

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BREEDERS

I'm sure you are aware that there have been significant changes to the laws regarding pet breeding this year. From 1st October all breeders who are considered to be breeding as a business will have to be licensed by their local authorities. The difference between a business breeder and a hobby breeder is not clearly defined; please look carefully at your breeding in case you need to take action.

To help our breeders, the Committee has been working hard to prepare information for your use, which you can now download from the TBC web site (see 'Business or Hobby Breeder?' in the 'Breeders Info' section), or send a C5 SAE to L Vousden for a print-out of these documents:

1. TBC Guidance on Changes to the Animal Welfare Act – with sections on: Background, What Does This Mean for TBC Members, How do I know if I'm making a profit?, What records should I keep?, What is the TBC's position on the new legislation?, Will the Local Authority contact me about this?, What about HMRC (the Tax Man)?, Where can I find out more?

2. Breeding Expenses Checklist – with the help of a professional accountant this guide has been drawn up to show what may be acceptable as legitimate expenses. This will help demonstrate whether or not you are making a profit - therefore whether or not you may be seen by Local Authorities and HMRC as a hobby or business breeder.

To complicate matters, HMRC are beginning to look into the possibility of undeclared profits from pet breeding, and have already visited members of the Cat Fancy. They have the right to look into records for the past 20 years if they believe it to be relevant. So again we advise you to keep clear records of your breeding related expenses and if possible compile records/receipts/bank statements from when you began breeding. If you don't have historical records, having a clear understanding of how much you spend on breeding each year would be important.

These changes will affect all cat breeders so you are welcome to share the information with friends. We are happy for anyone to link to the documents on our web site (and to collaborate on updates) so long as they acknowledge the TBC's effort in creating them and put a reciprocal link to www.tonkinese.info



Inside...

... Keeping cool in the Summer Heat
... A Heart-warming Tale
... Keeping them Safe

The TBC Committee

TONKINESE BREED CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President – Mrs Linda Vousden

Vice-President – Dr Sarah Caney BVSc PhD DSAM MRCVS

CHAIRMAN: Dr Julia Craig-McFeely
Tel: 01865 241323 julia.cmcf@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs Jo Sturgess

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs Linda Vousden
Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5LX
Tel: (0118) 9619444 tbc.uk@ntlworld.com

HON.TREASURER: Mr Mike Vousden
Lansdale, 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX
Tel: (0118) 9619444 michael.vousden@btconnect.com

Ms Sarah Brooke Mrs Hilary Goodburn
Mrs Jacqueline Leah Mr Gerry Smith
Mrs Lizzi Smith Mr Mike Smith

Delegate to GCCF Council – Dr Julia Craig-McFeely
Rescue Officer – Mrs Valerie Chapple val.chapp@btinternet.com
Tonkinfo Editor – Miss Esther Anstice eanstice@gmail.com



In this issue:

Page 2: Honorary Secretary's Report

Page 16: Keeping Cats Cool

Page 4: Chairman's Message

Page 18: A Heart-warming Tale

Page 6: Keeping them Safe

Page 20: GCCF Advice
for New Cat Owners

Page 11: Essential Tonkinese Research

Page 22: Tonkinese Breed Club
Show Photos

Page 12: Keeping a Cat at Stud



HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT



Hi Folks, I do hope that no-one is suffering too much in the dry, arid, suffocating, desiccating, breath-stealing, searing, dehydrating weather ... sorry, bit carried away ... especially your cats and kittens. Mine are draped around the house very artistically and keep looking at me quite accusingly. You'll find a few tips on keeping your cats a little cooler later in this issue.

I am sorry to inform you that our Club President, Mrs Diana Harper, has stood down as she is pretty much retiring from the Cat Fancy. I'm know we'll all miss her sure and kind handling of our cats at the shows; and I'm equally sure we all wish her a well-deserved retirement. The good news is that Diana is still a Club member.

So, I am also informing you that I was honoured to be nominated and approved as the Club's new President. I've certainly seen some Tonkinese history since I joined the new Tonk fraternity in 1991.

This particular issue of Tonkinfo, is necessarily biased toward our breeders and the difficulties that we are facing for the future of the breed – but only if we don't work together to support it more. Nevertheless, I hope all of you find it interesting and useful - and many thanks to Editor Esther for another good issue.



TONKINESE BREED CLUB

15th CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

8th December 2018

Bracknell Leisure Centre

(Sharing with the National Cat Club Show)



SEE THE ADVERT

ON PAGE 21 FOR MORE DETAILS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It hardly seems like a year since I was writing my last Chairman's message—perhaps a sign of aging, or maybe a sign of how much has happened and in such a short time in the cat fancy. I'm really glad to still be your Chairman, and hope I'm doing a good job. I continue to enjoy being part of the Committee—it's really fun (believe it or not) because you're working with a group of people who are as passionate about your cats as you are, but who also care deeply about the future of the breed and the husbandry of this special family of cats. If you have lost a Tonkinese, you will know that it's very simple: only another Tonkinese will do—sometimes you have to wait a while because although they leave a big hole in your life, you often need time to mourn before bringing in another.

You will have seen by now our headline article about the changes both to the law and to the behaviour of the tax man. This is irrelevant to the ordinary pet owner, and will probably prove irrelevant to many single-queen breeders, but we can't be sure that even these people will not be approached and asked for paperwork to prove they have not been making a profit. I have to admit that this was quite alarming for me. I currently only keep receipts on a rather ad hoc basis—it's easy if they're online receipts, but not so easy if it's the rather vague paper receipt written by my local timber merchant for timber to build a run!

I don't think we all have to panic, but the experiences of other breeders have shown how important it is to start keeping records without delay, and I'm extremely grateful to the two Mikes (Committee members) for establishing a list of allowable expenses, and categorising everything. We have got in ahead of almost all the breed clubs in preparing this document, which is a feather in our caps, and owes a lot to Mike Smith's extensive research and our rare and very valuable position of having an accountant on our committee (Mike Vousden).

Our thanks to them, and to the rest of the committee who fed back comments and personal experience over a considerable time to help the club produce a very accurate and comprehensive set of help and guidelines documents.

Some of you may have seen the note in the last newsletter about the establishment of a fund to support the importing of cats from abroad, particularly Thailand, to support the extending of our gene pool. Many new breeds are starting in the UK, and often with a very limited view of the long term survival of a breed that may have been started from a very small number of original cats. Even if you have a large starting group, eventually you will find yourself crossing back into your own lines without regular 'infusions' of new blood.

As an example, in order to get to a 5th generation Tonkinese who has no ancestors in common, you will need 32 cats originating the line. Remember that with each generation the number of lines halves because you are mating one line with another, effectively combining the two, so the next generation up has only 16 unique bloodlines, the great-grandparents 8 unique lines, the grandparents 4 lines, and finally the parents: 2 lines: the mother and father. If you then want to mate this cat without any inbreeding you need to find a cat bred from (originally) 32 independent cats who are not in your lines. Generations refer to the number of generations from the origin cats. In the Tonkinese this may be Tonkinese cats if you're breeding higher generation, or for 5th generation cats coming from the parent breeds (Burmese and Siamese) the 32 original cats will be Burmese and Siamese pairs. So to get one litter of 6th generation Tonkinese from unrelated lines, you need 64 unrelated cats to start from. There are added complexities though. We have been talking about a 5-generation pedigree, and breeders look at that document to check that none of the names

... Chairman's Message

appears twice (or more often). The problem is that this pedigree doesn't show the parents of the 32 cats right at the back. Sometimes if you look at the pedigrees of these cats you find all kinds of duplications. CoCo and Yum-yum may look like different names, but if you look at their parents you may find they're brother and sister.

Fortunately in the UK many lines do not have this problem. One of our parent breeds is very inbred, largely because the breed advisors decided to ban imports to try and prevent the importation of cats who carried something called the Burmese Head Defect, which came from America, and had been exported to all countries by the time it was realised this was a genetic defect. It resulted in severe attenuation of the UK gene pool, so many apparently open UK Tonkinese pedigrees will have a snarl of same-name Burmese behind them. Fortunately the outcross to the Siamese mended many of the problems caused by Burmese inbreeding. However we now have a limited gene pool of Tonkinese. Importing from the USA and Europe has not helped a lot as these cats are often deeply inbred.

This is partly due to geography. England is a relatively small country, so travelling from one end of the country to another is not an unrealistic proposition if you are in need of an unrelated stud. In Europe and the USA on the other hand breeders are very widespread, and even local clusters will eventually have to look elsewhere for new lines. Inevitably when the practicalities of moving a calling queen across two time-zones in the hopes of getting a mating, then getting her back without stressing her so much she doesn't conceive come home to roost, a lot of breeders give up and cross back into their own lines. Thanks to the strong heritage of the feline species, these kittens are often fine, but within a few generations you start to see signs of the limitation of bloodlines: litters of 2 or 3 kittens instead of 6-8; kittens who look extremely similar—something many

breeders desire, but actually a sign of an attenuated gene pool. In the UK at the moment you can go to a show and see Tonkinese who look widely varying in style (called type by judges). This means that many of them won't win top prizes, because our Standard of Points—the document written to describe the ideal Tonkinese so that in 50 years we do not end up with a cat called a Tonkinese who looks nothing like the cats we have now—is very detailed and quite specific about how a Tonkinese should look. This document is our safeguard against extreme typing that is seen now in Persians, Siamese and, sadly, increasingly in the Burmese. It's one of the most important things that our committee and that of our sister club, the Tonkinese Cat Club are there to safeguard. Together we meet in a joint committee called the Breed Advisory Committee, and this group is trusted with the safeguarding of the future of the breed—you can see what I meant about the challenging and really important work that members of the committee do. It may seem boring, but it's important enough to many of us that travelling 4 or more hours on a weekend to get to a BAC meeting (and expenses are not paid!) is something we regularly do.

The inbreeding problem imported cats is what led some of us to look to the origins of our breed for new lines; the country where all of the parent cats of our breeds came from: Thailand. Cats here are less rigorously bred within a cattery system, which is what has led to inbreeding in the Western style of breeding cats. We were introduced to a wonderful cat enthusiast, an American Student living in Thailand. Nolan is as passionate as we about keeping breeds healthy and with a wide gene pool, and he has been searching out beautiful cats for us. I hope that the next time I write I'll be telling you about the adventures of bringing the first Thai stud into the UK for all Tonkinese breeders to use.

Watch this space!

Julia.

Keeping them Safe

Sarah Brooke

It's never easy negotiating with a cat over how much freedom they can enjoy. They obviously love being outdoors but you only have to visit a missing animal website to realise the huge numbers of cats who disappear every day, and to know the great heartache the animals' families will be suffering.

We've had a few homes with our menagerie of two dogs, two rescue cats and two Tonkinese. One place, in a remote, wooded spot, a long way from any road, should have been ideal. Yet within six months, one of our streetwise, London moggies had had an accident with a car, crushing his front leg. He survived and lived to terrorise the rabbit population for another six years, but I'd learnt a hard lesson that you cannot guarantee a cat's safety however quiet the location.

We now live in a terraced house with six foot, close boarded fencing around the garden, and also share our lives with two beautiful Tonkinese boys, and the rest of the gang.

As I got to know Satchmo, a real live wire, I knew I was going to have my hands full. At six months, he could open every door in the house so we had to remember to lock the outside doors and if we wanted a peaceful night's sleep, we had to barricade ourselves in the bedroom as he would hang off the door latch using all his weight, and then his

brother on the ground would put his shoulder to the door and push it open. This hugely amused their breeder, Jean Adams as one of his relatives had done the same. We also had to lock the windows especially upstairs, as the little blighters would seize the opportunity to jump onto the back extension roof, then leap on top of the fence and off they'd go.

Looking at various breeders websites, I thought I'd have a go at cat proofing the garden myself with the help of a diy friend. The plastic mesh I used was a little too thick, and with a bit of practice, the cats could walk on it. Also, I didn't manage to put enough mesh around the trees to stop them climbing. I was quite pleased with my Heath Robinson



... Keeping them Safe

attempt but realised I'd failed almost immediately when the Tonks, after trying to climb the fences, made straight for the elderberry tree at the bottom of the garden, shot up it, and just before they disappeared into next doors' gave me a pitying look that said, 'You didn't think that would keep us in, did you?'

A walk in, enclosed pen attached to the back French window seemed the best solution. It was big enough to contain a bench and small climbing frame. We have a cat flap in the wall to allow our moggies a little more freedom and things seemed to work reasonably well for a couple of years, although Satchmo was often very frustrated, swinging like a monkey from the bars of the pen.



I've often had the feeling that cats, as well as protecting their territory are also anxious to protect you, their human, and with Tonks particularly, you're not just their food source. So, with the rescues allowed out a few hours a day and the Tonk boys only allowed in the pen, Satchmo did seem sometimes a bit stressed. Eventually we decided to try to give them a little freedom during the day when one of us was in to monitor them and call them back, and surprisingly this worked quite well, cats coming home when called (well, mostly) and generally the cats seemed much happier.

Then one day, Satchmo didn't come home and with all our friends and neighbours helping, we never found him. It was utterly devastating. His brother wouldn't leave my side after that, and was desperate for cuddles. Some eight months later, Julia Craig McFeely very kindly allowed me to adopt one of her kittens, and so a companion for us and especially for Duke, our other boy, came to join us and this time I was determined to do things properly.

I asked a garden cat proofing company to install their fencing and although it was very expensive, I would do it again. Several trees and shrubs grow around the edges of the garden and I chopped them back as well as I could but they were sensitively accommodated by the fence installers, who wove the fine but very strong netting around all the lower branches of the trees with cable ties attaching steel brackets to some of the branches which also supported the net. So strong is the mesh that it will cut into the

growing limbs of the trees. I'll need to cut around the branches as they thicken. It took around ten hours to install.

The area between the back extension and the fence is completely covered by the net, I just have to be careful to keep wheelie bins away from the house and the fences. I also check the fence everyday for breeches (none so far), and clear fallen leaves and later on, snow. The mesh will stretch over time and have to be tightened.

The garden hasn't been transformed into Wormwood Scrubs (as my husband joked), far from it. The black mesh forms a subtle veil over a lot of the garden, and after rain looks like a large spider's web, rather beautiful. The cats have all tried really hard to get out and this time it was my turn to look

... Keeping them Safe

smug. The rescue boy complained the most but has grudgingly begun to accept it, however a very unexpected bonus has been the growing confidence of our timid, rescue tabby girl. I thought the boys might bully her as they often used to do, but apart from the odd playful chase, they've all been getting along just fine. After eight years, our tabby seems to be a much happier and more relaxed cat.

Best of all, they can safely enjoy being out all night, chasing moths and other night creatures (we have had a couple of trophies) and I can relax watching them.

The company I used was protectapet, which seems to be run by knowledgeable cat lovers. <https://protectapet.com/>.



Nothing Changes ...

Almost twenty years ago I was chatting on-line about the Dm (Dilute modifier which produces the caramel colouring) gene and Lesley Morgan-Blythe (an Australian and International cat judge) sent me this poem she'd written following a Judges' meeting.

Cheers, Linda

The Dm Ditty

A coven of judges from various places
Attended a meeting to go through their paces
Believers and t'others, whose motto was clear:
Caramel's fiction - ain't got none here.

Colourblind people all gathered and sat
Prodding and staring at some little cat
With mushroomy points and cold steely hue
That wasn't a lilac and wasn't a blue.

"It looks like the lollies I ate as a child"
Said one daring soul. And the meeting went wild.
"For that, you're suspended! Wash your mouth out with acid!"
Thus chastened, the rest of the meeting was placid.

The agenda resumed and the very next item
(You have to agree - it's futile to fight 'em)
A proposal was put that the earth is quite flat.
So all raised their hands, and that, folks, was THAT!

(Lesley Morgan-Blythe)

tonkinese
BREED CLUB



www.tonkinese.info



Club Greeting Cards

We are delighted to offer a selection of high quality large greeting cards (A5 size), with envelopes.

Single card - £1.00 & postage
Pack of four cards - £3.50 & postage

See our website for more details!

www.tonkinese.info

tonkinese

KATY'S STORY ... part two!

I have been waiting such a long time for these kittens. They spend about nine weeks in their Mummy's tummy, but it seems like forever. The due date (according to Grandma) came and went, one extra day, two extra days I was so bored with waiting that I gave up. Then Grandma phoned and told me the kittens would be there that evening. I asked Mum if I could go round and she said yes, but not to stay up all night as I had school next day. My Dad took me in the car with my overnight things and the next day's uniform for school. I arrived at Grandma's about 8 o'clock in the evening and went straight into the quiet room where Splodgey was, but she looked so uncomfortable. Her big fat tummy was hanging low down and wriggling and then she would stop walking about, take a deep breath and make very strange actions which looked like she was trying to be sick. Grandma called them contractions and explained that the mum cat was trying to push the babies out. She had been doing this for almost an hour. This was her first litter and I expected it to be difficult for her.

Every two to three minutes she would make a series of pushes, sometimes three or sometimes four. I watched very carefully and then a bubble appeared near her bottom. This was the sack that holds the baby kitten all snug in the tummy and it was pushing its way out. Several pushes later and the big bubble suddenly popped out more and I could see a kitten inside. With the next push out came the kitten, still in its sack and hung

in mid air by the cord attached to the inside of the Mum. Splodgey gave another push and out came this dark blob which looked like liver attached to the cord and immediately Mum was licking and chewing and doing everything she could to get the kitten out of the sack. Grandma helped her by breaking the sack open and then left mum to do the rest.

Splodgey was washing and cleaning the baby and she ate the liver thing and the sack and as she did, she bit through the cord that had been holding them together. A few minutes went by and there was lots of clean up going on which stopped suddenly. The pushing started again. Two big pushes, three big pushes, four big pushes and on and on. It was nearly twenty minutes before the next bubble started to appear and Splodgey did it all over again as baby two arrived half an hour after baby one. I held baby one whilst Mum cat cleaned up after the second baby. Breaking the sack, and eating the cord etc. The Mum cat then seemed to settle down quietly so we put the two babies by mummy cat's tummy so they could find their milk. It took lots of tries to find the nipples, but they did and all went quiet.

Grandma sent me to bed just after that with hot milk and a biscuit or two and a promise to get me up early enough to see the babies before I went to school. I lay in bed thinking about the wonderful thing I had seen and went happily off to sleep thinking of names for the babies.

ESSENTIAL TONKINESE RESEARCH

Please Help



We don't need to tell you that the number of Tonkinese Breeders is dropping – in turn reducing the number of available studs and the number of unrelated breeding lines.

The Tonkinese BAC is trying to find out how many unique breeding lines we still have - to help find new lines to bring to the breed. From the limited information we have we've found that, by looking at male lines only, we have fewer than 10 unique breeding lines – if we were able to factor in the females lines the number may be lower.

Unfortunately, from 2005 onwards entries in the Tonkinese archives are so limited that the information cannot be effective in such research, and desperately needs updating. We need data on the number of breeding cats registered with the GCCF for the past five years - or more if possible.

We are asking you to help by kindly completing the enclosed form; or you may just send in a copy of the pedigrees if you prefer. Please include any Tonkinese you have bought for breeding and any kittens you have allowed to go for breeding.

We need to build a more comprehensive archive for this type of important research. If you know other Tonkinese breeders who are not Club members please ask them to help as well. Extra forms can be downloaded from the TBC website – or you can use the on-line form to send in your data if you prefer; just look under the Breeders' Info section.

We are only asking for information on breeding cats and breeders – we don't need to know how many litters you have or information on any non-active kittens. Any information you kindly provide will not be shared outside of the Tonkinese BAC and will only be used for the purposes of research to help support and sustain the breed.

We all know how important this could be for the future of Tonkinese, and thank you in advance for your support.



The Committee

Keeping a cat at Stud



Julia Craig-McFeely

For many years I've been saying 'I must write something about keeping a cat at Stud'. You'll note that I don't call it 'keeping a stud cat'. There's a subtle difference.

If you go to a breeder and ask them for a kitten to be a stud cat most will say no, and this is because of the potential life that an entire boy will lead and because caring for a stud cat is a completely different matter from caring for a pet neutered boy or breeding girl. I recently had a request from a breeder who had never had a stud cat to 'borrow' one of my boys, and it was very clear that he had no idea how entire boys can behave. There were no stud quarters or outdoor run(s) and probably he thought the boy could just live just in the house with his girls until they were pregnant.

So the first thing you need to know is that entire boys are much more aggressive to other males than neutered boys. Sometimes they also attack neutered girls they don't know, and sometimes they will even go for an entire girl if that is their way, and if they haven't been given enough time to meet the girl in a controlled way, usually through a wire partition. In the best of circumstances, introducing two strange cats to each other is

complicated and a long-term thing. They need to get each other's scent and meet in a non-threatening environment. If you just let them loose together you could have WW3 on your hands!

Stud boys are more ready to accept strangers as long as they are girls on heat, but even so you don't just throw them in together. Before you even get to that point you need to establish where your stud is going to live, so that he feels safe and in control of his environment.

The most noticeable difference between entire and neutered boys is that entire boys spray urine. If you're VERY lucky that will be a minor contribution and usually limited to one place in his shed. If you're not so lucky, your boy will hose everything: every wall, table, piece of fabric or furniture, bedding, door, window, ceiling if he can reach it, visiting cats and their belongings, and you. It's hardwired into their brains. And it's not just ordinary cat urine. Stud pee smells *terrible*. It is thicker than normal pee as well, and can eat through solid metal in a matter of days. It will permeate bare wood and eventually rot it.

A stud house therefore is usually physically separate from your house (I had a stud boy for a short time in my washroom, and the whole house stank, even though he wasn't a copious sprayer). It needs to be lined and floored with plastic/lino and also insulated as your boy will be living out here all year. Changes in seasons don't mean changes in spraying patterns unfortunately! So you need not only insulation, but heating that is safe to be sprayed at and will heat the shed efficiently and safely.

You need bedding that will survive multiple washes at at least 40 degrees (I'm afraid nothing cooler will cut through the stink, as I found to my dismay when I washed some clothes with a load of towels from the stud house, and had to do the whole lot again as it came out smelling of stud pee).

Keeping a cat at stud (Part 1)

The smell isn't the only potential problem. All stud cats 'shout'. They are calling for girls to mate, since they can't go looking for them. How much depends on the cat. This has two potential knock-on effects. Every local unneutered Tom in the area will turn up to annoy your boy, which can lead to howling matches. The other problem is what your neighbours will think. I'm incredibly lucky with my neighbours on both sides, who just say 'it's what cats do', and have got used to a particularly noisy boy who bellows ALL the time. He is shut in at night, but some nights I can hear him shouting from inside the house. He does it if he has a queen in, he does it if I'm there, and he does it if he has companionship. He also paces. This is distressing to see, and is the main reason I've decided he's not really stud material and he'll be neutered very soon. I have heard horror stories from other breeders, who had to keep their boys locked in their sheds, not just at night, but almost all of the day. In one case the breeder moved as her neighbour became so abusive, but he turned up on the doorstep of her new house—miles away—and said, 'it's not over'. Within weeks she was being investigated by the Inland Revenue! That was probably an extreme example, but you have to bear your neighbour's in mind if you're thinking of keeping a stud as it will impact their lives.

My most recent addition to the household is a beautiful blue kitten from Kerry Pinkington in Plymouth. This boy (Ecco) is a dream stud. He stayed with the other cats in the house living as a pet until he was about 8 months old. Now, fully integrated with the rest of the household in terms of relationships, I have any number of cats who



can keep him company in his stud quarters—and moving your lovely cuddly kitten to an outdoor, penned life, is a whole story on its own. It's hard as he has become one of your babies (and it's important that you have that relationship), but as soon as he starts spraying you have to move him. There are a very small minority of studs who don't spray, or who do it in a way that can be managed easily. Usually these are in a house with no other cats. I have been interested to see that although Ecco sprays out of his pen (he's still allowed out to play in the enclosed garden), he is quite fastidious about his own quarters, not spraying inside (occasionally he sprays out through the wire) and generally urinating in his litter tray.

Ecco had been playing and staying in the various pens in the garden since he was old enough to go out, and had spent time confined which he seemed to take to like a duck to water. If I shut the pen door he would just roll on the stone floor of the run, or flop into one of the beds and say 'see you later alligator'. I can't believe how different my experience is with this boy. You just can't predict at kitten-age how any boy will behave, and I keep telling Kerry what a dreamboat her boy is. He's still stupidly cuddly, and has been shown too, as unlike many studs he's not stressed by being moved out of his comfort zone. He behaves well with the other cats too: some studs try to mate anything put with them, no matter the sex or neutering status!

Stud work though goes well beyond simply keeping the boy in a shed. The stud house has to have separate queens' quarters (QQ), which are kept meticulously clean so as not to upset a visitor with smells of a previous cat. The quarters however must have a reasonable area of open wire adjacent to where the boy lives, so that a visitor can get a good whiff of him, and he can get a good whiff of her.

In the bad old days breeders flung two cats in together and went off to have a cup of tea while they fought it out. Many studs lost eyes, and

Keeping a cat at stud (Part 1)

queens could have injuries too. Queens can take as much as 2 days to get used to being close to a strange male, though usually it's less time. In the GCCF almost all breeders do 'supervised matings'. This means the boy and girl are NOT left alone together to get on with it unless they know each other well and can be trusted together. After being mated a queen will turn on the boy in anger, and slash out at him. Most studs learn very early on to get out of the way, but some will slash back, and fights can ensue. As the stud owner you need to let the cat out and make sure she is ready to be mated and is not frightened of the boy. I have heard of some stud owners holding an unwilling girl down while the boy effectively raped her. The girl HAS to be willing and ready. If she's not then she goes back into the QQ and you give her more time. Sometimes she has to go home unmated, but usually this is with an inexperienced girl, and she's happier on a return visit.

If the cats choose to mate you have to be on hand to grab your boy if he's not getting out of the way quickly enough. Some breeders prefer to grab the girl, but if she's not your own cat she may turn on you. I've found grabbing the boy is safest, then I firmly show the girl the door to her QQ and usually she goes inside where she rolls all over the place and generally trashes the entire area. A few hours later (or maybe less) she is ready to come out again without snarling at the boy, and the whole process is repeated. Sometimes after a day or so you can see that they are behaving well and can be left together, but many Queen owners prefer not to do that as it is an added protection against disease that you might not know either cat is carrying.

Which brings me to my final note in this 2-part article: disease testing. We now have access to really good testing facilities. All GCCF stud owners will ask you to get your cat 'snap tested' for feline AIDS and Leukaemia. This costs about £45 and is done at your vet with a small blood sample. This protects not only the stud, but also your cat, since you know previous visitors to this

boy have not carried these illnesses. I have also recently added a requirement for PCR testing for cat flu and Chlamydia. If someone is reluctant to test, then get suspicious! Cat flu can devastate a breeding cattery, as even vaccinated cats can catch the disease without it being visible, and pass it on. You can't breed with an infected cat, as it will pass the disease to kittens and other cats it mates with. Flu cannot be cured with antibiotics, though Chlamydia can—at considerable cost! Some vets will tell you the PCR tests are £100 each (so the basic three, Herpes, Calici and Chlamydia will cost you £300). This is rubbish. Axiom labs do a 5-disease test for Herpes, Calici, Chlamydia, Bordetella and Mycoplasma for £85 + VAT. If your vet tells you he will charge £100 per test, change your vet as he is ripping you off!

So far not many stud owners ask for PCR testing, but I feel it's essential not only to protect my cats—the studs and the extended family who have contact with them—but any visiting cats too. Having had a near-miss a few years back, I don't make any exceptions now, so even people I know well test their cats. People think that vaccination protects your cat from infection; it doesn't, it just makes the symptoms invisible, so your cat could be a carrier right now. They could pick up flu anywhere—at a show, or even at your vet! Anywhere out of the house your cat is under 'stress' and that decreases the immune system. Other stresses are being on heat, going to stud, having kittens and lactating. These are not emotional stresses (though they can be); the use of the word stress refers to the effect on the body and immune system of being put in an abnormal situation. Usually in situations like this the immune system becomes less effective, and viruses that are dormant become active and the cat starts to shed live virus germs. The virus or bacteria can be passed by contact with a carrier or clothes that have been in contact with a carrier.

I think I've rambled on enough for this issue, but watch this space for Part 2, in the next issue!

TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY BOOKLET

Did You Get Your Copy?

If you are listed as a breeder member of the TBC you will find a beautifully printed copy of the current Tonkinese Breeding Policy in with your Tonkinfo. This is not just a Policy on required breeding practices for Tonkinese breeders registering with the GCCF, but an illustrated blueprint for the correct way to breed healthy Tonkinese that will be an asset to the gene pool. The policy will help you choose a queen and suitable stud, will help you to look for the finer points in a show cat and will even help you with those all-important DNA tests.

If you are still breeding Tonkinese, or you are a new breeder or a member who is thinking about breeding but you didn't get a copy then I apologise – just let me know and I'll post one to you.

Cheers, Linda (tbc.uk@ntlworld.com)



Welcome to the Club!!

Two pictures of Tallica Parachutes aka Biba (TOS o 32) that owner Christina Gordon kindly sent in for TonkInfo.

The first one is Biba as a kitten. The second is of Biba after gaining her Championship title, with her friend Kenzo. Christina joined the Club last year and we're sure she's tickled pink with her beautiful cats. Thanks for sending your photos in for us!

Know someone who might be interested in membership with the Tonkinese Breed Club? Visit our website for more information.



CATS AND HOT WEATHER



Linda Vousden

Here are some tips to help keep your cat cool – if it's still relevant when you get this issue.

Cats are just as at risk of dehydration and heatstroke as the rest of us, this can be very serious, especially for queens with kittens, kittens, elderly cats, cats with diabetes or other conditions.

1. Make sure your cat has plenty of water

- It's common sense but check your cats' water bowl frequently in this weather, and keep it topped up. Cats don't survive long without water and dehydration is a very painful end.

2. Ensure there's a shaded spot in your garden

- If there are no naturally occurring shady spots in your garden or outdoor pen, make one using cloth or cardboard for example.



3. Brush your cat daily - Matted hair traps heat so groom daily if possible.

4. Keep cats out of sheds, conservatories and greenhouses - These can get dangerously hot, excluding cooling breezes and magnifying the heat.

5. Use damp towels to cool your cat - The

warmest parts of a cat's body are its belly, paw pads, armpits, under the chin and the outside of the ears. Although most cats hate getting wet, try gently stroking your cat with a cold damp cloth from their head and down their back.

6. Keep your cat calm - A very active cat running around on a hot day will quickly become exhausted and dehydrated. Encourage your cat to relax when outside temperatures are soaring.



... cool cats



7. Create a retreat - A cool and darkened indoor retreat for them to sleep in and feel safe, tip a cardboard box on its side, place it somewhere cool and quiet on a cool surface such as tiles or a wooden floor. Line it with a breathable natural fabric such as a cotton towel.

8. Keep outdoors cats indoors - If temperatures really soar, then it's worth considering keeping your cat inside during the hottest hours of the day.

9. Watch out for signs of heat stroke - Symptoms of heat stroke can include agitation, stretching out and breathing rapidly, panting, extreme distress, skin hot to the touch, glazed eyes, vomiting and drooling. If you're at all worried about your cat, contact your vet immediately.

10. Take care in the car - If you are taking your cat to the vets, the cattery or a show, never leave them in the car. Always make sure their carriers are secure, shaded and allow air to circulate. Solid plastic boxes with a secure wire mesh door are preferable. Keep an eye out for warning signs such as panting.

11. Cats and sunburn - Cats are susceptible to sunburn, particularly those with pale ears and noses, causing painful blistering and sores; long-term exposure can lead to skin cancers. Pet sunscreen is available, apply to the ears and nose. Keep white-faced cats out of the sun in the afternoon.



A Heart-warming Tale

Mike Smith



Bella

We love hearing about our kittens in their new homes, so were delighted to get some news about Jasper, a Caramel tabby boy from Saffy's litter born in May 2017. Around 10 months old at the time, Jasper saved the day when the snow hit in early March this year. His new owner tells the story:

“Like most people, we have suffered badly with the recent storms especially as we are high up on top of a hill. At 3 am on Friday morning, Jasper was scratching at my face and licking my eyelids – I thought he just wanted to get under the duvet as the wind was howling outside and I could see the blizzard going on. Now awake, I could hear a faint mewing; thinking it was our newly arrived kitten I went to the landing to find her, but she was safely tucked up in her bed. Jasper raced downstairs and was frantically scratching at the front door – the mewing was louder. The snow had drifted into our porch and was up to the door handle. I opened the door and could

see a deep hole in the snow where a beautiful dark long-haired tortie cat was submerged in the drift.

We dug her out and carried her into the kitchen – she was showing distinct signs of hypothermia and was starving and very thirsty. We dried her off, warmed her up and looked after her but despite our efforts we could not find out who she belonged to. Four days later when the lane was passable we took her to our vets and luckily, she was chipped. The vet contacted her owner only to find she lives 90 miles away in Wiltshire. Bella had been missing for 4 weeks, and her family had given up all hope given the extreme weather. They drove over straight away and were very happily reunited.

Our vets were so amazed that Jasper has been made Hero of the Month! Jasper loved Bella and she loved him, they would eat together and would fuss around each other. It was amazing that he detected her situation and alerted us to it, it shows a lot about his character. So, he is the star of Ross on Wye and everyone wants to meet him. He is our little Hero.”





To be posted VERY LOW on the refrigerator door...

- The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find it at all aesthetically pleasing.
- The stairway is not part of a Brands Hatch franchise. Racing me to the bottom, or top, is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help because I fall faster than you can run.
- I cannot buy anything bigger than a king sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort.
- Cats can actually curl up in a ball when they sleep. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space is nothing but sarcasm.
- For the last time, there is no secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. I have been using the bathroom for years - feline attendance is not required.
- The proper order of events is kiss me, then go and wash your rear end. I cannot stress this enough!

A GUIDE FOR NEW CAT OWNERS



The International Cat Care are drawing up a guide for the benefit of first-time owners of cats. The GCCF intend to post a copy on their web site, but it does not appear to be available just yet. In the meantime perhaps breeders might like to give this to potential new owners?

Before you buy your first kitten, take this twelve point test to find out whether you can cope with living, and looking after, your kitten.

1. Take your most precious ornaments, and drop them on the floor.
2. Buy a new charger for your phone, and cut the end off.
3. Randomly stab pins in your legs, arms and back.
4. Rub damp sand paper on your cheeks, hands, legs and eyelids (repeat after every bath or shower).
5. Place fur and random crumbs of dirty litter on freshly laundered clothes and freshly vacuumed carpets.
6. Several times a day dip your fingers in wet mud (the dirtier the better) then dab them over your kitchen walls and counters.
7. Take a razor blade to all soft furnishings in your home, including your bottom three stairs.
8. At night ask a friend to help you by slapping you in the face randomly while you sleep, or bounce a football down your stairs while you are watching your favourite TV programme.
9. Find the house in complete silence, panic, hunt high and low without knowing why.
10. Open front door, wait for 3 minutes and close front door; then open back door, wait for 3 minutes and then close. Repeat 20 times a day.
11. Dunk biscuits into a cup of tea until they are completely soggy, then throw them onto the lightest coloured carpet in the house.
12. Sit in a cosy armchair with a mug of cocoa and a warm cushion in your lap, while listening to the soporific recording of a tractor engine – and try not to fall asleep with a smile on your face.

Repeat every day for 6 months and, if you still think it's a good idea, congratulations you are ready.

TONKINESE BREED CLUB 15th Championship Show

8th December at the Bracknell Leisure Centre

Shared with the National Cat Club

The Schedule may be downloaded from the
TBC website as soon as it is available.

We are holding our high quality
'Bucket' Raffle again!

So get your tickets on the day and win some
Christmas presents.

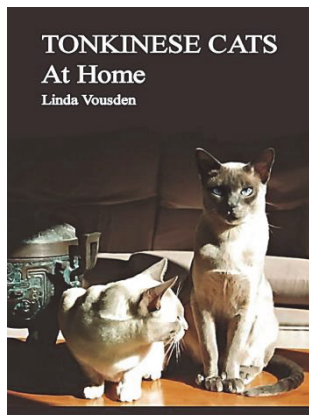
If you have any prizes to donate please let us know



For more information visit

<https://www.tonkinese.info/next-tonkinese-breed-club-show.html>

*Please let us know if you are able to help on the Club/Raffle table,
even if it's only for a short while.*



Tonkinese Cats At Home'

2nd edition in softback.

£9.99 plus p&p
22.9 x 15.2cm

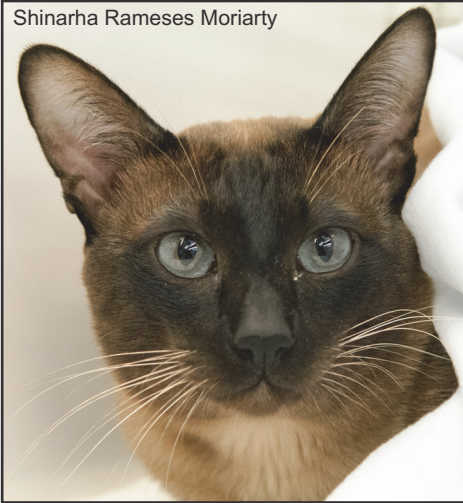
In this book I offer a guide to living with and
looking after Tonkinese as pets.
With 59 special photos there are sections on
choosing your Tonkinese, creating a
harmonious household, health care, general
maintenance, photographing your cats
and more.

Only available from the 'Shop' at:
www.tonkinese.me

Our Beautiful Breed

photos by Mike Smith

Shinarha Rameses Moriarty



OBIS Judge, Linda Vousden with Fecheldee Daisy May and steward

UK IGrCh Amorcatz Jane Eyre



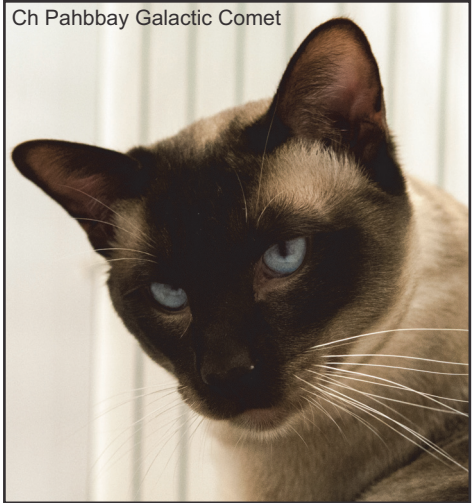
Mimaperks Margot Fonteyn



Ch Rameses Whiskymac



Our Favourite Photos from the 2017 Cat Show



For more of Mike's great photos, visit
<https://www.tonkinese.info/2017-show-gallery.html>

TBC Recommendations For Breeders

In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs.

- 1 If breeding from a Tonkinese on the REFerence register, ensure that it complies with the current Tonkinese Registration Policy - some cats are on the REFerence register because they have ancestors that are not permitted in the Tonkinese breed programme (eg. Orientals or cats of unregistered or unknown parentage).
- 2 A stud owner is not obliged to accept a queen to stud
- 3 Studs must be on the active register with the GCCF and must have their Certificate of Entirety (COE), micro-chip number & DNA test information lodged with the GCCF prior to the registration of their first litter. Stud owners should be able to show a copy of this information to the queen's owner.
- 4 Studs, and visiting queens, should be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis and Cat 'Flu (but not within 14 days before the mating). Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. Vaccination certificates should be available for inspection.
- 5 The queen's owner has a responsibility to make arrangements, including the inspection of stud premises, well in advance of taking the queen to stud.
- 6 Studs must be regularly tested for FeLV and FIV, even if they are inoculated against FeLV. It is recommended that they are tested at least once per year and the documentation should be shown to the owners of visiting queens.
- 7 The stud premises should be available for inspection, by appointment, by the queen's owner prior to the queen being brought to stud.
- 8 The stud owner must make clear any conditions relating to the kittens, or repeat matings, **before** the queen is left with the stud.
- 9 The stud owner **must** supply the following for the queen's owner : a). A mating certificate that complies with GCCF Section 1 Rule 3d.. b) A full pedigree of the stud showing at least three generations with full registration numbers. c) A stud fee receipt.
- 10 Queens must be on the active register with the GCCF.
- 11 It is recommended that queens are tested for FeLV and FIV within 24 hours before visiting the stud, unless from a fully tested household, and the documentation should be shown to the stud's owner.
- 12 The queen's owner should be aware that the stud fee is for the services of the stud and is not based upon results - it should be offered at the time the queen is left with the stud.
- 13 The breeder **must supply** each kitten owner with a copy of the GCCF code of ethics; a valid vaccination certificate showing that the full course has been completed for Enteritis and cat 'flu; a properly completed pedigree certificate that includes at least three generations with full registration numbers and the pink registration certificate duly signed by the breeder for transfer of ownership.
- 14 **It is strongly recommended that, in addition to DNA tests for coat-pattern, breeding cats should be tested for Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) and for Burmese Hypokalaemia.**