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Autumn 2005 Issue 31



Held under GCCF rules.
Saturday, 29th October 2005 at the Bracknell Leisure Centre

Closing date 23rd September
Have you sent in your entry yet? There is still time!

If you've left it too late to send for a schedule you can print it from the Club web site— www.tonkinese.info

We look forward to seeing you and your cats.

Editor's Notes - Linda Vousden

Well, it seems that I'm back where I first started when I joined this Committee in 1993, Tonkinfo editor! I've packed a lot into this issue so you'll forgive me for not including photos & illustrations. Thanks to those who've sent in items—some I've held over for the next issue, when I'll also pick up the 'Stud Feature' again.

Now with my Chairman's hat on-

There have been malicious rumours/e-mails circulating about several people this year, please don't give them credence without confirming facts.

You should know that their instigation and continued circulation is a breach of Article 12.1.d) of the GCCF constitution and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Opinions expressed by individuals in this magazine, are not necessarily those of the Committee or Club

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Club web site: www.tonkinese.info

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TONKINESE BREED CLUB

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Committee 2005

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HON.SECRETARY'S REPORT—Sue Amor Hello everyone. I am your new secretary so I thought I'd tell you a little about myself. I've had cats all my

life but am fairly new to breeding and pedigree cats. I adore Tonks and have had 3 beautiful litters of healthy, naughty bundles of fur. I now also breed LaPerms. I live in Evesham, Worcs. and am a full time schoolteacher but retire in 3 years time. For years I have been involved with competitive swimming and was a national referee and on district and county executive committees. When I retired from that (after 24 years) I swore I wouldn't get involved with committees again! I cannot stand back and watch others work hard without offering to help so here I am.

I hope you are all getting your entries ready for the Tonkinese Breed Club show on October 29th. It is a rare experience for everybody to see good quality Tonks in the same building and is always a super chance to meet other Tonk breeders too. Please remember to consider bringing your pointed and self-coloured cats out on exhibition too. It is always nice to see them. The theme for this year's show is 'Under the Sea' so I am looking out my old snorkel and goggles etc!

We are always looking for people to help us so if you could spare just a few minutes of your time I know we need help for the show and we still have a couple of spaces on the Committee. We are a friendly bunch and would welcome new blood!

Welcome - New Club Members

Welcome all, and apologies to those of you who haven't received membership packs yet, or had them late. It appears

that a number of my local post boxes have been subject to arson attacks. I'm not sure who has, or hasn't received their packs yet. If you've joined the Club this year, but haven't heard from us please get in touch with me -see Committee list on page 1. Kathy Wilkinson (Membership Sec.)

ICE your mobile phone NOW!

Did you know that these days Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity? You can make their

job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your mobile phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do-and its all the more important when you have children or pets that need to be cared fro at home! Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately.

WRITE TO THE EDITOR

If you have any comments to make on the contents of Tonkinfo, any items that may be of interest to other readers, suggestions for items you like featured etc. please write or email to the editor (Mrs Linda Vousden—see Committee list for address)

Deadline for the next issue of Tonkinfo: 1st April 2005

The Tonkinese Registration Policy—Important Changes

As per the notice in your AGM papers this April, the Tonkinese BAC proposed a deadline, of 31st December 2006, on the registration of the progeny of Tonkinese back-crossed with any other breed (including Burmese and Siamese).

With 1 abstention this proposal was otherwise unanimously agreed by all who attended the well advertised open meeting, which was held on 15th May 2005 to discuss the proposal. The GCCF Executive have now approved the proposal and we await ratification by the GCCF Council at their October meeting. Once the proposal has been approved by the Council the revised issue of the Tonkinese Registration Policy will be available to copy from the Tonkinese BAC page of the TBC web site (www.tonkinese. info). It will also be available on request (with a SAE) from the TBAC Secretary—Linda Vousden, see address on page 2.

Please note that -

- ◆ The TBAC has NOT expressed an intention to set a deadline for 1st generation Tonkinese matings (ie. Burmese x Siamese).
- ◆ The TBAC has NOT expressed an intention to change the current '3 generation' requirement to 5 generations.
- ◆ The TBAC does NOT discourage first-cross matings that are planned by breeders to introduce new genetics lines into the Tonkinese breed.

Linda's Tips for Happier Trips in the Car

Especially for travelling to shows, but useful at anytime -

- Scents—our cats have especially sensitive noses so avoid unnatural smells in the car—don't put your perfume/after-shave on until you reach the show, and only then if necessary! Remove the car's air freshener and replace it with a reasonable squirt of Feliway the night before your trip. If you must smoke in the car make sure that the ash-tray is emptied and cleaned out the night before.
- Sights—To avoid car sickness, brought on by the sight of other cars and scenery whizzing past the windows, lay a light-weight and light coloured sheet over the carrier; but do make sure that the carrier has plenty of ventilation especially on hot days.
- 3) Sounds —Turn off your favourite music. Try some low-volume classical music instead; it often has a calming effect and without the disturbing heavy beat; it also helps to even out the sound of the tyres on different road surfaces— sounds that we take for granted.

CLUB Items for Sale

We have a wide selection of Club items including the Handbook and the distinctive Gold and Aqua enamelled Club Badge, they will be available from the Club table at our show on October 29th!

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Imperial / Grand / Open Classes

Although it has been widely publicised in GCCF Rules, Show schedules, Our Cats, Tonkinfo, TBC AGM papers & TBC web site—there are

still some exhibitors who are confused about the classes they can enter :-

You can enter *any 2 of the 3 classes* at the same show - if your cat's title qualifies it to do so. Titled cats that are not entered in the Open class are *automatically* included for Best of Breed at all Championship shows—even if they don't win their Imperial or Grand class.

The Difference Between Cats and Dogs

A Cat's Day

My 'owner' continues to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another houseplant. Today my attempt to kill them by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded; must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favourite chair; must try this on their bed.

Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and commented about what a good little kitty I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan. There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary confinement throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More importantly I overheard that my confinement was because of my power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the household captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously an idiot. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait; it is only a matter of time...

A Dog's Day

7am - Oh Boy! Breakfast! My favourite!

9am - Oh Boy! A car ride! My favourite!

10am - Oh Boy! A walk! My favourite!

11am - Oh Boy! A car ride! My favourite!

Noon - Oh Boy! A nap! My favourite!

1pm - Oh Boy! The garden! My favourite!

3pm - Oh Boy! Animal Planet! My favourite!

4pm - Oh Boy! Dinner! My favourite!

5pm - Oh Boy! Grandma! My favourite!

7pm - Oh Boy! Playing with my "teddy"! My favourite!

Can my pet eat chocolate?

Unequivocally, no! Thetheobromine in chocolate that stimulates the cardiac & nervous systems can be lethal in cats, dogs and other household pets, particularly in young animals.

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1,000 mice to help 1,000,000 cats

Thanks to Kathy Wilkinson for providing this information

The Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB), charity dedicated to the health and welfare of cats, is aiming to

recruit 1,000 mice to help raise funds for the 1 million cats it helps every year.

The mice are not, however, the furry variety. Using their PC mouse, supporters can help raise funds for the charity when searching the internet. FAB has joined forces with ClickNow, an innovative charity fundraising company, to enable supporters to raise money every time they search the internet but at no cost to themselves.

To find out more go to http://www.fabcats.org/websearch.html It links supporters to the specially created Websearch facility that uses the Ask Jeeves search engine. Every time a supporter uses the FAB Websearch page money is paid by Ask Jeeves to ClickNow, who in turn pass funds on to FAB. ClickNow have guaranteed that they will donate at least 50% of the revenue they receive for the searches to FAB.

FAB was among the first 20 UK charities to set up a dedicated Websearch facility.

HUSHPAD CATS

Gill Rayson

> It started off with Macintosh, my black and white moggy A serene and lovely natured cat, he's old now, his eyesight foggy.

> Tilly, a British Shorthaired cat arrived next through my door A lovely cat, large amber eyes, thick fur, rough tongue, soft paw.

> Next Misty, a Burmese queen, affectionate, playful, full of joy Tore round the house, chasing Macintosh, Tilly, the dogs, a toy!!

> Then Lottie arrived, my Tonkinese, all aqua eyes and silky fur Made herself straightway at home, she'd just cuddle up and purr.

The kittens arrived in little groups, wet fur, pink noses and some tears. To lose one really broke my heart it's still not easy after all these years.

Winnie, Cobweb, Charlie and now Hot Tod have stayed to swell the number Of Hushpad cats who stay at home - and Macintosh still slumbers!!

I love my cats, my mog, the Brits and Misty my Burmese, But the cats who've really stolen my heart are my Hushpad Tonkinese.



Its about time that the Animal Welfare Laws of 1911 were updated!

What ever opinions you may or may not hold about the RSPCA there is one thing that cannot be disputed—they are having to work

with legislation that is nearly a century old and its time we supported their campaign to have the laws updated!

A massive rise in the number of pet owners failing to provide adequate food, water & other basic care for their cats or dogs was revealed by the RSPCA in their annual report this year. Such cases are beyond the remit of the current legislation, passed in 1911, which allows prosecutions only after an animal can be proven to have physically suffered from mistreatment. In some cases, the inspectors found owners were - quite legally - leaving animals for prolonged periods without food or water, or providing essential veterinary care—a dog was found with a tumour covering half of its face, cats were found locked up in filthy little boxes for over 24 hours, a puppy had its ears cut off with scissors etc.

The charity declined to give the exact figures before the publication of its study, but a spokeswoman said its inspectors often felt powerless to improve a situation. Their advice was "ignored time after time, and our inspectors know that further down the line that animal will, sadly, become a case for prosecution. We do strongly feel the need for legal onus to be placed on the owner of an animal, to provide a basic standard of care, adequate food, adequate water."

The government last year announced plans for a new Animal Welfare Bill but it has yet to be brought before the Commons! You can lobby your MP to do something about this—to help you to do this visit the RSPCA's web site http://www.rspca.org.uk then from the left hand side menu select Campaigns; then from the list of campaigns displayed select *Animal Welfare Bill Homepage*; then select *Lobby Your MP*. You will be given help to find your MP—if you don't know his/her name just enter your postcode, and even help with the points to include in your e-mail or letter.

Its really quite simple and very worthwhile, it took me under 2 minutes to send my e-mail—vou can help towards changing our archaic laws on Animal Welfare!

Check for Pet Diabetes

By Guardian-series

ANYONE who thinks that diabetes is an illness limited to humans should think again, animals live with it too. Diabetes is a growing problem among the pet population of the UK, with as many as one

in 200 of the country's dogs and cats suffering from the disease. As in their human counterparts, it is associated with old age and being overweight.

Chingford Veterinary Centre is running free checks for cats and dogs. Animals will be weighed and checked by the nurse and owners will be given a free diabetes screening test to use on their pets. Caryn Gibbins, a vet at the surgery, said: "Animals whose diabetes goes untreated will usually develop cataracts or blindness and may be prone to infections, high blood pressure and strokes. They may start to have seizures, go into a coma and die."

Once diagnosed, most pets can have their diabetes successfully managed with dietary changes and medication. So ask your vet about a diabetes check for your overweight Tonk.

The arkin that was originally printed an payer 8-10 has been printed an payer 8-10 has been remarked to present future embarrassment to its author. The arkin was of a personal ruture arkin was of a personal ruture & had reparanssions with the GCCF.

MRSA—an extract from the Veterinary Review May 2004

Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Whilst not all MRSA infections are acquired in hospital, there can be no

doubt that many, in both adults and children, most certainly are. And even though the risk factors for picking up MRSA are not completely understood, it is likely that good hygiene – both in terms of keeping equipment and infrastructure clean – and thorough, rigorous hand-washing between patients, are important means of limiting its spread.

There is developing evidence of the emergence of MRSA infections in animals. The origins of these are probably not clear but may be from carrier humans, so we certainly can't afford to be complacent. We should, perhaps, try to learn from the mistakes of our medical colleagues by getting 'back to basics'. Let's not forget hygiene, cleanliness, sterile operating, attention to detail. All have an essential role to play in veterinary medicine and surgery and must not be allowed to become sidelined by an increasingly sophisticated infrastructure and the indiscriminate use of prophylactic antibiotics.

Are you 'head in the sand', paranoid or careful? Good husbandry can significantly reduce the need for our cats to be treated with antibiotics for bacterial infection, especially Feline Coronavirus. The aim is to prevent the spread of any fecal material. In the next issue of Tonkinfo there will be an article on FCoV and FIP (or you can check it out sooner for yourself on the internet). To start you thinking —how many litter trays do you have in your home; what type of litter do you use to combat FCoV; how often are the trays emptied; how often are they disinfected; does each litter tray have its own scoop; how do you dispose of the litter; how often do you clean your cats' bedding, water bowls, work surfaces, door handles, hands etc? [Ed.]



Do You Know What Your Donations Are Funding?

In July this year a full-page advertisement in the U.S News & World Report challenged PETA members to reconsider financial support of the "deceptive animal rights group".

Two employees of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) will face felony animal-cruelty charges in a North Carolina courtroom this week, for allegedly killing healthy cats and dogs in the back of a PETA-owned van and abandoning their bodies in a grocery-store dumpster. The Centre for Consumer Freedom (a non-profit coalition supported by restaurants, food companies, and consumers, working together to promote personal responsibility and protect consumer choices) took out a full-page advertisement to alert PETA supporters that their financial donations help PETA treat animals in a way that's clearly not "ethical." The advert featured a news photograph of a police officer preparing to bury a puppy discovered at the scene of the June 15 PETA arrests.

"PETA is best known for its flamboyant PR stunts that demonize restaurant owners, grocers, farmers, scientists, and Americans who enjoy eating meat, cheese, or seafood," said David Martosko, director of research at the CCF "But the group continues to mislead animal shelters, veterinarians, and the donating public about what really happens when it takes in animals. Healthy puppies and kittens deserve better than PETA's trash-dumpster ethics. Americans who want to help animals should donate to their local shelters, not to PETA."

Official US government records show that PETA killed more than 12,400 animals between 1998 and 2004, ie. nearly 80% of the animals that it has taken in. In 2000, when the Associated Press first noted PETA's activities the PETA president, Ingrid Newkirk, stated that actually taking care of animals costs more than killing them.

PETA solicits donations internationally.

Make your own mind up, get a more balanced view by visiting these two web sites:
Http://www.PetaKillsAnimals.com and http://www.peta.org

New AIDS Vaccine—Good News For Cat Owners

By PETER SANDERS, Thursday, 28 July 2005 Australia

There is now hope of preventing feline AIDS, Launceston vet, Dr Rob Schaeche has said. Dr Schaeche said that a vaccine released a few months ago was good news for owners of outdoor cats or those with a history of fighting.

"The virus is transmitted from one cat to another through saliva, mostly through biting during mating or fighting, it is not transferable from cats to humans. The virus is further advanced in Launceston that we thought it would be - more than 30 per cent of the cats we've checked have tested positive to the virus. A lot of cats can carry the virus for a long time but show no symptoms. Infected cats tend to start with minor recurring infections like diarrhoea, gum disease and respiratory infections and start to lose weight. These are followed by more severe infections, from which they die."

Dr Schaeche said that although feline immunodeficiency virus could be prevented, it could not be treated once contracted. He said that the vaccine presented owners of cats, that spent time outside, with a good opportunity to decrease the spread of the disease. Cats are checked for the virus before being given a course of three injections followed by an annual booster.



FANCY FINGER FOOD FOR KITTENS

This occurred last year, but my finger still tingles at the memory

It's early Summer, warm and balmy. The kittens are now six weeks old but only 3 of

the 4 can barely be bothered to stop running long enough to eat. You know how it is; you've tried them with everything in the house but 'no thanks Mum, not today'. Well after more than 10 years of breeding I have finally learned not to worry about it too much. Okthey may be a little on the small side, but they are plump and fiendishly active! I know, thinks me unto myself, I'll try some tasty, freshly roasted minced chicken to tempt their tiny teeth. Here we go:-

- 1. Mike away on a conference overnight (mobile switched off); relatives all abroad; friends out of town or out of reach; friendly neighbour gone away for the weekend.
- 2. Self very casually dressed because ... see note 1.
- 3. Early evening watching birds in garden while using electric hand-mincer (remember that phrase) to mince roasted chicken that I have just torn up with my fingers so nice and greasy.
- 4. Chicken blocks mincer.
- 5. Hold mincer in right hand while idiotic left hands proceeds to unblock blades.
- 6. Hands greasy, handle slips.
- 7. OOPS right hand instinctively grips handle, in so doing turns mincer back on.
- 8. ***--^88%UU* !!!
- 9. Trying not to drop mincer (why?) right hand puts mincer carefully down and switches off wall socket (rather too late) while left hand flails around re-decorating most of the kitchen in a vibrant shade of crimson.
- 10. Desperately try to shoo intrigued adults cats out of kitchen whilst laying a trail of vermilion spots to show any stray visitors how to get from the kitchen door to the sink.
- 11. Don't look.
- 12. Look.
- 13. Feel a trifle queasy.
- 14. Run cold tap and insert colourful left forefinger into icy dagger-strewn stream pouring from pink spotted tap.
- 15. Yelp a wee bit.
- 16 Grab towel from other side of kitchen ensuring that microwave and several kitchen cupboards now match the ongoing décor revision.
- 17. Towel suddenly changes colour.
- 18. Grab kitchen paper roll. Used to be white now not.
- 19 Swathe forefinger in yards of paper towel (logic being that it's probably going to be easier to soak paper off finger than cotton by the time I get to a nurse) cool headed or what?
- 20. Dash upstairs, can't possibly be seen outside of the home dressed in such scrufforder.
- 21. Whilst feverishly trying to zip and button-up jeans with one hand, deliberate on the pros and cons of taking a taxi or driving oneself.
- 22. A wee bit dizzy now, and appendage is beginning to throb for England. Decide to drive oneself after all one has to get back home again and one can't be waiting for taxis for ages.
- 23. 15 minutes later arrive outside surgery amazed that it is still open. Don't know how I got here must have beamed.
- 24. Exit transport and do an impression of Toulouse Lautrec.



25. After 5 yards realise that one is doing an impression of Toulouse Lautrec and stand oneself up.

26. Reach head of receptionist's queue and say in a small voice 'I'm so sorry to bother you at this time of day, without an appointment, but I've caught my finger in a blender and its beginning to hurt a little - is it possible for a doctor to see me or should I make an appointment?' Honestly, that's what one said! That's English phlegm for you.

When all was said and done the wound was not as bad as it might have been and the cup of tea was very good. Left surgery with a pile of painkillers and the finger stitched and wrapped to the size of a chef's hat. The worst of it all was that once I'd got back home I had to un-decorate the kitchen (took ages) and then mince a fresh batch of chicken for my carefree kittens.

.... AND NOT ONE OF THE LITTLE BLIGHTERS ATE A SINGLE MORSEL.

Linda Vousden (Mymystic Tonkinese)

Tonks may be susceptible to gum disease— what should we do?

At his annual check-up, Billy was seen to have the first signs of gingivitis, otherwise his teeth were perfectly clean.

When I first arrived at my vets with a Tonk, they warned me that they were susceptible to gum disease. As such I alternate their food between oral dental and another dry food.

Anyway, apart from a dose of antibiotics they also gave me (sold me) some Maxi Guard (oral cleansing gel). Its tasteless & odourless, and you can use it with or without a brush. Just a drop on either side of their gums and their tongues will then move it around the rest for you. Its in 110ml bottle and has a shelf life of up to 18 mths. I am now also using it for my other 2 cats, as a preventative measure - if I had known about if before I would have bought it from them being babies, to save any of them getting any problems. Its not an expensive product and will last ages.

The reason for my writing about this is just to make other Tonk owners aware, and to pre-empt any dental problems, and anyone else with breeds that may be susceptible to gum disease; or even people with older cats who may just benefit from a little extra oral help.

Leanne Knipe

<u>Maxi Guard Gel</u>: manufactured by Addison Dental Preparation (see http://www.vetamerica.com) Active Ingredient(s): Deionized water, zinc gluconate, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), methylcellulose, taurine, methylparaben, propylparaben, F.D.&C. blue no. 1. May also contain zinc sulfate.

"Directions: Remove cap and applicator tip. Pour attached vial contents into gel. Snap applicator tip into place and replace cap. After ascorbic acid has dropped to bottom of gel, shake until dissolved. Holding your pet's head steady with one hand, place the applicator tip inside the corner of the mouth. Gently squeeze a small amount of gel onto the outside of the back upper molar teeth and gums. A natural cleansing action will distribute gel to remote areas. Use daily for best results."

Thanks to Helena Barrow for finding this information for us.

TBC Recommendations For Breeders

Updated 2005

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

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

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ALL MEMBERS

- ♦ WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMITTEE AND SHOW WORK
- ♦ WE NEED MORE ENTRIES AT OUR SHOW
- ♦ KEEP LINDA INFORMED OF YOUR KITTENS FOR SALE, & WHEN THEY HAVE GONE
- ♦ SEND IN YOUR ITEMS FOR TONKINFO
- ♦ VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE—www.tonkinese.info