

The Scratching Post



SABCCI Newsletter - April 2009

www.sabcci.com



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SABCCI Committee

At time of Publication

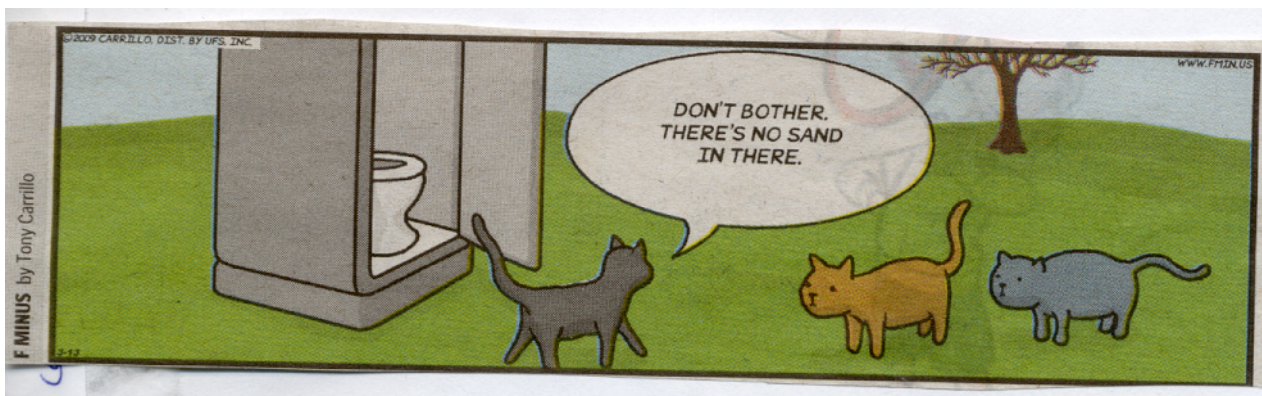
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Editorial

Welcome to the April 2009 issue of The Scratching Post.

The Scratching Post is on the SABCCI website www.sabcci.com in colour, under the menu heading 'News'. Let us know if you would prefer to read The Scratching Post on the website instead of by receiving it by post.

Breffni House Pets in Dundrum once again has given us sponsorship so many thanks to them.

So if you're ready, sit back, have a cup of chicken soup and ENJOY! Karen and Gloria ^..^

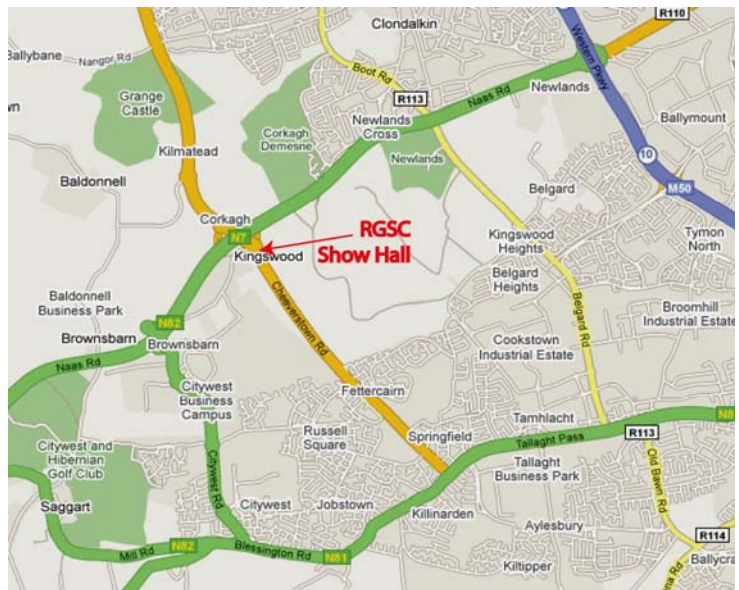
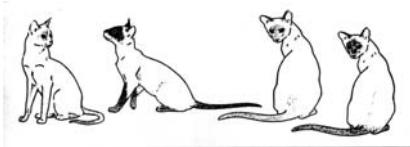
Do you have any photos or articles for the newsletter? Please send them to us at:-
karensluiters@eircom.net or gloriateti@eircom.net

The Supreme Cat Show

2009 Supreme Cat Show is on the 26th of April.

This year it is being held at the Roadstone Group Sports Club (RGSC) in Kingswood City West Dublin.

Doors open to the public from 12:30 to 5:00



Mrs. Anne Doyle

It is with great sadness that we record the death of our President, Mrs. Anne Doyle on the 2nd April 09. Anne will be fondly remembered by the older members when along with her daughter Jo she bred and showed her beautiful Persians under their Joint Prefix Doychi. Anne could always be relied on to be there to help the day before the show and also there to help to tidy up afterwards. She was a keen gardener and will be remembered for her floral decorations in the show hall. We send our sincere sympathy to her daughter Jo and the other family members. May she rest in peace.

Excerpt from *For I will consider my Cat Jeoffrey* (from *Jubilate Agno*)
By Christopher Smart (1722-1771)

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffrey
For when he takes his prey he plays with it to give it a chance
For one mouse in seven escapes by his dallying....
For he will not do destruction, if he is well fed, neither will he spit without provocation
For he purrs in thankfulness when God tells him he's a good Cat
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest
For there is nothing brisker than his life when in motion
For by stroking him I have found out electricity
For, tho he cannot fly, he is an excellent clamberer
For his motions upon the face of the earth are more than any other quadruped
For he can tread to all measures upon music
For he can swim for life
For he can creep



The Pedigree - The Manx Cat (the tailless cat)

Its name comes from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea ,where it is said the Manx originated from. In fact they originated from a population of cats whose common ancestry sprang from the same roots as the British Shorthair.

A spontaneous mutated gene which carried a dominant trait occurred at some point several hundred years ago. This mutation created some kittens born without the vertebrae that form the tail of normal cats.

With the passage of time and due to the isolation of the cats from outside breeding, the taillessness eventually became a common characteristic among the Isle of Man cats.

The Manx cat was a popular, well-established breed in England long before the birth of the cat fancy there in the 1870s. A Manx Cat Club was established in 1901.

The original Isle of Man Manx had longer limbs and a longer body than the contemporary Manx but the basic characteristics were their - deep flanks, long back legs and a sturdy body. As the breeds popularity increased in England and America, the stock on the Isle of Man dwindled. The Manx cat was an enduring symbol of the Isle of Man for centuries but today it may be dying out.

In Great Britain the Manx is no longer an accepted breed in show competitions. This is due to its genetic mutation which is thought to be very harmful to the breed. In the United States however, due to dedicated breeders the Manx thrives and is very healthy. It competes in cat shows and is a very popular breed. The size of the Manx cat has increased and the short-backed, broad-chested, stocky cat has become the desired type. The Manx are very social, get on well with other pets and with children. They are robust, lively, active and great hunters.

According to tradition, the Manx cat was the last animal to enter Noah's Ark. The pair insisted on having one last mousing trip before they went aboard. As the rains began to fall more heavily, they rushed out on to the Ark but their tails were caught and cut off as Noah shut the doors behind them. This is why Manx cats to this day have no tail.

Why Everyone Should Have a Cat



Cats make great pets. They make better pets than gorillas, anyway. Can you imagine a cat eating a banana and swinging from the shower curtain and beating its little chest and making faces at strangers? And cats certainly are better pets than hippopotamuses. Cats don't spend all day in the bath tub with just their noses above water. And they don't have great, ugly mouths with only two great ugly teeth, They have cute little mouths, with sharp little teeth in them which they use only when provoked or when they just feel like biting you.

Who can argue that cats are not better pets than turkeys? Cats do not strut and look goofy and gobble. Cats peep and they meow and they sing like old ladies, but they never gobble. Cats are better pets than porcupines, for example, and moles and woodchucks and squirrels, all for reasons too obvious to mention.

Ditto for lions and tigers and elephants and three-toes sloths and polar bears and snakes and big things that go crunch in the night.

And don't forget wolves and buffalo and brown bears and pumas and donkeys and certain rabbits named Gus. I think that only leaves scorpions and all bugs and birds and everything else we have not named. And dogs.

About dogs. I wouldn't give you an old box of Milkbones and six pieces of panda poop for the finest dog that ever lived. But I would kill for a little cat.



The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club 55th Show Knocklyon Community Centre - 5th October 2008



The Siamese and All Breeds Cat Club held its 55th Championship Show on 5th October 2008 at the Knocklyon Centre, Dublin 16. We had a magnificent entry of 122; the largest entry for several years, and it was a great treat to see so many different breeds of cat – including some very handsome household pets!

The Club extends our most grateful thanks to our judges; from England, Mrs Shirley Bullock, Mr Steve Crow, Mrs Rosemary Fisher and Mrs Joyce Price. Just moved to Ireland was judge Caroline Wren and, because the entry was unexpectedly high, we were lucky enough to have Brega Webb step in to do some of the miscellaneous classes.

Our Best in Show Non Ped was Ms Nutley's striking BEN, a long haired white male; our over all best in Show pedigree was the stunning Egyptian Mau kitten ACCLAIM CLEOPATRA, owned and bred by Carol Irvine.

One of the little 'extras' that we like to put on at SABCCI is the most popular cat competition (pedigree & non pedigree), which is voted on by the public. For the first time ever, both the Best in Show cats were also the winners of the most popular cats!

I always think running a Show is a bit like a duck – gliding along quite smoothly on top (we hope) and paddling like mad underneath, so -

My most grateful thanks to Gloria Hehir and Tony Forshaw for all the help and advice, I couldn't have done it without them. But also a big thank you to everyone involved; especially the committee who weren't just supportive but also came along to help with the set up of the Show on the Saturday; you have no idea what a difference this makes! My thanks of course to the judges, stewards and table workers, who do so much, but mostly to you, the exhibitors, without whom there would be no Show.

Ronnie Brooks (Show Manager)

SABCCI Results – 5th October, 2008 Show

Best Persian - Lisabel Galaxy, Exotic kitten owned & bred by Mrs E McCarthy

Best Semi-Longhair – Ch Ishcus Dancing Onsilver, Maine Coon, owned & bred by Mrs. PS Saville

Best British Shorthair – Sliabh Nasty Nic, Cream, owned & bred by Mr JM O'Sullivan

Best Foreign – Acclaim Cleopatra, Egyptian Mau kitten, owner & bred by Ms C Irvine

Best Burmese – Backchat Molly Bloom, Tortie kitten, owned & bred by Mr & Mrs K Taylor

Best Siamese - Not Awarded

Best In Show Pedigree

Acclaim Cleopatra, Egyptian Mau kitten, owner & bred by Ms C Irvine

Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Ben, all white long hair, owned by Ms B Nutley



Inbred Pedigree Cats Suffering From Life-Threatening Diseases & Deformities

Cats bred with certain physical characteristics, such as flat faces, small legs, are at increased risk of getting cancer, kidney disease or joint problems.

Although the issue of inbreeding in dogs has received widespread publicity - and led to the BBC pulling out of last year's Crufts dog show - animal welfare groups believe that cat lovers are largely unaware of similar problems in feline breeds.

The RSPCA, PDSA and Feline Advisory Bureau are now highlighting the issue to try to put pressure on cat breeders to eliminate the deformities which cause suffering.

The body responsible for registering pedigree cat is so concerned about the problem it has decided to look afresh at its rules which govern breeding.

Sean Wensley, senior veterinary surgeon at the PDSA, said; 'These are genuine welfare issues and the cats are suffering from these conditions. We need a combined effort between breeders doing more to screen out genetic problems and owners to learn more about these problems.'

As with pedigree dogs, cats are bred selectively to exaggerate various physical characteristics which are considered attractive, such as length - or absence - of fur, the size of animal's legs or the shape of its skull. The animals can be sold for more than £800.



Among the breeds worst affected by health problems are Persian cats - one of the most popular types in the UK - which have been bred to have a flat face, causing them breathing difficulties and bulging eyes, which weep and need to be frequently wiped by their owners. Male Persians are also prone to a condition which means one or both of their testicles stays in the body. As a result, the animals are more likely to develop cancer.

One breed, the Scottish Fold, is prized for a genetic defect that causes the animal's ear to bend forward but which also causes cartilage problems elsewhere in its body.

Claire Bessant, chief executive of the FAB, said; 'We're speaking out now, because we want to learn lessons from what happened to dogs. We've got to try and put some pressure on breeders not to create extremes and to think about the welfare of cats as a species. We should be very vigilant because we have pushed some of the breeds too far.'



Mark Evans, the RSPCA's chief veterinary advisor, said; 'For as long as animals have been kept domestically humans have bred them selectively for function and appearance. Dogs are perhaps the most obvious pets affected but similar issues affect cats.'



There are health problems now associated with most breeds. The most popular breed in the UK, the British shorthair, is prone to kidney disease which causes death. The almost hairless Sphynx cat, which is becoming increasingly popular, has been bred since the 1960's from a genetic anomaly in the Devon Rex, another breed. Burmese cats can suffer from pain around their face which can lead them to scratch themselves. Siamese, another popular breed, are more likely to develop a type of lung cancer.

Mark Johnson, from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, added; 'There are cats being bred to be more and more extreme and it could lead to long term problems. We are liaising with the cat-breeding fraternity and are advising. At the moment, our concern is that they need to be wary about this.'

Earlier this month, the genetics committee of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF), the body responsible for registering pedigree cats, met to review breed guidelines. The council's chairman, John Hansson, said; 'All the breeding policies are being reviewed now. We are looking at whether policies need to be more restrictive. I always think they could be tightened up further, and that is why we hold these meetings. I can't pretend there are not problems because that would be naïve. But we are monitoring things to control them where possible. We screen against problems where possible and we are not complacent.'

The council refuses to register some breeds, including the Munchkin and Scottish Fold, because of health concerns.

Source: English Telegraph.co.uk site - 15 March 2009

Tarcan

Tarcan, my Birman, was bred by Jane Rutledge. His great great great parent had the grandiose name of Champion Attimore Tanglepaws Tor and was the top Birman adult for three consecutive years in the UK in the early 1880's.

Tarcan's sire was Airvally Tarquin and his Dam was Giltspur Candytuft who was bred by Margaret Kelly. Margaret of course is well known in SABCCI circles as she bred Birmans and was the owner of the magnificent champion Bramble. Giltspur Candytuft passed on to the Rutledge family as a kitten and is Tarcan's mother. Helen Rutledge, a cat lover since childhood, gave me Tarcan as a present

I only showed Tarcan on one occasion at the SABCCI show in the RDS when he was a few months old and he did very well. As I did not intend breeding from him, I had him neutered and he has lived a charmed life ever since. He always had perfect manners and would never push another cat out of the way to be first at the plate of food. He was never shy and was always socially at ease with both humans and other animals. Croppy, his sister who was a rescued feral kitten from The Croppies Acre on Wolfe Tone Quay often gave Tarcan a bash on the face as she passed him. He never bashed her back but just lifted his paw in self defence! Had he been human, he would have been the perfect gentleman!



Tarcan also has what is termed as 'style'. It is something that you cannot buy or acquire - you are born with it. He would never just walk down the garden like an ordinary cat but his walk resembled that of a renaissance nobleman; it was a kind of a slow deliberate swagger. Often he would pause, turn his head and just check to see if I was watching him.

If ever there was work being done on the house he had to be kept locked in a room out of harm's way as his curiosity could lead to trauma on a grand scale. Onetime, he disappeared under new floorboards which were being laid down; I could hear him underneath them quite a way from where he had entered. I thought the entire floor would have to be removed to retrieve him. Eventually he surfaced.

Tarcan will be 22 on his next birthday. Is this age a record for a Birman?

Vivian Igoe



Answers to Cat Breed Quiz on page 9

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C

7



Cat is Not a Dope Addict; She is Catnip Appreciative

News Flash - Cats In The News

100 Year Old Cat Gets Letter from The Queen - A cat in Windermere, Cumbria has received an honour that no other cat has ever received - a letter from the Queen. In recent years stories have started to emerge showing a more personable side to those at the palace, but this astonishing break from protocol has to be the best yet. Amazing as it sounds, Flook the Burmese has reached the grand old age of 100 - Although it must be pointed out that we're talking cat years and in human years that is roughly 23.



Owner Chris Evans wrote to Buckingham Palace with a somewhat tongue in cheek letter letting them know about Flook's imminent birthday.

Evans says he really never expected a reply, but shortly before Christmas a letter arrived, signed by the Queen herself, congratulating Flook on her longevity. 'when I got the letter from Buckingham Palace I nearly fell over.' he said.
Press June 2008

Big Time Cat Burglar Frankie - Some cats have a nasty habit of bringing dead mice into the house but this naughty pet enjoys turning up with cuddly toys.

Frankie has his owner in a flap - after bringing home 35 teddies and fluffy animals in the last year. Julie Bishops reckons the two and a half year old puss is swiping the toys from homes in the neighbourhood but cannot think why or how he does it.

'He's been going out of the house and coming back with all these toys for pretty much as long as he's been allowed out. Frankie looks very pleased with himself when he comes in with these presents. Sometimes he goes out and ten minutes later he's back with something. They're all soft toys for cats I think, although I could be wrong. About 15 of them are all the same leopard.' said Julie.

Frankie does not play with any of the toys but just dumps them in the living room. In the past year alone his haul has included teddy bears, cuddly leopards and giant squeaky beef burgers. And it is unlikely someone is giving the toys to him - the cat burglar has also come home with a range of old socks, nappy sacks, half eaten beef burgers and chips - as well as the traditional dead mince and birds. One October he stole two green witch's heads, presumably from a Halloween party.

His owner said 'I think he must be sneaking in through people's cat flaps and then taking the cuddly toys and animals. Frankie is quite independent and comes in and out of the cat flap all through the day and night. But I'd be interested to find out what's happening when he goes out.'
Metro - Dec 2008

Cats With Prisoners - Prisoners in Bang Kwang penitentiary in Thailand have found comfort and companionship with a group of local cats. The inmates are serious offenders and many are serving life sentences (30 or more years). As a result of facing such an enormous amount of time in incarceration, prison staff have noticed that many inmates suffer from depression and anger, especially as most inmates families stop visiting after a few years.



The prison, located in eastern Thailand, has long been home to a community of semi-feral cats. After countless attempts by the prison guards to separate the cats from the prisoners, they have allowed them to interact freely.

'They have always been around with us and prove to be amazingly comforting to the inmates', said one of the prison wardens. 'With these cats around, inmates with brutal crimes such as murder have reduced much of their aggression and become gentler' the warden continued.

One of the inmates, a former gunman, mentioned; 'when I first arrived here, I was very edgy, so full of worries and bad tempers rushing in and out. But when I began raising and playing with these cats, my mind grew calmer.'

The cats are now looked after and fed by the inmates under the supervision of the guards.

Press July 2008

A Quiz on Cat Breeds

1. What type of cat is extremely rarely male?
A) Russian Blue
B) Sphynx
C) Calico
D) Angora
2. Which Cat has curly fur and curly whiskers?
A) Persian
B) British Shorthair
C) Cornish Rex
D) Russian Blue
3. What is the weird feature of the Scottish fold?
A) Folded ears
B) Folded tongue
C) Curled tail
D) Paws that always fold underneath itself
4. What type of cat has no tail?
A) Ragdoll
B) Manx
C) Rugmuffin
D) Maine Coon
5. What is the Japanese Bobtail a symbol of?
A) You will never get sick
B) Bad fortune
C) Good fortune
D) Two more years until you die



Answers on page 7

Some Dangers For Cats In The Home

Remember to cat-proof your home – keep out of ‘reach’ any materials that may look enticing to play with, but which will cause harm if swallowed, such as elastic bands, paper clips and untied string.

A cat’s paws can absorb chemicals that are used on floors. Floor waxes and cleaning solutions pose a particular danger.

Keep Aerosol sprays away from a cat and its food, as they too contain dangerous chemicals.

Being Shiny and easy to play with, coins are a particular hazard for a cat, so make sure they are not left lying around.

Fourteen Reasons To Keep Cats Indoors

1. Cats are less likely to be hit by a car when crossing the living room than when crossing the street.
2. Their owners are less apt to have fleas, fungus, feline leukaemia or feline aids than free-roaming animals.
3. Their owners are less likely to be bitten by them than free-roaming animals are.
4. When it's ten o'clock at night, their owners will always know where they are.
5. Birds will like them better.
6. Cranky neighbours will like them better.
7. They will never come home looking like something the cat dragged in.
8. It will be more difficult for people to steal them.
9. They will not get shot at.
10. They will not disappear as often.
11. They sleep most of the time anyway.
12. Their owners will not have to call all over the neighbourhood for them when it's time for dinner.
13. Their owners will not find as many dead, dying, or dismembered small animals on the doorstep.
14. They will live longer, happier lives, and so will their owners.



Answers to the quiz on page 14

1. True - Cats can see better than humans in the dark. Their pupils open much wider than ours and adjust better and faster to low light.
2. True – Dog food does not contain taurine, an amino acid found only in red meat, which is essential for proper eye and heart development in cats
3. False – Cats don’t hate water, but most of them don’t like getting wet. The breed Turkish Van loves to swim.
4. Milk is bad for both cats and kittens, It inhibits their systems from absorbing biotin, a member of the Vitamin B complex, which is essential for proper growth and development.

The Catwalk

Yoko -



Clair de Lune by Debussy

Mmm not sure I can play the next bar...if only I had opposable thumbs.

A Smith, Dublin

Tarcan & Sisters - see an older Tarcan on page 7

3 Little Birmans from School are we.



V. Ioge, Dublin

Burbonne -

Can I please, please watch Animal Planet?



G Hehir, Dublin

The Catwalk

Reina -

I've got the
X Factor!



V Labrada, Dublin

Pippin -

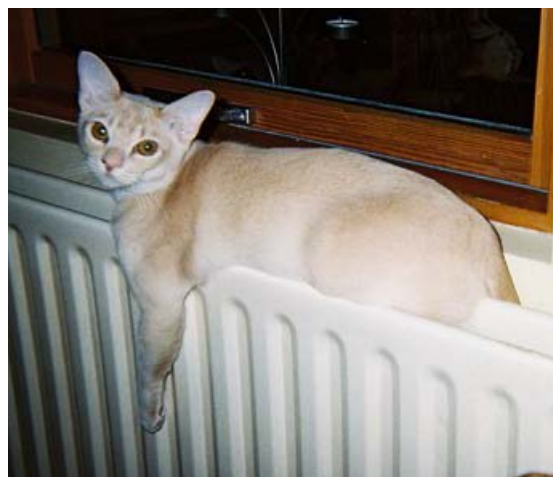
Look close into
the Flame.....
I am getting very
sleepy..



E McKerrow, Dublin

Robbi -

Just hangin'
Around.....



K Sluiters, Dublin

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them.

When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.



Gr Ch Positively Llew Glas - Lew March 2009

I am devastated to have lost my handsome British Blue stud Gr Ch Positively Llew Glas at the age of 14 years.

I First fell in love with him as a 4 week old kitten and he was the greatest addition to my breeding cats that I could have made. Lew was a prepotent stud and sired many champions both here and in the UK; he will be sorely missed. RIP old friend.

Ronnie Brooks, Cassiobury British)

MooGoo (Ardagh Jill) 1999 - 2009

We put a flower on your grave
A simple gift for all you gave
The joy we shared, the times we had
Some were great and others sad
For knowing you we were blessed
And now it is time for you to rest
Life goes on, but not with you
Our sadly missed and loved MooGoo

Gloria & Martin Hehir



Socks Clinton - February 2009



Former First Cat Socks, one of the world's most famous felines, died in February at the age of 20 after battling throat cancer since November. A stray cat rescued by the Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, Socks lived in the governor's mansion in Arkansas and later moved with the family to the White House

The black-and-white feline had lived with Bill Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie, since the Clinton's left the White House in early 2001.

A statement by the Clinton Foundation on behalf of Bill and now US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said; ' Socks brought much happiness to Chelsea and us over the years, and enjoyment to kids and cat lovers everywhere.'



Then & Now by *Betty Dobbs*

Now that we have so many welcome new and enthusiastic members in the club, it might be of interest to them to hear a potted version of the history of SABCCI and the GCCFI. The Siamese Cat Club of Ireland, to give it its original name, was founded in Dublin in 1953 and was then the only club in the country, North or South. My involvement with the club started about 1965 when I acquired my first Siamese. From its beginning the club kept a register of Siamese cats. There was no Governing body until the year 1968 when the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy of Ireland (GCCFI) came into being. The club handed over their registration records and the revenue from them to the new Council. In recognition of the part it had played, the club was granted 3 delegates to Council instead of the normal two. Gradually over the years other breeds made an appearance, to start with Burmese and Persians. In order to run All Breed Shows, the club added "All Breeds" to their original title making it Siamese & All Breeds Cat Club of Ireland (or SABCCI as we tend to call it today).

The first show run under GCCFI rules was held by SABCCI in the Molesworth Hall in Dublin. Soon that venue was too small and for a time the shows were held in the Mansion House. Then was very different, as the club members, their children and friends all helped in putting the show together. Some of us took turns at storing the pens. My mother made all the rosettes by hand for many years. Now we have the beautiful, if expensive, Richardson rosettes. Then everybody helped to erect the pens the night before, put on the drapes and all the bits and pieces that go to make a show. Club committee and members contributed all the lovely home made goodies for the catering and provided lunch for the judges. Better still, they all stayed to help clear up at the end of the day! Now we have Penning companies engaged from UK to set up our shows which places an added financial burden on the clubs, but makes a great difference for the organisers as voluntary help has dwindled over the years.

The SABCCI shows in the early days were a real family fun event, and people were not very concerned about winning and tended to bring all available cats along to be seen by the public on the day, whether they were good enough to win or not. The main thing was to be there. Then classes were much bigger, especially in the Siamese section, where you would not alone have big entries, but also have entries in all the various colours. Now it is all about gaining challenge certificates and only entering under judges who favour the breeder's "type" of cat – is there not a standard of points to cover each breed? Now very few breeders allow a novice to have a female kitten for breeding, forgetting that originally someone trusted them with their first breeding queen. Then asking a purchaser to sign a contract was unheard of, and still is by the majority of breeders. Experience over the years both here and in the UK has shown that these contracts can rarely be enforced.

Over the years the venues of the RDS and the Mansion House, where many SABCCI shows were held, became too expensive and in recent years the annual show was held in various local venues including Ballinteer school, Templeogue College, Terenure College, St.Mary's College Rathmines, the RDS for the 50th anniversary show, and Knocklyon Community Centre where it has been held in recent times. Many, many more venues were considered over the years, but it is difficult to find one where both the Saturday and Sunday are available at a price the club can afford, or indeed a place that will tolerate cats at all.

Back in those early days, money was in short supply and Members all helped with fund raising - coffee mornings, card games, beetle drives etc. The club frequently ran various events for members, such as meetings with guest speakers and match meetings, which were very popular. At one stage we were brave enough to run a 2 day seminar with various lecturers from the Veterinary College, a visiting GCCF judge, a grooming demonstration and talks from members. It was a great success and was well attended. During the late 70's the club started a Breeders' Group for the promotion of FeLV testing among the breeding stock. The co-ordinator was Marjorie Tormey, who attacked the task with great energy. As far as I recall, only the Siamese breeders took part – about fifteen in all. Each member had initially to have all cats in the household tested, neuters, non-peds as well as the pedigrees. The tests were sent to Professor Jarrett in Glasgow for analysis and the results came to the owner and then to Marjorie who co-ordinated them. When a queen was to be mated the stud owner had to see her negative test results and show the owner the same for the stud before any mating took place. At a later stage the cats were tested for Corona Virus titre and only those with zero titre were allowed in the breeding programme. Now tests do not need to go to Glasgow as our local vets can do the test in a matter of hours, and many breeders still insist on this test within 24 hours of a mating taking place. In addition, now many other more sophisticated tests are available to breeders to safeguard their kittens.

From a glance through the old catalogues, the 1978 club show, which was held in the RDS, had a total entry of 181 cats, of which 30 were non-pedigree and 50 were Siamese, so it was serious competition to win a CC or PC. The other breeds were well represented too. Now it is common to find only one entry in many open classes and it can, and does, happen that a cat can reach Grand Champion/Premier or even Tara Grand Champion without ever having

any competition from its own kind on the way. That show was, I think, our biggest entry ever. In the following years the number of cats shown, both pedigree and non pedigree, decreased, until recently when there is a slight sign of an upturn in registrations and therefore entries.

Because of the lack of shows, for some time SABCCI ran two championship shows each year, and the second show was known as The Cat of the Year Show. Can you guess how difficult it was to make up a champion with only one show a year, then two shows and no Supreme? The Cork Cat Club started about 1970, and, apart from a short break, have run shows ever since. Shows were held in other places round the country, like twice in Kilkenny, once in Birr and a few in Waterford when a club started there. For a while there was a second club in Dublin, based in Dun Laoghaire and which was called The Cat Lovers Club.

When Dorothy Halliday came to live in Ireland in the 1980's, she formed the Midland Cat Club, with which I was associated from the time it was just a thought in Dorothy's head. She went through the process of managing Exemption and Sanction shows until championship status was awarded. As well, she undertook exhibitions at Agricultural shows in the Galway area and non pedigree shows in the Limerick area. The club show was held a few times in Salthill and then for many years in the Ballroom of Hayden's Hotel, Ballinasloe. These shows were run almost entirely by the Halliday family as it was the case then, and still is, that a local committee could not be found. After many successful years the Hotel in Ballinasloe became unavailable to the Midland and the Hallidays decided to retire. Then Carmel Byrne, who had recently left Dublin to live in Killaloe, became show manager having done her training with SABCCI, and established the Kilmurry Hotel as the new home of the Midland show, and a very popular venue with exhibitors it turned out to be. From the point of view of the show organisers, hotels have one drawback in that there is almost always an event on the Saturday night so the set up usually has to take place from about 3a.m.

For the past 18 years GCCFI has held a Supreme show which has greatly increased the opportunity for cats to gain titles. It has been my pleasure to have been show manager or joint show manager for 16 of the 18 shows, and to have seen the Supreme grow. Although it was the original idea that the Supreme should move around the country and that all persons on the Council would participate in their organisation, only two Supremes have been held outside Dublin, one in Limerick with Carmel as show manager and this was very successful, and one in Athlone with Dorothy in charge, but through no fault of hers it was not supported either by the exhibitors or the public. The problem with help at the Supreme is that it is not a club and therefore has not the support of members. It has often been said that without the exhibitors and their cats there would be no shows – quite true – but equally, without the input of show managers, who incidentally forgo the right to exhibit their own cats, and the show committees there would likewise be no shows.

Prior to the 2008 Supreme, in desperation we sent a questionnaire to solicit help before we committed to having a show at all, such was the burden on the few. This brought a good response and, if nothing else, showed those who were willing to help. The questionnaire has been repeated by this year's show manager, Ronnie Brooks, and I hope that she too will get sufficient support to make the 19th Supreme a great success.

True or False Quiz

1. In the dark, cats can see better than humans.
2. Dogs can eat cat food but cats shouldn't eat dog food.
3. Cats hate water.
4. Milk is bad for cats but ok to give to kittens.

Answers on page 9



'I was a dog in a previous life, but I came back as a god'

A

**ll you have to remember is Rule 1:
when in doubt - Wash'**

Paul Gallico



KIT'S KORNER

A Quiz

- When is the cat most active?
 - During the day
 - During the night.
 - During the winter.
- You recognize a Siamese by its...
 - Blue eyes and big pointy ears.
 - Round, green eyes and small ears.
 - Yellow, small eyes and floppy ears.
- When a cat falls from a height it usually falls on its..
 - Feet
 - Back
 - Head
- It's of course not true but how many lives does one says a cat has?
 - 6
 - 7
 - 9
- Who worshiped the cat?
 - The Germans
 - The French
 - The Egyptians
- Which is true?
 - Cats can't see at night.
 - Kittens are born blind and deaf.
 - A cat is afraid of mice.
- Witches are said to have...
 - A white cat
 - A hatred of cats.
 - A black cat.
- What is a Persian?
 - A ball of fluff.
 - A shorthaired cat.
 - A longhaired cat



Jokes

How does a cat sing scales?

Do-ri-me-ow!

What did the mouse say when the cat bit his tail?

That's the end of me!

Is it bad luck if a black cat follows you?

*That depends on whether you're a man
or a mouse.*

Answers

- c - 1
- q - 9
- c - 5
- c - 4
- a - 3
- a - 2
- q - 1

The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the end of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the CATWALK. Special thanks to Betty Dobbs for her article 'Then & Now'. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending us more.

Many thanks to our sponsor **Breffni House Pets** who will be at The Supreme Cat Show on the 26th of April. Don't forget to come and pay his stand a visit.

Remember - The Supreme Cat Show on the 26th of April at the Roadstone Group Sports Club

Kingswood, City West, Dublin (see map on page 3)

Doors open to the public 12:30 to 5:00

See you all at the show! ^..^

For All Your Pet Needs

Breffni House Pets



See You on the 26th of April!



Good Luck to All Exhibitors on Show Day

**Breffni House Pets
Windy Arbour, Dundrum Dublin 14
(01) 2961339**