

TOMINESH BREED CLUB

# tonskinfo

£2 (free to members)

December 2022  
Vol. 8, Issue 1



*A Very Happy Christmas to all  
our Members, and a healthy and  
prosperous New Year*

## Best in Show winners at the Tonkinese Breed Club 2022 show



BIS neuter and overall BIS  
OB,IGP Lilyput Parma Violets  
Owner: Lorraine Phillips



BIS adult  
Ch Adsepbu Malu of Mymystic  
Owner: Linda Vousden



BIS kitten  
Rameses Sierra  
Owner: Sarah Packman

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### TONKINESE BREED CLUB

**President**—Mrs Linda Vousden

**Vice-President**—Dr Sarah Caney BVSc PhD DSAM MRCVS

### OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chairman:** Julia Craig-McFeely

Tel: 01865 241323 [julia.cmcf@gmail.com](mailto:julia.cmcf@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chairman:** Jo Sturgess

**Hon. Secretary and Webmaster:** Linda Vousden

Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5LX

Tel: (0118) 9619444 [tbc.uk@ntlworld.com](mailto:tbc.uk@ntlworld.com)

**Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** Mike Vousden

Lansdale, 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX

Tel: (0118) 9619444 [michael.vousden@btconnect.com](mailto:michael.vousden@btconnect.com)

#### Committee Members

Nicky Harmer, Beth Noble, Gerry Smith,  
Lizzi Smith, Mike Smith, Annette Wright

**Delegate to GCCF Council and Tonkinfo Editor**

Julia Craig-McFeely [julia.cmcf@gmail.com](mailto:julia.cmcf@gmail.com)

### WELFARE

Mrs Valerie Chapple [val.chapp@btinternet.com](mailto:val.chapp@btinternet.com)

Cover picture: someone sent me this picture, but I can't remember who! Please do identify yourself so that you can get credit in the next issue.

# HONORARY SECRETARY'S NOTES

Linda Youdsen

*Did you know that I once beat Ian Botham in a round of golf at Wentworth, came third in a cross-channel yacht race and serviced computers on HMS Amazon & HMS Illustrious?*

Well two out of the three are true but it got your attention, didn't it? If you're anything like me then the Secretary's bit tends to be low on the list of things to read in Tonkinfo. However, now that you have cast your eyes this way ... ***we really need your support.*** Usually we put a brave face on things but it is time to be honest. For various reasons, at our 2022 Club Show there were only four Committee members (and a few lovely club members) trying to cover the work, and we simply couldn't do it — or rather, we did, but by the end we were absolutely flattened.

We are short on committee members who are able to give us their time to help organise, and most importantly be present, at our Show to help run it on the day. However, you don't need to be on the committee to be one of our helpers, and you don't need to show your cat! So if you could help on the day we would be

so glad to hear from you. We need your support otherwise we simply shan't be able to cope with a show next year.

Almost all Club meetings are held online now (with interim things done by email circulation), so there is little travelling involved. The show is held near Coventry, and helping out involves no more than coming out for a single Saturday.

Please consider joining us either on the Committee or just as a show group volunteer: you don't need *any* experience, just an interest in the breed. If you are interested email me, I'd be more than happy to chat with you and let you know what may be involved – you don't have to have great knowledge of Tonks or the GCCF just a willingness to help. I look forward to hearing from you.

Well that's more than enough from me – I hope to see some of you at the National Cat Club Show this year. Finally, if I don't get another opportunity, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



Linda

## VIRTUAL SHOW(S)

The shows are still online so do take the opportunity to have a look and admire not only the cats, but the photography: look out particularly for the 'Breed Support' classes, where the cats were specially posed to give face-on, profile and full-body pictures.

*The shows will remain at these URLs for the foreseeable future, so you have plenty of time to see them.*

April 2020:  
<https://tonkinesebc-webshow.weebly.com/>

December 2020:  
<https://tbcwebshow-dec2020.weebly.com/>

August 2021:  
<https://tbcwebshow-aug2021.weebly.com/>

[www.tonkinese.info](http://www.tonkinese.info)

tonkinfo

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Julia Craig-McFeely*

My first job is to apologize that this is the only *Tonkinfo* for 2022. I suspect some of this is post-Covid catch-up syndrome, but also it seems to have been a frighteningly busy year, with rescue cats/kittens and (like many people I suspect) all sorts of armageddon at work! Some apologies also for the shamelessly Christmassy theme, but it may be December by the time you read this!

The Club found itself scrambling in the late summer because we found out very late in the day that our show manager had retired (without telling us) and our regular December show that we had been planning for was not going to happen. This was a bit of a shock; it seemed even the GCCF did not know our show manager had retired and cancelled our show, as we were still on their official lists and the show manager was still down as running a number of other shows. Finding a new show date and venue is not easy because the only way we can be viable is to run our show back-to-back (on the same day and in the same venue) with another show. The venue had to be in reasonable reach of the majority of the committee and also most of the people who might enter it. We decided we had to abandon a show for 2022, but started to approach show managers to take our show on for 2023. One of the shows we had identified as being in a good location and on a good date gave us a surprise: even though their schedule had been published, the show manager said she could add our show if we could get our licence transferred, which Linda managed by persuading the Governing Council Board to decide on it by email circulation. Long story short, we found ourselves suddenly with a show on 3 September in Warwickshire.

Although we had a couple of months to prepare, it still felt a little breathless, particularly as few of the committee were able to help. There is a fair bit of pre-show preparation, but the main work is on the day. This is not

too onerous if there are enough people to share it, but if you take cats to exhibit as well it is more tiring because of having a very early start to get them there for vetting in. I found myself feeling my age, particularly at the point where I was looking after the show table on my own (writing prize cards, recording results in the official book, writing rosettes, entering results in the online system). I was very glad when Linda was free to join me to take over some of the bits and pieces. However, it is a small show, and by mid-afternoon most of our judging and table work was over so we could go and watch Best in Show and spend time with our cats. However, I confess that by the end of the day I was on my knees with exhaustion.

There were some absolutely signal successes on the day that I would like to highlight: as we were back-to-back with an all-breed show, many of the Tonkinese exhibitors had entered both shows. We were thrilled to discover after our BIS that Tonkinese had taken Best of Section 5 in both adult and netuer sections in the all-breed show, meaning they beat all the other breeds in that section: Burmese (a lot of them), Asian, Australian Mist and Suffolk. This is a fantastic achievement for the breed, and shows just how far we have come from the early days when we had to struggle for recognition.

Another landmark was that two of the Best in Show winners in the Club show were colourpoints, a coat restriction that was excluded from showing for many decades. The BIS judge pointed this out as he handled them. Those who did all the hard work over several years of getting full recognition for our Burmese and Colourpointed coat restrictions should be proud of themselves. I'm glad to say that the cat who won Best in Show adult is a colourpoint owned by Linda Vousden, who is pretty much the only person still around who was part of the group who did all that work.

# TONKINESE ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Linda Vousden



The Chiang Mai cattery in Thailand is something of a pilgrim spot for those studying cats in Asia: Daphne Negus, Cristy Bird, Roger Tabor to name but a few of those to visit it. It was the Chiang Mai cats that were chosen to represent the cat breeds of Thailand on a set of stamps in 1995, including their beautiful Thong Daeng, the Copper cat. I found this snippet of information when researching for one of my books. Since then I've found Tonkinese depicted on many countries' commemorative and postage stamps. I even found a photo of my own kittens used on a Japanese postage stamp!

Other countries or states whose stamps feature the Tonkinese include: Ajman, Antigua, Bhutan, Dagestan, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Grenada, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Mongolia, Netherlands Antilles, North Korea, Republic of Benin, Republic of Chuvasia, Republic of Togo, Russia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Thailand Tuvalu and Zaire. There may well be more.

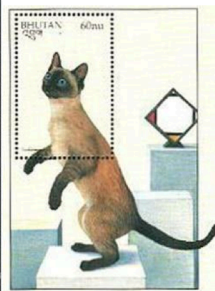


It is surprising perhaps that a breed that is a relative newcomer in the pedigree cat world should feature so widely, but perhaps it is a testament to their character and wide appeal. Siamese abound, but that breed has been the iconic pedigree cat for over a century.

The images I found were often very poor quality, but here are a few that are good enough to print.



Mymystic's Ehawee & Nimue on Japanese stamp



## Advancement in Treatment for Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

The following is an extract from the London Veterinary Clinic article

As of August 2021, a legal and licenced product to treat feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) with the name of Remdesivir has become available via compounding pharmacies in the UK. These injections (and hopefully a tablet by the end of the year) should eliminate the need for any unlicensed, chemically similar compounds from unsafe sources.

The London Cat Clinic is acutely aware of novel FIP treatment modalities being offered and readily available on the black market. As feline clinicians we understand the dire need for effective treatment of this inevitably fatal disease. We understand the emotion that drives the decision-making process to obtain such drugs from sources that are not commercially or legally available to us.

For the full article go to <https://www.thelondoncatclinic.co.uk/TLCC-FIP-statement>

### Towards a protocol for the care of undersized neonatal kittens

*Julia C McF*

There are many reasons for the appearance of tiny kittens in litters of any breed. In the Tonkinese a good average weight at birth would be 75–85 grams. kittens over 100g are unusual but not rare, particularly in smaller litters. Large litters of 7 or more are more likely to include some tiny kittens among the bigger ones. Those born at around 60g or lower have a much more pessimistic prognosis unless they are supported through their first few hours, and sometimes the first few days. Generally breeders consider that a kitten born at 45–50g is not going to be viable, but even these can usually cope if they are helped and there is nothing organically wrong (such as a heart defect), particularly if they are protected from larger kittens who can push them away from the teats, or hand fed

The main problem with tiny kittens is that their size sometimes indicates immaturity at birth, and that can mean that their digestive system is not able to cope with milk—either the mother’s or formula—until the gut has had a chance to catch up. Immaturity is not due to late conception, but usually to the kitten having poor placental blood supply, and/or being pushed aside in the

uterus by the larger kittens who are growing faster and hogging the blood supply.

These kittens are difficult to deal with, because they are usually active, vocal and usually fighting for mil at firstk, but either can’t get it because the other kittens are stronger, or they suckle but do not seem to gain weight and fatten up. It is difficult for breeders because our instinct is to help these babies in their fight and determination to live, and that can be heartbreaking if we can’t save them. but we give every kitten the best chance, and no kitten is simply left to die if a bit of support will mean survival.

When kittens are born they look like half-drowned scrawny hamsters. Within hours of suckling, though, the mother’s extremely rich early milk (colostrum) give them a layer of fat that makes them look completely different, and they round out and warm up. Kittens that are not absorbing the essential fats from the milk remain scraggy, with their little hip bones, spine and ribs sticking out.

Over the years I have looked after quite a few tiny kittens, and have rarely lost them. They have grown up into happy, healthy normal adults with the same life expectancy as

other kittens, and with no health issues, showing that there is no reason not to support them. However, I have learned that supporting an undersized kitten can be quite a complicated process and needs flexible use of a number of different protocols.

Firstly it is essential to have a collection of items on hand at any birth, because if you haven't, the kitten may have died by the time you can get hold of them. Here is my list:

- ✓ *Kitten colostrum (powder)*
- ✓ *Kitten milk formula*
- ✓ *Rehydration salts/fluid for small animals*
- ✓ *Syringes or bottle for feeding with extra small teats (catac: the long thin ones)*
- ✓ *Bag of Hartman's saline for small animals (this is only if you have been shown by your vet how to administer sub-cutaneous fluids. It's not difficult, but don't try it out by yourself the first time. It is a very useful skill generally)*
- ✓ *Needles etc for administering fluids*
- ✓ *Glucose or a glucose mixture such as Nutri-drops (if not available, pots of liquid glucose can be found in the baking aisle at the supermarket)*

The kitten pictured below was born at about 55g. It took a long time to **get him warm**, but one of my tricks is to run a basin of fairly hot water (a good bath temperature), then hold the kitten in the water (head out!) until it starts to kick and move around. The heat gets the heart moving and the kitten revives.

Most tiny kittens are too weak to get the **first milk** down from the mother's teat. Although they latch on and suck, the colostrum is very thick and gluey, and they simply

haven't the strength to get it out, so their first feeds may have to come from the breeder.

Understanding the **feeding cycle** is important here: a kitten feeds until it falls asleep. During the feed it needs to take in enough food for a staggering growth rate, but also enough to give it the energy to feed when it wakes. So if a kitten doesn't get a big enough feed, next time it wakes it won't take in enough again because it will tire and fall asleep too soon. From here things spiral downward. For these kittens often a single top-up feed, where they don't have to work to get the milk, is enough to turn the downward spiral into an upward one.

**Milk formulas** are all designed for full-sized normal kittens. The tiny ones often have immature digestive systems and cannot absorb the formula; full-strength formula may kill them. ALWAYS feed tiny kittens a much more diluted formula than the packet recommends (about 50% more water). To help absorption use small-animal (*not human*) rehydration fluid (50/50 with water) instead of plain water to mix up the formula.

**Dehydration** is a killer in kittens—not just these little ones, so around 10ml of sub-cutaneous fluids as needed is a good idea as it will help with energy too.

**Glucose** will help if the heart-rate is low or the kitten lacks energy, but don't give too much as that can be as deadly as low sugar. Just a drop under the tongue is enough, and top up in case the kitten starts to fade.

The title of this piece is 'Towards ...' and I would be very glad of additional material that I can work up into a full protocol to circulate to breeders.



# TONKINESE BOOK AWARDS

Some of you may not know (how could this be?) that the President of the Tonkinese Breed Club and our Hon. Sec., Linda Vousden is the author of several books about Tonkinese. Her first, published in 1998, and entitled *Tonkinese Cats*, was runner up for the **Muse Medallion**, and was awarded the **Certificate of Excellence** by the Cat Writers Association.

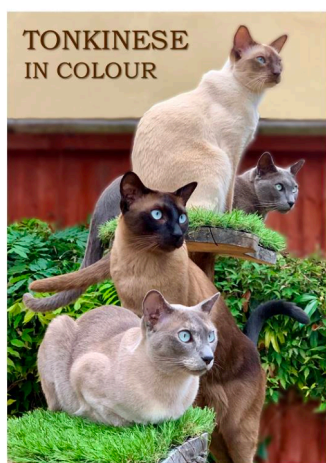
This was followed, in 2010 by *Tonkinese Cats, A History*, building on Linda's continuing research findings about the early days of the breed and its gradual development and acceptance in the worldwide pedigree pantheon.

More recently Linda added *Tonkinese Cats At Home*, a book that allowed her to showcase some of the wonderful photographs of her cats and introducing them to readers in the environment where they are so comfortable and in contact with humans—something that many cat breed books fail to do.

More recently Linda compiled and authored *Tonkinese in Colour*, a celebration of the breed's first 30 years in the GCCF.

It turned into considerably more than a book absolutely stuffed with amazing colour pictures of Tonkinese: it boasts sections on each colour and coat pattern accepted in the UK breed, including pictures of foot pads from the various colours. I can't think of any cat book that goes into such detail about the complexity and variety of a breed. This has been recognised recently as it has received the **Paula A. Gregg, Ph.D., Memorial Living and Learning With Purebred Cats Special Award**. This is presented for the entry, published in 2021, that best educates the public about the physical features, personality, and/or challenges related to a breed of purebred cats. This is a one-off award.

Although *Tonkinese Cats* and *Tonkinese Cats At Home* are out of print, copies can still be found if you search online. Linda has a small number of *Tonkinese Cats, A History* available directly from her (see <https://www.lindavousden.uk/>), and *Tonkinese in Colour* is in print and available from Linda or can be purchased from the Club (discounted price for club members).



## TONKINESE IN COLOUR

**Published jointly by The Tonkinese Breed Club and The Tonkinese Cat Club.**

*This new book has just enough history to mark the first 30 years of the Tonkinese with the GCCF. The rest of it consists of over 200 photos in full colour—from heads to paws. The plain English guide to understanding Tonkinese colours will be of interest to all owners, breeders and judges.*

*Available now from the TBC web site. With discounts for members of both Clubs and extra discounts for orders of more than 5 books—great for kitten packs.*





## Pictures from the September Show



1 Imani vom Ellerbek with owner Malgorzata Skuza  
2 Gr Ch Chocolatedot Rameses Ecco

3 Ch Rameses Bundle

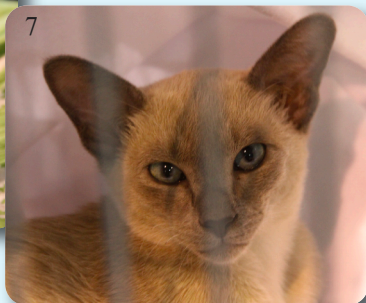
4 Toptonk Mercedes

5 Rameses Chantana

6 Tigermist Honeybee

7 Rameses Chantana with owner Lorraine Phillips





1 Tigermist Honeybee in a cheeky moment

2 Gr Ch Chocolatedot Rameses Ecco

3 Rameses Monterey (no problem with being nervous or upset by his first show then!)

4 Rameses Monterey and family

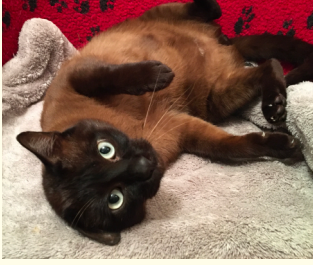
5 Lilyput Poppy with owner/breeder Lorraine Phillips

6 Lilyput Poppy

7 Rameses Ventura (BIS kitten)

8 Lilyput Bluebell with owner/breeder Lorraine Phillips

*More show pictures on  
pp. 22–23*



## APPEAL(S)

Minnie, our beautiful boy from Thailand who is the father of so many of your kittens, needs a special home. He is four and a half but can't stay here for his retirement because my girls won't accept him in the house, so he has to continue living in his stud quarters even though he has been neutered for some months. This is rather sad as he would like to be a pet (on his own terms!). The home has to be special because his background means he will have difficulty transitioning to living in a house. He needs a home with a secure catio so that he can go outside right away, and preferably one with a female owner as he is anxious about men. He does not get on with male cats, so if he has a companion it will need to be a female, though he is happy as a single cat. Please get in touch if you can help, or if you know anyone who might be able to help. [julia.cmcf@gmail.com](mailto:julia.cmcf@gmail.com)




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Many thanks to those of you who responded to my plea for cat articles large and small, and particularly for those who picked me up on themes (cats on top of doors, cats yawning, cats leaping).

So, here again, is my invitation to send anything and everything about your Tonkinese and how they affect your lives. Introduce other people to the weirdness in your house, and tell us how they have changed your life. Take pictures of them stealing your supper or trying to eat your toes in bed! What is the worst thing they have done? Don't forget their name(s) too, and nice pictures.

Send your tales, tall, short, thin, fat, prose, pictorial, poetic, true, fictional, believable, unbelievable ...

Email [Julia.cmcf@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.cmcf@gmail.com)

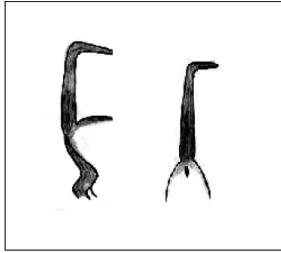
## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Memberships are due in the New Year. If you're not sure whether you have renewed you can always check here: [www.tonkinese.info/have-i-renewed-yet.html](http://www.tonkinese.info/have-i-renewed-yet.html). The page lists your post code and the last year for which you have paid your membership fee. If you are due to renew in 2022 you can now do so online or download a renewal form from the same page to accompany a cheque—and you don't have to wait until the day renewals are due, so you can do it whenever you think of it: [www.tonkinese.info/subscription-renewal.html](http://www.tonkinese.info/subscription-renewal.html)  
*If you pay online please MAKE SURE we have Your name as a reference so that we can identify the payment correctly.*

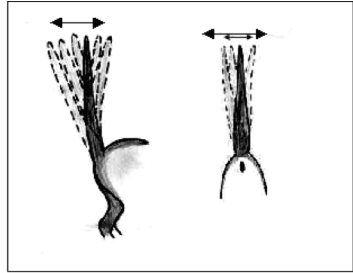
# TAILS AND HOW TO READ THEM



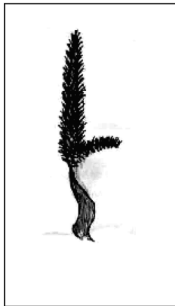
*preoccupied*



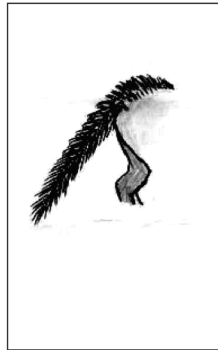
*annoyed*



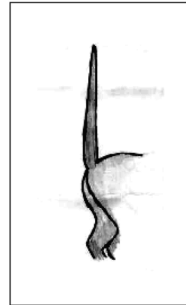
*I love you,  
emotion generally*



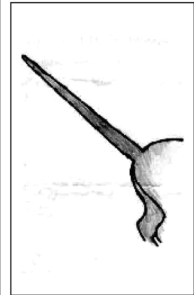
*defensive alarm*



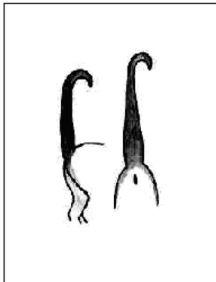
*fear*



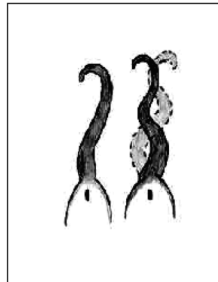
*happy*



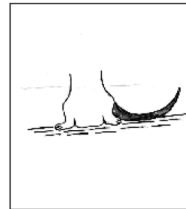
*interested*



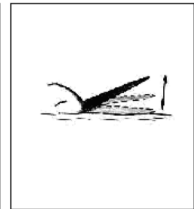
*friendship,  
confidence*



*I love you, but  
give me attention!*



*tranquility*



*anger*

## TBC KITTEN LIST

*The Breed Club Kitten List is a valuable resource for potential owners seeking kittens and looking to verify a breeder's credentials if they have found them elsewhere. If you are a breeder who is not already on the Club Breeders List please let the Club Secretary know at [tbc.uk@ntlworld.com](mailto:tbc.uk@ntlworld.com).*

## HANTU RAYA

*José Escobar*

Those who were not born there had made their way to the narrow waters they crossed one after another to their present home. They followed the *langkah lama*, the old ways of the *akuan*; the souls of all the dead were alive again. Their conversations were pleasant affairs, their voices resonant, familiar faces, their teak-coloured bodies enclosed in their long sleeved tunics, their *baju kurung*. They had emerged from the *keramat*, the sacred site and had not lost their bearings. They had engaged in a long drawn chant boiled with excitement, their bodies swaying to the rhythm of the *gambang*, the five-keyed gong-row music of the *Anak Suku Dalam*, breathing life back into the ancient tales, communicating with and cajoling with a host of beings, getting closer, their *nianyi panjang*, their long songs, extending over several nights.

They had paid visits before by the old *gelam*, the roadside tree, the gnarled but delicate giver of shade. They smiled their approval and consent, their dark eyes staring at the moon tincturing the leaves of the *tembussu* trees ... Had they come from the neighboring *sawah*? *Mengapu*? Why? Or had they arrived from the *gunang*, the jagged-green mountain with the tooth-like spires? Did they reach this place from the “many islands” with deliberate determination? Betel nuts in little boxes were passed around along with buds of some small white flower. Their features had the weathered look of those who have toiled in the tropics, who know what it is really like to sweat under the fierceness of the sun. Four cats with teak-brown bodies and dark seal points, all children of Puteh Kuning, who had given birth to them in the brief tropical twilight on top of a mat with brilliant borders of blue with colourful geometric designsm watched their own kittens playing in the *padang*, the open-green sward. They did not seem to be bothered by their presence.

The people kept coming day and night attracted to the cats with the blue-green eyes. Hahib Noh, despite being only eleven years old, an impressionable age, could hear their voices, see them and perhaps converse with them. He could not tell what they wanted or why they kept chanting and playing the same melody on the five key bronze-kettles gong row resting on a frame. However, he had made sure that the scent of *bulang melor*, the sweet jasmine, was always fresh and available for it has special attraction to those who journey to the *kampong* of departed spirits.

*First we dreamt it  
then we found it.*

*Have you not heard how it was  
in the days of old?*

There were adults but also children, also what seemed to be midwives, several *pawang*, men and women *bomoh* and faces he simply could not recognize as familiar. They would gather around the *padang* and kept getting closer as if wanting to touch, perhaps caress the cats and hold them in their arms. The kittens kept playing, prancing around, wrestling, jumping, boxing, dabbing their tails. Hahib Noh could smell the *nasi lemak*, the rice boiled in coconut milk that would be served for breakfast along with pineapples eaten with salt and a dash of soy and chilli sauce. Sometimes, just before he woke up, he could see them, having returned, their arms full with flowers and leaves that smelled fragrant, and then vanishing mysteriously from where they had emerged. On one single instance, they told him they came from a “little town by the sea,” or they would speak of the grey roofs of their huts under the coconut trees, the scented moonlight, how the smoke blue twilight came to their *kampong*. In dreams, the dead appear to the living. In dreams, the dead may be born in a child again.

Although others had migrated southward, they had left their ancestral land which was always to the West, from where their own ancestors had arrived. With them came their music, singing, story-telling, games, their rituals and the cats. Now, they were here, the tropical trade winds having departed. The new *kampong* dwellers were passionately fond of pets. And he, like many others, tended to the cats with loving, vigilant and ceaseless devotion.

He knotted his sarong for another day and got ready to consume the sweet rice from a green banana leaf. The cats made small inquisitive noises, their aquamarine eyes earnest and solemn, slitted with pleasure at the mid-morning sun. Some showed a kink in their tail; they grew wide eyed, their whiskers giving a mysterious twitch while staring at the silent wall of giant trees surrounding the *kampong*. Once upon a time, the old land had been their home too. “We have learned to be in two places at once,” he

thought to himself, and “we always answer when spoken to.”

The *peghulun* and other elders had told stories about these cats and how they began to appear in higher numbers among the original few brought by the *Mayong*, the first wave of migrants from their ancestral land. The ancestors had not necessarily acted with foresight. Somehow a simple change in colour appeared first, some cats became a solid black among the many tabbies, their frequency gradually increasing their numbers. As the first migrants began to settle in new locales, distant from each other, each took a group of cats with them, a population reduced in size. These founders began to show different traits and some cats became lighter, some with some points or streaks in their ears, nose, tails and paws. Their eyes first turned to parrot-tail-yellow, china-blue and all the shades between, but always bright with light and intelligence. They were talkative.

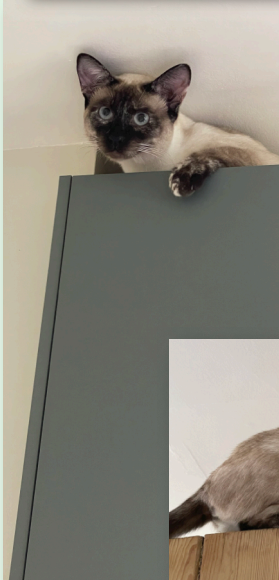
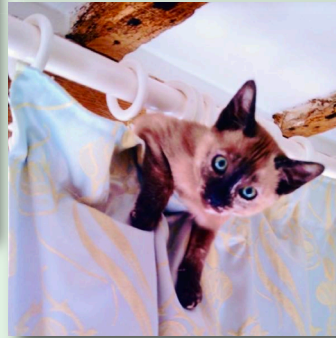
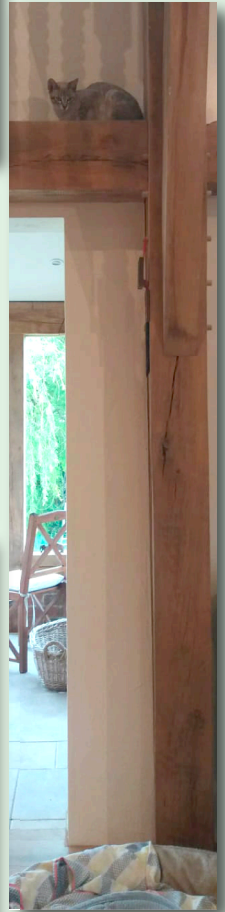
### ***Things Cats Must Try To Remember!***

- If I sit on top of the book case singing loudly it is not, oddly, endearing to my human.
- If I put a live mouse in my food bowl, I should not expect it to stay there until I get hungry.
- The dog likes to sleep once in a while. I will not watch him constantly.
- If I bite the cactus, it will bite back.
- If I stop on every stair in front of my human it is not, oddly, endearing to them.
- My human is capable of cooking bacon and eggs without my help.
- The tinned cat food is already dead. I do not need to kill it by swatting bits all over the floor.
- I am a carnivore. Potted plants are not meat.
- I will never be able to walk on the ceiling, so staring up the wall and screaming at it will not bring it any closer.
- The goldfish likes living in water and must be allowed to remain in its bowl.
- My human *will* notice if I start eating their sandwich from the other end.
- The postman comes every day. I will not freak out every time I hear the mail drop onto the mat.

## LOOKING DOWN ON US

*When people who have never had Tonkinese ask me what they are like, there are quite a few things that I say, most of which make them look rather horrified. One which is absolutely serious though, is that they think they are eagles. They like to perch on top of doors (or other high places) and plummet onto your head as you walk through. Those people smirk knowingly. I'm just winding them up now. So, after a rash of photos of cats perched on top of doors on one of my chat groups (one of which gave rise to the amazing cover picture), I have a good collection for proof. With many thanks to those who kindly sent photos.*

Photo credits: Allegra Loch, Dan and Holly Whitfield, Linda Vousden, Rachel Pennell, Rosamund Heath, Guy Poulton, Sue Evans, Mairi Forbes, Sue Robb





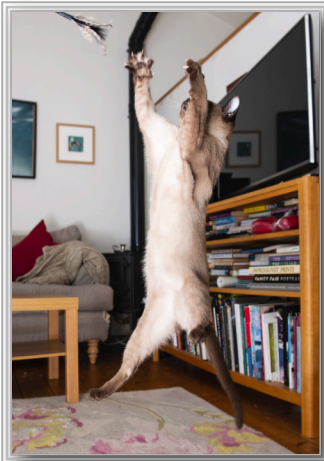


## Introducing ...

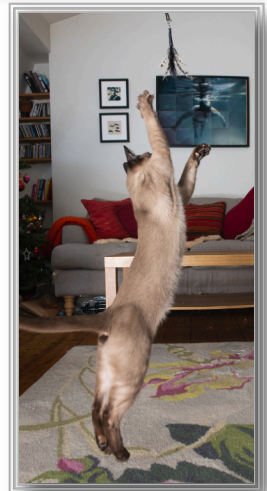
This is Bunny. Very friendly and demanding of affection. He will come up to you squeaking and try to climb up your leg until you pick him up. (If you don't comply you might find that he takes a wild flying leap onto your shoulders anyway.)



He shares his affection with all members of the household and most guests as well. He has saved our other Tonk, Mouse, from loneliness and boredom, although I think Mouse sometimes thinks he should have been more careful what he wished for. Bunny was like a tornado when he arrived, and he still chases Mouse around the house. (In return Mouse carefully trims Bunny's whiskers to tiny short bristles on either side.)



Bunny is the most comical cat I have ever had. His little puzzled/grumpy face and his mad eyes are always funny. He leaps up and grabs things out of my hands. He is also the most disrespectful - he bops my face with his paws just for fun. The other day I was idly discussing with my daughters the possibility of filling the house with another 3 or 4 cats just like him. A terrifying yet surprisingly tempting idea. 😊



*Ros Hobley*

## Introducing ...

Here are some pictures of our Tonkinese cats with some large yawns. Suggestion for another issue: strangest place to sleep...

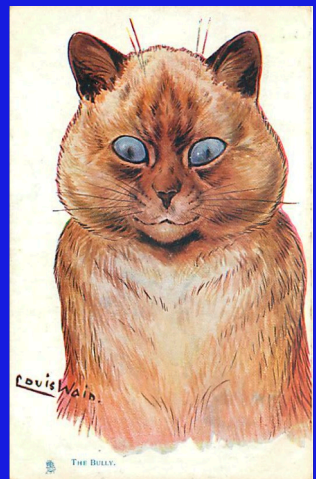


Below is tabby Mymystic Pharos (Pepe) with his bestest new friend Chorus Lux Aeterna (Sami)

*Frances Kirby-Johnson*



*Louis Wain (1860–1939) was a famous illustrator of animals, and particularly cats. Although his 'realistic' drawings were extremely lifelike, he made his reputation and career drawing cartoon-like pictures of animals in anthropomorphized situations. Cats doing anything from enjoying a dinner party to playing golf. His style is particularly recognisable by the enlarged round eyes of the cats. Linda came across this picture entitled 'The Bully', which is his painting of one of the earliest recorded Tonkinese in the UK, known at the time as the 'Chocolate Siamese' by breeders who occasionally had all-brown kittens in otherwise pure Siamese litters.*



# SIDE EFFECTS OF KITTEN/CAT VACCINATION

On occasion I have been asked about this subject so I put this article together from various veterinary sites on the internet. It might even be helpful in your kitten packs, so please feel free to copy it. Cat vaccinations are safe for most cats. Although it is possible for side effects to occur, they are very rare. Vaccines are increasingly reliable and safe, but it's always best to keep an eye on your cat after the visit to the vet.

## Core Vaccinations for Kittens:

**Feline Panleukopenia Virus** (Feline Infectious Enteritis or Feline Parvovirus) - This is a highly contagious virus and can often be fatal, particularly for young kittens. The most common symptoms are vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, dehydration (even if they keep drinking), loss of appetite and, less commonly, nervous signs associated with brain damage.

**Feline Calicivirus** - This virus causes cat flu (sneezing, nasal discharge, mouth ulcers and excess salivation/dribbling). Affected cats may be reluctant to eat and have a temperature.

**Feline Herpesvirus** - This also causes cat flu, fever, sneezing and nasal discharge as well as ulcers on the eye. Chronic infection can result in nasal diseases.

## Non-core kitten vaccinations include:

**Feline Leukaemia virus** - FeLV is spread by close contact and can cause cancers, anaemia, vomiting and diarrhoea. In the UK, this vaccination is highly recommended to have alongside the core vaccines, with any cat that has access to outside or is in contact with cats that go outside.

**Rabies** - The rabies vaccination is required for pets travelling abroad under the Pet Travel Scheme.

## Common vaccine side effects:

When they appear the symptoms are usually mild and should last only for one to two days. If you notice your cat is feeling poorly after their vaccination, contact your vet for advice.

- Low energy (lethargy)
- Low appetite
- Sleeping more
- Slight fever (raised temperature)
- Mild swelling around the vaccine site that disappears in two - four weeks.
- Sneezing or coughing

## Less common side effects include:

If these symptoms last for more than 24 hours the cat should be seen by a vet.

- Twitching
- Itchy skin
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Limping

## Rare vaccine side effects

In very rare circumstances, a vaccine can cause a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction include:

- Swelling anywhere on the body
- Breathing difficulty
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Cold ears, legs and feet
- Seizures
- A pounding heart beat
- Collapse.

They should be seen by your vet straight away. If possible, try to phone your vets on the way so they can prepare for your arrival.

## Do You Have A.A.A.D.D.?

Recently, I realised I had A. A. A. D. D.—Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder—because I decided to buy cat food.

As I went to leave the house, I saw my mail on the hall table. I decide to go through the mail before going to the shop. I put my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the waste basket and notice that the basket is full so I put the mail back on the table and go to empty the wastebasket.

Then I think, since I have to open my mail I may as well pay my bills now (so I can post them while I'm out) and put the extra waste into the basket before emptying it. So I get my cheque book and notice that there is only one left.

My new cheque book is in my desk in the study, so I go to my desk where I find the can of coke that I had been drinking. I'm going to look for my cheque book, but as I move the coke aside I feel that it is getting warm, and decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the coke a vase of flowers catches my eye – I remember that I had intended to water them. I set the coke down on the counter, and I discover the reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning; I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and I notice the TV remote that someone has left on the kitchen counter. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen counter, so I decide to put it back in the living room where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I splash some water on the flowers, but some of it spills on the floor, so I set the remote back down on the counter, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: I still need cat food, the bills aren't paid, the waste basket is full, there is a warm can of coke sitting on the kitchen counter, the flowers aren't watered, there is still only one cheque in my cheque book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

... Don't laugh—if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!



## More pictures from the September Show

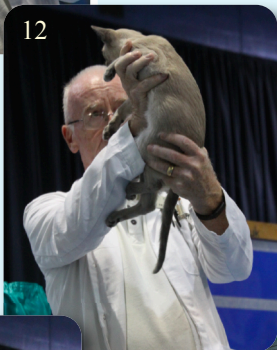


11

- 1 Rameses Ventura
- 2 Pr Longnap Rameses Steggles with owner Alex Lloyd
- 3 Pr Rameses Tobermory
- 4 OB & IGrPr Lilyput Parma Violet (BIS neuter and overall BIS)
- 5 Pr Rameses Cleopatra with owner Loretta Smith
- 6 Pr Rameses Tobermory with owner Alex Lloyd
- 7 Ch Toptonk Lexus Rameses
- 8 Ch Adsepbu Malu of Mymystic (BIS adult)
- 9 Gr Pr Rameses Last Tango

Senior GCCF judge Jon Trotter, judging Best in Show;

- 11 BIS adult (Adsepbu Malu of Mymystic)
- 12 BIS kitten (Rameses Sierra)
- 13 BIS nueter (Lilyput Parma Violet)
- 14 presentation of overall BIS award
- 15 The show hall
- 16 Club table



12



14



13



16



14

## SOME OLD WIVES TALES ABOUT CATS AND CAT BREEDING

**“The sire’s genes have more influence on the kitten than the dam’s.” Wrong**, perhaps because there are fewer studs than queens any notable similarities between the litters of different queens, who have visited the same stud, are attributed to the stud as the common denominator. However, it has been calculated that every time a kitten is produced it could inherit its complete genetic make-up from its parents in one of 524,288 possible combinations. So, unless the kitten is from an in-bred line, the genetic influence of any ancestor more than two generations back - no matter how illustrious - is almost non-existent. Any characteristics a breeder hopes to ‘fix’ will have no substantial influence two generations later. The only exceptions will be in such closely in-bred cats within three generations that the chromosomes become almost identical in each kitten – which is disastrous for a breed population.

**“There is a 50/50 chance of getting a female or a male kitten”.** Wrong, this might seem to be logical, and some breeders even claim that every other year there will be more male kittens than females, but there is no scientific evidence to support this theory. The ratio of male to female kittens depends on the degree of spermatozoa maturity and the specific balance of acidity/alkalinity in the queen’s vaginal tract at the time of mating – highly variable factors.

**“The more times the queen is mated the more kittens she’ll have.” Wrong**, the queen releases eggs (ova) once during each oestrus cycle and that is only after the first mating; so the number of kittens produced depends entirely upon the number of eggs released at that one time. It doesn’t matter how often she is subsequently mated. Eggs not fertilised during the first mating may be fertilised in a subsequent mating but the queen won’t produce more eggs. Thus the queen, not the stud, determines the potential litter size.

**“Kitten barring (ghost tabby marks) will disappear in adulthood.” Not necessarily**, it doesn’t matter what breed or colour the cat is, its make-up includes a gene for *tabby*. In kittens, especially kittens such as Tonkinese, Burmese and Siamese, the production of coat-colour is incomplete but with successive moults the colour and coat-pattern becomes more defined until the cat reaches maturity - generally between 1 and 2 years of age. So a tabby pattern that may be seen in kittens is often masked by a more mature coat - but it is still there and if the tabby markings are fairly strong they are not likely to be completely masked even when the cat fully matures. The type of tabby pattern, if known, can be used to advantage – particularly in the orange colours (red/cream/apricot). A breeder of orange Tonkinese who uses queens/studs that have an underlying ticked tabby pattern will produce cats that appear to have a clear coat. However, an underlying classic or spotted tabby pattern will inevitably be visible in a mature orange cat, and the mackerel tabby pattern only a little less so. On the other hand, when breeding the brown Tonks a ticked pattern may be more obvious in a mature cat, giving a rather brindled effect to the coat.



**“The kitten takes its temperament from its mother.” Not so,** this is one of those nature versus nurture matters. It would seem logical that the kittens learn from their mother how to react to situations, objects, people etc. To some degree this is so. However, there is clear scientific evidence that the temperament of the kitten is inherited from *both* of its parents; if *either* one of the parents has a nervous or aggressive disposition then so may its offspring. This shows us how crucial it is that we should only breed from well-adjusted cats.

**“Coat-colour influences the cat’s behaviour.”** This may sound like fantasy, but it’s not. The neural pathways responsible for stimulating melanin-producing enzymes are the same as those for adrenaline—this is consistent in cats, dogs and people. There are studies being conducted on this matter, but I’ll just leave you with the thought that the apocryphal fiery red-head is not so apocryphal.

**“Female cats should be allowed to have a litter of kittens.” Absolute codswallop!** I haven’t been able to find the origins of this old wives tale but there are fools are still passing on this piece of nonsense. There is no evidence at all to support this theory, on the contrary there is much to support spaying a female cat as soon as they are mature enough to handle the anaesthesia—not least of which is avoiding unwanted litters.

**“Avoid Spring Kittens (or Beware the Cat in May).”** This was a Celtic belief. Before we had central heating and understood that our cats needed proper shelter they were kept outside living wild, even pet cats were traditionally ‘thrown out at night’. Kittens born in May from a winter mating were often virtually feral and seen as impossible to tame. Happily we understand our cats’ needs much better now and we take time to socialise them properly, but mainly, they live indoors with us during the winter!

**“Feeding both wet and dry foods together can cause ‘twisted stomach’”** We have been feeding wet with dry for decades and no cat has ever had this. Ask your vet (it may take them a while to answer as they will be choking with laughter).

**“Feeding raw food will give your cat salmonella, campylobacter, coccidia and tritrichomonas foetus”.** No case of this has been recorded in the UK. Some USA raw foods have tested positive, but not the cats.

**“If you breed cats in the UK you have to be licensed.” No you don’t.** You only need to register with your local council if you expect to, or will, make an overall profit.

**“A queen’s first litter is usually very small”.** Certainly not in the Tonkinese; rather the reverse actually.

**“Testing positive for Coronavirus means your cat has FIP.” It does NOT.** The only reliable and verified test for FIP is a post-mortem.

**“Cats can’t burp” (!)** Of course they can.

## Introducing ...

I know I joke about them but we are devoted to the kittens. They came at a time when we badly needed a boost and they give us an endless supply of amusement and occasionally make us laugh out loud, which was especially valuable when our Christmas plans were scuppered by Andy getting Covid.

Although they are our 5th and 6th Tonks they really are different, and we are so looking forward to seeing how they mature (if they ever do).

Although they are nearly identical if you're just looking at their faces, both cats look completely different depending on the light. Alfie is paler, and has a thicker, longer and slightly coarser coat, Spider getting darker with a coat like silk, unbelievably smooth. Both have eyes which are green to yellowish at the edge, Alfie's greener than Spider's but not by much. I suppose I'd describe Spidey's coat colour as milk chocolate and Alfie's as milk shake! With points.



They would stay outside all day if they were allowed to. They have discovered a mouse in the bank and some time is devoted to trying to catch it. Which they definitely will, probably quite soon. Alfie discovered it and Spider elbowed himself in on the act. I am worried about them getting cold but when I get them in they are furious and attack the door and cat flap so vigorously I tend to let them out again.

I am mildly concerned that the fences won't contain them when they're older, although it is fine for now. If they had their freedom I don't think we'd ever see them, they would be off all day terrorising the village.



They seem devoted to one another, are always together and never argue, though they are always brawling.

They sleep on our bed in between us, but never under the covers. Usually awake before us but stay quiet. They are surprisingly co-operative at night and fall in with our timetable.

They have very good appetites. They seemed to go off the raw chicken and we have been giving them the expensive rabbit you told us about, which they

love. They have a large meal of fish in the morning, rabbit or chicken at lunchtime and then something in a packet in the evening. They really love the biscuits but I'm cutting back on those as they are getting a bit porky.

They have very different characters. Alfie is calmer, more contemplative, Spider highly strung and easily spooked. Spidey keeps going at full speed for much longer than Alfie, he seems indefatigable. They are both solid cats, their feet make an astonishing noise on the floorboards. They don't set out to be destructive—carpets and furniture are relatively unscathed. Any damage is collateral, the result of overenthusiastic play, apart from their extraordinary appetite for wood and cardboard! They can be affectionate and I know will become more so. At the moment life is far too interesting to stop and be made a fuss of.

*Fenella Peake*



## Christmas Recipe - Sugar Plums

In the classic, “The Night Before Christmas,” the children are nestled snug in their beds while “visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.” Sugarplums originated in 16th-century England, since fresh plums were not available in December they were preserved in sugar (if you were wealthy enough) and the intensely sweet treats were saved for special occasions such as Twelfth Night.

To make sugarplums today, you don’t need to start with fresh plums, you can use dried apricots, prunes or, as in following recipe, figs.

### Sugarplums

10 dried figs

1/3 cup of slivered almonds

¼ cup honey

2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon almond extract

¼ cup sugar (white or coloured)

1 tablespoon orange zest

- Remove stems from figs.
- In a food processor or blender, add the figs, cocoa, cinnamon, and almonds. Chop or pulse until the ingredients are minced into small bits.
- Add the honey, almond extract, and orange zest to the blender or food processor, and pulse until mixed.
- Roll the mixture into one-inch balls. Sprinkle sugar on a sheet of waxed paper and roll balls in sugar to coat.

**Store sugarplums in a tightly-sealed container for seven to ten days.**



# TBC Recommendations For Breeders

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*In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics and Rules For Registration and Showing of Cats the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs.*

1. If breeding first-generation (Burmese x Siamese) Tonkinese, ensure that both parents comply 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 (e.g. Orientals, cats of unregistered or unknown parentage, or experimental colours).
2. A stud owner is not obliged to accept a queen to stud and may refuse mating on application or on inspection of the queen on health or other grounds.
3. GCCF-registered Queens and Studs must be on the active register. Queens not registered with the GCCF may be accepted for mating provided their registration is not endorsed 'not for breeding'. Studs must have their Certificate of Entirety (COE) and DNA test results as required by the Tonkinese Registration Policy lodged with the GCCF prior to the registration of their first litter. Stud owners should retain a copy of the COE and DNA test results to show to a queen's owner if requested.
4. Studs and visiting queens must be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpesvirus and Calicivirus (no less than 14 days before the mating). Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. Vaccination certificates must be available for inspection.
5. Studs should be regularly tested for FeLV and FIV, even if they are inoculated against FeLV and the documentation should be shown to the owners of visiting queens on request.
6. The stud owner must supply the following for the queen's owner: a) A mating certificate that complies with GCCF Rules For Registration and Showing of Cats Section 1 Rule 3d (<https://www.gccfcats.org/About-GCCF/Forms-Downloads>) b) A full pedigree of the stud showing at least three generations with full registration numbers; c) A receipt for the stud fee.
7. The stud owner must make clear any conditions relating to the kittens or repeat matings, before the queen is left with the stud.
8. The stud premises should be available for inspection, by appointment, by the queen's owner prior to the queen being brought to stud.
9. Queens should be tested for FeLV and FIV before going to stud, ideally no more than 24 hours before the visit (unless from a fully-tested indoor household, when a longer time interval may be agreed with the stud owner), and the documentation should be shown to the stud's owner. PCR testing for Chlamydia, FHV and Calici virus are also strongly recommended for both studs and queens.
10. 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, and should make enquiries about the availability of the stud before testing and making any other arrangements.
11. The queen's owner should be aware that the stud fee is for the services of the stud and does not guarantee conception.
12. Kittens should be registered with the GCCF and must not be sold less than 7 days after completion of a full course of vaccination against at least Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpesvirus and Calicivirus. The breeder must supply each kitten owner with a valid vaccination certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon showing that the first vaccination and booster have been completed; a pedigree certificate that includes at least four generations, at least three with full registration numbers; the GCCF registration card for the kitten.
13. It is essential that all breeding Tonkinese must be DNA tested in accordance with the requirements of the current Tonkinese Registration Policy (see <https://tonkinesebac.weebly.com/downloads>). If you are unable to download a copy please contact the Club Secretary ([tbc.uk@ntlworld.com](mailto:tbc.uk@ntlworld.com)) to obtain one.

*List of available DNA tests applicable to the Tonkinese breed (\*currently required for studs):*

\*Burmese Head Defect

\*Burmese Hypokalaemia

\*Progressive Retinal Atrophy (rdAc)

\*Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PKDef)

\*Burmese GM2 Gangliosidosis

Korat GM1 Gangliosidosis (low prevalence)

Mucopolysaccharidosis VI (MPS VI) (low prevalence)

