges had a hard job to judge their later classes. Having lived the greater part of my life in the Royal Borough, I have always taken a special interest in Kensington shows. Twenty-five years ago with the late Miss Frances Simpson, I saw the first one at the Philbeach Hall which, as Mrs. Wilson pointed out, was not in Kensington. Nor was Tattersalls, where the club's other shows were held, but there is no doubt about this year's venue being pure Kensington. On returning from lunch I was invited on to the platform, and had a very pleasant surprise when Miss Wilson presented me with a very handsome brief case, and an illuminated address, which had been subscribed for by many kind friends in the Fancy, and I welcome this opportunity of thanking them all and saying how greatly I appreciate the honour conferred on me on what Mrs. Wilson called my "coming of age," and the very kind thoughts which prompted it. All the arrangements were perfect—the judges were able to start at the advertised time of 10 o'clock. One thing that struck me very forcibly was the number of new faces I saw, and it was almost a shock when I ran into those old-time fanciers, Mrs. George Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Norris, and Mrs. Sharman and Miss Harmer. The special for L.H. Cat in show was awarded to Mrs. Chappell's blue, Gaythorne Glenister. Mrs. Hacking's Chinchilla, Redwalls Ballerina being reserve. Mrs. Spink's Siamese, Amego Tin-Tut, was best short-hair, with Mrs. Anderson's Abyssinian, Figaro, reserve. The best Neuter was Mrs. Allen's Siamese Sammie.

BLUE FOREIGN M., 7: 1, 2, 3 Rochford's Dunlop Jon, D. Silver Toes, D. Another Prince, these kittens are not of true foreign type, which should conform closely to the ideal Siamese, nor have they acquired sound green eyes. The winner had the best coloured and shortest coat, the second had a better head, but he and the third had dark spine lines; abs. Miss Parker's three exhibits. BLUE FOREIGN F., 4: 1 Rochford's Dunlop Silver Queen, nice short coat, good colour, better than the males, though also failing type and eye; 2 Janke's Dunlop Sunshine, nice sound colour, but British in type and eye; abs. Parker, BLACK, WHITE, OR CREAM, 1: Weston's Ninda, nice black for colour and type, fair eye, end coat too long. TORTIE AND TORTIE AND WHITE: 1 Rees's Sylvan Winkle, moderate tortoiseshell, coat too brindled and not free from tabby markings. MANX, M. OR F., 3: 1, 2, 3 Sladen, Stonor Silver Susan, mackerel tabby of nice type and quality; 2 S. Sally Spruce, grey tabby, good type, too solid on back; 3 S. Pierrot, unevenly marked black and white of good type. ABYSSINIAN, M. OR F., 5: 1 and reserve best S.H. in show, Anderson's Figaro, best type and colour in class, well ticked coat of nice texture; 2 Bassett's Croham Donna, nice colour and ticking, and free from markings; 3 Bassett's Croham Abeda, similar kitten, greyer in colour, and too much white under chin; r Robertson's Roverdale Minx, nice type, nice colour and ticking, spoilt by white chin; vhc Robertson. BREEDERS, EXCEPT SIAMESE, 10: 1 Croham Donna; 2 Croham Abeda; 3 Ninda; r Stonor Pierrot; abs. Parker, A.C. NOVICE, EXCEPT SIAMESE, 7: 1 C. Donna; 2 C. Abeda; 3 Sylvan Winkle; abs. Parker; not in pen; Anderson's Friski, A.C. SELF, 7: 1 D. Silver Queen; 2 D. Another Prince; abs. Parker, A.O.C. EXCEPT SIAMESE, 3: 1 Figaro; 2 S. Silver Susan; 3 Sylvan Winkle, A.V.

REPORT OF FOREIGN IN SIAMESE, 13: 1 Lan cop Azure Ching, blue-Siamese, nice type, points, cream body colour, showing some fawn on head; 2 Parker's Merrywood Marie, nice seal-pointed male, good head, eyes a bit up in the corners; 3 Spink's Amego Tin-Tut, big, good type, colour and points, eyes too round and coat on the long side; r Lamb's Pincop Azure Zena, blue pointed, very nice type and eye; vhc Cowlishaw, Lamb; abs. Parker, Dean, Anderson, A.V. PAIRS, 7: 1 Bassett's Abyssinian; 2 Rochford's blues; equal 2nd Anderson's Abyssinians; 3 Sladen, Manx; abs. Parker, A.V. TEAM, EXCEPT SIAMESE, 5: 1 Anderson's Abyssinians; 2 Rochford's Blue Foreign; 3 Sladen's Manx; abs. Parker, A.V. LITTER, 9: 1 Argyle, five very nice Siamese by Ch. Zy Azure Phanda ex a fine queen, Chinki Marinka; 2 Anderson's four Abyssinians, including the open winner, Figaro; 3 McGregor, Siamese by Salveen Conqueror; r Robertson's six Abyssinians by Croham Ramambo; vhc Parker, Phillip; abs. Parker, Fisher, MacKenzie; a fine class. A.V. L.H. KITTEN, RADIUS, 9: 1 Phillip's Valley End Tudor, blue, very nice blue, excellent type, eye, coat, and condition; 2 Chappell's Gaythorne Glenister, very pale blue, lovely coat, nice type, falls eye colour; 3 Woodbury's Woodbury Bentley, red, nice type and markings, could be deeper in colour (a remark which applies also to the other reds in the class); r Woodbury Bellinda; vhc Corke. SPECIAL RADIUS, A.V. KITTEN, 4: 1, 2, 3 Hacking's Chinchillas, Redwalls Silver King, R. Silver Cloud, R. Ballerina, three very nice exhibits of good colour and full of quality; abs. Dane, KENSINGTON CLASS, A.V. KITTEN, 6: 1 Figaro; 2 Merrywood Maroco; 3 Stonor Silver Susan; r Anderson's Abyssinian from litter 102, KENSINGTON A.V. NEUTER, 4: 1 and best Neuter in show Allen's Sammie; 2 Ingre's blue Chinchilla Tudor Prince; 3 Ellis's Neutered female Mrs. Feather; three fine exhibits; abs. Holland, KENS. KITTEN CLUB, A.V., L.H., M., 8: 1 Valley End T. M.; 2 R. Silver King; 3 Buddell's Mighty Atom, a nice medium blue with good orange eye; r Woodbury Bentley; abs. Barrow, F. 17: 1 Redwall's Ballerina; 2, 3

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SANDY SHOW THURSDAY

Park of Sandye Place, KITTENS (held under the Governing Council rules). All kittens will only be accepted if accompanied by the owner or representative on both journeys. Classes not guaranteed may have to be amalgamated, and classes will only be separated by sex if both classes are guaranteed. Judges: Miss K. Yorke. Classes 612, 614 to 618, 622, 624 to 630, 632, 634, 636, 637; Miss E. Langston. Classes 601 to 611, 613, 619 to 621, 623, 631, 633, 635. Prizes 15/- 7/6 5/-. Entry 4/6 for all classes except Household Pets, where the prize money will be 10/- 5/-, 2/6, and entry fee 2/6. Many specials. LONGHAIR KITTENS, 2-6 MTHS.: 601—Blue Male or Female (guaranteed by Mrs. Crickmore and Miss Wisker); LONGHAIR KITTENS, 3-9 MTHS.: 602—Black Male or Female, 603—White, Blue or Orange Eyed, Male or Female, 604—Blue Male, 605—Blue Female, 606—Cream or Blue Cream Male or Female (guaranteed by Notts. and Derby Cat Club, per Mr. A. C. Jude), 607—Chinchilla or Smoke Male or Female (guaranteed by Chinchilla Silver and Smoke Society, per Miss E. Langston), 608—Brown, Red or Silver Tabby Male or Female (guaranteed by Notts. and Derby Cat Club, per Mr. A. C. Jude), 609—Tortoiseshell or Tortoiseshell and White Male or Female, 610—Any Colour Open (may be dup), 611—Any Colour Breeders Male or Female (may be dup), 612—Any Colour Novice Male or Female (may be dup), 613—Any Colour Special Limit Male or Female (may be dup), 614—Any Colour Pairs, Male or Female (may be dup), Longhair, Shorthair or Siamese included), SHORTHAIR KITTENS: 615—Any Colour Self Male or Female (except Manx), 616—Any Other Colour Male or Female (except Abyssinian, Manx or Siamese), 617—Manx Male or Female, 618—Abyssinian Male or Female, 619—Seal Pointed Siamese Male, 620—Seal Pointed Siamese Female, 621—Blue Pointed Siamese Male or Female, 622—Any Colour Open Male or Female (may be duplicated from classes 615-621), 623—Any Colour or Variety Shorthair Novice, Male or Female (may be duplicated from classes 615-622), 624—Any Colour or Variety Shorthair, Breeders, Male or Female (may be duplicated from classes 615-622), 625—Any Colour or Variety, Special Limit, Male or Female (may be duplicated from classes 615-622), 626—Any Variety Household Pet, Longhair Cat or Kitten, Male or Female or Neuter, 627—Any Variety Household Pet, Shorthair Cat or Kitten, Male or Female or Neuter, CLUB CLASSES: Guaranteed by the respective clubs and restricted to the members (fully paid up) of the clubs, LONGHAIR KITTENS: 628—Any Colour Longhair Male or Female (National Cat Club per Mr. C. Yeates), 629—Any Colour Longhair Male or Female (Sandy Show per Mr. B. S. Porter, Secretary, Show Offices, Sandy; you can join this club by sending subscription of 10/- with entry fee), 630—Any Variety Kitten (Croydon Cat Club per Miss Helen Hill Shaw), 631—Any Variety Kitten Male or Female 3-6 months (Southern Counties Cat Club per Mrs. K. R. Williams), 632—Blue Longhaired Kitten Male or Female (Bue Persian Cat Society per Miss J. M. Fisher), SHORTHAIR KITTENS: 633—Any Colour Shorthair including Siamese (National Cat Club per Mr. C. Yeates), 634—Any Colour Shorthair including Siamese (Sandy Show per Mr. B. S. Porter secretary, Show Offices, Sandy; you can join this club by sending subscription of 10/- with entry fee), 635—Any Variety Kitten (Croydon Cat Club per Miss Helen Hill Shaw), 636—Any Colour including Siamese Male or Female 3-6 months (Southern Counties Cat Club per Mrs. K. R. Williams), 637—Any Variety Longhair or Shorthair Kitten Male or Female, 3-9 mths. (Notts and Derby Cat Club per Mr. A. C. Jude). Entries close Monday, August 18th, 1947. Schedules from and entries to: BRIAN S. PORTER, Sandy, Beds. Phone: Sandy 60.