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*tonkinese*  
BREED CLUB

*tonkinfo*

Autumn 2008  
Issue 38

## Welcome to this edition of Tonkinfo, the official magazine of the Tonkinese Breed Club

As autumn draws in and the nights get longer we all need something to cheer us up. And what better tonic than a day out at the Tonkinese Breed Club annual show!

This is an important event for all Club members, not just those who are showing cats/ kittens. Where better to meet up with like-minded enthusiasts for a friendly day out? To be successful the show needs as many people as possible to show or exhibit cats/kittens as well as a good attendance of club members and anyone interested in the tonkinese breed.

This year we see the **6<sup>th</sup> Championship Show** (*held under GCCF licence*).

The Show is on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008** at

**Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire.**

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008** (postmark)

**Show manager:** Mrs Gill Cornish  
**Assistant show manager:** Mrs Kathy Wilkinson.

The theme this year is **AQUAMARINE**

For further information, including the Show Schedule and Entry Forms, visit the TBC website.

### Editor's Notes – Paul Watters

As a new editor, I am finding my feet and very aware of the responsibility of carrying the Vousden mantle after Linda's long and successful reign.

I want the magazine to be as user-friendly as possible so welcome your ideas as to how you think it should look or what you would like to see included.

Having sent out a blanket email to all members recently, several emails were unable to be delivered. Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date via the TBC website.

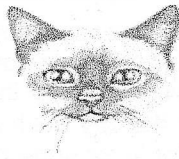
With best wishes to all TBC members – Paul Watters

*While all reasonable discretion will be shown, neither the Editor, Committee nor Club are accountable for opinions expressed by individuals in this magazine*

### In This Issue:

- ❖ **A touching story by Gill Rayson of a brave tonkinese boy who had a complication after having a general anaesthetic;**
- ❖ **One members account of how he and his wife became interested in the breed;**
- ❖ **Is there an alternative to rosettes at shows? Sue Amor has a proposal for a possible change;**
- ❖ **The limitations of the gene pool – Julia Craig McFeely raises the concerns;**
- ❖ **Paul Watters discusses the difficult decision of having to re-home a much loved Tonk;**
- ❖ **All of the above.....and so much more!!!**

**Club web site: [www.tonkinese.info](http://www.tonkinese.info)**



### Chairman's report

Hello all. It's very strange to have had our first committee meeting without Linda Vousden but we are all very enthusiastic and have a wide range of expertise, plus Linda is always at the end of a phone. We have got the Tonk Breed Club show to look forward to in October. I hope you have all entered your cats, especially any pointed or solid cats you could bring on exhibition.

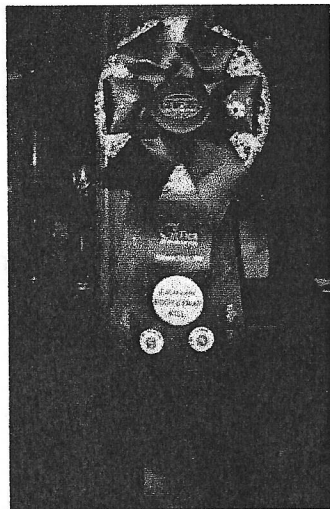
We have some very interesting projects lined up for the future. We would like to re introduce household pets to our show and are looking at different ways to provide rosettes (see below). If you have any ideas for our show please let us know. It is your breed show after all!

I have been lucky enough to handle lots of lovely tonkinese cats at the various shows I've been stewarding it. They're a credit to you all. Keep up the good work!

### From Sue Amor

I presented a proposal to committee to discuss the possibility of changing the way we issue rosettes. The opens and bobs are always lovely, as are grands and imperials etc but sometimes the money has run out when it comes to miscellaneous rosettes.

My suggestion, which is being trialled by two or three other clubs, is to do as they do in TICA. Every exhibitor gets a really nice rosette for their cat and then as they win their different classes a badge is added to the ribbon on their rosette. There are bigger badges for opens and bobs and smaller badges for the miscellaneous classes. This way, everyone goes home with a rosette but some are covered in badges too. What do you think?





### **Hon. Secretary's Report**

At the last committee meeting we spent quite a lot of time dealing with show details. Please don't forget to send in your entries before the closing date for this years show. Anyone who can give assistance on the day will be most welcome. If you have not got any cats available for showing at the moment just come and visit to see the cats that are there. You know how Tonks like visitors. Next years show will be on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

We will be looking for some volunteers for help with the Breed Advisory Committee's campaign to get solid and pointed Tonks registered as Tonkinese (not variants). It may not involve a lot of time or effort. Watch this space. If you feel strongly either for or against the idea of getting solids and pointed accepted as Tonkinese let us know.

If you have any concerns for the Tonkinese Breed Club please don't just mutter about it, or worse still complain to other people. The committee need to know your concerns otherwise we cannot change things. Likewise if you have any ideas of things you would like to see the club doing, let us know.

**Anne Cox-Horton**

### **A plea to all of you who have cups and trophies from last years show.**

It's time to get your polishing cloths out to get a shine all those trophies won last year!!!! They need to be returned to Chris Tamlin in plenty of time for distribution at this years show.

### **The TBC WebSite**

Don't forget to visit the TBC website for information on:

- ❖ The Club's primary contacts
- ❖ The Rescue and Welfare, Lost and Found Tonks and Breeders Re-homing pages
- ❖ Kitten and Stud Lists
- ❖ Members 'For Sale' page
- ❖ Report, with pictures, on the Clubs shows and AGM awards
- ❖ A list of members who breed tonkinese
- ❖ Breed advisory committee news
- ❖ A list of titled tonks
- ❖ The News Page
- ❖ Official GCCF policies

The website is maintained by Linda Vousden and she will be pleased to hear of any ideas you might have in relation to it's content..

This snippet was published in the Daily Telegraph.....sound familiar?!!

## **Rick Maybury: Houston, we have a problem...**

**Technical troubles? Our digital doctor, Rick Maybury, has the cure. Send your digital dilemmas to [houston@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:houston@telegraph.co.uk)**

### **Cat knows best**

**Q:** My Tonkinese kitten walked over the keyboard of my PC, treading on a number of keys that caused the display to turn sideways. No one, including my IT engineer, seems to know how to rectify the problem.

**Jeremy Jacobs, by email**

**A:** It sounds as if your moggy is smarter than that engineer. Screen Rotate is a well known facility on PCs using ATI and NVidia video adaptors. To put your display back to normal, do what the cat did and press Ctrl + Alt + left or right cursor. It will turn in 90 degree increments. If that fails, check Display Properties (right click desktop) for a display rotation option.

## **Edmond – a rescue story**

The call came in November 2006 – a shelter had received nearly two-dozen Tonkinese cats from a hording case. All were in desperate need of medical care. Worse, the shelter could not put them up for adoption because the hoarders were sending agents to adopt the cats back under false pretences.

Rocky Mountain Siamese Rescue stepped in and offered to take four cats, and contacted other rescue groups who saved the rest. One of the four was Edmond. He needed some serious dental work. RMSR sought donations, and were given a discount by their generous veterinarian. After \$4,000 and 34 extractions, all four kitties were ready for adoption.

Edmond was soon adopted by a loving family who already had two RMSR cats. He was adopted at age 8, which meant on top of his previous life, he could have a tough time adjusting to a new life and family. But the opposite was true. Instead, the family says Eddie is the sweetest, happiest little guy they have had the pleasure of knowing. Whether he is napping in his favourite sunny window, or playing with his kitty friends, Edmond has proven to be the picture of contentment.

Source -  
[http://www.rallytorescue.org/more\\_for\\_pets\\_public.aspx](http://www.rallytorescue.org/more_for_pets_public.aspx)

## **And on the subject of rescue.....**

Please remember the sterling work carried out by Val Chapple, the Club's Officer for Rescue and Welfare. Like Edmond, not all of the cats who come into Val's loving care have had the best start in life. She has to spend many hours with the shyer and less confident cats to ensure that they are secure enough to be re-homed. None of the cats leave Val's care until she is satisfied that they are in the best condition, both physically and emotionally, to take on the challenges of a new home. Val also spends hours vetting potential new owners and then matching them up with suitable cats.

Donations to the Rescue to cover telephone calls, travel, vets bills etc. are always welcome.

## **Captain Jack – a tale of a much loved tonkinese boy.**

Jack's entry to the world was traumatic, as an emergency caesarean was needed to gain access for him and his sister and brothers. Two kittens were lost in the experience and their mum; Rosie had to be spayed due to bleeding. Rosie wasn't too keen on her kittens for the first twenty-four hours but then became the world's most attentive mum. Jack and his siblings grew rapidly. It soon became apparent that Jack had a personality!! First out of the box, first out of the pen, first to eat solids and first at just about everything©

He grew into a leggy, skinny kitten who was into everything and became the 'one' to keep. He did sneeze quite a lot at times but as he always was sticking his nose into corners and I'm not the best housekeeper in the world I wasn't too worried.

At 9 months a nasty discharge started so I took him to the vets for a check up. He couldn't see anything as Jack wouldn't keep still. However, he did sneeze over the vet several times and he thought that Jack might have something stuck in his nasal cavity. He was a big hit at the vets, saying hello to everybody and giving face rubs and head butts as is his way. I left him for a simple procedure to have a light anaesthetic and a small instrument put up his nose so they could see what the problem was. The procedure went well (although the results weren't informative as he was so gunked up that very little could be seen), but as he was coming round from the anaesthetic his heart stopped.

They worked on him and Jack was revived, the first cat they'd been able to resuscitate in four years. However he'd suffered brain damage and couldn't stand see or hear. I'd rushed round as soon as I'd heard and he was just lying there with a drip in his leg making soft noises. He spent the night in special care and I went home with a heavy heart expecting the worst.

In the morning Jack was showing signs of being more alert. He spent the day in special care with no further signs of improvement. The vets said I could bring him home, I don't think anybody expected him to make it through a second night and they were letting me say goodbye.

Jack however had different plans and when I got him home he managed to stand and scrambled out of the box I'd put him in. It was so sad, watching this beautiful cat stagger about crying. The vet had said Jack wasn't in pain but he was obviously in great distress. I made my mind up that in the morning I would have him put to sleep. I spent the night with him on the sofa and he seemed calmer when I was stroking him so that's what I did.

In the morning I 'phoned the vets and took him in. Alf, the vet, explained I should wait at least two weeks to see if there was any further improvement, as Jack was now walking, although unsteadily which nobody had expected. He said he was blind and deaf which broke my heart but he also said this might improve as well and I should give Jack a chance as he seemed to be a fighter. So I did.

Jack improved daily and his sight and hearing returned over the next couple of weeks His crying stopped and his appetite returned with a vengeance. He ate everything!

He went into the garden under close supervision and improved daily. His balance wasn't all it could be and he couldn't judge distances but we had Jack back.

In the pen there is a tree for the cats to climb and the first night Jack was back in there after spending three weeks getting ruined in the house, he decided to climb it and fell.

It's not certain how he did it but with his eyes and balance I'm assuming he just didn't judge it properly and gave himself a nasty cut between the shoulder blades. As it was healing it didn't seem too bad but when the scab fell off it left a large bald scar that is a feature he will always carry.

*Continued overleaf*

Jack continued to improve and his wonderful character came to the fore again. He was almost back to normal, with a slightly wobbly gait and still not the best judge of distances. His flying around the garden chasing flies and the other cats was a joy to see.

Then he decided to explore the neighbours garden and unfortunately found the way to the road at the front.

Jack was struck by a white van man who failed to stop but he was seen by the car behind. Jack had run off into the garden opposite where we eventually found him under a bush wide eyed and terrified. Covered in oil but no other marks on him a quick vet check showed he'd come to no serious harm. He was very wobbly on his legs again but recovered after a day or two.

I decided to have him neutered to stop his wandering. A very quick op later Jack was back at home two nodules lighter.

He is still with us, but having used up at least four of his lives in his first year I'm not sure if he'll make it to a ripe old age, but he is a most wonderful little beastie, affectionate and funny with the most wonderful expression in his eyes when he talks to me, which he does, a lot!

He was named after a character in Dr Who who cannot be killed, I'm just hoping my Captain Jack is likewise indestructible but would prefer him to stop trying to prove it to me!!

The moral of the story, if it needs one, is really to say that even if there seems to be no hope sometimes all that's needed is a little time to let nature try and sort things out. If I'd gone ahead and had Jack put to sleep on that second morning as I'd intended I'd have missed out on having the most wonderful companion and loving pet that you could come across.

He now seems content to stay in the garden and chase the other cats around and eats for England given half a chance.

In short.....he's wonderful, my Captain Jack.

Gill Rayson-  
Huspad Tonkinese

**Q: What is a cat's favourite colour?**

**A: Purrr-ple**

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A CHIP MAKES

I received a phone call Wednesday from the wife of one of our local Councillors she was asking for help concerning the disappearance of their pet Burmese. I gave her welfare numbers and mad a few suggestions. The story was that they were having a boiler fitted so for the time that was happening Cameo the Burmese was kept in the house she normally plays in the garden and does not go far from home.

On the last day of the fitting when all noise was finished cameo was allowed out into the garden again she left the house at 12.30 pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July and by 3 pm her owner knew she was not coming home. Her owners started a 15 day search ringing people, knocking on doors, delivering leaflets all to no avail. They rang the contract gas fitters twice asking to speak to the driver who worked at their house on that last day of fitting bit he never did ring back. That made me very suspicious as to whether Cameo had gone off in his van.

It was established that the driver lived close to the Breeder of Cameo. She was contacted but refused to help in any way.

By this time Cameo's mum was sure she had gone off in the fitters van His home was in Waterlooville, Hants so all the vets in that area were contacted with details.

Yesterday a lady in Hornedean just down the road from Waterlooville walked into one of the vets surgeries with a cat that she had seen for two days eating the fox food. It was micro chipped and proved to be Cameo. Her over the moon owners just had time to get to the surgery before closing time to collect a very dusty and tired Cameo.

Valerie Chapple  
TBC Welfare



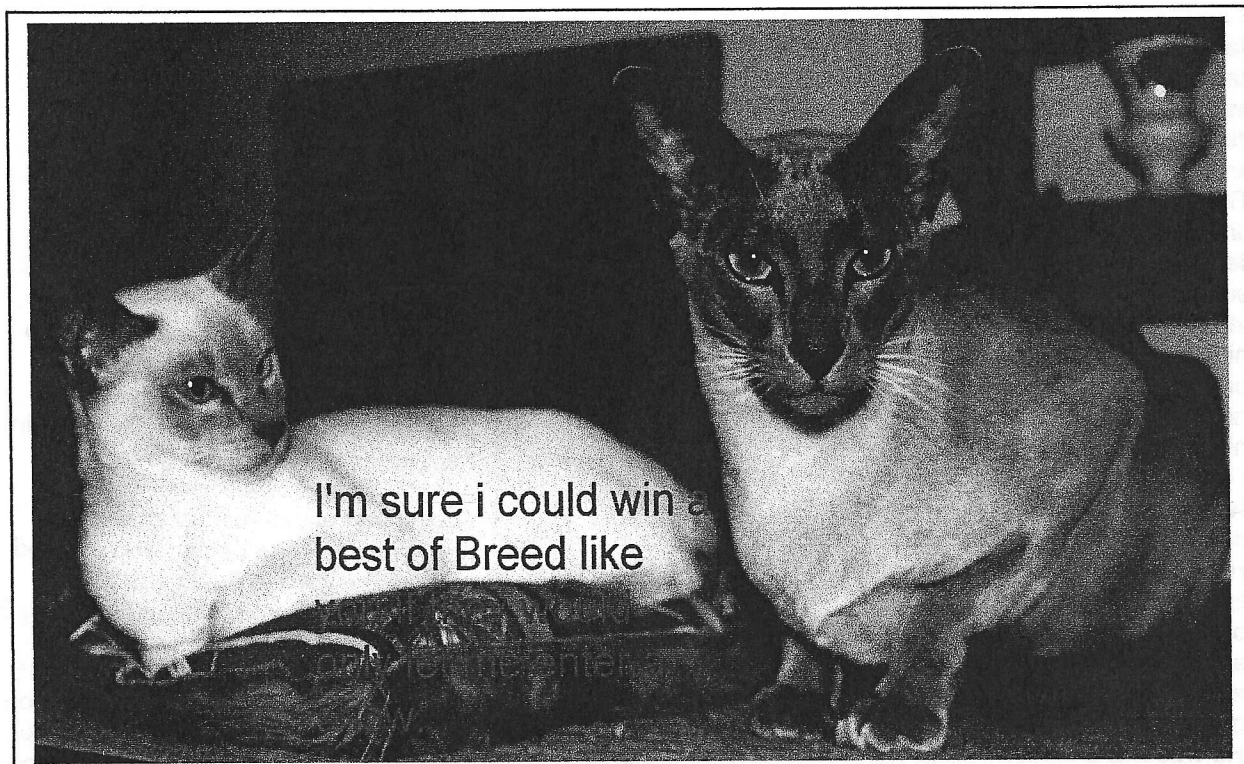


Photo submitted by William and Mandy Sheppard.



**And a reminder.....as if you needed one!**

**THE TONKINESE HAS THREE COAT PATTERNS.....**

**Solid  
Mink  
Pointed**

**The club believes that the solid and pointed should be accepted in GCCF shows (commencing in assessment).**

**If you haven't already shown your support for this you can do so by downloading the commitment form from the website or by signing on the day of the show (see Linda Vousden).**

## An attitude of mind

No, this time it's not the inimitable attitude of the Tonkinese, but the attitudes of us owners and breeders that are on my mind these days. I have been struck by how those who are closest to the breed, and probably have its interests more firmly at heart than any other, are often the breed's worst enemy when it comes to promoting the future of the breed: that is through the full recognition of the pointed and solid coat patterns, and the new breeding lines necessary if the breed is to survive.

This was brought home to me very strongly by an e-mail from a new breeder, filled with enthusiasm for creating a new bloodline with her lovely Burmese girl, and looking for advice about a Siamese stud. I hope if she's reading this that she won't recognise herself, or if she does, that she won't mind, but her innocent remarks brought home to me very firmly the flaws in the attitude that the established Tonkinese world projects about our cats who are not eligible to be shown.

This lady said that *of course* she would sell the kittens for less than 'normal' Tonkinese (or perhaps she said 'real Tonkinese', I can't remember), as they would be first generation, but was it OK to call them, and sell them as, Tonkinese, or should she describe them as something else? What an extraordinary perception of the breed, that the primary first-generation cross, the *most important cross*, is in some way not Tonkinese! Where had she got this idea or impression from? It can only have come from us, the breeders, who so often behave as if the F1, F2 and F3 are undesirable or there is something wrong with them because they can't be shown. I've seen many superb lower-generation cats who would beat the pants off most of the later-generation Tonkinese on the show bench. It makes my heart ache to think of these stunning cats unable to strut their stuff where they belong, with all the other Tonkinese in the world.

Another breeder (apologies again – this isn't a criticism, but a very helpful example) suggested that she would be very unlucky if all the kittens in her litter were solid pattern. I think what she really felt was that it would be a pity if they were all the same colour, but it came out wrong. Without being aware of it she was just steeped – as are we all – in the long-held idea that there is something wrong with the solid or pointed pattern cats.

For me, showing was fun while I did it, but frankly it wasn't what I was breeding for, and ultimately I don't think it's what our breed is about: I breed (as do most people) for a lovely cat who will change an owner's life forever and bring happiness and fun to a family or individual for as many years as possible. I also breed so that I can have these lovely creatures with me forever. Showing is necessary to bring recognition and advancement to the breed, but it seems to me that the artificial divide between what can be shown and what cannot has done us untold harm, since we have developed the attitude, and we're projecting it to everyone around us, that any Tonkinese that cannot go on the show bench must have something wrong with it. Therefore it must be sold cheap (as a by-product of the 'real' breeding) and not advertised as a 'true' Tonkinese, in case we are accused of misleading the public. To me the F1 is a rarity, and should be prized, and worth more than a later-generation cat!

I would plead with everyone reading this to think not just about what they say about their cats, but look at everything from body-language upwards, to discover what we're really projecting about those cats who are unfairly excluded from the show bench. I'm really proud of my F1, F2 and F3 cats: they are from strong bloodlines, and it's a lot of fun having lines that have no connection with anyone else's. I've just had a lovely F2 litter, again from lines completely unrelated to any other line in the Tonkinese world, and they are strong, healthy, active babies, and I hope will have every advantage in life. Will other breeders be interested in this bloodline though, or will it stutter to a halt before it has even got started? Will anyone consider buying one of the kittens to introduce into their own breeding program, or will the care and effort of four breeders to establish a new line all go to waste?

I'm worried about how few breeders are working with early-generation Tonkinese. It's not enough for just a few people to do it. When I got together with four other breeders several years back, we knew that to produce a single F3 kitten that had not crossed to any of the existing lines, we had to create four completely new bloodlines, all unrelated to each other. We also knew that it would mean at least two people would have to keep males, even if it was only for as long as it took for them to mate with one of the girls.

*Continued overleaf*



We did that, and we have the lines to prove it, but somehow nobody else seems to be interested in using these lines, no matter how healthy and lovely they are. For the new lines of course, there's now a problem. I'm faced with having to cross into the old lines now to find a mate for my F3 girl. Either that, or we breed a new F1 line and she mates with that. I wonder if anyone else has managed to create four new lines and crossed them carefully so that there is another F3 line out there just waiting for me to find it and mate my lovely F3 girl to it?

In my current litter I have taken an F2 girl (herself the offspring of an F2 queen and an F1 stud) back to an F1 stud. I want to avoid for as long as possible crossing with existing lines that are beginning to appear in almost every pedigree, or else what is the point of having new lines? Once I have crossed to an 'old' established line, all the effort of having a new bloodline is over, and the later the generation of the line I go to, the more of the Tonkinese gene pool will already be represented in the pedigree, so the more difficult it will be to find a mate for any offspring. Having been a Burmese breeder I'm extremely wary of any cat who turns up again and again in pedigrees. Try to find a Burmese pedigree today that doesn't have Cassiobury Beechnut in it, and you can pretty much give up before you start. The Tonkinese is beginning to look that way, and we've only been at it for a few years!

Breeding for new lines is not something that we can just do for a few years, or with a few cats, and then sit back and stop. This is a long-term thing, and our attitude to the lower generations needs to embrace them more wholeheartedly. Those established breeders who aren't creating new lines (or outcrossing to them) need to ask what message that is giving to the world, and to new breeders. If the establishment won't do it, then surely there must be something wrong with it! I believe that if the strength and genetic diversity of the Tonkinese is to survive, we have years of breeding fresh lines ahead of us. And we need to think very hard about which established lines to cross into with our new lines, so that no line or cat becomes over-used.

I'm as guilty as anyone regarding the attitude to the non-show Tonkinese that I project to the world, particularly those with the non-show patterns. I take great pride in my early generation cats, but I find myself making excuses for the pointed or solid patterns as if they are not true Tonkinese, and that is usually because people come to the house with the idea that there is something second-best about them. I find myself defending or excusing them, and maybe just doing that reinforces the attitude of mind that there is something different or wrong about those patterns. How can we stop potential owners coming to us with the attitude pre-programmed that anything other than the primary pattern is second best? By making sure that none of us is projecting it in the first place.

And in case you're wondering, this is not a hard-sell for my own kittens: I already have potential pet homes for them, so I'm not worried about their futures, but if anyone is interested in the bloodline and in adding it to the gene pool I would be very glad to hear from you, even if your interest is only very tentative. It took a lot of time, effort and mileage to create the line, but I can't keep a kitten this time as I have a houseful already, so it has to be down to someone else to keep it going. And remember, it doesn't have to be a girl you keep: I've created new lines 'in-house' by running on a boy just long enough to get one litter from him. I've in total kept three males entire in this way including the father of my current litter. This is an option for anyone who can't keep a stud cat and a very good way of getting the male side of a new line started.

Julia Craig-McFeely  
Rameses Tonkinese (and Burmese and Old-style Siamese)

## My first Tonks – Anne Cox-Horton

When I got my Tonks I knew nothing about them and at first I didn't know I had Tonks! It happened like this.....

When Michael worked at a Leisure Centre, one of his jobs was dosing the sauna plunge pool. One day when doing this he got the dosing liquid splashed in his eyes. It was highly alkaline. He couldn't see very well and so had to have some time off. Not one to sit around, he walked a bit and on one of these walks went past the local pet shop. They had kittens in the window. What he thought he saw was a black kitten and a white kitten along with another one. He just loved cats and the thought of owning a black and a white kitten appealed to him. No thought of how out existing cats would feel about it.

I came home from work to find Michael and his brother playing with two kittens, one black and one a seal point, old fashioned Siamese. Well I love cats too and couldn't resist them either. Anyway we couldn't take them back. I was horrified to find that he had left one kitten on it's own in the pet shop. So the next day he went back and bought the third kitten. They were all sisters. Michael was told that their mum was a pedigree Siamese who had escaped and this litter was a result of that escape, but apparently may have had two fathers.

The black kitten became Phantom. The Siamese became Jubilee (it was 1977, the Queens silver jubilee). The third sister, a tortoiseshell, became Grimble. When Jubilee began calling we decided she was definitely Siamese. Oh the noise! We shut her in the bathroom at night and wore ear plugs to bed. However we decided that she could have one litter of kittens. We had both always liked the temperament and look of Burmese cats. Why don't we find a Burmese and have half Siamese and half Burmese kittens? We found a Burmese stud with a willing owner. And said kittens duly arrived.

I just have to tell you about the birth. Jubilee was in the cupboard under the stairs. I arrived home very late from work and thought I'll just check on her. Hello, she's grown extra legs. Well that's what it looked like.

The kittens were very forward. Faster than our previous 'mog' kittens at everything. We thought that this was just because they had cousins who were two or three weeks older, they'd picked it up from them. Now I realise that it was because they were Tonks. I don't remember now what colours we had, it was nearly 30 years ago. I do remember they were enchanting, more so than any other kittens we'd had before. We sold them for what we thought was an exorbitant price back then. I seem to remember that it was about £50 each. Well they were at least half pedigree and very special. We had found out they were Tonkinese. That's what they were. All we knew about the breed was its name. It was very new and there were not a lot in Britain but they were very popular in Holland at the time,

Now I wish we had kept one or two. What a wonderful thing hindsight is.

When we decided we were going to buy a pedigree puss we knew what it had to be. A Tonkinese. We saw Jo and fell in love with her beautiful blue little madam, Majik. That's when we got our sixth Tonk.

- **Did you hear about the cat who drank 5 bowls of water? He set a new lap record.**



- **Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool? She had mittens.**

## **Our introduction to the Tonkinese.**

Between us, both Mandy and I have always had rescue cats as pets, preferring to breed and exhibit Dogs, rabbits, and birds.

Mandy first came across the Tonkinese breed back in 1989 when she was looking for what was to be her first pedigree cat. Unfortunately, within two years the cat died after being run over by a car reversing outside the front of the house.

Annually we visited cat shows including the Supreme for no other reason than we both like cats.

In 2006 never having forgotten her Tonkinese, we started our quest to find a new pet, as our family of rescues had diminished through old age, leaving us with only our last tabby girl of 13years.

We decided that a blue Tonkinese boy would be nice if we could find one, and with a bit of luck, one good enough to take to a show or two. Little did we realise how much of an impact this boy would have on us. Like a lot of others before us, we have decided to join the ranks, and hopefully help in the progression of this lovely breed.

A secure run has been built attached to the main house, and a stud house is well on the way to being completed. Our first girl here at "Hypnotyks" has recently gone through her first call, not bad at all says I, expecting it to be a lot louder being she was a Tonkinese.

Anyway our lovely little girl shortly after, decided it was time for her second attempt - good grief! This time around she had really got the hang of it; what had happened to our soft voiced little girl!?

It's been a long time since we have had a breeding girl in the house, I'm sure it wasn't as vocal as this little girl.

So now we have a bit of an idea of what it's going to be like, living with a bunch of breeding Tonkinese girls. "And we can't wait". With a little bit of good fortune, our girl should be ready to present us with our first litter of Tonkinese at the end of 2008.

Our thanks go to all the folk that have helped us in our quest to become involved with the Tonkinese.

William and Mandy Sheppard  
"Hypnotyks"  
Tonkinese Cats  
Gloucestershire UK



**How do cats buy things?  
From a cat-alogue!**

**and we thought we had trouble getting Judges for our show!**

*Linda Vousden found the following items in the news – August 2008*

A Florida lawyer alleged to have played a key role in an \$83 million (\$NZ120 million) mortgage loan scam has been denied permission to fly to Auckland on Saturday to judge a cat show. "The cats of New Zealand will just have to be judged by someone else," the Sarasota Herald Tribune reported today. United States federal judge Mary Scriven denied a bid by Sarasota lawyer John Yancheck, 48, to leave the country.

Yancheck is "a recognised international feline judge", a breeder of Oriental Shorthairs and Somali cats, and is scheduled to judge at the Catz Inc show at Pukekohe, his defence lawyer said. Representing the United Feline Organisation, Yancheck was supposed to provide a highlight of the show, awarding ribbons for individual breeds and calling up winners for the best of breed competition. A federal prosecutor opposed Yancheck being allowed to travel, saying the cat show was hardly a compelling reason. Yancheck's attorney told the judge that his client had already bought his airline tickets for the show in New Zealand. Yancheck was indicted by a federal grand jury for his involvement with fugitive Neil Mohamed Husani and two other former Husani partners in an \$82.8 million scheme to defraud seven banks on the west coast of Florida.

**GOURMET MEALS FOR CATS ARE THREATENING FISH SUPPLIES -**

Deakin University scientist Dr Giovanni Turchini has discovered an estimated 2.48 million tonnes of forage fish - a limited biological resource - is consumed by the global cat food industry each year. "That such a large amount of fish is used for the pet food industry is real eye-opener," Dr Turchini said. "In Australia, pet cats are eating an average 13.7 kilograms of fish a year which far exceeds the Australian human average per capita fish and seafood consumption of around 11 kilograms. Our pets seem to be eating better than their owners." Wild forage fish, which includes sardines, herrings and anchovies, are an important link in the marine food chain, as part of the diet of larger fish like tuna and swordfish. Overfishing of marine resources is a concern to conservationists and the fishing industry. "While much of the criticism has been on the grounds that forage fish could be better used for human consumption directly, particularly amongst the poorer nations of the world, rather than in the production of food for farmed fish, little attention has been paid to the amount of forage fish used by the pet food industry," Dr Turchini said. "Gourmet pet foods contain a significant amount of fish that may be suitable for direct human consumption." Different raw material, such as by-products of the fish filleting industry, would be better used in pet food. A more objective and pragmatic approach to the use of decreasing fish stocks was needed, she said.



**Cat proofing the garden**

My cats have access to a large outside run which is attached to the back to the house. I have however plenty of garden which they could enjoy. I've finally taken the plunge and decided to have the garden 'cat proofed'. My research has led me to choose the 'Katsecure' system, designed and installed by Andrew at <http://www.katsecure.com/> Although Andrew cannot guarantee the system to be 100% effective he is confident of it's success. I'll report back in the next issue of the magazine how it all works out.

Paul Watters

## Re-homing a breeding queen

A few years ago when I got interested in cat breeding and acquired my first two queens, I became aware that some breeders were offering ex-breeding queens for re-homing. I was rather uncomfortable about this being of the mindset that a cat is for life etc. and rather naïve about the stresses and strains associated with competing female hormones (feline obviously!).

Earlier this year one of my queens had a litter of kittens and her sister moved into the kitten room to help look after them. She would wash and toilet the kittens as if they were her own. All went well for about seven weeks when suddenly, one Sunday afternoon, there was an almighty fight between the two queens. What sparked it off remains a mystery but this was no ordinary fight - I was actually quite terrified by the violence of it. From that day on, if the two queens came face-to-face, the fighting resumed. The atmosphere in the house changed. Doors had to be closed to keep the two girls apart, the other two cats were jumpy and worst of all the kittens were nervous. The slightest disturbance would set off the fighting and my normally happy home became a place of misery.

After two months and numerous attempts at restoring some kind of harmony I had to concede that things were not getting any better. I consulted an animal behaviour expert who was very blunt and told me that he didn't think the situation would ever be resolved. I knew then that one of my two girls would have to be re-homed.

Having accepted this, the decision had to be made as to which one. I was tortured trying to decide who should go. I changed my mind a thousand times. With the help of a friend I found what sounded like an ideal home for my cat. It was a family home set in nine acres of land. By this time the queen had been spayed and was well recovered from the operation.

The day I took her there was bad. The drive up was torturous and at one point I got lost – an omen I thought to go home and try one more time. I eventually found myself on the right road though and turned up at the house with my beloved cat. A few pleasantries and formalities followed as the cat got used to her new surroundings. She was nervous but not unhappy. I had to go. Walking away I couldn't speak as I was too emotional. I got home to a quiet and peaceful house. The other cats looked relaxed and happy and I knew that the re-homing was in the best interests for all concerned.

Two months later my (ex) cat is happy in her new home. She travels daily to hunt and brings back all sorts of gifts for her new owners. She is much loved and has recently got a new feline companion with whom she is well settled. I get the odd email and photograph telling me of her new life. Here all has settled beautifully with my remaining cats. I have kept the daughter of my cat who is a constant reminder of her mother and will in time continue her line. Whilst it still pains me that I had to re-home a cat who was very much loved, the bottom line is that it was best for all concerned and the fact that it has worked out well for all parties means that of course it was on the only action to take. I now understand totally why re-homing is the best and sometimes only solution to difficulties with cat relationships.

Paul Watters  
Vyvera Tonkinese



## What do you call a cat who's joined the Red Cross?

### A first-aid kit!

## What Role Does Your Cat Play in Your Life?

*The following quiz comes from the US Cat Fancy magazine, designed by Brad Kollus – dare you take the test to explore the intricacies of your relationship with your cat?*

Humans and cats have cohabitated for thousands of years. Cat owners' relationships with their feline friends are complex and diverse. This quiz will help you assess your relationship with your cat or cats. For each statement, choose the response that best describes your relationship with your cat or cats. Record your answers. Then, refer to the answer key below, and add the numbers that correspond to each response to calculate your score.

**1. You speak to your cat using baby talk.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**2. You have young children at home.**

- a. True
- b. False

**3. You have children, but they have left the nest.**

- a. True
- b. False

**4. Your cat has a baby-like nickname.**

- a. True
- b. False

**5. You tell your cat about work issues.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**6. You tell your cat about your relationships.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**7. You talk to your cat about life in general.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**8. You take photos of your cat and frame them or place them in a photo album.**

- a. True
- b. False

**9. You have:**

- a. No close friends
- b. A few close friends
- c. Many friends
- d. Almost too many friends

**10. You hold your cat like a baby.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**11. You consider your cat to be your baby.**

- a. True
- b. False

**12. You consider your cat to be your friend rather than your child.**

- a. True
- b. False

**13. Your cat provides you with emotional support.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**14. Your cat provides you with social support.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**15. You carry a picture of your cat in your wallet.**

- a. True
- b. False

**16. Your cat calms you and makes you feel at peace.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**17. In the past, people have given you emotional or social support similar to the support your cat provides.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**18. You dress up your cat for special occasions or throw parties for your cat.**

- a. Never
- b. Sometimes
- c. Often
- d. Always

**19. You are planning to have a child soon.**

- a) True
- b) False

**20. When you give your cat treats or catnip, you use baby talk or feel as though you're giving the treats to your baby.**

- a. True
- b. False

***Go to the next page to score your results!***

**What Role Does Your Cat Play In Your Life?**

Add up your points to calculate your score.

1. a) 3; b) 2; c) 1; d) 0
2. a) 3; b) 0
3. a) 0; b) 3
4. a) 0; b) 3
5. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
6. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
7. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
8. a) 0; b) 3
9. a) 3; b) 2; c) 1; d) 0
10. a) 3; b) 2; c) 1; d) 0
11. a) 0; b) 3
12. a) 3; b) 0
13. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
14. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
15. a) 0; b) 3
16. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
17. a) 0; b) 1; c) 2; d) 3
18. a) 3; b) 2; c) 1; d) 0
19. a) 0; b) 3
20. a) 0; b) 3

**If you scored:**

**0-20 points** — You view your cat as a furry son or daughter and love to show photos of your cat to friends and neighbours. Your cat mainly fulfils the role of a child in your life.

**20-40 points** — The role your cat plays in your life falls somewhere between that of a child and that of a friend. Your cat provides some emotional and social support, but you also love to shower your cat with affection and occasionally cradle your cat in your arms like a baby.

**40-60 points** — Your relationship with your cat is best described as a friendship. Your cat is a trusted confidant — a friend who is always there when you need to talk or to snuggle up on the sofa after a stressful day.

Remember, only you can define your relationship with your cat best. What's most important is that you love and take care of your feline friends. Of course, we cat owners know that our cats love us.

**2009 isn't far off and calendars are always useful!!**

The Tonkinese Breed Club 2009 calendar is currently being printed for sale at the Show. If you would like to reserve a calendar please contact Val Chapple (details on page 2). Supplies often exceed demand.

The calendar is £9.95 and can be posted to you for an additional charge of £1.20 to cover postage and packing



**What is the military definition of a cat ?**

**A heat seeking missile !**

**What do you call a cat who eats lemons?- A sourpuuss!**

## **Raining cats and dogs makes pet insurance vital**

**04/09/2008**

The wet and windy summer is not just a nightmare for British humans – cats and dogs are suffering too as they find themselves tempted by the sudden influx of slugs and snails.

According to leading veterinary charity PDSA, slugs and snails thrive in wet weather, something the UK has had plenty of so far this summer. Unfortunately, cats and dogs are not particularly fussy about what they eat so are happily munching the slugs and snails, but to the detriment of their health.

According to PDSA, slugs and snails can cause respiratory and circulation problems in cats and dogs. The charity explains that some slugs and snails carry larvae that can cause lungworms that can seriously harm pets, making pet insurance a must this season.

PDSA senior veterinary surgeon Sean Wensley said: "Some slugs and snails carry infective larvae which, if eaten by a cat or a dog, can lead to lungworm. In cats, these lungworms live in the lungs, which can cause the cat to cough. In the dog, these thin worms live in the blood vessels that supply the lungs, which can also cause coughing, as well as problems with circulation.

"In rare cases these worm infestations can be very serious indeed – even fatal. PDSA vets have seen a gradual increase in pets affected by lungworm, which was previously confined only to Wales and the South West, but is now seen in many areas of the UK."

Pet health insurance could offer assistance with things like lungworm, as well as the standard checks such as worming and flea removal. Mr Wensley added: "The rise in the number of cases of lungworm should remind pet owners of the importance of getting their pet regularly wormed by their vet. Lungworm is just one of many types of worm that are prevented by regular worming with an effective worming product."

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**What do cats eat for breakfast?  
Mice Crispies!**





And another reason for chipping.....

## Cat gives vet paws for thought

**Published Date:**

05 September 2008

By Emma Downes

A FAMILY'S delight at being reunited with their lost pet turned sour when they found it was the wrong cat.

Now they are faced with two problems - returning the cat to its rightful owners and renewing their search for their missing pet.

The black cat called Mikey went missing while it was staying with Rachael Darbyshire of Harpur Hill while her sister, who lives in Sheffield, was on holiday.

Posters put up appealing for information led to numerous calls and a cat matching the description was found in the Pavilion Gardens.

It wasn't until Miss Darbyshire's sister took 'Mikey' to vets in Sheffield for a check up that it was discovered that although the cat was black, roughly the same size and age and had the same distinctive white patch of fur on its chest, it was not hers.

Mikey recently had the end of a toe on his left hind foot removed, yet the captured cat had all his toes intact.

Source: Buxton Advertiser

GILBERT, Ariz., Sept. 3 (UPI) -- A Gilbert, Ariz., man said he drove more than 70 miles for business meetings before realizing that his cat had been clinging on for dear life under his truck.

Gil Smith, a program contractor, said he first drove one mile to his office then made a 70-mile trek to Globe, Ariz., before he heard the distressed sounds of his cat, Bella, coming from atop a spare tire underneath the truck, the East Valley Tribune of Scottsdale, Ariz., reported Wednesday.

"She loves to get up on that spare tire to hang out, it's kind of a safe place for her, particularly after it rains," he said.

Smith said Bella must have stubbornly remained with the vehicle after he started it in the morning and he did not hear her desperate mewling until he arrived in Globe.

Smith said he canceled his appointments for the day to take the distressed feline back home to his wife, Kris, who considers the cat one of her favorites among the many the couple have adopted.

"I knew I had two choices: bring the cat home or get a divorce," Smith said.

He said Bella was shaky after the long ride, but was unharmed.

**"Things like this remind you that we all get caught up in our work and business, but those things are not as important as other things, in this case a little cat,"** Smith said.

## **TBC Recommendations For Breeders**

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

- 1 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 8 The stud premises should be available for inspection, by appointment, by the queen's owner prior to the queen being brought to stud.
- 9 Queens must be on the active register with the GCCF.
- 10 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.)
- 12 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.
- 13 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.
- 14 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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