

ton^sinese
BREED CLUB



tonkinfo

Spring
1996

ISSUE 13

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EDITOR: Sarah Inigo-Jones

EDITORIAL

Hello to everyone and a Happy 1996, well, I appear to have survived last year and am still here as editor (mostly due to the fact that no-one else wants the job I expect!). Spring has sprung and we are awash with rain and snow I am sitting here with my show schedule trying to decide which shows I will attend (Its a bit like a gardener and the seed catalogue) I really enjoy going to shows but being a breeder with limited space and time, I have come across a problem. I have a small number of Queens, and when it comes to deciding which shows to attend and filling in show schedules months in advance I am constantly doing the 'when will she be calling' shuffle. This involves trying to decide when a certain girl will be calling, if it would be appropriate to send her to stud, and if so will this mean she can or cannot go to a certain show? If I enter the cat into a show, odds are that she will screaming her head off on show day and we cannot attend or I have already driven her up some motorway to complete her tryst. So I decided to keep a boy as a show neuter, I could then always attend shows with no worry if one of the girls was absent, there would be my boy. So a kitten was duly singled out and shown, snip day came and I merrily entered him into shows for months to come, because what could happen to a neuter ? Ha Ha!, said boy decided to indulge in a lot of comfort eating of biscuits to replace his missing bits and was so fat that I missed more shows than even normal! Sometimes I think I must be jinxed!?!? There must be an optimum number of girls and neuters that would mean one could always attend shows with a fine specimen, how do I explain to my long suffering husband that I really NEED 27 cats?!? answers on a postcard please.....



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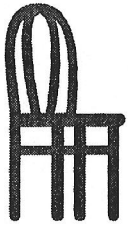
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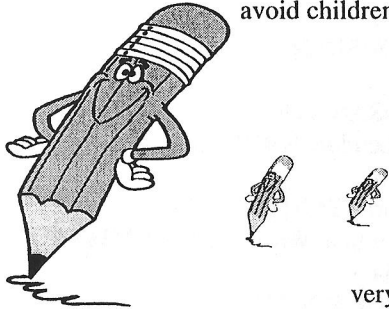


NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Sarah Inigo-Jones

year and will do my best to take a positive approach to all things Tonkinese. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of us all to wish our retiring Chairman, Miss Helen Barnes best wishes for the future and to extend our thanks for all her hard work last year. I would like to welcome our two new committee members, Miss Rosemary Harper and Mrs Chris Richards and look forward to working with them.

It was disappointing that we did not achieve Provisional status, but maybe this was understandable given that it was our first attempt. This year we will take a breather to try and establish our position and comply with the GCCF rulings, this should give us time to put our new registration policy and SOP (awaiting GCCF Executive & Council approval) into action and, by showing a consistent type of cat 'on the bench' prove unequivocally that our 'Tonks' are 'a breed apart'. The exciting news for this year is our first Tonkinese Show to be held in November I do hope we will receive lots of support from all our members, all Tonkinese can be shown even those classed as 'variants' can be shown off 'on exhibition'. I hope to see you at shows over the next year and I am always available for a chat on the 'phone, but please avoid children's supper and bath time!



SECRETARY'S NOTES (Mrs Linda Vousden)

Once again I'm in the hot seat and delighted to be so, thank you for your support, I look forward to a very exciting Club year with the first ever specialist Tonkinese show in November (details elsewhere in this issue). Printed in this issue is the new Committee list and the rule changes made at the AGM, please **mark-up your copy of the Rules and re-date them as 16/04/1996.**

I take this opportunity to re-iterate the vote of thanks offered at the AGM to Helen Barnes for her hard work as our Chairman and to Pauline Earley who is now handing over the role of Rescue Officer to Sylvia Clark who has bravely volunteered to take the work on.

Those of you who came to the National in December will have seen what a success our Tonks were again in the World of Cats, a great many people came back to see us from the year before and by the end of the day our boxes of Club literature were empty! Many thanks to all who helped on the Club table. Look out for a feature on the Tonks in the July issue of Your Cat magazine (out mid-June).

Once again our AGM had an excellent turn-out and the Tonkinese BAC's recommended changes to the Standard of Points were all accepted with a few additional minor amendments

from the members present, if the SOP is accepted by the GCCF Council (next meeting June 19th)* it will come into force immediately and I shall make show copies available to members - to order specific colours in advance please send me a self addressed envelope and 2 x 20p stamps.

I've had a query about the new Tonkinese Registration policy from a member who is concerned that after 1st January 1999 they will not be able to show any first generation (Bu x Si) kittens that they breed or buy before that date. Please note that this is not the case, registration policies are not retrospective; up to and including December 31st 1998 first generation (Bu x Si) kittens will be placed on the Experimental register and there they stay - only cats on the Reference register are unable to be shown. So please don't start avoiding first generation kittens, especially for breeding from otherwise we will find ourselves with the very same limitations on our gene pool that we revised the registration policy to overcome!

I would like to extend my thanks to so many members who have supported the Committee in the past year in a variety of ways, not least of which are spending time on the Club table, donating items for our raffles, sending photos in for the Club archives (although we could do with some updates please - just send them to me) and contributions to Tonkinfo. I look forward to another year of meeting and chatting with members at shows and I'm always pleased to receive your phone calls, especially if I can help you.

PS: If you are not saving your Kodak tokens from the Whiskas tins I can definitely make use of them and will be grateful for any you can send me! Linda Vousden

*Editors Note: Sadly this may be held over by the GCCF Executive meeting due to a shortage of time !!

CHANGES TO THE RULES OF THE TBC

RULE 5) Add 5h) - 'No Committee member shall serve as an Officer of the Club while serving as an officer of any other cat club'.

RULE 10b) In the first sentence replace the phrase 'shall be elected by combined postal and direct ballot at the AGM' with the phrase 'shall be elected by postal ballot'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS CHANGES

Overseas subscriptions are to be raised by £2.00 above the UK rate to contribute to bank and postal charges.

The Tonkinese Cat - Roy Robinson

The Tonkinese is one of the newer breeds, comparatively speaking and a truly elegant cat to boot. The Tonkinese was developed from crosses between two established breeds made possible by a quirk in feline coat colour genetics. It is not a hybrid, as I heard it described some while ago when specimens were on exhibition for the first time. The word hybrid should be reserved for crosses between different species.

The Tonkinese is derived from crosses between the Burmese and Siamese breeds. Why should this be? One might have expected the kittens to be either Burmese or Siamese, not something in between as it so happened. The reason lies in the genetic make-up of the two founder breeds.

Both the Burmese and Siamese owe their existence to single gene mutation. The two respective mutant genes are inherited as recessive to the normal gene as found, for example, in the black cat. A brown Burmese mated to black will result in black kittens. Now, if these are bred together, black and brown Burmese kittens are produced on an expected 3:1 ratio.

A closely-similar result will occur for a mating between a black and a seal Siamese. The first generation will be black and the second generation will assort into an expected ratio of three black and one seal Siamese. In both cases, this is the breeding behaviour of a simple recessive character.

The mating of brown Burmese to seal Siamese give a different result. The first cross kittens are intermediate in colour to the parents. Clearly, not obviously Burmese, being in general lighter in colour but darker than Siamese. However, the colour is in harmony with the parental breeds, being a sepia brown but with more pronounced shading on the body than that shown by the Burmese. The points - nose, legs and tail - are as dark as found in the Burmese, contrasting with the body and enhancing the beauty of the cat. These intermediate coloured kittens have been selectively bred to become the Tonkinese.

When these first generation cats are inbred, the kittens assort into Burmese, Tonkinese and Siamese in an expected 1:2:1 ratio. This is the ratio to be expected for the genetic situation of incomplete dominance. Where two genes are assorting but neither is completely dominant over the other. How could the situation arise for the Tonkinese? The answer lies in the genetic make-up of the Burmese and Siamese.

Both Burmese and Siamese are due to single recessive genes which are inherited as recessive to solid black as noted above. Solid black has a gene locus C which allows the full production of pigment in the pigment granules of the hair. Hence the coat is intensely black or, to be technical, "fully coloured." Now, locus C can mutate and in fact has done so on several occasions. Two of the mutant genes have resulted in the Burmese and Siamese and are symbolised as cb and cs, respectively.

The individual cat can only have two genes at a given locus. Thus, with three genes, C, cb and cs, six combinations are possible as under:

Black	CC, Ccb and Ccs
Burmese	cbcb
Tonkinese	cbcs
Siamese	cscs

The first three combinations produce black because gene C is dominant to cb and cs. Genes cb and cs are incompletely dominant to each other, hence all three combinations are distinguishable and create the colours listed above. The action of genes cb and cs is to limit the amount of pigment in the pigment granules to such an extent that coat appears a sepia brown to the human eye. Gene cs limits the amount more than cb, so that the typical Siamese pattern is produced much lighter than the Burmese, especially on the body. The combination cbcs limits the amount to an intermediate degree so that the coat correspondingly is intermediate coloured.

The cross between Burmese and Siamese will produce offspring of a general intermediate Tonkinese colouring. Whether or not it was thought in the early days that the coloration could be made true breeding is probably debatable but this is not to be. Matings between Tonkinese will always produce Burmese, Tonkinese and Siamese in an expected 1:2:1 ratio. This ratio will not be found for individual litters but will be approximated over a number of litters.

The reason is that genetically the Tonkinese is the heterozygote of the Burmese and Siamese genes. As such, the breed will never be true breeding however many generations of Tonkinese to Tonkinese matings may have elapsed. This is not to say that this fact should be held against the Tonkinese as a breed, for the coloration is generally distinctive.

Acceptance that the Tonkinese will never be true breeding means that matings can be arranged to produce kittens of any desired colour, or the converse, not to produce kittens of certain colours. The expectations for matings between Burmese, Siamese and Tonkinese and variants are shown by Table 1. The expectations will hold whether the Burmese or Siamese are pure stock or are variants bred from within the Tonkinese breed.

The Burmese and Siamese which are bred from Tonkinese are respectively true breeding and will not produce Tonkinese kittens provided they are only bred with their own kind. This is stated explicitly by the Table. These cats may have Burmese or Siamese coloration but are not acceptable as authentic Burmese or Siamese. Their pedigrees will reveal their origin, apart from the fact that the body conformation may not conform. These are known as Burmese variants and Siamese variants to distinguish them from the authentic cats.

The question of type raises the matter of the status of the Tonkinese. If the Tonkinese is to be established as a breed, it would seem desirable for a distinctive type to be evolved, neither Burmese nor Siamese. Certainly not the ultra slim type of some strains of Siamese. To this end, the recommendation would be to breed Tonkinese to Tonkinese, selecting for the desired colour and body conformation.

It may be wondered if the Burmese and Siamese variants have a role in Tonkinese breeding. As regards the required Tonkinese coloration, very little. A basic principle of selective breeding is that the selection should be based on actual appearance and this means the actual colour of the Tonkinese. Trying to "second guess" the realisation of a desired shading of a Tonkinese by mating to a Burmese or Siamese of a certain shade is not to be recommended. Colourwise, the Burmese and Siamese variants should only be used for breeding if they are descended from exceptionally well coloured Tonkinese parents.

Body type is inherited independently of colour, hence variants of excellence type should not be rejected out of hand. Variants of very good type could be useful in improving Tonkinese of poor type. Type being a general term to mean head shape, body conformation, leg and

tail length and firmness, as well as the manner in which the cat carries itself. All of these factors contribute to the ideal Tonkinese. Their heredity is polygenic which implies that all-round excellence will only be achieved by paying careful attention to each factor.

The colour of the iris in cats is quite variable and has led to the coining of some fancy names. the basic colour is yellow but this may vary from copper or orange to pale yellow. The variation is due to the amount of pigment deposited in the various layers of the eye. the more Pigment deposited, the deeper the eye colour. The amount deposited is inherited and in a Polygenic manner.

In keeping with the lightening if the coat by the Burmese and Siamese genes, so the eye colour is lightened, very noticeably for the Siamese. Indeed, the vivid blue of the Siamese is a feature of the breed, despite some variation in the intensity. The Burmese gene also lightens the eye colour but to a much less degree and more variable then found in the Siamese. The colour may range from hazel though the many shades of green. The eye colour of Tonkinese tends to Parallel that for the Burmese but lighter In some cases, it may even be bluish.

This variation of iris colour is polygenetically inherited. This implies, of course, that selection can be applied for a desired grade of eye colour. The selection should be applied from within Tonkinese to Tonkinese matings. To endeavour to influence eye colour by use of Burmese or Siamese variants will be uncertain if not doomed to failure. This advice applies particularly to the use of Siamese variants because the reduction in eye colour is so great in these cats that it is difficult to Predict the outcome.

The size and health of those Tonkinese I have seen implies that many are continuing to benefit from the phenomenon of hybrid vigour as a result of the original crosses between the Burmese and Siamese breeds. With such a foundation to build, the Tonkinese should flourish provided selection is maintained for these features. It is only to easy to relax selection for an attribute which is taken for granted.

Table1
Expectations for matings between Burmese, Siamese,
Tonkinese and variants.

Burmese - Burmese	100% Burmese
Burmese - Siamese	100% Tonkinese
Burmese - Tonkinese	50% Burmese, 50% Tonkinese
Siamese - Tonkinese	50% Siamese 50% Tonkinese
Tonkinese - Tonkinese	25% Burmese, 25% Siamese, 50% Tonkinese
Siamese - Siamese	100% Siamese

The above expectations will still apply whether the Burmese or Siamese are authentic or a variant.

Meet a member

Geraldine Hurl from Harrow ..certainly has her hands full !!

I come from a cat-loving family where the characters and exploits of cats of 3 generations can be remembered. My conversion to Orientals was in childhood accomplished by a male seal point Siamese which went out regularly with the family on outings and holidays; he walked on harness and lead and rode in the baby's pram.

Until two years' ago I was the devoted owner of a brother and sister red-point and blue-point Siamese. Like all owners I felt my cats were quite irreplaceable but following the death of my red boy I was forced to start a tentative search to replace him.

Cat breeders can be formidable: whilst my tidiness and spelling might be questioned by my most sympathetic friends - never had I had to defend my suitability as a fit person to offer a home to a cat. I wished, sincerely, that I had obtained a testimonial from the vet who once told me that if he ever came back to earth, as an animal, he hoped to find himself as a cat in my household - but, perhaps this is just standard patter for all cat owners....

My husband was very keen to have a Burmese and, whilst the Siamese-Burmese debate continued I happened to read about 'Tonks' and we were both very taken by the photograph of a stunning cat.

We happened to be staying near Dr Jennifer Ponsford, of Boston, and went to view her kittens, trying our hardest to present ourselves; as suitable parents. I fell immediately for Damask Rose - known as Coco; at six weeks she had an exquisitely pretty face and purred when picked up. Naturally I wanted all the kittens.

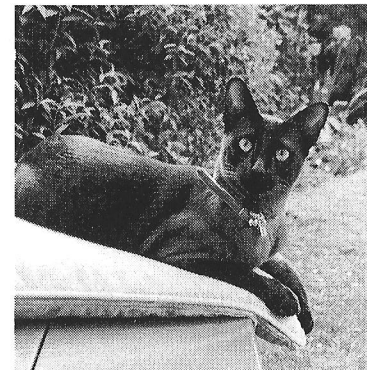
Meanwhile, my husband was much taken with one of Dr Ponsford's young, brown Burmese males which was busily trying to chew off the buttons of his blazer, helped by a gang of like-minded friends.

A week before we were to collect Coco we learnt that one of her sisters, originally destined for a breeder in the Netherlands was now available - Silver Dawn, a blue tabby, intelligent, alert with lovely markings, so all talk of a Burmese was put on one side and she was renamed Gresley - my husband's choice, after , Sir Nigel Gresley, a preserved steam locomotive!

Although I would have considered myself an experienced owner I have really valued the support and advice of our breeder, Dr Ponsford, who has been very helpful on a number of occasions, not least of which was how to introduce kittens to an elderly, dowager Siamese.

The excitement of the new kittens was mixed with concern over how our resident would cope with intruders. Encouraged by Dr. Ponsford we introduced gradually and crossed our fingers, and, within a few days they would all sit and sleep together.

The kittens were very lively. My Siamese, when small, had climbed curtains but the athleticism of the Tonks, especially the blue tabby, was and still is, amazing;. They were also keen on chewing; blankets, socks, jumpers were not safe.



An issue for many owners is the degree of freedom allowable for your pets. We are lucky in that we live in a quiet, safe place near open space so our cats have been allowed outside when we are in the house. Initially we took them out on harness and lead, then reduced to just collars with name and telephone number.

I must confess to some nervous moments, but now, at two years of age, they go out unaccompanied, and never disappear for long; they return to check on our whereabouts before going out again.

They are keen wildlife enthusiasts, David Attenborough is a firm favourite. From the upstairs window ledge they spy on the garden birds, fortunately their 'bag' has been modest and limited to voles and field mice which they bring in live to release for further sport, so this allows me to catch them and release them back to the wild; however I wonder how many have been recycled?

Tonks, I understand, do not develop fully until the age of two and certainly, in the past six months, they have matured into splendid adult cats; Coco has a magnificent glossy, dark-brown coat; she is muscular and very talkative and can be relied upon to reply when asked a direct question. Gresley is lean, intelligent and athletic, her coat is silky, tabby grey-blue. Both are companionable and help in my study, in the evening when I mark sixth form essays - they love stationery particularly elastic bands, drawing pins and string. Gresley eats the stuff!

They are keen on travel and jump into their Space Traveller on sight and then sleep for miles on a motorway. When they reach their second home they know immediately where they are and where to find the cat tray.

Visitors always comment on them and are always surprised to hear of their novel breed. I can hold forth at great length on Tonks when invited.....

CALLING ALL TONKINESE LOVERS - PLEASE HELP!

I am presently working on a book called 'The Tonkinese' which will be published next year; I have the pleasure of selecting over 100 photographs to illustrate it and I am asking for your help!

This is an ideal opportunity to include some of the excellent examples of British Tonkinese owned by our Club members and I hope to include all of our recognised colours and coat-patterns. Although written from a British perspective I am including international information and have already received support from America, Australia and New Zealand.

I need clear photographs, not necessarily studio portraits, of all colours and coat-patterns (head and full body shots). All photos will be returned in due course and those used will be acknowledged in the book. If you would like the opportunity to have your cat(s) selected please phone me (01734 791940) or write to the following address for the relevant forms to be sent to you.

Mrs L Vousden, Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh,
Wokingham, Berks RG41 5LX

THE LETHAL GENE

As you may be aware last year The Burmese Cat Club made an amendment to their registration policy, this was in direct response to the 'lethal gene' problem that appears to have arisen from a deliberate breeding program in the USA to develop their 'Contemporary type' Burmese. Fortunately, due to the foresight of the Burmese Joint Consultative Committee, anxious to preserve the UK Burmese and Burmese related breed lines and the prompt action of the GCCF there have been no incidence of deformities attributed to this gene reported yet over here. I am including some information that was sent to us by Dina Buxton, of the Burmese Cat Club, which will help allay any anxiety. Apparently there is a database of affected pedigrees in the USA, the updated version will be purchased by the club as soon as council receives an application to register imported cats and an investigation needs to be initiated.

CRANIOFACIAL MALFORMATION

The Burmese Joint Consultative Committee request approval for an amendment to the Burmese Registration Policy and SOP in order to safeguard UK Burmese lines from imports likely to introduce the craniofacial malformations which appear consistently in certain USA Burmese lines.

This type of malformation is associated with what is called in the USA the 'contemporary' type of Burmese, which was developed in a selective breeding programme to produce a shorter muzzle and a more round face. The USA Standard of Points is based on this phenotype, which although desired for the USA showbench, is consistently producing malformed kittens. The defect is genetic and is lethal in 25% of cases. It causes a disastrous twinning in the development of the face, so that the kitten affected are born with extreme deformities of the jaw, nose and eyes, e.g. Doubling of whisker pads and teeth; no nose; no eyes; and severely abnormal head shape with incompletely joined skull.

USA scientists responsible for the researching this defect notified the Burmese Cat Club of the results of their study and advised action to safeguard the 'traditional' UK lines, which, to the best of our knowledge, are currently unaffected. There is, however, incidence of the malformation in countries which have imported cats from the USA lines. We are prompted, therefore, to seek urgent action to protect the health and well-being of the Burmese breed
Burmese Joint Consultative Committee June 1995

BURMESE REGISTRATION POLICY

The Executive Committee recommends the following addition to the Burmese Registration Policy:

With immediate effect no imported Burmese, nor their progeny, shall be registered with a GCCF Burmese breed number. If a Burmese cat is imported and bred from, when sufficient evidence is available to confirm that the Contemporary genes are not present in the descendants, the registration status of this specific cat may be reviewed.

The Executive Committee recommends the following addition to the Burmese Standard of Points:

Withhold certificates and first prizes in kitten open classes for

5. Protuberant eyes

Re-number existing '5 to 8' to '6 to 9'

The strength and size of the UK gene pool for Burmese cats is comparatively sturdy at the present time. The Burmese Joint Consultative Committee is anxious to preserve this reasonably healthy state, and to safeguard British (or Traditional) Burmese lines from imports which may

carry a fatal defect, now referred to by Burmese breeders as 'the lethal gene'. This defect is a craniofacial malformation which is appearing consistently in certain American Burmese lines.

In the 1950's the American standard began to require a Burmese with a rounder head, shorter wedge and deeper nose break than the early Burmese which were being imported into the UK. This phenotype was developed by a group of American breeders from cats displaying the required attributes and was given the name Contemporary. Thus the distinction was made between the two types of Burmese: the Contemporary destined for Show and the Traditional for Pet.

Unfortunately, the Contemporary line produced not only kittens with the 'new' head shape but also kittens displaying the defects described in the paper tabled earlier. The incidence was sufficient for American scientists to embark on a research study and they were concerned enough to draw the attention of the Burmese Cat Club to their findings and to advise action to preclude a similar situation affecting UK Burmese lines which were and are still, to the best of our knowledge - free from this tragic defect.

The research study concluded that the defect is genetic and is lethal in 25% of cases. It is inseparably linked to the Contemporary Burmese phenotype. Matings of Traditional times Contemporary Burmese typically produce both Traditional and a range of Contemporary phenotypes, the incidence of malformed kittens in the region of 7.8%. Matings of Traditional times Traditional, or Traditional times other breeds of cat, do not produce Contemporary phenotypes. Matings of Contemporary times Contemporary produce Contemporary phenotypes, with an incidence of 30.7% malformed kittens.

Malformations are now reported on the Continent, following the importation of affected lines from the USA.

This is a Burmese problem which, as far as we are aware, has no parallel with other breeds of cat. We wish to ensure that the problem is contained and controlled by means of further research and testing. We do not wish to see our joy in the birth of our Burmese kittens turned into the nightmare of witnessing deformity and suffering. We have been invited to participate in ongoing studies in America, and are seeking the advice of the experts at Langford as to how best to proceed, bearing in mind that, in addition to pedigree information, blood samples would also be required.

We would also require advice on how to conduct the investigation programme in respect of imported cats. Such a programme would require careful consideration and we would look to the committees of Council - Genetics, Veterinary and Executive - and to the Veterinary profession for guidance.

Council's approval of the proposed addition to our Registration Policy would be the first vital step to safeguard UK lines and ultimately those established in other parts of the world where defect free imports are essential to the expansion of the gene pool and the continuation of the breed.

Dina Buxton
21st June 1995

* Council did indeed give their approval.

If anyone has a query regarding this article, or a problem which may have been experienced already, please write to Carol Poole, Secretary of the Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee, who could then make some enquiries into the pedigrees involved.

LETTERS - NEWS AND VIEWS



Dear Tonkinfo,

Many thanks for continuing to print such interesting articles. It is a good job that we are all different and all have our own viewpoints and ideas!! Wouldn't the world be a boring place otherwise? I found both Diana Waters' and Pauline Nicholsons' letters a little too critical, surely the letters and articles printed in a breed club newsletter are used for guidance. There are very many good cat care books available and one would expect even a 'first-timer' to be familiar with the basics before attempting to breed their first litter. As for missing a kitting, of course it happens, one can estimate within a day or two when one expects a queen to kitten, but they are not machines!! Early or late births do occur, and a queen can easily have her litter within an hour. The queen I referred to in my article was really in a hurry, I like to be around my cats all the time so I don't work and I have always been an early-bird so it certainly wasn't lack of interest or time. My queen just surprised us all by being several days early and very secretive about it!! When that happens after 7 years of successful breeding it comes as a shock. Hands up all those breeders who have never had anything go wrong ever!!

Happy klttening to you all - Tricia Jenkinson

Dear Tonkinfo,

I hope you don't mind me having a little moan but I feel annoyed that people think they have the right to read other peoples assessments sheets at shows. I have two 'Tonks' who are in the 'Bis' (scouse for business), and although my partner and I are 'new on the scene', so to speak, we have attended a few shows, and wondered if it was normal for people to read the assessment sheets without the owners permission. At a recent show I returned to my cat to see someone reading my sheet, fold it back up and replace it back on the top of the pen, then they had the nerve to ask me how my cat had got on!

Basically the point I am trying to make is that it's nobody's business what it says on the sheet, until it is published in 'Cats'. As most of the people whom I have met who also show Tonks are very nice people that are happy to wait patiently for their results at the results board, and will willingly show their assessment sheets when they are asked, please will those of an inquisitive nature PLEASE ASK FIRST!

Thank-you, - Rachel Toth

The Tonkinese Breed Club Club Services

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			Stud List	£1 + SAE A5
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Club Badge (Pink, Turquoise or Lilac)£4.50 + .50p P&P

Available from the Secretary - Linda Vousden

Photos and Logos may be used, as long as I can get the scanner to work!

Cheques payable to the 'Tonkinese Breed Club' Lost & Found ads -Free

Send to Editor.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

What's that I hear you ask. Well, I have a litter of Burmese kittens whose eyes started to open at 8 days. It is not unusual for one eye to open before the other and with two of them this happened. I examined the eyes at 10 days and found that the other eye appeared slightly sticky. I duly bathed the lids and was horrified to see enormous amounts of puss emerging from eye sockets. I immediately checked the others and found two of the remaining three had the same. I thought maybe the queen had infected the eyes with some bacteria or there was dust around but my vet informed me there was a known condition OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM which presents as severe conjunctivitis with risk of complications such as corneal damage. It is thought to be caused by trauma at birth, but as my queen had her five kittens with no bother in two hours, this was not the case. It is now 10 days since I started putting chloramphenicol eye drops in their eyes and two have still not cleared up. Luckily there is no damage to the eyes, but I wonder how many other breeders have had this condition and blamed infection or bacteria from the queen or home.

Carol Poole

How a Long Suffering Husband Tries to Own A Cat - and Fails

It all started, I suppose, in 1991, when Catherine, who is now my wife, appeared at Keighley and District Travel (where I was a bus driver) and took my heart. Two years later, I was to move in with her - leaving behind an old but faithful silver tabby called Sally. "Bring Her" she said - but as Catherine already had two Border Collies, 5 cats, 1 Guinea Pig, 1 Budgie and a hamster (my first job was to bury this the day I moved in) I thought it best to leave Sally where she was.

So there I was, without a cat to call my own, until, dining with friends one night, Peter said he had a stray that came every night to be fed and it was he said 'a little strange'. Into my life came Cleo, an old and cantankerous Cornish Rex who promptly fell in love with Catherine, sadly after a year she died.

Again catless, Catherine took me to see the amazing Margaret Pemberton, maybe I would like one of her Devon Rex's. Beautiful as they are I felt they were a little small for me, what next? A few weeks later, Margaret rang to say that Carol Barnes had a rescued cat we may like. At 9am one Saturday the elderly but trusty cortina set sail for the wilds of Sheffield to see this 'wondrous creature' at about 11 am, after a conducted tour of Carol's beautiful cats, we met Polly. I straight away fell in love with her, alas this proved a little one sided, as usual.

On the way home, Polly & Catherine bonded at once and after a brief call at my mothers to show off "my" new cat (where she left her calling card of a little puddle by the door) we bought 'our' new Tonkinese home. She immediately sorted out the other four cats - without a drawn claw & took charge.

The house and all in it were hers to command, the first night she, naturally, slept on the bed, not at my side but Catherine's - I'm getting a complex! Well that's how we got Polly, her life is now one of great luxury, I have never met a more demanding cat she expects loving whenever she so desires. If I come home alone she puts her head round the door, looks at me

with disgust, and returns to bed. She follows Catherine everywhere, the toilet is no longer private ! Polly has gone from a sad little waif to a great big strong cat who even commands the respect of our two dogs.

A memorial to Carol? yes, she has her character, strength and love of life and in Polly, she will never be forgotten

Will I have another Tonkie, yes but I won't expect to keep her long with a wife like mine!

Jonathan D Harrison

Long suffering husband & cat lover.

Tonkinese Over the Border - Fionnaigh Reid

I have been asked if I would write an article about Scottish Tonkinese, so having looked up some old show catalogues I rang Anne Fraser of Treedancer Tonkinese, she was extremely helpful (Thank-you Anne) and put me in touch with others who breed or are owned by Tonkinese.

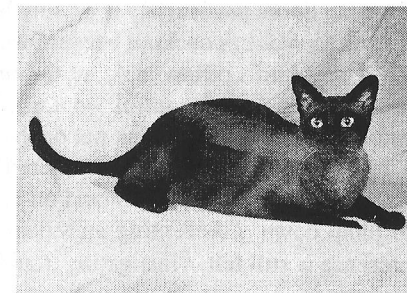
The most famous Tonkinese of Scottish origin is 'Katalyst Munchinella' (CA Prefix, her GCCF name is Treedancer June Havoc also known as Hazel) who owns Pat Wild and now lives in Oxfordshire. (I have separate articles about 'Hazel' and 'Midge'-see next Tonkinfo-Ed.)

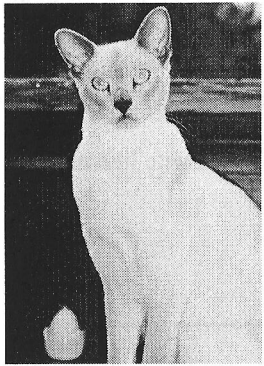
A regular at cat shows is Treedancer Lilac Korene 74c (Tanya) chauffeur driven by Miss Gillian Greer, she has 5 merit awards 12 1st's. She is from Gr. Ch Shybu Darlind Dandy X Treedancer Beaumont Poppy. Kirsty Donaldson is run ragged by 2 Tonkinese Treedancer Rascal Prince (Seamus) from Ch. Tamarie Martmarency 27b X Treedancer Tasmine 32.1 and Katalyst Mr Mistofalees (aka Boris) from Monclair Pink Panther 27c X Mindy Scoffalot of Katalyst.

Mr & Mrs Linnen have to give due care and attention to Treedancer Midnight Midge 74a 'Midge' who is from Tamone Star Galaxy X Treedancer Baeumont Poppy. He apparently has very fishy habits!

Another breeder of Tonkinese is Anne Ross but they seem shy of the show bench although as can be seen from above the Tamone prefix has a hand in some super cats.

My own Tonkinese family consist of 'Tiramisu' a result of an accidental mating ! she is a lilac but has an eye defect, not congenital thank goodness but the result of an accident. Beakerfolk Blue Melody 74g who has yet to begin her show career and my new acquisition, or is it chaos causer Adquash Lairdo Carruzian 74 he hopefully will be my Tonkinese stud in future but he's only 13 weeks old so a little early to tell but he seems super! Very very Vocal! His language at meeting my dogs was not gentlemanly! He will begin his show career shortly. He has Tonkinese in his pedigree for 5 generations with a good mixture of Burmese and Siamese to provide a balance. His Father is Gr. Ch. Betabil Basildon Bond 24a Scotland's





favourite Blue Pt Stud! & very prolific he is too, lets hope 'Corrie' lives up to his example, and his dam Adouzsh Starrlight Express74b.

I'm hoping to have Tonkinese litters from my Burmese & Siamese queens at some point during the year to swell the gene pool and of course cause havoc in even more homes!

The main point I have heard from all is that Tonkinese have the character & build that so many people miss in the Siamese breed now, and several people have said they are looking for a badly bred Siamese! to join their household instead of the fragile pointed creature the Siamese has become. Lets hope people will start to see Tonkinese as a breed of its own with all the merits of the breed and

not just be thought of as a Siamese substitute! So lets get all the Tonkinese worthy of the name out onto the show bench and gain those merits and recognition both from the Cat Fancy and the public.

Here are just a few anecdotes from various Tonkinese slaves:-

Opening doors particularly if a badly behaved pal has been shut in for some reason./ Helping oneself to whiskas cocktail because we are feeling neglected. / Sharing toy spiders with Mum e.g. 1 on Mum's pillow and 1 at the end of the bed for self. / Playing at shows, sitting in pen and showing how beautiful we are! / Lying on floor with fur rubbed up the wrong way - smoothed down and a quick pat on the bot is ecstasy./ Going for walks with dog and cadging a lift on Mums shoulders when tired! / Breaking and entering and completing toilet with Chanel No 5. / Preferring to land on Mums shoulders or into the laundry basket if up too high to jump down. / Accepting arrival of human babies without flinching but making sure our presence is still felt. / Instigating trouble but leaving Siamese Burmese to carry the can. etc, etc.

It would be helpful to establish a list of Scottish Tonkinese and Breeders etc. so please let the club have these together with copy pedigrees & photos for the archives.

We need to widen the gene pool as much as possible now which is quite difficult up here as there are so few Burmese studs though I am hoping to add one to the list soon and my Tonkinese boy will be an outcross to some of the Tonkinese already up here. We are doing our bit here over the border with the Tartan Tonkinese Tribe. I'll keep you posted on our successes in the future.

'New Boy' received his first Merit at the Lancashire, at 14 weeks and 3 days!



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Kittens sometimes available to suitably chaotic homes. Lots of love needed

& willingness to give up reading newspapers, half the bed, your food, and peace and quiet!

Contact me on 01577 864925 for further details.- Fionnaigh Reid

ORIBURMENTALS!

My oriental ticked tabby boy decided to celebrate his new championship status by mating my chocolate tortie burmese . Result - 9 kittens including some interesting specimens!! Any-one interested ???



ISHMAL

Tonkinese & Orientals
have at stud to tested and approved queens

Rohese Duke of Earl

(chocolate carrying blue)

who is siring

Merit winning kittens with lovely temperament

Sire: Gr Ch Saborna Just Jasper

Dam: Derring Electra

for kitten & stud enquiries

or just a cat chat

Ring Pauline Earley

01725 512 339





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Gill, B Mrs	Bonzer Moody Blues	74at	2
Ponsford, J Dr	Bonzer Paper Tiger	74at	5
Wilkinson, Sg Mrs	Bonzer Octopussy	74bt	1
Arnold, S Mrs	Bonzer Sukie	74bt	7

If there are any corrections or updates to be made please inform Mrs L Vousden (in writing) - not the Editor.

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tonkinese
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