

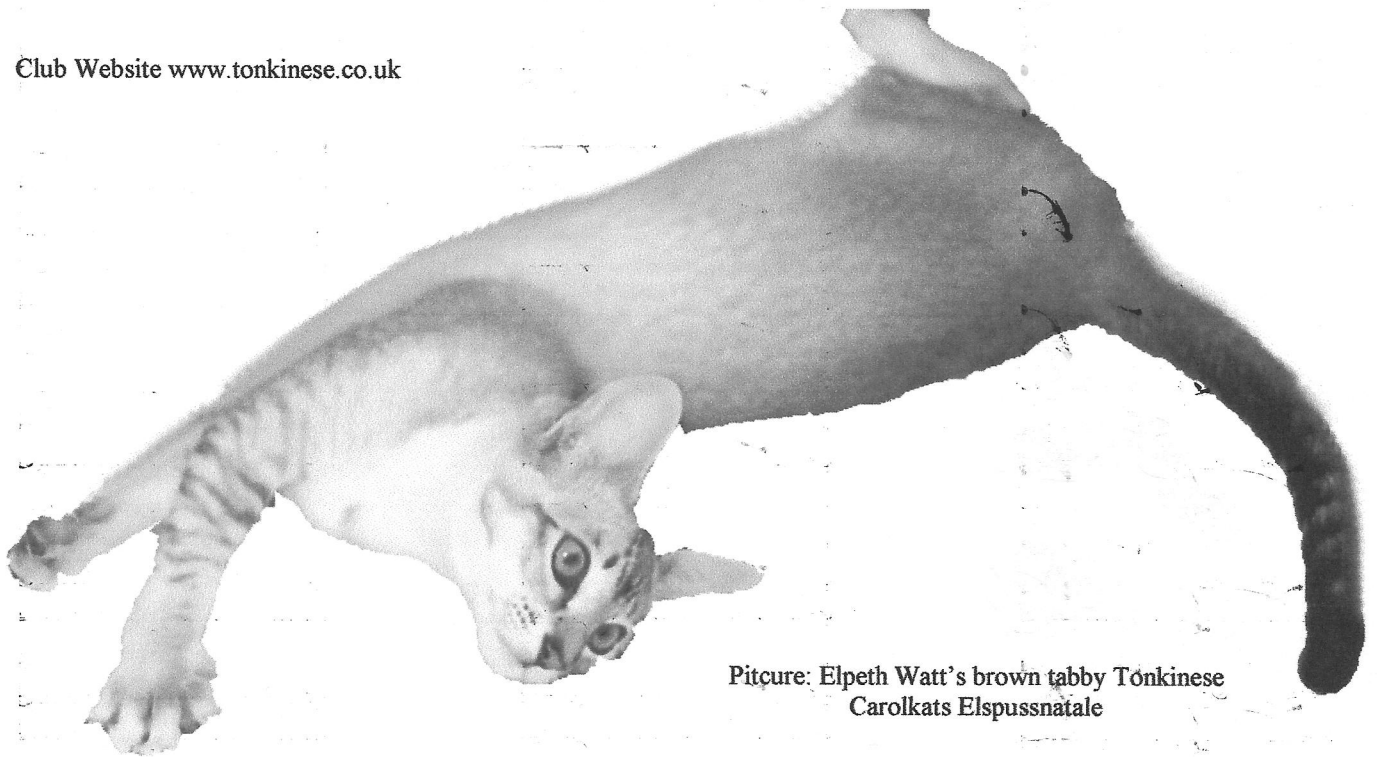
TONKINFO



Autumn 2003—Issue 27

Saturday NOVEMBER 8th
2003 Tonkinese Breed Club Show
The World's 1st All-Tonkinese
Championship Show

Club Website www.tonkinese.co.uk



Picture: Elpeth Watt's brown tabby Tonkinese
Carolcats Elspussnatale

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-------|
| <i>Chairman's Report</i> | 3 |
| <i>Hon Secretary's Report</i> | 4 |
| <i>2003 TBC Show</i> | 6 |
| <i>1st Tonkinese Ch., Pr., & Gr. Ch.</i> | 7 |
| <i>Considering Breeding?</i> | 8-9 |
| <i>Health—Dylan & Bob</i> | 10 |
| <i>Humour</i> | 11 |
| <i>Health—Feline Bordetella Bronchiseptica</i> | 12-14 |
| <i>Health—Giardia in Cats & Humans</i> | 15-16 |
| <i>Breeder Profile—Fergully Cats</i> | 17-18 |

TONKINESE BREED CLUB*President: Mrs Alison Ashford RGN FZS**Vice-President: Mrs Diana Harper***Committee 2003****CHAIRMAN:****Mrs Kathy Wilkinson****VICE-CHAIRMAN & Membership Secretary:****Ms Sue Davison**

15 Willoughby Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 8QX

Tel: 0117 9425934 E-Mail: kittykus@madasafish.com**HON. SECRETARY****Mrs Linda Vousden**

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

Tel: 0118 961 9444 E-Mail: tbc.uk@ntlworld.com**HON. TREASURER****Mr Mike Vousden****(Cup Secretary) Mrs Anne Cox-Horton**

Tel: 01932 888683

(Tonkinfo Editor) Mrs Chrissy Russell

4 Wesley Close, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH8 8BU

Tel: 01202 720185 E-Mail: info@ayshazen.co.uk**Miss Karen Hood****Mr Michael Cox-Horton**

TBC Rescue & Welfare

Mrs Pauline Earley Tel: 01725 512339

Mrs Valerie Chapple Tel: 01428 661392

TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon Sec. Mrs Christine Richards Tel: 01420 86085

Note: Printer's marks were on the master copy when sent for printing!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear All.

I hope you are reading this a few days before our **FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW!!**

I also hope to see some of you there at Bracknell with your lovely cats, and if not, then just come along and talk Tonk for the afternoon. Bracknell Leisure centre is quite easy to find, so please try to come and support it. If you would like directions then phone one of the committee and we will try to help you.

It would be wonderful if some of the cats present got their 3rd qualifying certificate on that day to become Champion or Premier, and I am not sure if there will be anyone likely to get their 3rd Grand certificate or not. But wouldn't it be fantastic if they did? I am so excited about the day that I am running out of words to describe how it is going to feel - wonderful, fantastic, excited

We will have one of our overseas members - Jeanine Grobbelaar - present at the show this year. Jeanine is visiting from South Africa and will be taking the photographs. She often puts photographs from the South African shows she attends up on the Tonkinese picture group on the internet, and they are of superb quality.

Apart from that, I don't really have much to tell you as this show seems to have been the central point of work for the last few months.

Oh yes - if you are able to come to the show, please remember that we are hoping everyone will come along wearing something aquamarine in colour!

So, hope to see you on Saturday, 8 November 2003

Best wishes

Kathy Wilkinson
TBC Chairman



Tonkinese Breed Club Committee

Affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy & the Feline Advisory Bureau

The club is looking for new committee members. You must have been a member of the TBC for at least a year, and you do not necessarily have to be a breeder. Anyone who may be interested, please contact Linda Vousden on 0118 961 9444 E-Mail: tbc.uk@ntlworld.com.

A Word from the Hon. Secretary.



Well folks, in the last issue of Tonkinfo I said that we were expecting an exciting year ahead – and I wasn't wrong. If you don't show your Tonks, and haven't turned out at any of the shows to see how we are doing, then you won't have any idea of the wonderful range of colours we've seen out this year, but if you come to the show on **November 8th at Bracknell Leisure Centre 3M Hall (not the main hall)** you'll get another chance! I think there must be more different colours of Tonks entered at the coming show than I have ever seen in one place before.

Plans to make the show an enjoyable event for everyone are frantically, oops, I mean serenely of course, in hand. I have ordered the new Club badges and, more importantly, the silver and golden challenge certificates. I've heard that many folk have been carefully thinking about what they are going to wear to this AQUAMARINE event and I'm looking forward to awarding spot prizes for their efforts. We have put so much hard work in to this show (as usual) and I am delighted that we have offers of help on the day – please do come along and support your club at this most special show.

The success of the Tonks since June is notable, I know because a number of Judges have commented on it to me. There are many exhibitors to congratulate, not just those whose cats are doing so well but those who have made such an effort to keep showing and prove that the Tonks are not going to achieve their success by being the only ones in the class!

On a personal note you may have noticed a different me in the photo above. Thanks to a bit of effort on my part and a lot of encouragement from family, friends and colleagues I have managed to raise over £300 (finally tally not in yet) for animal welfare by losing over 37 kilos! Many thanks to the members who sponsored me, it is much appreciated and I shall be getting in touch soon to redeem the pledges. I am pleased to be able to donate £50 to our own rescue and welfare.

I'm going to keep this very short and hope to see many of you soon. I wish you all a very early, but very **HAPPY CHRISTMAS**.

Cheers, Linda

PS: Web Site Apologies - Unfortunately I still haven't been able to update the Club web site but I am working on a new one with a new ISP. Most of you have been understanding and sympathetic, those who have complained (and not even to me) will just have to be patient I'm afraid – or work on their own web sites!

A Word from the Editor

Hi everyone

My name is Chrissy Russell and I have been voted (pressganged??) into accepting the post of editor of Tonkinfo. I live in Bournemouth, Dorset, with my three children. Well, one can hardly call them children now, they are 18, 17 and 14, but they still act like it sometimes! Thankfully the kids love the cats as much as I do, and there is always a pair of arms for a cat or kitten to jump into here.

I have been breeding and showing Burmese and Tonkinese for just over three years, under the prefix of Ayshazen, and have made some wonderful friends along the way. As well as being a member of the Tonkinese Breed Club Committee, I also serve on the Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee (for my sins).

So, introductions over, what is in this issue of Tonkinfo?

Saturday 8th November 2003 see our first Championship show. Your support is crucial to the success of this show, and we are calling for "all hands on deck" for this one. See page Talking of shows, heartfelt congratulations to all of you who are among the first to have shown their cats to Champion and

Grand Champion status. The Tonkinese are now competing at Championship level and special congratulations go to Mrs Otto and her cat Bonzer Midnightviolet for becoming the UK's very 1st Tonkinese Champion, and the stop press news is that Doreen Burke's lovely red boy Tonkitu Flynn has just become the very 1st Tonkinese Grand Champion. You have done us all proud!

This year, a new vaccine has become available for Feline Bordetella Bronchoseptica. Never heard of it? Me neither, until we came face to face with it, last year. Although not usually serious in adult cats, Bordetella is a killer of very young kittens. It is crucial that all readers in multicat (3+) households read this article on page. As well as the feline bordetella, this issue features quite a few health related articles, see Chris Richard's and Gillian Rayson's articles on pages

A gentle reminder to all readers, this newsletter is about you. If you have something to say, pictures, breeder profiles, health issues, show info or anything you feel may be readable here, please send it to me at tonkinfo@ayshazen.co.uk or post to the address at the front of the newsletter. Grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter, I am very encouraged by the response.

Chrissy Russell (Editor)

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

Order from the Hon. Secretary

Don't forget the club has its own handbook (£2 plus 43p p&p) useful to all members, and an absolute must for Tonkinese breeders. We have Club Pedigrees (pack of 10 for £2 plus 43p p&p), which you are permitted to photocopy for further use. Packs of 10 mating certificates (30p plus SAE) which ALL breeders not using their own stud must now send to the GCCF with their kitten registration forms. In addition we supply free to member (on request with SAE)

- Forms for registering kittens on full register of they have Tonk variant ancestors
- Explanatory diagram of the Tonkinese Registration Policy
- Membership Application for to give your kitten owners—*please encourage club membership.*
- Stud and breeder lists—*Note that these are limited to the information that is supplied to us by breeders and stud owners.*

MOVING _ Need Good Homes

This was supposedly an actual want ad placed in a newspaper - obviously a spoof on ads seeking new homes for favorite pets.

Please help! We're in the process of moving. We must immediately get rid of our two children now because there won't be any room in our new place. Since we're leaving on Monday, we MUST place the children in new homes by this weekend!! They are described as follows:

One male, white, blonde hair, blue eyes, 10 years old. Excellent disposition. He doesn't bite. Name is John. Temperament tested. Current on all shots. Tonsils removed already and very healthy condition! John eats everything, is very clean, house trained and gets along well with other children. Does not run with scissors and with a little time and training, he will do well in a new home.

One female, white, brown curly hair, green eyes, 11 years old. Can be surly at times. Non-biter, TV watcher. Her name is Mary. Temperament tested but needs a little attitude adjusting occasionally. She is current on all shots and is very healthy and happy (mostly). Gets along well with boys but does not like to share toys. She is house trained and would do best in a one-child household.

We really LOVE our children and want to do what is best for them. Ours is a UNIQUE situation and we have a real emergency here! They MUST be placed by Sunday night at the latest

Saturday NOVEMBER 8th
2003 Tonkinese Breed Club Show
Bracknell Leisure Centre
The World's 1st All-Tonkinese Championship Show

Well, the time is finally upon us, and we excitedly anticipate a historic day at Bracknell on 8th November.

The show marks a historic time for the Tonkinese breed. Only in June of this year the Tonkinese went forward, and this will also be the first show in the world which is exclusively Tonkinese, showing at Championship level.

There will be a full range of Tonkinese colours on show, and some stunning cats to be seen. There will be also be Tonkinese with the two variant coat patterns on exhibition. Competitions, raffle, stalls. Refreshments can be obtained at the centre

THERE IS AN AQUAMARINE THEME TO THE SHOW, TO REFLECT THE BEAUTIFUL BLUISH-GREEN HUE OF THE TONKINESE EYE COLOUR. PLEASE JOIN WITH US AND WEAR SOMETHING OF THIS COLOUR.

The Tonkinese Breed Club show is being held back-to-back in the same hall with the Ocicat and Bengal club show, and in the adjoining hall, the Kensington Kitten and Neuter show will be held. All on the same day. Those attending the TBC/OBCC show will receive a reduction of entry fee to the KK&N show and vice-versa.

Pet owners/prospective pet owners: This is a wonderful opportunity to see these beautiful cats in the flesh, and to meet the breeders, who are usually only too happy to talk forever about this wonderful breed, and are happy to educate anyone about them. I am sure that if you look at the pedigrees of your own Tonkinese, you will find relatives on show, and may even bump into the breeder of your own cat.

Why show?

There are several reasons why we show our cats. The first and foremost applies to both breeders and pet owners alike—we show because we love our cats and want to show the world how special they are! Breeders also show their cats for other reasons, notably to ensure that the cats they are breeding are conforming to the correct type for the breed, if we did not breed correctly the look and character of the Tonkinese would eventually alter out of recognition. Temperament is extremely important in our breed and only cats with good temperament as well as good type, colour and pattern will excel on the show bench. We do not show cats who are not happy, Tonks are born show offs and most love the show day. Those who are not happy do not usually return to showing. advertise.

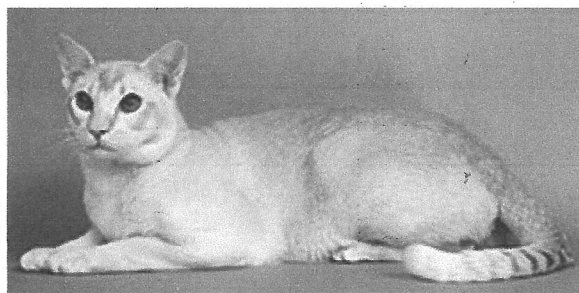
So as you can see, a full day can be expected for all.

HELP!!

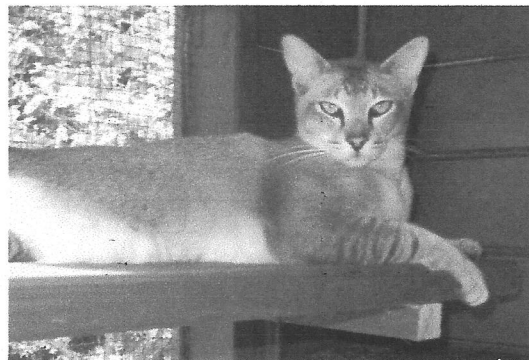
More helpers needed desperately for the show. Gate, club table, raffle table, giving out cards/rosettes, etc. Any help offered will be gratefully accepted! Please contact Linda Vousden on 0118 961 9444 e-mail tbc.uk@ntlworld.com or any other committee member

Congratulations to Our 1st Tonkinese Champion, Grand Champion and Premier

The 12 July 2003 saw the very first Champion Tonkinese in the U, and the 11 October 2003 we had our very first Grand Champion. Mrs VI Otto's Bonzer Midnightviolet, bred by Mr & Mrs Ponsford, a female brown tabby, obtained her 3rd CC at the Lincoln Cat Club show on 12 July. Regrettably I have no photo of her.



First Tonkinese Grand Champion (11 October 2003) was Doreen Burke's Tonkitu Flynn, red Tonkinese male, (who was also Supreme 2000 Supreme Provisional Breed Exhibit). *(Photo by Marc Henrie)*



The first Premier Tonkinese was awarded on 19 July 2003 to Sue Arnold's Suantre Fatal Attraction; a brown tabby Tonkinese male.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Some good websites to surf through.

- www.gccfcats.org (GCCF website)
- <http://www.supremecatshow.org/> (The BIG one, the Supreme Cat Show)
- www.fabcats.org (Feline Advisory Bureau)
- <http://catvet.homestead.com/> (Dr Susan Little's website)
- www.kittenlist.co.uk (Kittens for sale directory)
- www.petplan.co.uk (The community pages have useful links and also an excellent searchable kitten list)
- www.petrix.com/catnames/index.html (200 cat names)
- <http://www.pet-detect.com/> (Take a microchipping course—holders of GCCF prefixes get a huge discount)
- <http://www.ourcats.co.uk/> (Our Cats—official GCCF publication)
- <http://www.fanciers.com/breed-faqs/tonk-genetics.shtml> (Cat Fanciers list article on Tonkinese genetics—US)

CONSIDERING BREEDING?

Have you ever thought about going into breeding? Not known where to start? Read below to see if breeding is for you.

If you are considering breeding cats, please be aware that if you go about it in a responsible manner, you are NOT going to make money. On the contrary. Cat breeding is a hobby, a very expensive hobby. If you are lucky, your kittens will help to offset the cost, but motivation to breed must come from the love of your cats. I, and most other breeders find, time and time again, that for a while things can go well, and then you hit a brick wall of problems which can destroy you financially. C-Sections, vet fees, sudden illness which can go through your cattery like a dose of salts, and much more.

Be aware of what you are letting yourself in for. First and foremost, you have to be a very dedicated cat lover. Research your breed well. PLEASE do not attempt to breed without the guidance of another breeder (a mentor), there are many pitfalls along the way.

Join a cat club for the cats you wish to breed, visit their website and download the Standard of Points to research and ensure that you are breeding "true to type". Go to cat shows to see the correct type for yourself, you can meet other breeders there too, most of whom are happy to help and discuss the breed and their cats.

Find a GOOD vet, one who will support you (not all vets are breeder-friendly). Personally I stick to a one senior vet in a veterinary hospital, which has 24/7 cover. A senior vet will be able to support you more and can allow you more leeway than junior vets once they get to know and trust you (e.g. helping revive kittens at a c-section).

There are many mailing lists on the Internet where we breeders hang out. One of which is Novice Breeders Advice <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NoviceBreederAdvice/> on Yahoo Groups. this group is populated by experienced and novice breeders alike, and you can ask whatever you like without feeling silly.

I have included below a couple of articles, not written by me, which I have found along the way, and have found immensely informative. I have also included some useful Internet links on the subject. Please read them and decide if you still want to breed.

COST OF BREEDING

FOR EVERY LITTER: Pre-mating vet check up, worming & vaccination booster FeLV/FIV testing. Travel taking queen to stud (return fare). Travel collecting queen from stud (return fare). Stud Fee. Premium food & conditioners for queen during pregnancy. Possible complications at birth, e.g. caesarean, uterine inertia, hystera, milk failure, damaged/malformed kitten/s. Kitten milk replacer for weak kittens/hand-rearing. Common kitten ailments, e.g. sticky eyes, stomach upsets (the latter can spread to all your cats and be very pernicious as well as surprisingly expensive to eradicate). Purchase and preparation of weaning foods for kittens at 3-5 weeks. Extra, premium, food for queen during lactation (she will eat as much as 3 or 4 adult cats for more than a month). Extra cat litter (all that extra food has to go somewhere!) Feeding kittens from weaning-13 weeks (at 13 weeks, 4 kittens eat about as much as 4 adult cats). Even more extra cat litter for kittens (trays twice a day from 6-13 weeks). Extra cleaning - the household, not just the trays! Washing of bedding.

Breakages, e.g. ornaments, house-plants, torn curtains, upholstery (all too common with Oriental kittens). Having 5, 6 or more little monsters under your feet & ripping through your home for 2 months. Toys for kittens. Advertising. Registration. Vaccination. Insurance. Microchipping. Worming every 2 weeks. 9 and 12-wk vet check. Keeping off-colour or small kittens for longer time Keeping kitten/s to honour new owners' vacations etc. Cancellations. Refunds & taking kittens back if new owner changes mind. Re-advertising cancelled or returned kittens. Extra heating costs for kittens in cold weather. Giving away or selling for less to special friends and relatives

Not being able to go on holiday or stay over for a night anywhere. Being available for phone calls, visitors and enquirers. Time spent handling, socialising & playing with kittens (every day). Staying in for a week when your queen is due to give birth, and possibly assisting during the birth. Hours spent feeding and toileting weak kittens.

Sleepless nights and frayed nerves while queen is calling (every month or less between litters) Annual subscriptions to cat associations & registering bodies Subscriptions to cat magazines. Books. Time off work for birthing and when cats are sick. Annual vaccinations, testing & health checks for breeding queen & your other cats. Equipment, e.g. litter trays, carriers, cages, bowls, beds, blankets, heat pads, scratching posts, cat trees

ALL THIS IF YOU OWN JUST ONE BREEDING QUEEN! and of course, that queen might have only one kitten in her litter.

If you also own a stud cat: Stud house and run, & its annual maintenance. Regular FeLV/FIV testing. Advertising stud services. Responsibility of handling other people's queens (insurance too) Being available at very short notice for stud services Extra time for "loving" a stud cat kept outside. Knowledge of genetics to advise owners of queens what colours/

patterns to expect from the mating. many of these owners are novice breeders, some without mentors. You will need to provide guidance. If there is one thing that requires more thought and considerably more experience than obtaining a breeding queen, it is obtaining a stud. Obtain a copy of "Keeping a Stud Cat" leaflet from the GCCF
If you go to cat shows: Subscriptions to more cat clubs. Travel to meetings & symposiums. Travel to shows as visitor. Show catalogues & door entry fees Entry fees for shows when exhibiting. Travelling to & from shows (can be very long distances). Hotel accommodation. Grooming and conditioning products. Time off work to attend shows. Show cages, drapes & furnishings. Extra time for training & handling show cats. Extra veterinary checkups before shows.
(from the fanciers list - thanks guys)

WHAT IS A BREEDER?

- A Breeder (with a capital B) is one who thirsts for knowledge and never really knows it all, one who wrestles with decisions of conscience, convenience, and commitment.
- A Breeder is one who sacrifices personal interests, finances, time, friendships, fancy furniture, and deep-pile carpeting ! She gives up the dreams of a long, luxurious cruise in favour of turning that all important Show into this years "vacation".
- The Breeder goes without sleep (but never without coffee!) in hours spent planning a breeding or watching anxiously over the birth process, and afterwards, over every little sneeze, wiggle or cry.
- The Breeder skips dinner parties because that litter is due or the babies have to be fed at eight. She disregards birth fluids and puts mouth to mouth to save a gasping newborn, literally blowing life into a tiny, helpless creature that may be the culmination of a lifetime of dreams.
- A Breeders lap is a marvellous place where generations of proud and noble champions once snoozed.
- A Breeders hands are strong and firm and often soiled, but ever so gentle and sensitive to the thrusts of a kits wet nose.
- A Breeders back and knees are usually arthritic from stooping, bending, and sitting in the birthing box, but are strong enough to enable the breeder to Show the next choice kitten to a Grand Championship.
- A Breeders shoulders are stooped and often heaped with abuse from competitors, but they're wide enough to support the weight of a thousand defeats and frustrations.
- A Breeders arms are always able to wield a mop, support an armful of kittens, or lend a helping hand to a newcomer
- A Breeders ears are wondrous things, sometimes red (from being talked about) or strangely shaped (from being pressed against a phone receiver), often deaf to criticism, yet always fine-tuned to the whimper of a sick kitten.
- A Breeders eyes are blurred from pedigree research and sometimes blind to her own cats faults, but they are ever so keen to the competitions faults and are always searching for the perfect specimen.
- A Breeders brain is foggy on faces, but it can recall pedigrees faster than an IBM computer. It's so full of knowledge that sometimes it blows a fuse: it catalogues thousands of good bonings, fine ears, and perfect heads... and buries in the soul the failures and the ones that didn't turn out.
- The Breeders heart is often broken, but it beats strongly with hope everlasting... and it's always in the right place

! Oh, yes, there are breeders, and then, there are **BREEDERS** !!

Author unknown.

"With the qualities of cleanliness, affection, patience, dignity and courage that cats have, how many of us, I ask you, would be capable of becoming cats?"

Fernand Mery

DYLAN AND BOB

I received this very sad story from Gill Rayson of Hushpad Cats. I would welcome comments from other breeders about this.

After the long nine weeks of waiting my Burmese queen, Mallow, finally gave birth to 5 first generation kittens, one of which was still born. The others weighed in at just 2 ounces each but seemed strong and healthy. All was well until they were 6 weeks old when two of them, Dylan and Bob, got awful diarrhoea and became very poorly very quickly. They ended up in the intensive care unit for 6 days at my vets. Much better, but very small and thin I brought them home where they seemed to pick up and eat, drink and improve daily. The other two kittens were OK and appeared not to have got the same infection as badly- perhaps because they were dosed with antibiotics straight away. Dylan and Bob continued to behave normally although Bob still remained rather thin. Because he was eating I was not unduly concerned until one Friday evening when I called them to come to bed he wouldn't come out from under the TV. He felt cold and was very lethargic. I gave him some carbo veg and put him on a heat pad. When I woke up in the morning he had died.

Talking to other breeders I think the initial infection was caused by a combination of the very hot weather we'd been having and the mother's milk being infected as she still fed the kittens occasionally and cleaned them all the time! I think this infection so weakened poor little Bob that his body just gave up on him.



I wish I'd known this could happen, I'd never had any problems with previous litters, but I certainly won't be letting the kittens I have in the future feed off their mum's when I've started to wean them. Every litter I have throws up new things that I wish I'd known or heard about before, Cat breeding is something I have always wanted to do but it can be very hard on the heart sometimes.

On a brighter note Dylan and his two brothers are now tearing around the room chasing the grown up cats!! Not sure who's having more fun!!

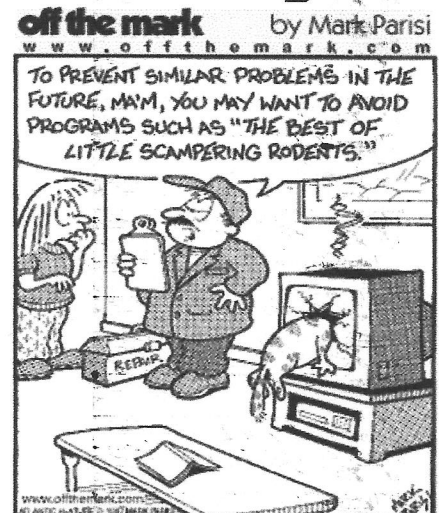
Gillian Rayson

HUSHPAD CATS



Cat Trivia

The nose pad of every cat is ridged in a pattern as unique to your cat's as a fingerprint is to a human



Where Do Pets Come From?
(Thanks to Kathy Wilkinson for this contribution)

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to, "Where do pets come from?"

Adam said, "Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me everyday. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here, and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me.

Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam, and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom, and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock, and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well."

And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy.

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam.

And Cat would not obey Adam.

And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased. And Adam was greatly improved. And Dog was happy.

And CAT didn't give a monkeys one way or the other.



Did You Know?

- It has been scientifically proven that owning cats is good for our health and can decrease the occurrence of high blood pressure and other illnesses.
- Stroking a cat can help to relieve stress, and the feel of a purring cat on your lap conveys a strong sense of security and comfort.
- All cats need taurine in their diet to avoid blindness. Cats must also have fat in their diet as they are unable to produce it on their own.
- Sir Isaac Newton is not only credited with the laws of gravity but is also credited with inventing the cat flap.
- A cat has more bones than a human being; humans have 206 and the cat has 230 bones.
- A cat's hearing is much more sensitive than humans and dogs.
- The cat's tail is used to maintain balance.
- Cats see six times better in the dark and at night than humans.
- A healthy cat has a temperature between 38 and 39 degrees Celcius.

FELINE BORDETELLA BRONCHISEPTICA

(A Breeder's Experience)

By Chrissy Russell—Ayshazen Cats

Recent publicity about the new vaccine for Feline Bordetella Bronchiseptica (Bb) has met with a relatively uninformed audience. Most people I have discussed this disease with were totally unaware of its existence. However, it is far more common than you think, and is potentially a major cause of death in young kittens.

I have experienced this disease in my cattery, and have written this article to help others to understand more about its effects and how to treat it. Ignore it at your peril.

Our Story

In the summer of 2002, a couple of my young cats experienced some coughing. They were aged 4 and 7 months respectively. The 4-month-old Tonkinese boy was the first to start, then followed within a week or so by my 7-month-old Burmese girl. One very astute vet suggested that this may be a condition known as Feline Bordetella Bronchiseptica, a bacterial respiratory disease from the same family as that which causes kennel cough in dogs and whooping cough in humans (Bordetella Pertussis).

A throat swab confirmed that this was indeed Bordetella, and initially all cats in my household were put on a course of Synulox.

I then scoured the Internet to try and find out more about this disease, with very little luck. So I then telephoned the Feline Advisory Bureau, who advised me that, although it was a fairly mild disease in older cats, there was a very high risk of mortality in young kittens. I was very worried, as I had three litters of Tonkinese due. They further advised me that Intervet were due to release a new vaccine, but were not sure when.

A quick email to Intervet, UK proved to be our salvation. I had a telephone call from Sandra from Intervet, telling me that the vaccination was due for release, but not until the following year (2003). My heart sank. "BUT".... and a proposal was made to me.

She explained that although more common than is realised, Bordetella is not frequently diagnosed, and that they considered themselves lucky that I had contacted them. My cattery, with its mixture of adults, kittens, entires and neuters would be an ideal subject for research. They asked me if I would agree in return for having my entire household vaccinated in advance of the release of the vaccine.

Of course I agreed!!!!

Professor Susan Dawson from Liverpool University, and one the UK's leading authorities on feline respiratory diseases, heard about our case, and asked if she could perform the testing and research. In the meantime, permission had to be sought from the government for the vaccine to be imported. My vets managed to prove that my kittens were at significant risk, and permission was granted for the vaccines to come in from South Africa.

Professor Dawson came down here to Bournemouth and she was a mine of information on the subject. She explained to me that Bb (as it is known) is much more common than originally thought. A study of 740 cats had been performed in which overall 11% tested positive for Bordetella, with a much higher incidence in multicat situations (19.5 per cent in rescue catteries, 9 per cent in breeding catteries, 13.5 per cent in research colonies, and 0 per cent in household pets). (*Binns et al (1999)*).

My cats were not responding to the Synulox, and more started showing symptoms, so we changed the medication to Ronaxan (doxycycline). In the adults the main symptom was coughing. From my own experience I first noticed that the cats seemed to have a sore throat, making exaggerated gulping movements as they swallowed.

Within a few weeks, we were granted government permission to have the vaccine imported, which was a huge relief. However, that still meant ridding ourselves of our current outbreak before we could vaccinate anyone.

The weeks went by, we had our three litters of Tonk babies, 17 in all, between August and the end of September. One by one, many started to show signs of the disease. The first sign in the younger kittens was a rattling on the chest. Some would cough. Bordetella is notorious for hitting kittens with alarming speed. They can be fine one minute, and die from pneumonia within 12 hours.

Well, it had to happen didn't it? One Sunday morning I got up, to find a 7½-week-old blue Tonkinese kitten (Indie – now known as Izzy), gasping for breath with his tongue out to one side, and rattling badly. We rushed him up to the vets, who informed us that his temperature was down to 36.1 degrees Celsius and that he was wheezing badly. He has pneumonia, and she said that it did not look good for him. She offered to put him on oxygen when he got worse but that it would only delay the inevitable. We were stunned.

Izzy was a big kitten, weighing 1.1kg, but he went down like a stone, and so suddenly. I was terrified for him, and also for my other beautiful babies.

I had been considering changing the antibiotic to Zithromax (Azithromycin), now I had nothing to lose. Izzy was going to die. I left it for 24 hours, to allow the Ronaxan to clear from his system, syringe feeding him with kitten glop in the meantime. It was so hard to feed him, he was finding it so difficult to breathe, let alone swallow, and sometimes I wondered if I was maybe making his final hours more uncomfortable for him.

He was still with us the next morning, and I proceeded to give him the Azithromycin. I was astonished at the speed of the result. This little boy had been on Doxycycline since he was 2½ weeks old; suddenly 12 hours after administering the Azithromycin, the rattle on his chest had lessened. By the next morning it had completely disappeared. His rapid breathing had returned virtually to normal, and within 4 days he was eating. It took a few weeks for him to regain the 250g that he lost in that couple of days, but it was all positive from then on. The day after putting Izzy on Azithromycin, I started all of my cats on a course.

All recovered very rapidly.

A couple of weeks later, we were able to vaccinate every cat and kitten in my household with the new vaccine.

Intervet's Nobivac Bb for Cats is an intranasal vaccine. Using .2ml of a live vaccine, the vet introduces it into the nostril of the cat. It is over in a few seconds. One single dose is required (even for kittens) per year. No pain, a quick sneeze afterwards, and that is it. Far preferable to a needle in my opinion. It can be used on kittens as young as 4 weeks of age, and I have experienced no ill-effects in any of my cats or kittens. To date we have vaccinated around 35+ cats and kittens, will nothing but good reports.

Some of my cats were recently tested for Bordetella, and they tested negative. It is now May 2003. We started our outbreak in July 2002, and were finally clear and vaccinated by October 2002.

Diagnosis

One of the reasons why Bordetella has not been recognised in cats until recently was that it often runs alongside other viral respiratory diseases, like Calicivirus or Herpesvirus. Typically a cat is taken to the vet, suffering the symptoms of a URI (upper respiratory infection). The vet routinely swabs for the viral diseases, and because Bordetella was so little known in cats, they didn't consider swabbing for bacterial disease. Of course the viral cultures frequently return a positive result, and hey presto, your cat has a virus! But maybe your cat has also got Bordetella!

The main deciding symptom is a dry hacking cough, during which the cat typically extends his neck. In my experience, there is also commonly hoarseness in the voice too, and a gulping action due to a sore trachea.

Other symptoms include:

- fever
- sneezing
- nasal discharge
- submandibular lymphadenopathy
- coughing and
- rales (crackles on the lung)

The disease CAN be transmitted from dogs to cats, and is also a zoonose, meaning it is also transferable to humans (although it must be stressed, it is extremely rare and usually only occurs in immunosuppressed humans). Typical mode of transmission is aerosol, which is coughing or sneezing.

The biggest problem with Bordetella is the asymptomatic carrier. If you have a cat that is tested positive for Bordetella, your

vet should advise you to treat ALL of your cats. The one without the symptoms could well be your carrier.

Now that Intervet has released the new Nobivac Bb for cats vaccine, there has at last been some publicity about this killer disease. Hopefully this will raise awareness. The recommendation for vaccination is for households containing 3 or more cats. Kittens will need a week clear from other vaccinations. If they were not vaccinated at 4 weeks, then I Bb vaccinated in between the usual flu and enteritis vaccinations at 9 and 12 weeks.

We were very, very lucky. Izzy is now a very stunning young man, who lives locally with his sister. He is a huge and sturdy boy with mercifully no long term ill effects from his ordeal. He is also a very happy, well-loved and admired boy.

Our very grateful thanks to Intervet, UK (especially Sandra McLaughlin for her constant support), Professor Susan Dawson, to my vet Alyson Richardson of Dunbar Hospital in Bournemouth, to all of my friends and fellow breeders who held me up both emotionally and practically during that nightmare time when I thought my breeding days were over, and that I would lose some of my precious furbabies, and of course, to God for sending me these wonderful people, and for giving me the strength to keep going.

If you suspect a Bordetella infection, ask your vet to do a bacterial throat swab or a nasal discharge swab.

Remember, it is much more common than originally thought, and it KILLS!

Further information

<http://www.felinebb.info> Excellent Vetstream Site

<http://www.vetinfo.com/catinfds.html#Bordetella%20in%20cats> Generalised Americanised info, but good nonetheless.



Bordetella Victim
Ayshazen Isambard Indie
"Izzy"
Blue Tonkinese
Lucky to be alive

Note: Since I wrote this article I have had many emails and phone calls from people who have also suffered from Feline Bordetella, one lady lost 17 kittens! Please take notice, this is a real threat. If you have more than three cats or a dog, you should have your cats vaccinated for Bordetella.

GIARDIA IN CATS AND HUMANS

By Christine Richards—Tonkaholics

www.tonkaholics.fsnet.co.uk

You may be wondering why I feel it necessary to write this article. Well as a breeder, with what I can only describe as very healthy looking indoor cats, who do not have diarrhoea, we were flabbergasted to learn of the death of one of our seven month old kittens to Giardia.

Because the kitten had gone to his new indoor home, with his sister, there was no other explanation other than he had gone to his new home with it. He had arrived at his home perfectly healthy, but two weeks later developed uncontrollable diarrhoea. He spent most of his life, in and out of the vets being tested for this and that. Nothing was found, it was not until he had a biopsy, to see if he had Irritable bowel syndrome, that a diagnose was found. But to late. He was far to debilitated to cope with it.

We could have buried our heads in the sand and said Oh well it does not affect us, or it did not come from here. But after investigating and finding out as much as we could, we want to share this article with you. I would hate another cat or person to experience something that can be dealt with so simple, to under go such a traumatic experience.

What is Giardia?

Giardia is a protozoal one celled parasite. It under goes several stages of development. The isolated cell is called 'Giardia intestinalis'. It is a tear shaped bacteria with what looks like two eyes at the anterior end, These are the nuclei, which are in the part of the parasite which is the suction pad, this attaches to the small intestine of its hosts. Each Trophozite has five flagella, that aids motility. It is at this stage that the organism rapidly divides. As they detach they are swept down the intestine. At this stage they are very fragile. If peristalsis due to severe inflammation is rapid, the Trophozite would not survive very long. The more trophozites one has the more inflammation occurs. The more inflammation in the bowel the quicker the trophozites divide. By the time the parasite is usually expelled it has under gone a massive change. It is now known as a cyst. The cyst is inactive, but much more durable, whilst it lurks around in the litter pan, waiting to be picked up by the next poor unexpected occupant. But unlike other organisms the cyst once more becomes active as soon as it is ingested. The acid in the stomach enables the outer part of the cyst to be broken down and releases two more Trophozites. It is also known as traveler's diarrhoea in humans, usually because it is picked up in dirty water. [In fact the water could look clean and be as clear as spring water but if it has Giardia cysts in it, you can become infected.

Clinical Signs and Symptoms.

As few as one cyst can cause an acute onset of the infection. Once the Trophozite attaches itself to the intestinal wall, it can cause an acute foul smelling diarrhoea. The stool tends to be soft to watery, may be yellow and frothy. Normally the illness in humans will last one -two weeks, but due to a cats fastidiousness', with constant washing of its own and companions rear end it re- infects itself. But chronic cases may last months to years. Mechanical obstruction of the absorption surface of the intestine may cause the kitten/cat to dehydrate, lose weight, become anaemic, due to the malabsorption of food and nutrients in the intestines. Until this problem came to my attention I was unaware how wide spread and serious this condition is. It can kill young kittens, elderly cats and those whose immune systems are already compromised.

Clinical Diagnosis.

Examination of the stools, for cysts, may give a positive diagnosis, but you may get negative tests. Blood tests can reveal a raised ESR, which indicates infection. Without treatment the infection may continue, either intermittently or chronically. It is more common in Multicat households. Cattery's where there may even be cats that do not display any symptoms but are infected and shedding Giardia cysts.

Treatment

Giardia organisms require a certain amount of moisture to survive and are susceptible to drying out, therefore once litter pans are disinfected, [A diluted bleach solutions will help control Giardia], it is imperative to make sure they are dry before renewing litter. The Giardia organisms also die in excess heat, so sterilisation of food and water bowls will help eliminate re-infestation.

For the general environment a cup of bleach in a gallon of water should prove effective, but making sure surfaces can be safely treated with bleach first, or for those lucky enough to have steam cleaner, a god steam clean will d

Now I must admit to being one of those breeders, who because my cats do not go out, I have not been so vigilante with worming my older cats. Kittens are wormed as part of my contract with new owners. Most people worm with Panacur [fenbendazole] for 3 days, this is usually also a sufficient deterrent against Giardia too, but please do not get a false sense of security. It only takes 1 cyst to be ingested for infection to occur. In a household where one or several cats have acute diarrhoea due to Giardia the best line of treatment is Metronidazole 50mgs twice daily, for adults and 20mgs for kittens for 5 days. All cats/ kittens in same house hold need to be treated at the same time. Our vets have suggested we go down this route even though we have no clinical signs, to eliminate any possibility of us transmitting this to other people. Believe me treating 22 cats and kittens twice a day is no easy task, but hopefully the outcome will achieve a purpose, even if it leaves us minus a

hand or two. What are hands between friends. By the way our poor dog has to be treated as well. much to her disgust. o the trick.

Clip the hair around the anal area of long hair cats, to eliminate cysts attaching to hair and becoming ingested again.

It has been suggested, by a vet trainee in Canada , that 1cc of Aloe Vera for 4 weeks be given until all strains of Giardia has gone. I could not find much on this, but can only think that it helps the cats immune system. I am not sure whether it was meant as a treatment .

Treat any new cat entering your household, with panacur, prior to socialisation with other cats.

Prognosis

Thank fully it is good.

© Christine Richards 2003 (*Also thanks to Christine for sending in the poem below*)

I Love You

You cared for me when I was a babe
Then as a Toddler when I was misbehaved
You helped me through my Teen age years
And helped me through all my fears
But, I too, am now a mum
And I can see it is not all fun
I can see it is not an easy job
And that we were a difficult mob
But when my kids look into my eyes, and say, 'I Love you'
I can see them as me, saying the same thing to you!!
I'm glad that I belonged to you
And I say from my heart 'I love you'

Author Joanne Richards.

Rules of Etiquette for Inexperienced Cats **by Shakespeare's Cat (2-legged author unknown)**

If you have to throw up, get into a chair quickly. If you cannot manage this in time, get to an Oriental rug. Shag is good!

Determine quickly which guest hates cats. Sit on that lap during the evening.

He won't dare push you off and will even call you "nice kitty." If you can arrange to have cat food on your breath, so much the better.

For sitting on laps or rubbing against trouser legs, select colours contrast with your own.

Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare.

For guests who say, "I love kitties," be ready with aloof disdain, claws applied to stockings or a quick nip on the ankles.

Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get one open, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once the door is opened for you, it is not necessary to use it. You can change your mind. When you have ordered an outside door opened, stand half in and half out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather or mosquito season.

If one person is busy and the other is idle, sit with the busy one. For book readers, get in close under the chin, unless you can lie across the book itself.

For ladies knitting, curl quietly into lap and pretend to dose. Then reach out and slap knitting needles sharply. This is what she calls a dropped stitch. She will try to distract you. Ignore it.

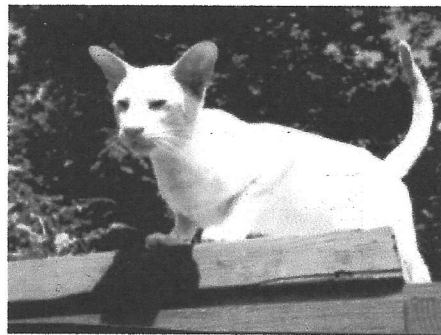
For people doing homework, sit on the paper being worked on. After being removed for the second time, push anything movable off the table -- pens, pencils, stamps -- one at a time.

Get enough sleep during the daytime so that you are fresh for playing at night between 2 & 4 a.m.

BREEDER PROFILE
FROM SIAMESE TO TONKINESE
BY NINA SHORT (Fergully Cats)
www.fergullycats.btinternet.co.uk

About twelve years ago, I started out on the uncertain world of breeding, and my chosen breed was the Siamese. They are loyal, enigmatic and very intelligent. We had a wonderful foundation queen in our Belle (Beesiam Memphis Belle) a Chocolate point Siamese, she gave us many beautiful litters. As the years went by I became more and more frustrated with the difficulties involved with finding a suitable stud, getting short notice vets appointments for testing and then finally getting to where the stud lives, as I don't drive I was reliant on my husband for transport and this had to be fitted in around his working hours.

We decided that it made sense to have our own stud and we were fortunate to find a breeder who knew and trusted us enough to let us have one of her kittens to be used as a stud. (Shantoga Fergully Fabian) pictured below.



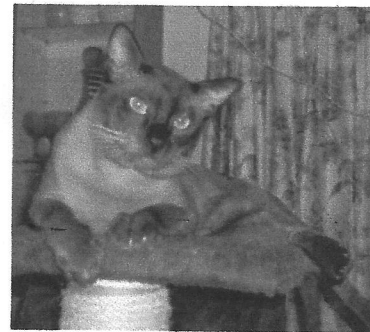
It was with Fabian that we started out on the show trail, and he did moderately well, gaining two CCs, However Fabian was not very happy as a working boy and he was neutered before he had a chance to become champion. As we were attending more and more shows my husband became very interested in the Oriental as a breed, especially with the seemingly never ending variety of colours and coat patterns.

We went back to Fabians breeder and got another super Siamese lad for stud (Shantoga Aramis) Caspur to his friends. We were also on the lookout for a nice Oriental queens and this we found in our 'Tia' and 'Nala'. The lady who bred Tia also supplied us with our first and only Burmese girl Fleur.

Fleur and Caspur became inseparable and it really was love at first sight. It was a chance mating between these two lovers that produced our very first litter of Tonkinese kittens, and boy were we hooked !!!! We bought ourselves a copy of Linda Vousden's book on Tonkinese to find out a little more on this wonderful breed, we found it very useful and full of easily digested information. As this litter grew we were amazed at the difference between the two breeds, but also the similarities in them. Like the Siamese the Tonk is loyal and very intelligent, playful and naughty, Its as if you got all the best things about the Siamese and the Burmese and mixed them up in a melting pot and the result is the Tonkinese. We just had to keep a girl from this litter and the one we chose was 'Poppy', the brown tortie girl, pictured left. Fleur and Caspur have both retired from breeding, but are still very much in love and are still inseparable.



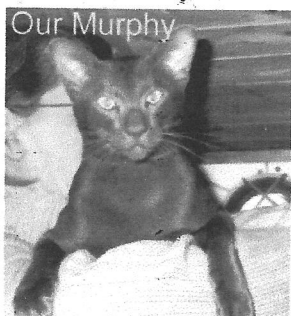
We have made some wonderful friends in the cat world, and especially Tonkinese people. We were very fortunate indeed to be allowed a stunning Brown Tonkinese boy to be kept at stud, (Angisan Xanadoo Shadow) who is a proven stud now and has been seen on the show bench. Shadow (pictured right) has the most amazing personality and is just a big softie who just loves everyone feline and human !!



Along with Shadow we got Angisan Extradapped Roanne (Roxy). Who has just had her first litter of Tonks by Shadow and the lovely Zea (Ayshazan Zeas Swansong) from our dear friend Chrissy Russell.... They arrived at the Ferngully household and promptly took it over !!!! Zea and Shadow have since produced a lovely litter of six Tonkinese. Babies are just ten days old in this picture below and are quite a size already, mother and babies are doing very well.



Earlier this year Chrissy also let us have Two little stunners in Ayshazen Ferngullygemini (Gemmie) a Brown Tonkinese, and Ayshazen Ferngullylibrae (Tamsin) a Blue Tonkinese



We still have an Oriental stud Murphy (Grand Champion Sinsianna Cimeroeslad) a stunning Cinnamon Oriental. and two Siamese queens and one young oriental queen but apart from these, all our breeding girls are either Tonkinese or Burmese, We are lucky that Murphy is kept busy as a working boy by his many outside queens, and will be seen on the show bench again soon.

Most of my original breeding girls and boys are still with me as contented pets, and its no accident that the Tonkinese are now the biggest part of Ferngully. I love my Siamese and Orientals and would not want to be without them, but my husband and i agree that the best thing we ever did was fall in love with the Tonkinese. I think it is true to say if you Tire of Tonkinese you Tire of Life.....

Nina Short.

Grateful thanks to all this quarter's contributors.

Please remember to send any interesting stories, photos, articles or other items to me for publication in Tonkinfo, my contact details are on page 2.

Have a great show and a very Happy Christmas.

***Chrissy Russell* (Tonkinfo Editor)**

!!! STOP PRESS: The new Club badges are here!!
 or send kinda £2.92p (includes P&P) get yours at the show on 8th November,