

TONKINESE  
BREED  
CLUB

*ton<sup>s</sup>inese*

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*Summer*

*1993*

*Issue 4*



## TONKINESE BREED CLUB

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## CHAIR'S NOTES by MARY HODGKINSON

Well, here we are reading Tonkinfo 4 and having had our third AGM; I was glad to see so many at it - when one looks at other clubs, I think our total of thirty-two members at the meeting was good. Many thanks to Hazel Forshaw for getting us such a splendid venue, and to all those who worked so hard on food, raffles, etc. to make the occasion such a success.

I know a lot of us have had or are having their second generation litters - this is great, but do please still remember to keep an eye on your pedigrees and conform to our Registration Policy - Siamese and Burmese only in the background.

On another page is the report of my talk on the necessary steps for promotion, (expanded into a more detailed account by Tommy) which those of you who were not at the AGM might find interesting and which may be a helpful reminder to those who heard it: you will all see what is needed to help the Club move us forward.

Don't forget to support our fund-raising events - details in Secretary's notes.

What do you think of our new lovely T-shirts and Logo design? Many thanks to Mark Owen and Joanna Burke for the work put into them, and Joanna's generous donation to get them off the ground.

A list of Tonkinese prefixes has been requested, so here goes: (Impossible to ring everyone individually, so please forgive any errors or omissions!)

**Prefixes Granted Before June 91** (therefore counting towards promotion - see 'Next Steps Forward')

Mrs. B. Alston: WILOWISPA  
Mrs. H. Barnes: SAMKABAR  
Miss J. Cornish: CORNWOOD  
Mrs. J. Elkington: ALAKING  
Mrs. H. Forshaw: ISHOKATS  
Mrs. J. Hipkiss: DAMILEE  
Mrs S. Kibble: SYLVAKIB  
Mrs. Z. Shacklady: DEELAND  
Mrs. P. Tarrant: OAKVIL

Mrs. J. Ball: ASTALDO  
Dr. & Mrs. T. Bishop: EPISCOPUSS  
Mr. & Mrs. T. Earley: ISHMAL  
Mrs. J. Farley: FLAYRE  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Froud: CHARLEMMA  
Miss M. S. Hodgkinson: GRIMSPOUND  
Dr. J. Ponsford: BONZER  
Mrs. P. Spicer: VARCLIN  
Mrs. D. Waters: ROHESE

Mr. & Mrs. J. Nicol (lapsed members): NICSMI

**Prefixes Granted After June 91**

Mrs. D. Burke: TONKITU  
Mrs. A. Crowther: ANGISAN  
Mrs. H. Leese: TANCLOGWYN  
Mrs. R. Harper: ROMANTIKA  
Mr. & Mrs. Makepeace: ROYANDI  
Mrs. J. Sharratt: TONKABELLA

Mr. & Mrs. W. Clark: TONKYTIME  
Mrs. B. Gill: TRIMORR  
Mr. E. Mackenzie-Bowie: ARACLETT  
Mr. & Mrs. J. MacMahon: TALOFAPUSS  
Mrs. C. Poole: CLARINATH  
Mr. & Mrs. Young: PUDSAIN

## SECRETARY'S NOTES by DIANA BISHOP

Not very much to tell you all, as it is not very long since our last Tonkinfo. The membership is increasing, we have well over 100 members now. (Can't say exactly, as we have a batch to vote in next meeting.) Similarly, although a very good showing has been made by our cats on the bench (8 First shared between 6 cats at Surrey and

Sussex, for example), it is too soon for another detailed list of Merits from Brenda - something to look forward to in the next Tonkinfo.

Two well-respected judges have asked if they may be put forward to GCCF to go on our approved list and in general we have the feeling that the breed is beginning to gain respect - every new breed goes through a rather difficult time in the beginning but it just takes time, hard work and patience to get there. I have had a letter from Germany praising the reputation of the British Tonkinese and asking for help in getting one!

I hope all of you who can will show at the Supreme; I know some people were (I think) unjustly disappointed last year, but believe me the public appreciate our cats even when the judge doesn't; other judges and breeders admire them, and it all contributes to our way forward. The Supreme and the National are two great showcases for breeds, as is Kensington - I'm glad to say we have a good entry of kittens there.

REMINDER: we have our annual fund-raising event in Seaford on Saturday week (10th July) - Jill Martin's coffee-morning/garden party. 10am - 12 noon, contributions to the stall and helpers wanted. Everybody welcome to come back to our house for a bite afterwards. ALSO: our Club table at Kensington Show, similarly goodies for the stall and helpers on the day (July 31st) wanted. The Club is probably going to vote a regular percentage of all fund-raising to Rescue (see Pauline's article) - whether this is voted in or not we are always ready to spend on deserving cases and have already done so.

This is my last Tonkinfo for the time being - at last a brave soul has volunteered and will do the next one - many thanks, Linda Vousden.

## NEXT STEPS FORWARD FOR THE TONKINESE

### **I. PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION**

At present, Tonkinese have 'Preliminary Recognition' from the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (G.C.C.F.). Our chance to move forward next year to 'Provisional Recognition', which is one step short of the 'Championship Status' which is our final goal, depends upon our beginning to get our act together NOW. We quote Mrs. Pring: "Applications have to be made almost a year in advance for the next show season (the season starts on 1st June each year) because they must be approved at the October Council meeting for the change of status the following 1st June. Prior to this, the application must be considered by the Executive Committee and so it should be received by the GCCF at the beginning of July at the latest."

Although this gives us nearly a year before putting in our application, this is not too long to collect and collate the necessary paperwork.

As far as we can be clear about the searching demands of the GCCF Rules, we have to prove:

1. That our formal application for Provisional Recognition has been 'signed by at least 20 bona fide breeders who have held a registered prefix for at least 3 years, who state in the application that they are working with the provisional breed.' (Rule 21A).

By our count, we shall have by the time of our application, next June, 24 Tonkinese breeders who will have held their prefixes for at least three years. We shall need a

statement FROM EVERY BREEDER with a prefix of three years' standing, stating that they work with the Tonkinese breed.

2. That we have 'a provisional standard of points agreed upon by the breeders in conjunction with the relevant Breed Advisory Committee' (Rule 21C). Your Committee will finalize this through our Breed Advisory Sub-Committee, endorsed, we hope, by our Members in General Meeting.

3. That we can furnish 'a breeding policy agreed by the Breed Policy Committee'. Again, to be dealt with through our Breed Advisory Sub-Committee (Rule 21D).

4. That we can supply 'facts to confirm the merit of the proposed breed and the differences between the proposed breed and existing breeds' (Rule 21E). We have already supplied these at the Preliminary stage. Members in General Meeting should consider what changes they want to make.

5. That we can show 'at least 50 specimens' of Tonkinese, with four-generation pedigrees on the Experimental Register. We can show several hundred. Mary has 150 pedigrees to send up and GCCF recently indicated to us that it has many more on the computer.

6. That 'at least 30%' of the minimum 50 cats just mentioned above have won at least 4 Merits from 4 different judges. This numbers 15 and, again, we reckon we have the necessary - IF EVERY MEMBER WHOSE CATS HAVE WON MERITS REPLIES. (Rule 21J).

### **II. AFFILIATION TO G.C.C.F.**

For affiliation to G.C.C.F. we need:

1. Our Tonkinese Breed Club to have been in existence for at least three years. This happens at our A.G.M. 1994. (Constitution, Section 4).

2. 50 paid-up members of our Club and audited accounts to prove it. (Constitution, Section 4). We have over 100 members - and we can prove it!

3. A list of Officers and Committee Members to show that none of them are connected with 'unaffiliated organisations' in the cat world. (Constitution, Section 4 (2)).

4. A copy of our Tonkinese Breed Club Rules, up to date. In particular, these must include provision that 'in the event of affiliation being granted, the Council shall have disciplinary powers according to its Constitution over the Club and the members thereof. (Constitution, Section 4 (3)). Again, no problem - although your Committee may need your co-operation in a tidying-up operation on our Rules at the 1994 A.G.M.

With your enthusiastic response and a bit of luck, next summer should see the Tonkinese a long stride forward towards Championship Status!

*Mary Hodgkinson, Chair  
Tommy Bishop, Vice-Chair.  
July 1993*

## RESCUE UPDATE

As the popularity of our lovely breed is growing, so unfortunately is the rescue work. In the last six months we have had more Tonks needing to be re-housed; a cream kitten 7 months by Bournemouth Cats Protection League and two more kittens from Poole. The Walter Lampard Animal Trust in Oxfordshire had two brown male neuters eleven months old; (these have now been homed). Burmese Cat Rescue has also homed Tonks, and I believe Siamese Rescue have also helped. Many thanks to all of these people.

All of this shows that our rescue work needs to become more organised and much better funded. I believe we, as breeders, have a responsibility to our Tonkinese and should not have to leave it to other organisations to fund us.

At the last A.G.M. Hazel Forshaw organised a lovely raffle, giving the profit to rescue work. This raised £18.05, many thanks to Hazel.

If anyone else could raise funds in this or any other way, no matter how large or small, it would be most helpful.

Also could anyone willing and able to foster Tonkinese until a new home can be found, please let me or your area organiser know. We have a great need for help in this way.

*Pauline Earley  
Rescue Officer*

## SUMMER MADNESS

*(Summer's here again, but we wanted to include this nice tale from Pauline, which space would not allow before).*

Summer's over and eleven Tonkinese are now causing havoc in their new homes.

It has not been an uneventful period. The highlight was in July, when Anglia T.V. filmed our kittens for a small slot on Animal Country, presented by Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy. It took over two hours to film what will probably be five to ten minutes' air time.

One of these kittens went to a nice family a few doors away from us. 'Su-lee' was collected and carried off proudly at 4pm. Two hours later I was surprised to see the new owner come rushing back with her kitten, which she thrust into my arms. "My kitchen's on fire" she said and rushed back. Apart from smelling strongly of smoke she was unharmed. I left my daughter to keep a watch on her while I went back to our neighbour's house. Thankfully it was a small fire which was out by the time the fire crew arrived, although my neighbour's husband had to stay overnight in hospital for smoke inhalation. 'Su-lee' was not the cause of the accident and has now settled down happily in her redecorated home.

It seems strangely quiet and peaceful now that the kittens have gone, but what is that I can hear? It's my Queen calling. She is missing the kittens as well.

*Pauline Wright  
Keo Tonkinese*

## MY INTRODUCTION TO THE 'WHAT KIND OF CATS ARE THEY?' by LINDA VOUSDEN

With my father in the army we've 'done' quite a lot of moving around but we have always had animals. The family's first Siamese arrived in the early 1960's, a beautiful seal-point girl - and we've been hooked ever since. So when I left home my own Siamese was essential. Lovely lilac-tabby pointed Moral (so called because of the bump in her tail) was my 21st birthday present from my parents in 1976, in 1978 she had 3 adorable Siamese kittens. My husband, Mike, had never had animals as a child, when he met her he fell in love with her and married me.

In 1984 we inherited my parents' cream-point, Grimley (named after a Scottish cartoon character). Grimley was born in May 1973, one of the earliest cream-points, she was bred by Mary Hodgkinson. Sadly in September 1990 we had to let Grimley be put to sleep and poor Moral (then aged 14) pined for her. She needed a new companion - a gentle one - so we thought that a Burmese was the obvious option. October 1990 saw the arrival of Mistry (our beautiful blue girl), she was a good choice for companion.

In due course Mistry's calling became just too much - even for her and we were pleased to see that Mary's Grimspounds were still breeding. Now at this stage I should explain that being an ardent Siamese fan I thought that the Tonkinese I had seen in books were a rather washed out imitation of the Siamese, especially the eye colour - hold it, don't hang me yet! As I said the only Tonks I had seen so far were those in books. We contacted Mary and went along to see King (Aduish Atlas), he was our first sight of a live Tonk and we were impressed with him - as was Mistry. Mike and I then went to Olympia for our first visit to a major cat show and checked out both the Burmese (Mistry is far better than any of them of course) and the Siamese. As Moral was then a good 14 years old I hadn't seen one of the 'new breed' of Siamese for some time - sadly need I say more? Then we moseyed on down to the Tonks! Mike and I are now confirmed 'Tonkies'. Who needs jewellery when there are living ornaments, their eyes set with jade, topaz, sapphire, emeralds and now aqua-marines?

Mistry had her litter of 7 beautiful babies between 9.30am and 4.30pm on Christmas Eve (1991) - 4 girls and 3 boys, and of course we hadn't a clue what colours we had as they all looked fairly muddy. We watched their progress delightedly and gradually there evolved a beautiful lilac boy, 2 lovely blue boys and four adorable blue tortoiseshells. Unable to part with them Mike and I have kept the handsome lilac boy (Caspar), my darling blue boy (Fable) and the wonderful runty little tortoiseshell (Speck). I have hundreds of photo's of them now, not to mention hours and hours of video tape. After much filtering of enquiries we found wonderful homes for our other babies and altogether it was an experience I'll never forget.

I have been showing both Caspar and Fable and am very pleased to report that they are both merit winners. Our three Tonks are progressing beautifully each in their own way, and are striking, and different, enough for our visitors to enquire - 'Aren't they lovely, what kind of cats are they?'

## HOW I CAME TO TONKINESE by NANCY CURTIS

Now you wanted to hear about my first Tonkinese "experience"! Well, I had heard a lot about them but hadn't ever seen one in the flesh. I couldn't find a suitable Siamese mate for my chocolate-point Siamese Pippa so I thought why not try Tonkinese. I knew of a suitable Choc. Burmese Champion - beautiful cat and wonderful temperament, not far away either. So that's how it happened.

Duly (after great anticipation and some difficulty. Poor Pippa had two breach births after a visit to the vet) she then produced six beautiful kittens altogether - well five large boys and one very small girl. They were so much more forward than any of my Burmese kittens (and I thought they were always precocious!) Pippa became a model Mum and "like Topsy they just grew and grew"! Their rate of progress was much faster than the Burmese equivalent - doing everything sooner - in fact they were quite delightful, and by 3 months they were sleek and elegant (3 chocs and 3 blues - it was very interesting watching the colours developing). Always though Jade (the little chocolate girl) was much smaller than her brothers - never getting a "look in" with the food if they had their way! Only they didn't! She in particular captivated everyone and a friend of mine booked her when she was three weeks old - she asked me to keep her until she was 4 months old as she breeds Persians and wanted to sell her kittens first. Of course, we couldn't bear to part with her by then and neither could her mother, so I had to say we'd changed our minds!

She is now 6 months old and weighs over 8lbs. She is so beautiful her coat is soft mink - her eyes! well, they're like her name. She is the most affectionate and gentle cat I've ever had and my Burmese queens are all very loving. Everyone falls in love with her! I have recently had two litters of Burmese as I had 5 booked and several of those people would have bought Jade as well! I have found the interest in Tonkinese amazing - 4 of mine went to people who had booked a Burmese and came to see Pippa's while they were waiting and ended up with a Tonkinese instead. Every one of them has kept in touch, regaling me with the pranks their kittens get up to! sending photographs. Wholly devoted to Tonkinese now! The people who contacted me through Miss Stuart-Hodgkinson were genuine buyers and were quite prepared to come long distances - the only problem being - at the time mine were only 3 weeks old and naturally they wanted a kitten then and there.

Shall I breed any more Tonkinese? Quite definitely! I have a Brown Burmese Grand Champion near - he has a wonderful temperament too, so I may use him next time! and Jade? Well, who knows?

So there you are - that's the saga of Pippa and her family.

## CRABBED AGE AND YOUTH...

Three years ago, when my elderly much-loved moggie was fourteen (and disabled from kittenhood with an ankylosed spine which prevented her from jumping normally), I decided I badly wanted a Tonkinese kitten. I had never had more than one cat at a time before, and was naturally apprehensive about how Emma would react to another cat (and a lively baby at that) in her house.

I consulted two vets. The first said: "A bit hard on the old lady, don't you think?" The second vet said: "it would probably give the old lady a new lease of life." So, as one usually does, I took the advice I wanted to hear, and went ahead.

At first Emma was furious and swore and spat at the young male kitten whenever they met. He found it hard to understand that she was too old to play with him. He had been born into a multi-cat household where all the adults were much younger than Emma. He accepted from the first that she was No.1 Top Cat and at night he settled happily and quietly in his own room with only a cat's cradle and the radiator for comfort whereas she still enjoyed the privilege of sleeping on my bed.

Gradually hostility became neutrality, and after about six months they became great friends, snuggling up together. She licked his head (which he seemed to enjoy) in a maternal way although she had been spayed as a young cat and had never previously met a kitten or had a cat friend before.

Emma is now seventeen and Bel almost three. I fear that when her end does come he will miss her very much. I have therefore, partly for this reason, recently acquired two more Tonkinese kittens, brother and sister, fourteen weeks old when they came to me. They are very lively and play together with great energy. The old lady ignored them from the start, apart from a perfunctory hiss at times, and they do not seem to bother her. But Bel was furious and after two weeks was still swearing at them or pointedly ignoring them. For the first few days after they arrived he cried piteously and went off his food slightly, but pilchards in tomato sauce (his favourite treat) and a lot of T.L.C. (tender loving care as prescribed in such cases) began the acclimatisation process. Now, three weeks after their arrival, he is letting them play with him in very strenuous chasing games and friendly boxing matches, but still swears occasionally if they take too many liberties or he feels they are challenging his seniority and authority. Once, when they pounced playfully on old Emma, he seemed to go to her rescue and quickly and effectively put them in their place!

I am sure that by the time Emma's end comes, which may not be long delayed I fear, Bel's younger generation half-brother and half-sister will have become his real friends.

*Jill Martin*

## THOUGHTS ON KEEPING A STUD by JEAN SHARRATT

This must be the hardest but most rewarding job of all.

My boy is the most devoted father, ardent lover and screen star personality I have ever known. He stalks around like a panther and 'gleams' his presence on all who set eyes on him. He purrs like a machine on boost and fixes his loving gaze on me, curling his toes and patting my face to show his devotion.

I decided from day 1 that he was to be my foundation stud, so I worked at getting the changeover right from the beginning. I started by putting him out at night with some company and then gradually increased the time spent in his stud house alone. He had access to a cat-proofed garden for playtimes 'out' which helped to allay boredom. However, he found a way over the fence - the call of the wild being very strong after ten months of age. So, at Diana Bishop's suggestion I put him on harness and

extending lead. This I found invaluable for housetraining him, as if he goes to spray, I pull in the lead and the noise stops him in his tracks. I then encourage him to use the litter tray to mark his territory.

I let him mix with the others as much as possible, and ensure he has lots of 'quality' time with me. We have a very definite routine which is very important to him. He has a morning stroll after breakfast, lunch with me, and evening break in the house and a bedtime cuddle for half an hour while I catch up on my reading. The only time he cries is if I am late for my appointment!

I am hoping to be able to neuter him in the New Year when one of his sons will carry on the job, and hope these measures will allow him to be integrated into the household again successfully. Yet another cat on the bed!

### ALL ABOUT TONKS by PEGGY SPICER

I regularly get "behaviour" reports from owners of my Tonkie Kittens - and the last two made me wonder if perhaps we should press gang a member of the Breed Club into organising a sort of Tonkie-Borstal!

There is the lady who, when her T.V. went wrong, came home from her shopping trip to find the two kittens had taken the back off, and had totally disembowelled it - trying to fix it? Now she has to keep the T.V. wrapped in chicken wire, as each time she turns it off, the kits go into action and have the back off in no time at all.

Then, the other day I heard of the two (mine always seem to go in two's) who climbed a tree and after several hours of climbing and coaxing on the part of their owner to no avail - her husband had to build a complete unit of platforms and ladders to get the little horrors down.

Someone else had a shredded curtain - one of a pair - so like a true Tonkinese owner - she got the scissors and cut the other curtain to match.

### TWO YOUNG TONKS by JOANNA BURKE

I met Cassius first.

In June 1991, I decided never to have a cat again. My beloved Boris had died after a protracted illness, and he was quite irreplaceable. The most wonderful Tonkinese, bred by very loving people in Suffolk, he was no showcat but an adored and adoring pet. He was a delight to many people, both neighbours and friends, and his death at the early age of ten was much mourned.

Two weeks after Boris died, I could not bear the silence. My flat was desolate: no anxious and loving cat waited for me when I returned home, and no purring heap attempted to suffocate me at night. I was quite bereft.

In search of a Tonk, I found the Bishops in Seaford. I drove down one hot Saturday afternoon to inspect the litter, most of whom were already sold. By coincidence, or maybe fate - who knows?, there was one male needing a home.

Dr. Bishop was attempting to watch Wimbledon when I arrived. He gave up trying when the kittens, stirred into action by a visitor, erupted into a wild, streaking game.

When Mrs. B. arrived home, we went into the garden, surrounded by pouncing, leaping kittens and watchful parents, who occasionally forgot their responsibilities and joined in the games.

Diana explained that Cassius was naughty. This I discovered later to be the understatement of the year - but while there on that Saturday, he had a fine old time persecuting his brothers and sisters, always in the midst of the action and ready for anything.

We hit a problem. Diana explained that she was unhappy about letting one of her boys go to a single home, especially as I was out all day. I was gently dispatched in search of a soulmate - a slave, as suggested by Dr. B. - how right he was. Leo was inspected in Colchester and brought home with Cassius the following week. My family and friends thought I was quite mad, driving half way round the country in search of what was in their view outrageously expensive cats. Little do they know, these mortals, the inestimable value these boys have.

Mad or not, my boys were an instant success. Leo spat uncertainly at the monster kitten Cass: this lasted no more than 24 hours. Thereafter, they proved to be the best of friends and are now quite inseparable. Cassius gained his slave - I have to note that fond as they are of curling up together and washing, Cassius seems to be the benefactor of such attentions 99% of the time.

The peace of my flat has been quite destroyed. Gone are my beautifully cultivated plants, long destroyed by wicked paws. Numerous books have chewed corners - Leo has a passion for paper and cardboard. My lovely polished table and old chest of drawers resemble skating rinks, scored by skittering claws. Cass is the clumsiest cat I have ever encountered - he has never grown into his enormous lion paws and trips over them constantly. At least he has finally given up clambering along the bath edge, although three falls into soapy water did not seem to discourage him.

I wake up each morning to the sound of motorbike purrs in each ear. In the process of changing the door handles to discourage Cass from opening them, I spend a not inconsiderable amount of time devising ways of avoiding stealth and theft by my two thugs. Leo has proved that every one of my kitchen cupboards is not cat-proof, hence cat biscuits have their hiding place in the oven, the only safe place. Nothing seems too difficult for sneaky paws, and unlikely goodies such as lentils, rice and dry spaghetti have been spread across the floor in a fit of pique if I make the mistake of coming home late.

No cat is replaceable. The anniversary of Boris' death is next week; I still weep for the loss of such a wonderful animal. But my two thugs are a splendid distraction. Long may the development and success of this breed continue - we will not find a better companion.



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TONKINESE BREED CLUB

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