

CAVIES

"SOUTHERN" OPENS A GUARANTEE FUND

MR. TIBER, 18, Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, and Mr. G. R. Chipman, Lower Minzie, Downs, Bolventor, Launceston, Cornwall, have recently joined the Southern Cavy Club.

The entry at the young stock show was good. There were 156 entries in 15 classes, and average of 10 1/2 a class. The quality of the stock on the whole was good, especially the white and Peruvian classes. There were 21 Self Blacks in the class. It must be a long time since Southern Cavy fanciers had classes of over 20. The winner of the Kelsey points cup was Mr. Carr with 42 points; runner up was Master Armes with 35 points and third place was taken by Mr. Hornby with 27 points. Congratulations to all.

The next show which the club is supporting is the championship show in London, on Tuesday, November 18th. At this event the club has offered a special for best cavy of every breed and two classes for A.V. Self and A.V. bar Self have been provided for members only. One class will also be scheduled for members of the S.W.E.C.C. and S.C.C. members only. Silver classes have been guaranteed.

Will any society willing to stage the club's adult stock show during November or December, please get in touch with me?

Specials will be offered at the following shows: Portsmouth, Nov. 23rd, Judge, Mr. Blake; Ashford, Nov. 27th, Mr. Lambkin; Cranleigh, Nov. 29th, Miss Radeglia; Croydon, Dec. 10th and 11th, Dr. Kerr and Mr. Blake. The subscription is 5/- per year. Partnership 8/- juvenile 2/6.

The annual general meeting was held on Saturday Sept. 27th. Those present included Messrs. Armes, Simpson, Robinson, Field, Stead, Radeglia, Beland, Masters Armes and Field, and Miss Radeglia. Mr. Beland was elected chairman. Apologies for their absence were received from Mr. Blake and Mr. Lambkin. The balance sheet was accepted.

The secretary read her report, in which it was pointed out that the club had only sufficient money to pay outstanding commitments to the end of the year, and not sufficient funds to stage an adult stock show. It was proposed and carried that a guarantee fund be opened against loss at the adult stock show. The following members gave support: Mr. Simpson 10/-, Mr. J. Armes 10/-, Mr. Beland £1, and a donation of £1. Mr. and Miss Radeglia £1, Messrs. Robinson and Son 10/-, Mr. Stead and Miss Chaffey £1. If any other members would like to add their names to the above list I shall be very grateful. No member will be called upon unless a loss is incurred at the A.S.S.

Joint Adult Stock Show with the South West English Cavy Club.—It was decided that the secretary write to the secretary of the S.W.E.C.C., stating that it was considered too far away to stage the club's A.S.S. in Devon, but that the club was willing to meet them half way if they so desired. In the meantime the secretary is to advertise in FUR AND FEATHER for any society willing to stage the A.S.S.

Hants. and Isle of Wight Cavy Circle.—It was resolved that the club give full support to this circle. It is not possible to offer any financial assistance at the present moment, but club specials will be offered at any of their shows which will also be supported with entries.

Members' Badges.—The secretary was instructed to write to J. H. Wood, the Don Press, Penistone, and purchase numbered badges which would be chargeable at 2/- each, including postage.

Club Prefixes.—It was proposed that the club should accept and register club prefixes at a fee of 1/6. An amendment that prefixes be accepted at 2/6 was carried by 6 votes to 0.

Challenge Certificates.—The proposition that the club should offer challenge certificates failed to secure a seconder. An amendment to it was that this matter be left on the table until the next meeting at the adult stock show, but the secretary was instructed to ascertain the cost of the certificates.

Specials.—It was agreed that the club will not offer specials at shows where the prize money is 75 per cent., with an entry of 1/-, but only at shows where the prize money is not less than 75 per cent., with an entry fee of 2/-. This was carried by three votes to none. The others abstained from voting.

Prize Cards.—The secretary was instructed to send S.C.C. prize cards to all members winning awards at the young stock show.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Beland.

MISS JOAN RADEGLIA, hon. sec.
7, Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey.

NORTHERN NO-TAIL NOTES

BLACKBURN fanciers will hold an open pen show on Saturday, Oct. 25th. Cavies have a grand classification and Mr. A. Watson will judge them. All the cavy classes are fully guaranteed and many specials have been offered. There will also be a novice class for adults and one for young. Mr. K. J. Brindle, 752, Whalley New Road, Blackburn, is secretary for cavies.

If you are in LONDON on OCTOBER 15th, 1947, be sure to visit the

BLUE PERSIAN CAT SOCIETY'S

TENTH CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW at the Holy Trinity Hall, Gt. Portland Street, London W.1. A popular Film Star is expected to open the show to the public at 2-30 p.m. Admission two shillings and sixpence. Those wishing to view the judging (a most interesting experience) admitted at 10 a.m. on payment of one shilling extra. Mrs. BRICE-WEBB, 249, Chilwell Lane, Bramcote, Notts.

The National Cavy Club had a grand turn out of youngsters at its young stock show at Spalding, on Sept. 25th, with well over 800 entries. Cavy fanciers can make a show of it when they want to.

Some societies depend on schedules for entries, so they miss many exhibitors and entries. From my own experience I can say that nothing beats a full classification in "Fur and Feather" for bringing in entries.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM CAVY CLUB

THERE will be a meeting of members of the Durham and Northumberland Cavy Club at Chester-le-Street show, on Oct. 25th, at 3 p.m. All paid up members are expected to attend. W. Reeve will judge. At Prosterley in November, W. Surtees will judge.—W. T. Dinning, sec. and treas., 39, Albert Road, Consett.

Cavy Post Bag

TAKING STOCK TO SHOWS

IF I needed justification for bringing this matter to light, Mr. Brooke himself provides it. He admits the allegation I repeated, but goes much further than I did. In his letter last week he says: "... this judge has for many years looked after this fancier's stock."

Does Mr. Brooke wish me to agree with the conduct of a judge who, Mr. Brooke tells us, has for many years looked after stock belonging to another person, and has taken it to shows and judged it against exhibits sent by other fanciers?

I consider paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Mr. Brooke's letter to be merely melodramatic "sob-stuff" included for the purpose of clouding the issue. To reply would be mere waste of time. I know Mr. Foster and was aware of his age. Perhaps he will allow me to suggest that his more than fifty years' experience as a breeder and exhibitor should have taught him that there is a limit beyond which an exhibitor should not go in his dealings with a judge.

Over twenty years ago I did travel to Grimsby in the same compartment of the train as did Mr. Brooke, just as I have travelled to shows in all parts of the country in the company, at different times, of hundreds of fanciers, but I was not in charge of Mr. Brooke's stock, nor was I ever in charge of any other person's stock when I was judging.

I first heard the allegation in 1946, and I heard it again the year before Halifax show was held. My second informant was a novice, who asked me what was the use of him exhibiting if the practices alleged were condoned. Being jealous for the good name of a Fancy for which I have worked and of which I have for many years been proud to be a member I mentioned the matter in the hope that publicity would put a stop to it. I claim no authority to put these things right, but my weight will always be thrown on the side of right and truth, in the hope that we may have the same treatment for all.

Incidentally three specialist club secretaries have intimated to me their pleasure at seeing the matter brought to light, and have agreed with the course I have taken. Before I saw Mr. Brooke's letter last week I had informed the secretary of one club of which I am a member that I wished to bring the matter forward at the annual meeting. In view of that I shall take no further part in any controversy on the matter in these columns. In my opinion it has got to a stage when only "the powers that be" can deal with it.

ALLAN WATSON.

MICE

THE PROBLEM OF ASTHMA

By C. H. JOHNSON

I CONFIRM all that Mr. Jack Wormald had to say regarding asthma in the mousery. It is my firm conviction that so-called asthma in Fancy mice is, like many diseases to which mankind is heir, inbred. I know a family where the grandfather, the father and the daughter all have asthma. Likewise I know families where all and sundry have chest or stomach trouble. My own family was no exception from the rule and our doctor used to say that the physical resemblance between my father and myself was remarkable. Is it not to be expected that we shall get the same in animals as is proved by the fact that the most prevalent cases of asthma occurs in my Champsagnes, whilst some varieties are apparently immune.

My advice, therefore, is to destroy all cases of asthma for it is only by such treatment that the disease can be eradicated. I have found that it is not only diseases which are inbred, but faults such as whisker eating, box gnawing, bed wetting and wildness. I remember in the old days that certain varieties were prone to one or other of these faults. I seldom had a Chocolate and Tan which gnawed boxes, or a Black which wet the nest, but I just couldn't keep the nest of Agoutis and Champsagnes clean. Wildness I found in my Broken, but not in other varieties. Other fanciers may have found these faults in different varieties, but I am pretty certain they would not find the faults general throughout the whole of the mousery.

I wish fanciers would not condemn the use of food pots for mice for why should our favourite animals be singled out for the unenviable distinction of "eating off the floor." I agree that some of the food is pulled out of the pot but it is invariably eaten there and then. That which remains is not polluted by the dirt and excreta in the cage. What sort of health should we have if we ate off the floor? I have always used pots and I always shall. I commend the feature to members for I am sure it has a big bearing on the health and fitness of stock.

CATS

GOVERNING COUNCIL RULES TO BE TIGHTENED UP

AT the beginning of another show season exhibitors—and show managers—will be well advised to refresh their memories by reading again the Governing Council Rules, a copy of which is enclosed in every show schedule. At shows held during and since the war, some latitude has been permitted on the grounds that many exhibitors were novices, but it is time now to tighten things up and see that all rules are complied with.

When filling an entry form, the exhibitor should always have the cat's registration certificate before him and see the particulars given on the entry form are identical with those on the registration certificate. Before signing the entry form—and this is important—he should read carefully the declaration that the cats or kittens entered have not been exposed to any infectious or contagious illness within the period of 21 days prior to the date of the show and that he has not had any such illness in his or her cattery during that period. (See rule 33.)

Powder may be used when preparing a cat for show, but no powder must be left in the cat's coat on the day of the show (rule 23(a)). Powdering of exhibits in the show hall on the morning of the show is prohibited. Transgression of this rule shall result in the disqualification of the exhibit (rule 9c).

Here are some reminders for judges. "Any cat can be brought out for Best in Show provided that it has not been beaten in its open class on the day." Judging for Best in Show shall be by ballot, the judges recording their votes on slips of paper provided for the purpose. Judging for Best in Show shall be conducted in silence. (Rules 15 and 34.)

Rule 9a reads, "A cat which cannot be taken out of its pen must not be judged. An exhibitor is not allowed to take any of his exhibits out of the pen nor to handle them during judging."

Judges should also read carefully rule 15, which deals with the awarding of championships under certain exceptional circumstances, and rule 23 which deals with disqualification.

Apart from the Governing Council rules, which apply to all shows held under G.C. licence, there are certain show rules and regulations drawn up by the club running the show. These are printed in the schedule and must be complied with. One of these is that which forbids any interior or exterior decorations or distinguishing objects, such as collars or coloured blankets in or on the pens, and judges are instructed to pass any pen so distinguished. As a rule plain white blankets without markings and small sanitary tins are allowed. The above reminders will, I hope, prevent exhibitors having their cats disqualified or being fined for breaches of the rules.—Cyril Yeates, Chairman G.C.C.F.

R.C.T.B.C.B.T.

By permission of Miss Wilson and Miss Martin a committee of this society will be held at 18, South End, Kensington, W.8., on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 22nd. Mrs. Newton, Hon. Sec., has already sent out notices and she tells me Mr. Soderberg has joined the society. He owned a red sister of Hendon Marigold.

From far Ballater, Miss Brand writes me that she crochets white blankets in the old Scotch stitch. They keep their shape, do not mat, and are practically claw proof.

I had already heard that Mrs. Askew owns a lovely red L.H. Tortoise in Firefly of Takeley, by Ch. Widdington Warden ex Chadhurst Carrissa. She now has another, sired by Valley End Prince. Mrs. Askew knows I have a very soft spot for the Torties.

The breeding season is more or less over for this year, so it is as well to take stock of the cattery and choose the females that best suit the strain, making arrangements for mating or purchasing in the new year.—G. Campbell Fraser (Mrs.), Little Primrose, Godalming, Surrey.

HAMSTERS

BRITISH HAMSTER CLUB NOTES

ONE of the most persistent queries we get on the stand is, "Why are some animals larger than others?" This was repeated in my post this week, the writer remarking that the animals to which he was referring, all seemed to belong to one breeder.

In connection with this, a very funny thing happened recently when I was judging. I found that two thirds of the animals in front of me were from the same stable. With the standard as it is, I have never attempted to enlarge hamsters so I was dumfounded to find that, apart from a few, I had been handling my own stock, last seen as five week kittens. It all goes to show what can be done with young stock in the right hands.

Light is a definite factor in the growth of all young things and hamsters are no exception. Considering they live eight feet underground in their natural habitat, their love of light and sunlight is remarkable.

Recently I had a query concerning hamsters which constantly turned in circles. This can be due to several things, including excessive in-breeding and tumour on the brain. In this case it was due to lack of Vitamin D., for the stock was kept in a dark cellar, completely deprived of the vitamin that guards against rickets and caries.

With the coming of the dark months, to concentrate on feeding is more important

than ever. Though the makers of puppy meal do their best, with the materials allowed them, they acknowledge that they cannot guarantee pre-war quality these days. One of our best breeders relies on cat meal which is easier to buy at present, and I have now discovered the reason for its success.

For good growth, the hamster needs biotin and this is contained in the liver included in cat meal. Hamsters relish this food, damp or dry, just as they welcome anything containing fish and meat.

Sweden, which replaced orange juice at one period of the war, and carrot, with occasional beet, seem the best vegetables, but nothing can equal raw spinach, which is a three-starred vegetable, as it contains the three vitamins, A., B., C. Cod liver oil mixed in the meal will supply the vitamin D.—the sunshine vitamin

SHOWS

North, South and Midlands are well catered for by Leek, Skipton and Dover next month. Mrs. Parrack, the Leek sec., is herself a hamsterite. Johnson and Shaw will be at Skipton; and the Dover schedule will show you what a hamsterite can do when he really sets his mind to it! Small wonder that this club had 1,000 entries last year. By the "Dover" system, prize money arrives home almost before the stock.

Should exhibitors not receive their prize money within a reasonable time, they should contact the rabbit club secretary direct. No club that causes annoyance or inconvenience to those who have supported it will stage a recognised show next year.

West Bromwich actually made a profit, something over £3. I should like to convey the hamster club's appreciation of the kindness and generosity of the West Bromwich hort. society, which provided space and printing free of charge, and for the increasing courtesy to our show sec., Mr. Gawthorp.

SPECIALS

Mr. Cowell has returned his 10/- advert. money for specials. Mr. Ingham, at West Brom., handed me a 5/- piece as a special for the winter show. W. J. has now polished this to brilliance and fixed it in a perspex frame so that it can be used as an ornament.

Kevin Hall specials now amount to about 50/-. The latest donation of £1 has come from Glasgow Public Health Committee (Midwifery Dept.) and I thank the Scottish nurses who contributed this sum as specials for what will be mainly English exhibitors.

NOMINATIONS

If the club has any officials next year, it will not be due to those who dutifully sent in their list without forms and with an airy request for me to write for their acceptance! These, of course, are out of order, according to the rule.

Mr. W. G. Roderick, the president, who has not yet recovered from the effects of his accident, feels that the club should have a president who can play a more lively part in the club.

Mr. Battersby has declined nomination for the council, since he feels he is "as a voice crying in the wilderness," and can do more as a free-lance.

Proposals for the agenda and suggestions for a revised standard should be sent to me as soon as possible.

Ballot papers will be despatched with the agenda and balance sheet since the club had to pay its own postage on National schedules this year.

Many have criticised present and suggested standards. What about sending in some constructive criticism in the shape of your own ideas? All will receive consideration.

New members joining the club after Oct. 1st will have their membership dated from Nov. 1st in view of the short time remaining till the new membership year.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Will anybody who may have paid his subscription through any person except Mr. Reynolds and myself, and who has not received an official receipt, please contact me immediately.—Jean E. Cook, Glenside, Duke's Hill, Woldingham, Surrey.

HARDLY JANNOCK, E.B.

IT is not my desire to enter into controversy in public with Mr. Battersby on the merits or demerits of the three-shade standard; this will be done in Council. In fairness to the remainder of the Council, however, I think it should be known that other councillors have expressed opinions on the present standard, and I think I can say that feeling is unanimous that it needs revision.

A.O.S. classes have been tried with conspicuous lack of support. I guaranteed the class at the spring show and there were nine entries. Mr. Reynolds guaranteed the same class at the summer show and again there were nine entries; out of that number the judge sent two off the table as being "normals."

If I might borrow the words of a radde character, "What is a golden guinea?" I am old enough to have seen a sovereign, but

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SEVENTEENTH CH. SHOW

will be held at the Lime Grove Baths Hall, Shepherd's Bush, W.12., on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 12 noon to 6-30 p.m. Admission: 12 to 5 p.m. 3/6; after 5 p.m. 2/-. Stations: Goldhawk Road (Metropolitan Ry.), Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush. Buses No. 12, 88, 17, 11, 630, 657, 607. Mrs. HART, Tye Cottage, Frog Grove Lane, Wood Street, Guildford, Surrey.

