

tonkinese
BREED CLUB



tonkinfo

Summer
1995
ISSUE 11

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EDITOR: Sarah Inigo-Jones

Editorial:

Hello, surprisingly enough I am still here, and for my sins I am bashing this out over a hot computer in a very small and chaotic room known as 'The Office' and it is 91°F!!! My cats are doing impressions of languid bags of hot fur draped over cool bits of stone floor (funnily enough this same floor is absolutely freezing in the middle of winter!), so throw water bombs at me if you like, but actually I like the heat.

It is at this time of the year that we welcome many new members that have recently been converted to 'Tonkism', so a warm welcome to you and your kittens, please feel free to contact your regional advisor for advice and information or (even better) please will everyone write to me with articles etc. for 'Tonkinfo'.

Although not everyone was happy with the contents of the last issue, on the whole I have had lots of encouragement and feedback from our members. Some seem to feel that I shouldn't include controversial items as this spoils the 'coffee table' appeal. However, if you want to read knitting patterns and recipes, I would suggest a visit to the newsagent!

The cat fancy is an intriguing place and I hope to achieve a fine balance of healthy debate, articles, news, views and results, but as I am very new to editing, forgive me if I make some blunders (can I say drop a few balls?!), so if you must be controversial, please don't be mean. Meanwhile take two balls of tonkinese, any colour of your choice, cast on 26 stitches in basket stitch.....



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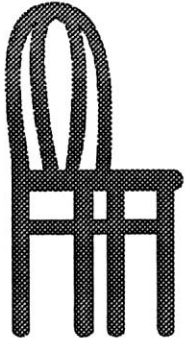
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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

(Helen Barnes)

Welcome to this edition of Tonkinfo. I hope that by the time it arrives on your doorstep the weather will have freshened slightly and you and your cats will have stopped melting. On

that note - did you know that you can use human sun-block for your cats as long as it is the gentle type formulated for babies? Use it very sparingly as they will, of course, wash it off being very fastidious in their cleanliness.

Since the last Tonkinfo was published a lot of hard work has gone into the application for provisional status for the Tonkinese breed. This work has been carried out by the Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee and special thanks must go to its chairman, Mr Keith Scruton, for his hard work at this time. The application has been submitted to the GCCF for approval and the Tonkinese BAC will, of course notify the Club as to the outcome.

There seems to be a good turnout of Tonks at nearly every show now and I believe this to be one of the reasons why our membership is increasing steadily, as more and more people are discovering and falling in love with these beautiful cats.

If anybody has any ideas for fund-raising or would like to help run a club table at their local show, please get in touch with either myself or Brenda Rawlinson who is in charge of fund-raising.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

(Mrs Linda Vousden)

Since the last issue of Tonkinfo there is little to report on the Club front except to say that there still appears to be a little confusion over the difference

between our Club and the BAC. The Tonkinese BAC (Breed Advisory Committee) is an independent body, regulated by rules drawn up by the GCCF, established specifically to deal with the development and progress of the Tonkinese breed, breeding and exhibition policies. BACs are comprised of a chairman and representatives from the committees of relevant GCCF affiliated clubs. Since the TBC is the only affiliated Tonkinese club the GCCF rules require that the Club committee is also the BAC; to avoid a conflict of priorities we made sure that the officers of the Club were not officers of the BAC. It was because you are members of an affiliated (constituent) club that you were entitled to have your say on the SoP and I am delighted that so many of you were able to return your completed SoP forms to the BAC Secretary (Mrs Carol Poole). I can now report to you that application for the promotion of the Tonkinese breed has been submitted by the BAC in time for the July Executive meeting, you will be kept informed of its progress.



Recently I've heard from a number of people who have been told they should really only be buying 3rd generation Tonks especially if they wish to breed. I've also personally overheard several people being told that we shouldn't be breeding 1st generation Tonks anymore. Ideally this would be so - but the fact is that the Tonkinese breed still needs to considerably increase its gene pool. We just don't have enough useful studs yet (i.e. the range of colours and unrelated breeding lines) to properly accommodate the vastly greater number of Tonkinese queens. Those of you who read Roy Robinson's article in the last issue will be aware of this. There is no advantage (or Kudos) to racing ahead in the generations - in fact it can be detrimental to the foundations of the breed. There is no relationship between the generation of a Tonk and the exhibition status it may achieve - in theory a 1st generation Tonk could achieve championship once the breed is eventually granted championship status. Why then are some breeders competing to provide the first 4th or 5th generation queen/stud when there are no advantages for the breed at this time? Surely it would be better for us to be moving forward together with comparable generations, a good range of clear and healthy breeding lines and the objective of laying down sound foundations for future decades of Tonkinese? YES WE SHOULD STILL BE BREEDING 1ST & 2ND GENERATION TONKS and we should continue to do so until such time as we no longer hear "I have a lovely queen, but where can I put her to stud?".

In the last issue I mentioned the subject of flat chested kittens (FCK) and asked for your help in establishing information about this in the Tonkinese, although I am aware of several breeders who have encountered this problem only one person responded. The BCC funded an in depth study into the matter as it affects a high proportion of their breed, FCKs are also believed to be increasing among Siamese. I now have Kit Sturgess paper on FCK (too late for printing here) - if you would like a copy please send me a SAE plus 50p in stamps for copy costs. It is most interesting and quite encouraging. As responsible breeders we need to be collating such information on the extent of this problem in the Tonkinese - I welcome your thoughts or any information on the matter (all of which will be kept strictly confidential) - please write directly to me: Mrs L Vousden, 'Lansdale', 12 RobinHood Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks. RG41 SLX.





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Please contribute to Tonkinfo,

Write letters, articles etc. and send them to me at 14 Hillfield Road London NW6 1PZ.

If possible please send articles and letters on a 3 1/2" disk with a printed version in at least 12 point size. (for the scanner) I promise to return all disks.

If you don't have access to a computer - send your stuff in any how!!!

We want contributions!!!

Sarah Inigo Jones

Deadline for winter edition November 30th 1995 !!!!!!!!!

Please Contribute!!!!

Meet a Member

Chris & Jo Richards , a mother and daughter duo, tell us about their Tonks



TONKAHOLICS

As a child, my family always had several cats and dogs as pets, to love and look after. At the age of fifteen I became the proud owner of a beautiful white, Persian feline. She was to be called Nina. Within two years of Nina's life with us, I was to learn, the painful sorrow one can experience with the loss of a friend. Not to death, although it felt like it, but the pain that some humans will inflict on others. Nina was a free spirit, she often visited a disabled lady, who had also fallen for her charms. The husband, asked my mother, if he might buy Nina as they were moving. I feel ashamed to say I refused, she was my cat and I loved her, I could not see then that she would have been spoilt and pampered. But I will never forget the day, I returned home from school, they moved and stole my Nina. Many years were to past before, another cat, became one of the family. My husband is a dog lover and always had said he hated cats. The children had many different pets, hamsters, parrots, turtles, rabbits, were but a few. But never a cat, until one day, my eldest daughter had pleaded with me, to let her have this kitten, she knew this lady wanted to find a home for. Kitty, a tabby Manks, was smuggled in, food, tray et al. Ritty resided in Nicola's bedroom for more than a week before I had the courage to let, Alan, my husband know about her. Needless to say she stayed. Now aged 15, she belongs to Jo, as Nicola who is asthmatic is unfortunately allergic to cats.

Jo had never felt that Ritty, belonged to her totally, she always scanned the for sale signs looking for a Siamese. The time was right to buy a new member of the family, but no cats available in our area, just something called a Tontines. What were these things, never heard of them, but we decided to have a look anyway. Enter one beautiful chocolate girl, called Sophie, into our lives. TO LATE, we were hooked, for life into the mystical life's of the affectionate, fun loving Tonk. Jo became devoted to Sophie and Sophie to Jo. Although Sophie entertained other members of the family, it was Jo she listened for. It was Jo she waited for. Then one day Sophie was gone. Like many Tonk's she was a creature of habit, let out first thing in the morning, for a quick tiddle, then into have breakfast. Clyde came in, {a neutered kitten [? a red Tonk] acquired from a rescue centre, shortly after we had brought Sophie, to keep her company.} But no Sophie, this was very strange as she never ventured further than our garden. After many days of searching and inquires we came to the conclusion, that Sophie had been stolen. Jo still hopes that one day her Sophie will find her way home. As many cat owners

know, no other cat can replace another. But what was this, were we to loss Clyde, as well. Clyde deteriorated making Jo and me feeling worse than ever.

Our lives were to change, was it only a year ago, our search began, for a chocolate Tonk. Many telephone calls later to very helpful people, led us to Devon, where we had been informed of a litter of kittens that would be ready three weeks later. Jo was not very interested as there were no chocolates, but we would look anyway. We both fell in love with, this beautiful little lilac tortie girl, well she was not that small, she was quite large compared with her brothers and sisters. She was like a little ball of white fluff with a lilac nose. We booked her. But if anyone was to tell me humans pick a cat, there would be wrong, all the time I was talking to Rosemary this little red thing kept biting my feet. Every time Rosemary went out the room Jo told me off. Pay attention, to what Rosemary is saying, she would say'. But this little red fella was playing for my affections. He won. Romantica Remus came home with us that day. His pet name of Jasper is very apt. After several days of trying to find a name that suited him, it was decided. Jo and I had toyed with the name of Jasper Carrot, Jasper caught sight of a wasp, before we could stop him, he was stung. That was it, it was obviously a sign. His name was meant to be Jasper. Alan, a cat hater was soon converted, often seen cuddling and talking to Jasper. Jasper and Clyde very quickly became friends, followed a month later by Kizzie as she is know to her friends.

Jo and I live on the outskirts, of a small town, called Atton, situated between Guildford and Winchester. I have been a staff nurse, working full time, on an orthopaedic trauma ward, in Winchester, for three years. Jo is a 365 trained hairdresser. When she was made redundant three years ago, she decided to go mobile. Because of the hours we work, we have been able to set a reasonable good pattern, whereby one of us is at home. The telephone is usually on the answer machine, when we are down the end of the garden. So if you ring please say who you are and we will ring back.

Our house is nearly always full of visitors, either Jo's brothers or sister visit, with their children.

After showing Jasper for the first time, we soon got withdrawal symptoms, away from the bench. Not only do we get an opportunity to show off, this superb breed, but we have met lots of very interesting people. What do we like about the people Tonk's own? Like the Tonk most of them are friendly and have out going personalities. Over the last year, our Tonk friends have taught us so much about cats. We have always been able to find an answer to a problem, by picking up the telephone, time has never seemed to matter to them. Needless to say, I have not tried ringing in the middle of the night yet.

Both Jasper and Kizzie really belong to Jo, but in March this year, my beautiful chocolate Katie joined our household. Will she be the last, just wait and see? We like all the colours, but have a special affinity with chocolates and reds.

I know our neighbours think we are cruel, to keep our cats penned in. But Jo and I know now, that it is the responsible owners that take care of their cats, keeping them safe at all times. My fiends at work, think I am absolutely crazy, to give Jasper his own centrally heated house. It has become, quite entertaining to me, to watch their bemused smiles as,

I sing the praises of the Tonk's to yet another patient, willing to listened to me, the truth is they cannot get away. It's probably just as well, that most patients only have one stay on a trauma ward. Am I really boring them to death?

Our cats own us, not the other way around, we live and work, for our babies. hence the name Tonkaholics seemed very apt for a prefix.

Chris Richards.

THE FOUR BASIC COLOURS - ROY ROBINSON

The four basic colours of cats are black, blue chocolate and lilac. That this is so can be appreciated by observing how frequently these colours recur in different breeds however much the cats may differ in pattern, coat type or conformation. Have you ever stopped to wonder how the colours have come into existence? What is their biology or biochemistry?

The original colour of the cat is the mackerel patterned tabby and all of the colours are derived gene mutation. Mutation is the biological process by which minute changes occur in the hereditary material and give rise to genetic variation. The heritable material is the chromosomes and the changes affect the biochemistry of the genes which are borne on the chromosome,

The wild cat colour is basically an agouti with a superimposed tabby pattern. Strip away the tabby pattern and what is left is agouti, as in fact is just what has happened in the form of the Abyssinian pattern. Agouti is the basic camouflaging colour of mammals and very few are devoid of it. The tabby pattern of the cat may be visualised as a supplementary pattern to aid the animal in the stalking of its prey.

If an agouti hair is carefully examined it will be found that it has a black top, followed by a narrow band of yellow, then black again which pales slowly to slate blue further down the hair until it is very light near the root. It is the combination of black top and yellow band which produces the characteristic speckled grey coloration of the agouti.

The black cat differs from the agouti in lacking the yellow band to the hairs. The hairs are black at the top but fade slowly to lighter and lighter shades of slate blue towards the roots. Since only the tops of the hairs normally can be seen on the cat, the colour appears as black. The coat has to be turned back to expose the bluish undercolour.

The black colour has come into existence because of a mutation in the gene for agouti. The mutant gene is known as non-agouti. The change in the gene has resulted in the elimination of the agouti band. Non-agouti is inherited as recessive to the original agouti gene. That is, a mating between an agouti (in the form of tabby) and a black will give agouti (tabby) offspring. These mated among themselves will give tabby and black offspring in an expected three to one ratio. Should the tabbies be mated back to black, the expectation is tabby and black in a one to one ratio. Black to black matings will give all black offspring.

Normally, the pigment granules which produce the black coloration are regularly and densely packed in the cells of the hair. However, a mutation has occurred which disrupts this regular disposition of granules. Under the microscope, it can be seen that the granules tend to occur in dense clumps, separated by spaces in which the granules are very sparse or absent. The result is a dilution of colour of the coat which to human eyes appears as a slate blue.

The responsible mutant gene is known as blue dilution and it is inherited as recessive to the gene for normal disposition of pigment granules. That is, the behaviour of the dilution gene is exactly similar to the non-agouti gene. Mating between a black and a blue cat results in black offspring but the blue colour will reappear in the second generation. Blue to blue matings will give only blue progeny. Should a mating between a black and a blue give blue offspring as well as black, this means that the black is a carrier of the blue gene.

The pigment granules are exceedingly tiny but they can be seen through the lens of a high power microscope. The granules of a black animal are ovoid in shape and dark brown in colour. However, a mutation is known which changes the colour to a light brown and, as may be imagined, this results in a change in the colour of the coat. The resultant colour is chocolate. The mutant responsible for the change is inherited as a recessive to the black colour. That is a mating between a black and chocolate will give all black offspring and these mated among themselves will give black and chocolate offspring in an expected 3:1 ratio. The mode of inheritance is exactly similar to that of non-agouti or blue dilution as described above.

So what will be the outcome if the light brown pigment granules are clumped by introducing the dilution gene. The answer is the lilac, a colour which is certainly bluish but now with a brownish tinge. The recombination of genes is fundamental in heredity and in the present case can be easily effected by mating a blue with a chocolate. The F1 will be black and, if these are mated to each other, the expected colours will be nine black, three chocolate, three blue and one lilac.

To summarise; the black colour is produced by a gene which removes the Yellow band from the agouti hair to produce the self colours. Without further genetic change, the colour will be black. However, the blue colour is produced by a gene which causes the pigment granules to clump together. another genetic change results in the normal dark brown pigment granules to be light brown. The outcome is the chocolate colour.

The genes for blue and chocolate are inherited as simple recessives to black and it is an easy matter to combined these to produce the lilac. The lilac colour is a chocolate in which the light brown pigment granules have been clumped. Any person who is versed in elementary genetics can easily foresee how the colours will find their way into the various breeds of cats, including the Tonkinese.

CORD INFECTION AND KITTENING TIPS.

Problems of kittening:

I think that the worst worries of kittening are whether the queen will bite the umbilical cord too short and can the cords become infected by the queen. All cats carry disease in their mouths so although it is natural for the queen to bite the cords, there is a 10% chance that she may infect her kittens. As it normally takes 2 or 3 days before it becomes noticeable that the kitten is ill, infection can set in quickly and will turn to septicaemia and kill the kitten.

The signs to look for are; wetness around the chin and exceptional lethargy. As I have had this happen to a litter, I know just how heartbreaking it is. I always try to be with my queens when they give birth but of course this is not always possible. The variation of gestation length (usually 63-65 days) can catch you out. In this instance my queen, at 62 days, had already had 6 of her litter when I went in the kittening room to check her at 7am! The 7th. was on it's way, so once the afterbirth had popped out, I broke the cord and dabbed a little wound powder on the end to stop infection. (Savlon baby antiseptic works well too!) Because the other 6 kittens were settled, I decided not to disturb them and so their cords were not treated. The six kittens I did not treat died shortly after; I had a post mortem done, and my vet told me they died from cord infection. It is better to be over cautious than risk any infection!!

It is so important to be with your cat when she kittens, especially when she is a maiden queen. One of my girls had been pushing for about 20 mins (it seemed like forever!) when I noticed it was a breech birth and only one back leg popped out. I had to try to push the foot back into the vulva then feel for the other tiny leg so as to flick both feet out together. With a paper-towel to grip the legs gently, it is possible to pull as the queen pushes and so help the little kitten on it's way. If mum is not pushing, then don't pull at the baby as it is so easy to damage both of them. If all else fails and baby is still stuck, then I use an eye-dropper filled with oil (vegetable-oil will do) and squirt a little into the queen's vulva, thus lubricating the cervix and helping the baby slip out with ease. I strongly recommend 'Breeders Nutri-drops' as it helps the queen when she is in labour and if you have a fading kittens you can put a drop in its mouth, this will often bring about an amazing recovery!

I always have my hair-dryer handy at kittening time. A short sharp blast of hot air will often bring round a lifeless-looking kitten and shock it into breathing. A large washing-up bowl with a hot-water bottle in and covered with a blanket is ideal to pop the kittens in whilst mum is still having more. Then if she struggles about too much there is no danger to the babies and they can easily be popped back in with her if she frets. Warmth is so important for your precious new babies. I always dry them off with kitchen towel and shake them to get rid of any fluid from the lungs, nose

and mouth and then keep them warm!! Don't forget to count the placentas, if one remains in the queen she can easily become infected.

Just one more point; when it is all over, go and have a large whisky, vow never to do it again and then relax!! When you see those beautiful babies snuggled up to their mum you'll soon break that vow!

If anyone would like any help or advice please contact me. Sometimes it is a comfort just to know there is someone at the end of the 'phone especially for your first litter. Good luck to you all.

TAJENS TRICIA JENKINSON 0181-943-0067.

Tonkitu

Tonkinese

& Burmese

KITTENS READY MID- OCTOBER

from:-

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THE TOP MERIT WINNING TONKINESE

3rd Generation

&OAKVIL TEMPURA 9 MERITS

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SIRED BY: - Coomakista ACE of Hearts

(Murphy)

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FOREIGN BREEDER OF THE YEAR - 1994

(Mrs Linda Vousden)

Burmese, Siamese and Tonkinese belong to the genetic colour-conformation group which is often referred to as the Himalayan group, the amount of body colour is controlled by albino genes which inhibit the making of pigment when the body temperature is above 98 Fahrenheit. From 4 weeks of age a cat's usual temperature is between 100.4 F and 101.3 F but at its extremities (the facial mask, ears, tails, legs and in entire males the testicles) the temperature drops to about 96° F so here the fur is more heavily pigmented than the body.

When referring to the Tonkinese cat books may make the confusing flat statement that a mating of Burmese to Siamese will produce Tonkinese whereas a mating of Tonkinese to Tonkinese will produce Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese - without explaining that what they are talking about is the variance of coat-pattern. Several breeds such as the Somali, Balinese and Rex have a variance of coat-conformation (texture and length of the coat) - the Tonkinese has a variance of colour-conformation (the distribution of coat colour, generally known as the coat-pattern). The only difference between a Tonkinese and a Tonkinese variant is the coat pattern and its related eye colour.

Tonkinese breeders know that first generation kittens (those resulting from a Burmese to Siamese mating) will all be Tonkinese with the tonkinese coat-pattern as they have the genotype (cbcs) which provides the breed with its special colouration and thus its breed identity .

The Tonkinese is a classic example of inherited genes with incomplete dominance, generations beyond the first generation also have the genotypes for Burmese (cbcb) and Siamese (cscs) coat-patterns so that, averaging over a number of litters from a Tonkinese to Tonkinese mating you could expect half of the kittens to be Tonkinese with the tonkinese coat-pattern one quarter of the kittens to be Tonkinese variants with the burmese coat-pattern (TKBUVA) and one quarter of the kittens to be Tonkinese variants with the siamese coat pattern (TKSMVA). For further details of the Tonkinese genetic make-up I recommend that you read Roy Robinson's article in the Tonkinese Feature in CATS (issue 682).

(Note: the abbreviations TKBUVA and TKSMVA are those which are now used by the GCCF when registering Tonkinese with variant coat-patterns)

Kittens from a Tonkinese mated back to either of the parent breeds will also be first generation but in this case half of the litter would, in theory, be expected to have a variant coat-pattern. Kittens from a Tonkinese variant (TKBUVA) mated with a Tonkinese variant (TKSMVA) would, again theoretically, all be expected to have the tonkinese coat-pattern but a mating of a Tonkinese variant to like Tonkinese variant (e.g. TKBUVA to TKBUVA) has no purpose since the resulting kittens can only have the coat-pattern of the parents.

Of course from litter to litter these may vary - nevertheless (assuming that you are breeding according to the Tonkinese registration policy) all of the kittens will be

registered as Tonkinese. Tonkinese with variant coat-patterns are placed on the Reference register and are not eligible to compete in cat shows but all three coat-patterns are recognised and are of value within a well thought out breeding-programme, the use of Tonkinese variants of good type from parents with a good coat-pattern will avoid the necessity of back crossing with the parents breeds in order to correct coat-pattern

As Tonkinese kittens are born pale in colour it may take several weeks before an experienced breeder can be reasonably sure what coat-pattern and colour their Tonks are going to be and it's not unknown for eye-colour and coat pattern to take up to two years to mature. As you know when seen in natural light the Tonkinese eye colour is ideally green/blue or blue/green; in Tonkinese variants the eye colour tends to have more yellow pigmentation with a burmese coat-pattern and clear blue eye colour (i.e. no other pigmentation present) is indicative of a Tonkinese variant with a siamese coat-pattern. Finally I would say that the oft repeated statement 'Tonkinese will never breed true' is misleading - there will remain three coat-patterns and enthusiastic Canadian and American Tonkinese breeders have, with over thirty years of continuous proper type (head and body conformation) selection, proven that the type breeds true.

LETTERS - NEWS AND VIEWS



I have had a great letter from Kathy Wilkinson, one of our newer members, who has a wonderful selection of feline friends and is wholeheartedly embracing the Tonkinese cause and entering the world of showing, however she has posed so many questions on just exactly how does she go about showing that I have tried to write a 'How to do It' article (see p19). Kathy's last question was "is it possible to find someone to plot my cat's show career and just let me sign the forms and provide the cheques?!!" Answer NO!! half the fun of showing is working out just what exactly is going on anyway!!! Good luck with your 'Show career' Kathy, hope to see you and 'Bruno' very soon. Kathy also sent me the results from the Maidstone & Medway - see 'Show Report'

TONKAHOLICS (Chris Richards)

We must admit to the fact, that when Romantica Remus [Jasper to his friends] first joined our family, Jo and I, knew very little about our splendid breed, even less about owning a stud cat. Over the last year we have gained a lot of knowledge, both from literature and our Tonk friends. From this we have acquired a definite view on how we would like to breed a new line of Tonkinese. However above everything else our cats are part of our family. We intend to have four queens, two we already own, the next two hopefully to join our family within the next year. Romantica Bianca [Kizzie to her friends] is our little lilac tortie girl, who is due to have her first litter of kittens, at the

end of August, sired by our own stud Jasper. Romantica Tiramisu, will continue to be shown on the bench, until after the supreme this year, when she will then be mated, at a year old, by a delightful chocolate boy we know. Hopefully about this time I will have found an unrelated little red girl, to add to our existing family, who will be shown until she is a year old, when she will be mated with our beautiful Jasper. Then later next year we hopefully will have found another little chocolate girl, unrelated to any of our family or the delightful chocolate stud we have in mind for her. Jo and I hope to be able to breed a totally different line, which hopefully we will be able to do. We do not intend to inbreed, hopefully therefore, producing a healthy strong new line. I personally feel inbreeding could impede our beautiful breed and hinder the progress we are striving to make. One of the reasons humans do not inbreed, is to try to prevent genetic faults, the other being obviously that it is illegal. Whilst not being illegal, in animals, genetically is it right.

We intend to show our queens for six months of every year, until we get through to c c level, when we will step aside for other felines. The remaining six months will be to have a litter of kittens and a rest be for showing again. Jo and I are both concerned about the number of stud cats around [have we got enough?]. Having spoken to several people I think this may be a generalised concern. Some very good

studs are not at open stud, thus restricting the number of stud cats available even further. We have had to learn the hard way, [by experience] about the keeping of a stud cat, therefore can appreciate why there are so few studs around. I feel if we our to promote are breed we need to use all the stud cats on an equal bases. I know too, that this is difficult, due to the vast distances some queens have to travel and also the colours of the studs available. I also know Jo and I are guilty of having not only a red stud but a stud that is very at limit, mainly due to the fact that so many cats are related. I have given a lot of thought about our stud's colour, due to the fact that there seems to be an imbalance of red and creams to any other colours. Jo and I love our cats dearly but want to do what is best for the breed, apart from painting Jasper a different colour at the moment the problem remains Having the facilities to have only one stud cat, I feel I should have a base colour, maybe chocolate. This could be done by either keeping one of Jaspers kittens and then having Jasper neutered or buying a new kitten in. But as yet have not come to any conclusion. I would be interested to hear anybody's views on this. You may be wondering how I am going to cope with four calling queens for six to eight months of the year. I do intend to put them on the pill, I know some people have had problems with this, but so far it has worked for us.

More Aspects of life with Beryl (the Peril???)

Beryl was 18 months old and a Red Tonkinese maiden queen!

Who wants to give up a successful career and settle down to raise a family? Not Beryl!! The bright lights and the glamour are far more her style. That was until her 'human' intervened. Time to arrange a suitable marriage and being totally 'colour prejudiced' it had to be with one of her own race, but a 'Redskin' from another tribe. Approaches were made to the Chief of the Ekhati tribe, the peace pipe was puffed and a suitable dowry was agreed.

November came and went, no call from the 'maiden'! December was on a direct heading to Christmas and, realising a call on Christmas Eve would cause the maximum, major & massive destruction to the household, the young person CALLED!!!

Christmas Eve was spent driving up and down the M4 & M5, together with the entire population of the West Country, to collect the young Ekhati (very) brave. At this time he was not a full 'Warrior!' Beryl chose not to unwrap her 'Christmas present' for three days whilst her paw was held, and general calming utterances were made. Christmas lunch was shared between the three of us. She ducked, dived, flirted and teased. The young brave was very courageous and almost conquered the maiden, but sad to say the whole 'affair' was a failure and the young Redskin returned to his tribe and bonked everything in sight and was rewarded with the title 'Warrior', and a brief visit to the Witch doctor for the snip!

On to the second arranged marriage. The normal courtesies were duly observed and agreements made with the Tribal Chief to marry Beryl to a 'big' Redskin warrior of the 'Tajens' tribe.

The young maiden was duly taken to the tepee (very luxurious) of the Redskin warrior and upon arrival stopped calling! This was going to be a long visit. She crossed her legs and firmly dug her beautifully trimmed nails in and with a distinct purr refused to cooperate. We all know what curiosity can do to a cat and the maiden was no exception. She got curious and the warrior 'killed' off her chances of remaining in her virginal state!

She returned to her own family and engaged in lengthy discussions with the wise 'grandma' of the Tonkitu tribe. One morning she was found in the office, (must have been locked in for a couple of hours,) sitting on the floor surrounded by some cat magazines with an article exposed; subject- 'Re Absorbition' or in human terms. 'Unwanted Pregnancies'. Oh, what a good idea.....

They say third time lucky...and that depends on your viewpoint!

Murphy comes from the Irish Redskin tribe of Coomakista. He crossed the sea as a young brave of 14 weeks and lay down his blanket in North Devon. Beryl has known him since his arrival and always viewed him as a playmate, friend and subordinate. A kindred spirit, Red, footloose and free! A trusted member of the family!

Grandma had plans. She knew the ropes. Eight months and still a 'brave', no scalps earned, time to teach him a thing or two. Nothing better than a bit of fresh young blood, and a game of 'TonkyBonky'!! Murphy was quick to learn and is now a fully fledged 'Warrior' with two scalps. The young maiden didn't have a chance and thoroughly enjoyed herself playing the new game which her trusted friend taught her. Not for her the confines of an appropriate venue but on a rather precious oriental rug in the lounge, in front of the fire with one eye on the television!

In true style, and appropriately living up to her name, she fell to Murphy's charms on Mayday and will suffer the consequences on Independence day!! Days to remember, just like the Christmas she helped the family enjoy!!!

Beryl, otherwise known as Wong Mei and Grandma, otherwise known as Oakvil Tempura are currently to be seen with very satisfied smiles and probably planning their

TONK'S THE NEXT GENERATION

Jasper is my little boy's name.
 We wanted a Tonk and home he came
 Not because we wanted a red.
 But because he nipped our toes instead.
 That just made us love him more.
 And now it's him we all adore.
 Kizzie is our lilac girl.
 Who we went to see as I aid before.
 People say we are insane.
 But it was off to Devon once again.
 Jasp and Kizzie, that makes a few.
 But we wanted 'Katie' a chocolate too!
 Paulines helped us quite a lot.
 Showing us what to do when things got 'hot'
 As it was we didn't need to intervene.
 When Jasper got started he was very keen.
 Now we are expecting kittens.
 So mum got started on those mittens.
 Dad hated cats as he once said.
 But now they sleeping in his bed.
 Tonks has changed our lives and view.
 If you knew them, they would change you
 too!!!
 Joanne Richards

Tonkinese Breed Club Stud List

This list is produced somewhere around the new year (usually in that dead part of January!). however some entries have been received since publication, as it is a long time until the next issue, brief updates of new entries may appear in Tonkinfo from time to time:

Val Chamberlain, Liskeard, Cornwall
 Tel: 01579 62241 362241

Romantica Lancelot 74b Chocolate
 carrying blue

Mrs & Miss Richards, Alton, Hampshire
 Tel: 01420 86085

Romantica Remus 74d Red Brown base
 carrying blue & chocolate.

Marillyn Wilson, Hayes Middx Tel: 0181
 476 1550

Bowmaly Unforgettable 74c Lilac

If you are really devoted to the cause the more info the better!!!!

By now those of you that have cats with 10 or more Merits should d have received a beautiful 'certificate' printed with turquoise and gold. Anyone who has won a cup or trophy form the club should also have received a commemorative certificate so that when the trophy is returned you will always have a permanent reminder. If yours has failed to appear , please write a quick note to me Sarah Inigo-Jones or Susan Vogt.

Thanks again to Kathy Williams for sending in results from the Maidstone & Medway 8/7/95. Merits to Mrs Hazel Forshaws **Ishokats Geisha Gal** 74e, Mrs S Danburys **Adinnish Spring Monarch** 74c, Mr & Mrs Maceys **Bonzer Merlin** 74c. In side classes these three cats collected Four firsts - Well done to everyone.

!!!COME ON EVERYONE SEND ME SOME RESULTS!!!!

Cat Showing for the Novice - The complete story - Part 1

There are many reasons why cat owners start to show their cats, most novices have been gently persuaded into it by the breeder of their kitten (It goes something like this"Oh yes the beautiful little Brown, Blue, Choccy, Red, Tortie, etc. The one nibbling your ear, I'm afraid I couldn't let him/her go unless they were shown once or twice")!!

In all honesty, new owners looking for 'just a pet' have an unerring ability to pick the one Fabulous Show Quality Kitten of the lot, so before I have all the breeders in the country breathing down my neck ,it is a two way street!

Anyway you have either made a conscious decision to buy a kitten to show or you have agreed to show somewhere in between falling in love with said kitten and writing out the cheque.

As a novice it is completely daunting and confusing and however much the breeder helps you , one can feel really silly phoning for the eighth time that night. Don't loose heart, all the 'professionals' started somewhere, and on your journey through this magical trip (you will have to forgive me, I enjoy showing, as long as it is OK

with the cat) you will meet some wonderful and eccentric 'Cat' people. WARNING: Showing a cat is not cheap, apart from the obvious costs of entry fees, travelling expenses, refreshments for the exhibitor(s), and a show catalogue, there are also the hidden costs, such as keeping your cat in tip top condition with the required vaccinations and veterinary check ups. There is also the fact that most cat shows have many companies selling wonderful 'cat' oriented products that just beg to be liberated back to your house!

There are two cat fancy governing boards, the GCCF (Governing Council of the Cat Fancy) and the CA (Cat Association). Most of the Tonkinese cats in the TBC are registered with the GCCF and about 95% of cat shows are run by GCCF affiliated cat clubs, so, as I don't know anything about CA shows, This is only relevant to GCCF cat shows.

The first thing to establish is that your cat is registered with the GCCF,

- the breeder is aware, and happy that you are going to show your cat
- the cat has been transferred to your name, 21 days before the date of the show,



AWARDS BOARD/SHOW REPORTS

I have had one or two calls from members, saying that they disagree with some of the entries in the last awards board, and although I have been promised some up to date records, they have yet to plop through the letter box. I have been trying to work out what to do in this section, and I think it would be a good idea to keep a 'running result' of 'Merits' throughout the year for all the cats being shown (including the name of their owner) and an annual final tally that also lists all the previous years' merits. The big stumbling block I have is lack of information, I remember a couple of AGM's ago that their were one or two extremely good lists of merit winners and although I took copies of them then, of course now I can't find them!!!(What filing system?). So if any of you sweet hearted people have these lists, or if you have the results of your own cat/s, please send them to me for a grand get together. i.e.:

	91	92	93	94	95
Miss A Delicious - Tonkalot Baobab 74 b	1	2	3	4	5

- the cat is a full Tonkinese and not a 'Variant'

To establish these fact you will need the pink form that the breeder gave you when you purchased the kitten (or posted to you later, depending on the vagaries of registering kittens). At the top of this form it has the GCCF logo,(a cats eye) and the letters GCCF, it is called an 'Application for the transfer of ownership of registered cats'. This form contains lots of information, so before you fill it in and send it off, it is a good idea to 'photocopy' it. It will have been signed at the bottom right (signature of present registered owner(s)) by the breeder, who has previously registered the litter of kittens with the GCCF, and is the 'present owner'

- Make sure it is a GCCF form, if it isn't 'phone your kittens breeder.
- Transfer the cat to your ownership by filling in both sides of the form and sending the right amount of transfer fee (currently - £6) to the GCCF, also include a self addressed and stamped postcard, this is very important as the GCCF will stamp this card when they receive your application and will return the card to you, this is the official day that the kitten is transferred to your name, although the paper work (transfer form) may take much longer to reach you, it is your proof that the kitten is in your ownership and you can then show the kitten 21 days from that date.

In the bottom right hand side box will be the 'Current Transfer Fee' there may also be other information. If it says 'NO PROGENY TO BE REGISTERED' it means that the breeder has registered the kitten on the non-active register and does not wish you to breed from this cat the

reasons for this are many and varied and I will not tackle them here. If it says THIS CAT MAY NOT BE SHOWN it probably means that you have a 'variant'. Unfortunately these can only be 'exhibited', more about that at another time.

The next thing you need to know, is where the shows are going to be held, initially your breeder will be a good source of information, and they may even have sent you your first schedule, shows are regularly advertised in the back of 'Cats' and 'Cat World', however the best thing to do is buy the annual 'Show list' of all the cat shows that are held up and down the country from the GCCF.

The GCCF show year runs from 1st June to 31st May, so, for instance, we are currently using the 1995/1996 list, which lists all the shows from the beginning of June 1995 to the end of May 1996. the new list for the beginning of June 1996 to the end of May 1997 is published in time for the Supreme show which is held mid November and is available from GCCF stalls at some of the bigger shows or directly from the GCCF office Price £3.

So now you are armed with your list of shows, it is time to choose one, it is worth remembering that your application form to attend a show, usually has to be returned to the Show Manager, or their assistants at least six to eight weeks before the date of the show so it worth applying for your schedule about three months before the actual date of the show. Send a stamped, addressed A5 envelope (all schedules are A5 size) to the show manager, who's name and address is on the show list, mark the outside of the envelope SCHEDULE REQUEST FOR ???SHOW this helps the show manager to recognise 'show' mail from personal mail, and speeds things up a

bit.

It is in your best interests to enter promptly, the show will always have a closing date, after which entries cannot be accepted, but there always the proviso of, 'or when hall capacity is reached', this means that some venues are of limited size, and only a certain number of exhibits are allowed, so that when this limit is reached the entries close, even if this is before the advertised closing date.

Just to make things really difficult before you start there are three different types of show

- Exemption
- Sanction
- Championship

and three different levels at which cats are shown

- Preliminary
- Provisional
- Championship

For your first show it is a good idea to choose one that is reasonably close to home, so that you and the kitten go through the least amount of stress as possible. Exemption shows are smaller and possibly friendlier? than Championship ones, but do not have the kudos of the bigger more established affairs. I am not going to attempt to tell you the differences now, I would end up writing a book. Suffice to say that at present the Tonkinese are being shown at the Preliminary level (with every thing to go for), and if you have a good 'Tonk' you may as well start at a championship show

So now we get to the schedule, at first glance this is complete gobbledegook, DON'T PANIC.

Sit down with nice cup of Tea and turn to the **Open** class section, right at the

beginning, it starts with long-haired section, turn the pages slowly until you get to the Foreign Section, Tonkinese are shown in the 'Foreign Section'. There are three sections, Foreign Adults, Foreign Kittens and Foreign Neuters, I will assume that you are starting with a kitten (that has not been neutered), and is between the ages of 14 weeks and 9 months old **On The Day Of the Show** you may not show a kitten that is under 14 weeks old on the day of the show, and after nine calendar months old the kitten is officially called an adult. Look down the list of 'Foreign Kittens' until you find a line a bit like this

315 Tonkinese Assessment
Kitten.....Mrs Kyper-Moore

this is the **open** class, its number (315) and the name of the judge who will be judging the class, mark this with a bright coloured pen so that it is easy to find later when you are filling in the entry form. Now continue through the schedule until you get to the Miscellaneous Classes, once again you will need the Foreign Kitten section. Here you will find a selection of classes that appear a little daunting at first, but you will soon get the hang of it, as before mark the classes for which your kitten is eligible, at the front of your schedule there is lots of information on the show in very small type, read all this very thoroughly, it include a definition of classes, and will be easily understandable after about the fourth time you have read it. If this is your first show your kitten will be a Novice, Debutante, Maiden, Non-Breeders (if you are the breeder, you don't need to read this!), Radius if you live within 25 miles of the show hall(as the crow flies), and a visitor if more than 25 miles away. Pull the entry form out from the middle of the

schedule, if there are two choose the pedigree version. Fill this form in very carefully directly from your pink transfer form, if you have received it, or the 'photocopy'. Usually your entry fee is for the kitten and its pen in the Open class and three side classes it also includes the admission of one person, Three side classes is usually enough for a first show, no good overdoing it until you are sure that you both enjoy the process, for each class you have entered the kitten will be taken out of its pen and handled by the judge and their steward. Buy a catalogue now if it is available, it will be more expensive on the day. Read all the information on the entry form carefully and don't forget to sign the form and send the cheque!! Photocopy this form then send the original to the address on the entry form, also include a stamped addressed postcard, so that your entry acceptance can be confirmed, and a copy of the current general Standard Of Points (SOP) for the Tonkinese (available from Linda Vousden). That's all there is too it!!! I have run out of time and space so watch out for Part 2 in the next 'Tonkinfo'.

The Tonkinese Breed Club Club Services

'Tonkinfo' - Published three times a year, Spring, Summer and Winter.

Advertising Rates:	Full Page	£3
	Half page	£2
	Quarter Page	£1

Photos and Logos may be used, as long as I can get the scanner to work!
Cheques payable to the 'Tonkinese Breed Club' Lost & Found ads -Free
Send to Editor.

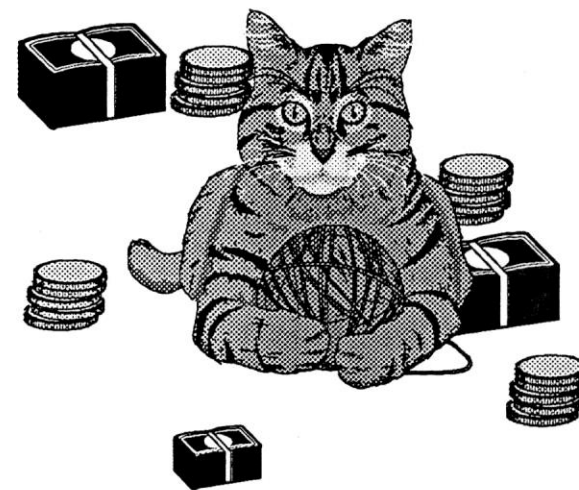
Items for sale

Full General SOP	.30p + SAE
Single faced SOP (please state Breed No.)	.20p + SAE
Stud List	£1 + SAE A5
Breeders List	.50p + SAE A5
Club Badge (Pink, Turquoise or Lilac)	£4.50 + .50p P&P

Available from the Secretary - Linda Vousden

TONKINESE BREED CLUB RESCUE APPEAL

We need to raise £500.00 for a cat run to temporarily house the 'RESCUE CATS'



Thank you to those of you who have already contributed. But!!! We still need a lot more money. Please send your cheques and contributions to The Tonkinese Breed Club and mark them on the back "TBC RA" to make it clear that it is a donation for the Rescue Appeal and send to the Club Treasurer (Mr. Mike Vousden , 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks. RG41 5LX.)