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FUR AND FEATHER is the official organ of the British Rabbit Council, the Commercial Rabbit Association, and the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, and is devoted to rabbits, cats, pigeons, covies, mice and ranch chinchillas.

Price 1s 2d

On sale Thursday June 12 1969

# Fur & Feather

## 21st Anniversary Show

*This is a cordial invitation to join in the celebrations with the coming of age of*

### **PUDSEY BOROUGH SHOW SOCIETY**

**at Grange Park, Calverley, Pudsey, on  
SATURDAY, JULY 12**

**THIS IS A SHOW FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY**

**DOG SHOW : OBEDIENCE TESTS : RIDING AND JUMPING COMPETITIONS : HOME-MADE  
PRODUCE AND HANDICRAFT EXHIBITIONS : TRADE STANDS :  
HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE : GYMKHANA : RABBITS : CAVIES : MICE :  
PIGEONS : BANTAMS : LARGE POULTRY**

**PLUS ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR, INCLUDING SIDE SHOWS AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS—**

Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment (by kind permission of the Commandant RAF Regiment Depot, Catterick); Free Fall Parachute Display by the 'Ravens' 4th Parachute Regiment TAVR; World Coal Carrying Championship; Fantastic Performing Parrots (the only show outside America; Bear Cubs (Birthday and Christening Party); Display by the Bill Chew Majorettes; Richmond Hill Toppers; Model Aircraft Flying Display; Demonstration by Mini-Hovercraft; Static Safe-Drop Parachute Tower; Arena Display by the Armoured Vehicles; Army Trampoline Display and Miniature Rifle Range; Royal Marines Demonstration Float; Parade of Lion Cubs; Ducking Stool (Army Youth Team); Tugs of War; Appearance of the Mystery Man; On Show—a Roe Deer, a Llama and a Boa Constrictor; Fairground and Side Shows.  
The Army Royal Land Rover (as used by Her Majesty The Queen when reviewing).

**ADMISSION: 5s (adults); 2s (children)**

Exhibitors who make entries to the value of 10s or more are entitled to apply for a free admission ticket.

Show Secretary:

C B WEBSTER, SHOW OFFICE, 153a RICHARDSHAW LANE, STANNINGLEY, PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

The full classification for rabbits, covies, mice and pigeons appears on pages 553, 555 and 556 in this issue.

## Cats and catdom

# THE BRITISH BLUE FOR THE NOVICE

PATRICIA H ABSALOM

THE BRITISH BLUE cat is outstanding for appearance, with its typically British, large round apple-cheeked head and big expressive eyes. It is a very handsome creature of good substance and lovely colour contrasts with its amber eyes and soft grey/blue coat. The coat itself is outstanding as it has a double thick texture which the other shorthairs don't possess. A really good coat always brings to mind a well kept lawn that has been cut very close, something like a blue/grey bowling green.

British Blues are a very strong, hardy breed and require no coddling. They are also extremely clean, both in appearance and habits which really makes them admirable for pets. I think one of their main attractions is that they look so presentable with the least amount of effort!

The personalities of each kitten varies naturally, but the general characteristics of the British Blue breed I think is one of slight aloofness, although affectionate, and very active, usually making excellent climbers. It does not appear to possess a great turn for speed however and many birds have cause to be thankful for this.

The British Blue seems to accept all that happens to it unquestioningly. One could say it is the strong, silent type of the cat world! It is certainly very brave and quiet if ever ill or in pain. I find this an admirable trait.

### The standard

The standard for British Blues, which the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy has given breed No 16, is:

**COLOUR:** Light to medium blue, very level in colour and no tabby markings or shadings or white anywhere (25 points).

**EYES:** Large and full, copper, orange or yellow (25 points).

**BODY AND TAIL:** Well knit and

powerful, showing good depth of body. Chest full and broad. Tail thick at base, well set, length in proportion to body (10 points).

**LEGS AND FEET:** Legs of good substance and in proportion to the body. Feet neat and well rounded (5 points).

**HEAD AND NECK:** Head broad between the ears; cheeks well developed; face and nose short (10 points).

**EARS:** Small, slightly round at tops, not large at base (10 points).

**COAT:** Short, fine and close (10 points).

**CONDITION:** Hard and muscular, giving a general appearance of activity (5 points).

As the points awarded for eyes are allotted a quarter of the total points one will see the importance of getting the good colour, both for the attraction of the cat and for winning if showing.

When they are young the kittens are exceptionally cuddly little things and one is tempted to pick them up just to feel their softness and touch the lovely fluffy fur. They strongly resemble miniature blue teddy bears, but unfortunately like everything else they have to grow up. This does not mean they lose their looks or attraction when adult, but kittens always have a special appeal of their own, and British Blue kittens are very lovely.

### Buying a kitten

Points to note when choosing a kitten:

Buy only from a reputable breeder

(they advertise frequently in FUR AND FEATHER). If at all possible collect the kitten and see the premises and the mother. Look for a sturdy, well made kitten with clear eyes, and clean ears, nose and bottom. If the premises are not up to standard, be honest and say so; better to be embarrassed for a short time than have to pay out in veterinary bills for the following year. If people speak up frequently enough, it will eventually raise the standard in the country as a whole. If breeders who do not take enough care realise they are going to lose sales through it, they will either have to raise their standards sufficiently or go out of business.

Be sure to follow the breeder's own diet sheet (which you should request) as too many new foods introduced too quickly will cause diarrhoea and lethargy. All responsible breeders will give a comprehensive diet sheet with the pedigree, transfer and inoculation certificate on completion of the sale. Ask for the diet sheet in advance to enable you to get a stock of suitable foods ready in the house.

### Housing

If the kitten is to be a pet, then naturally it will have to get used to the house as a whole, but it is still advisable to give a basket or box (a cardboard box with the front cut down is quite suitable) of its very own as a place to retire to when necessary. This will be particularly invaluable if the kitten is ever poorly, you will be better able to keep an eye on it. Place it in a quiet dark corner, it need not be obtrusive.

The same applies to the sanitary arrangements. Make sure the kitten knows exactly where to go on arrival and keep the tray clean. Cats and kittens are usually very fastidious and some will not use a tray again if it has already been used. When your kitten has been trained to use the garden it will only use a tray indoors in an emergency and this will save a certain amount of work. It is always advisable however to have a tray available overnight and when going out for the day, as kittens and cats get very distressed if they have an accident, being so clean by nature. Many people dislike the idea of tray training but generally I feel it is much better to have a kitten or cat who will use one if confined indoors for any reason, rather than one who insists on using the garden at all times and will find a convenient corner of its own choosing if not let out. You may not think it as convenient as puss does when mopping up with strong disinfectant!

### Grooming

Grooming a British Blue will not take a lot of time. You must however possess a good bristle brush, an ordinary comb and a flea comb. A good combing once daily brings the best results and a wipe over with a damp chamois leather will collect any loose hairs and give a finished look.

In the moulting seasons you will have to brush and comb frequently as they moult quite heavily and if allowed to swallow too much hair will get fur-ball and vomit it up, probably on your carpet.

When moulting, it is a good idea to give a teaspoonful of olive oil on the food once a week to lubricate and help any hair swallowed on its way.

Always check that the ears are clean and, if necessary, use a cotton bud dipped in warm olive oil to remove any wax. Wipe the corners of eyes gently with damp cotton wool (a clean piece for each eye) if any dirt has accumulated. This will rarely be needed.

### Exhibiting

If you intend to show your kitten make sure you comply with all the regulations contained in the schedule

and try to get to the show hall in good time, you can then relax and attend to puss properly. Always keep a white blanket just for showing; this will ensure it is as sparkling white as possible. Talk to your kits and offer some food but don't forget to remove it before leaving the show hall. The more time you have with your kitten, the more settled and less nervous it will become after the journey. A final grooming, check contents of toilet tray, straighten the blanket and away you go for a cup of coffee and eager appraisal of the catalogue to study form.

### After-show treatment

After your day out, you will both be tired and ready for a quiet night, but two things are necessary before you both settle down. Get a piece of cotton wool and damp it with diluted TCP and gently wipe the lips and nostrils of your kitten, then give an egg-spoonful of brandy in warm water. You will have to hold your kitten to administer this; don't expect it to drink it from a saucer although some can get addicted. These are just two little tips which I have personally found very satisfactory in preventing colds or germs after showing, especially in the winter. Puss is now ready for supper and bed and so are you.

I hope if you decide on a British Blue as a companion and pet that you will both have many happy years together and may even start breeding your own!

An excellent book for any cat fancier is The Observers Book of Cats by Grace Pond. I strongly recommend the small outlay of 6s. It is obtainable from W H Smiths, in most places.

## BRYNBUBOO Cattery

AT STUD  
BRYNBUBOO LITTLE MONARCH  
British Blue Short-hair, (1 CC)  
BRYNBUBOO BLACK TUFTY  
(Black Persian)

Our latest litter of Persian kittens will be available in early August and we are hoping to have a litter of British Blues available in early October from Brynbuboo Little Monarch and Brynbuboo Pussywillow.

All inquiries to:

Mrs PATRICIA H ABSALOM  
53 Bhylls Lane  
Merry Hill - Wolverhampton.  
Telephone: Wolverhampton 61743.

## BROADWEIR BRITISH and RUSSIAN BLUES

BRITISH BLUES:  
We are the proud owners of the lovely male  
BRYNBUBOO MAXIMILLIAN  
Shown only twice as a kitten, he won Best Short-haired Kitten at Midland Counties, four 1sts and nominated for Best in Show at Croydon.

Available shortly: Lovely Blue/Cream female kitten.

Sire, JEZREEL CHANAY.

Awarded Challenge Certificates at Midland Counties, Southern Counties and Croydon.  
Dam, BRYNBUBOO BLUE VINCA.

Vinca is a litter sister to Maximilian and was second to him at Midland Counties Show. We hope to have other kittens available from prize winning queens soon. Blue, Cream and Blue/Cream.

Mrs J A FOSTER

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