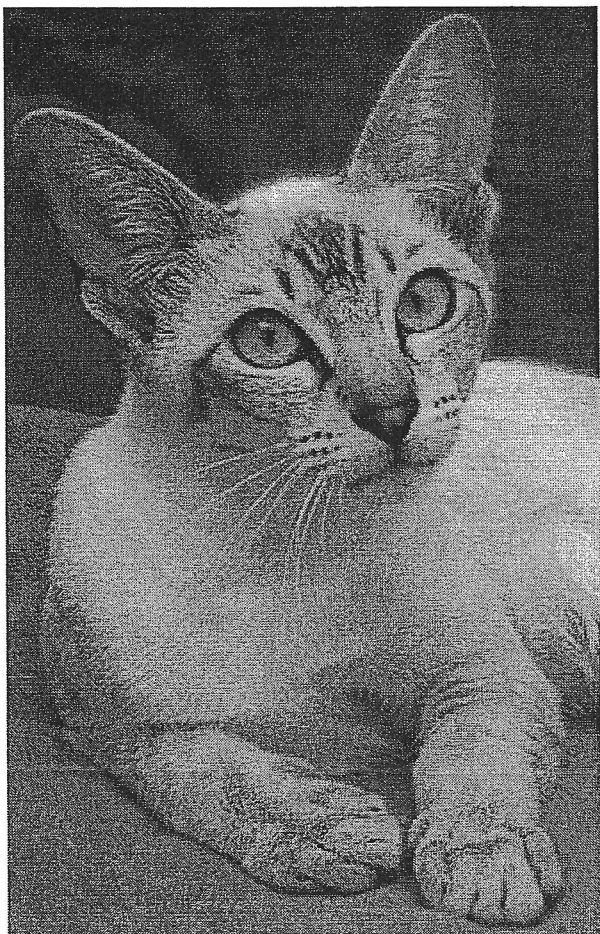


TONKINFO



Autumn
2009

Issue 40

Editor: Paul Watters

A big reminder that the Club's 7th Championship show is being held on 31st October 2009 at the Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire and is open to the Public from 1 p.m.

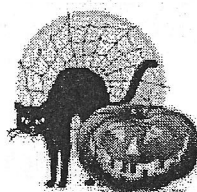
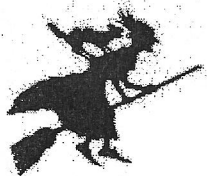
Closing date for entries is 6th October 2009.

Joint Show Managers are Mrs Gill Cornish and Mrs Kathy Wilkinson (contact details on TBC website)

The theme for this year is:

Witches and Wizards

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE CLUB IF YOU CAN.



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Chairman's report

Hello all. The committee are all working very hard to do whatever they can for our wonderful cats. If any of you have any ideas of things we could do to help you and your tonks please don't hesitate to let us know. 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. Don't forget the Halloween theme. Some of us won't need to dress up!

The Tonkinese BAC have been working very hard, as usual, and we are waiting with bated breath to see if our proposal to recognise the solid and pointed coat patterns is approved by executive. Please, all of you, keep your fingers, toes and paws crossed.

I have been lucky enough to handle lots of lovely tonkinese cats at the various shows I've been stewarding it. I am now a qualified GCCF steward and hopefully will soon be a probationer judge. It has been rewarding and very hard work. Hopefully some of you out there will be willing to give it a go.

Remember to keep showing your wonderful cats. I hope to see you all at the end of October, do come up and say hello.

Secretary's report from Ann Cox-Horton

September 2009

TBC show – 31 October

I expect everyone else will talk about the show so I won't say a great deal except to remind you that Kathy has managed to get Dr J Lamprecht, all the way from South Africa, judging some of the classes. Kathy and the committee have been working hard and we have some nice surprises in the way of goodies and specials. Please don't forget that all tombola prizes will be welcomed and we want you to buy tickets at the tombola on the day. There will be a very special prize available at the tombola and how you win it I'm keeping secret. You have to come and buy a ticket to find out.

Please let us know what you think of the show, it's good to get feedback about things you liked and things you didn't like. Have a bewitching show folks!

Cups and Awards

I went wandering through the GCCF website recently, you know the way you do occasionally, and found this in the fixed penalties section:-

"Failure to return Club cup/trophy – Penalty: following complaint by Club official or show manager: Fine £50, suspension until fine paid and cup/trophy returned or replaced. A second breach of this rule within three years will result in double the penalty, a third breach three times the penalty etc." So please return all show cups and trophies before or at the show and all AGM cups and trophies before or at the AGM.

Next committee meeting will be 21 February 2010, so let one of the committee know if there is something you want raised or something you want us to do.

Next years AGM.

11 April 2010, time to be advised, at St Mary's Church Hall, Robinhood Lane, Winnersh. *Don't forget to put it in your diary!*

Any agenda items or nominations for committee must be with me by 28 February.

cover photo: Jensen Suki owned by Paul Walters.

What happens if there is an emergency at the Tonkinese Breed Club show.

First of all we hope it never happens, but we like to be prepared just in case it does.

You should be prepared too! Make sure that your cat carriers all have a blank label. It will make life easier for clearing the hall if you bring one cat per carrier. When you have settled your cat in it's cage, write the cage number on the label attached to the carrier, in easy to read numbers. Put the carrier under the table, under the cage. Make sure that the label is either on top or at the front of the carrier.

If an emergency occurs, such as a fire or a bomb scare, designated people will act. They will first clear the people from the hall, go out by the quickest route. Then they will clear the cats from the hall. Do not rush to get your cats. You will only hamper the rescue effort. We know you love your cats, that is why we will make them our second priority.

You may be asked to help in a clearing line. We will want to pack a cat in it's carrier and pass it down a line of people to somewhere clear of the hall. If you are on the clearing line and see your cat coming towards you don't stop to put it away. Just place the carrier behind you, out of the way, and carry on passing other people's cats down the line. Once all cats are out of the hall you can take your cats to your transport.

Once you are out of the hall do not go back in for anything until you are told it is safe. Do not worry about possessions. If they survive the emergency then you will be able to pick them up later. If they don't survive they are probably worth less than your life or someone else's life.

Could you help in an emergency with temporary re-homing?

At a recent committee meeting a discussion arose about what might happen if we had to urgently rescue cats with unknown medical/vaccination histories. Ideally any such cat would be kept in isolation until vet and/or blood checked to ensure that it is healthy and able to be in contact with others cats. The TBC committee are seeking offers from anyone who may have space to take such a cat. Discussion has taken place about buying isolation pens which could be used by any rescuer. If you are interested please contact any of the committee members.

Tonks in the news

The following article appeared recently in the News and Star newspaper

Home wanted for stressed cats rescued by Carlisle charity

By Linzi Watson

Last updated at 10:21, Saturday, 19 September 2009

Homes are needed urgently for two pedigree cats saved from the brink of death by Carlisle charity workers.

The Blue Cross stepped in just hours before the rare Tonkinese cats were due to be put down by a vet.

The brothers Grizedale and Skiddaw – or Giddy and Skiddy as they are fondly known – have had a tricky start in life and were bullied by another cat at a previous home.

Carlisle-based Blue Cross volunteers say this has left them suffering from stress. The worst affected is Skiddaw, who has been pulling out his chocolate brown fur. But it is felt that a loving home is all that is needed to rid the four-year-old pair of their woes and charity workers are appealing to Cumbrian animal lovers to help them find one.

The cats – who are a cross between Siamese and Burmese cats, giving them their very distinctive looks – are currently being looked after by a Blue Cross foster carer in Stanwix.

“They are the most beautiful and affectionate cats,” said Sybil Chapman, local coordinator for the charity.

The cats originally lived in Oxfordshire. But the charity say they were bullied by another tom cat and became stressed. They then moved back to live with the breeder but when they refused to settle it was suggested they be put down.

Sybil, who lives in Roadhead, added: “We took the cats on the day they were due to be put down.

“It would have been such a shame if this had gone ahead, they are only four-years-old. But all the animal shelters are full and this didn’t leave the owners with very many options.

“At the Blue Cross we never put a healthy animal down.”

The brothers have been together their whole lives and although volunteers are keen to see them rehomed together, this is not essential. They can also be kept as indoor cats.

Sybil added: “They have been used to being outside but these cats, although highly intelligent, tend not to be as street wise as your average moggy.

“So if they were rehomed near a busy road, they should be kept inside.

"We would also like to see them go to a home where there are no other cats."

The Blue Cross in Cumbria are also appealing to local animal lovers to help them help animals in need by becoming foster carers.

The charity pay all expenses and are very keen to hear from anyone who can help them. Sybil added: "We know of three cats at the moment who urgently need out help but we don't have anyone to take them."

If you can offer a loving home to Grizedale and Skiddaw or want more details about how to become a foster carer, contact the Blue Cross on 0300 456 8500.

First published at 09:05, Saturday, 19 September 2009
Published by <http://www.newsandstar.co.uk>

And following on from this four days later:

Offers flood in for pedigree cats rescued by Carlisle volunteers

By Elizabeth Broughton

Last updated at 13:15, Wednesday, 23 September 2009

A pair of pedigree cats saved by Carlisle charity workers from the brink of death have received offers for new homes.

Brothers Grizedale and Skiddaw – affectionately known as Giddy and Skiddy – were just hours from being put down when Carlisle-based Blue Cross volunteers stepped in to save them.

They had been bullied and were suffering from stress and, with no places at any of the other rehoming centres tried, were about to be put down.

Now, after featuring in the News & Star, the pair of rare Tonkinese cats have received 10 offers of new, permanent homes.

And a volunteer foster carer has also come forward, to help The Blue Cross out with some of the other cats that need caring for in the area.

"We've got three quite good possibilities of new homes for Skiddaw and Grizedale," said Sybil Chapman, local co-ordinator for the charity. "So hopefully they may be rehomed within the next couple of weeks. We ask the people to go and see them and then we do a home visit."

The four-year-olds are currently living with a foster carer for The Blue Cross in Stanwix, Carlisle and Sybil is confident that they will make perfect family pets.

Although the charity did not insist that the brothers, who look distinctive due to being a cross between Burmese and Siamese cats, be rehomed together, everyone who has come forward has offered to take them as a pair.

"They are beautiful cats," she said. "And not only are they beautiful to look at but they've got beautiful natures. They just want attention and fuss and they will give so much in return. They will make lovely pets."

The charity is also continuing to search for foster carers, and hopes that some of the people who were interested in the Tonkinese pair will be able to offer a foster home to other cats.

Sybil added: "We're looking for anyone who is interested in fostering. The Blue Cross provide everything, all the foster-carer needs to do is clean the chalets the cats live in and spend time with them."

Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer can contact The Blue Cross on 0300 456 8500.

First published at 11:30, Wednesday, 23 September 2009
Published by <http://www.newsandstar.co.uk>

Nice to see the breed so highly complimented in these articles. It looks as if it will all work out well for these two boys.

This situation raises the issue yet again of what an owner can do if they run into difficulties with any of their cats. Members are reminded of the tireless work of Val Chapple on behalf of the Club's Rescue and Welfare service. If you know of anyone having problems with managing their cats please refer them to Val. She has a wealth of knowledge and her timely advice could well save the day.

Cats and Candles

by Ann Cox-Horton

I like a few candles about the place occasionally but preferably lit ones. I also have Tonkinese cats who can have a mad half hour. The two don't gel well together. I'm afraid of them knocking over a candle and burning the house down or sniffing/patting one and burning themselves.

I've found a solution!

I have now got three different kinds of candles that I can safely leave lit with the cats about.

The first ones I got were a set of four small rechargeable candles. They fit on a base to charge and light when removed from the base. The 'flame' lasts about 14 hours. The second set I bought are battery operated tea lights. They flicker beautifully and look quite realistic. The final set are also battery operated but large candles. They look lovely when lit and are vanilla scented too. I use rechargeable batteries in these. At Halloween I light all my candles and the house is filled with candlelight.

I have since seen battery operated candles in holders and ones you can put on your Christmas tree. So if you have cats, or dogs and want to create a romantic atmosphere, or a spooky one, you can do it safely.

LaPerm kittens from a Tonkinese outcross

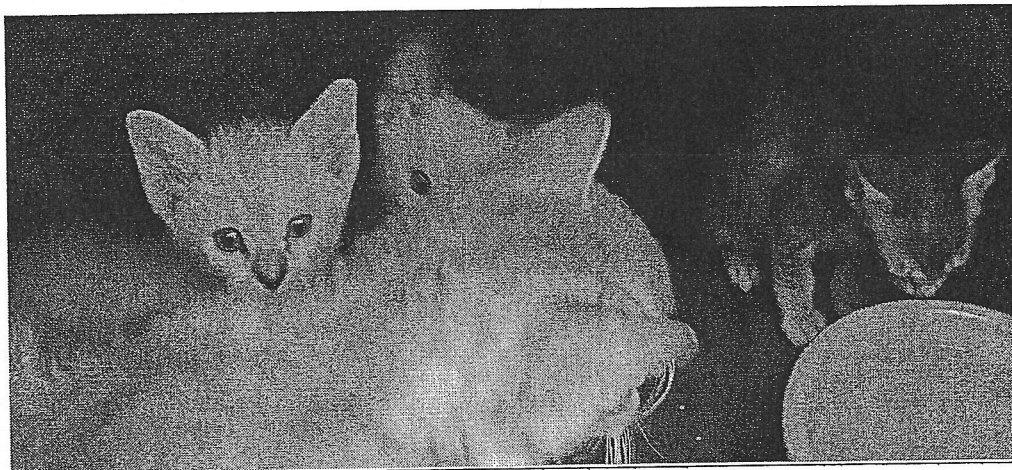
As most of you know I breed tonkinese cats, my first love, and also LaPerms which are a fairly new breed in the UK. Both breeds live very well together, having very similar personalities, but with LaPerms being slightly less 'in your face' than the tonks.

Because LaPerms are a new breed with a relatively small gene pool in the UK we follow a structured outcross programme. Tonkinese are one of the breeds that are an allowed outcross and I promised myself that one day I would produce shorthaired LaPerms from my tonk boy. This year I took the plunge and mated Katy, Amorcatz Catty Melua, a longhaired red tabby LaPerm to Darcy, Amorcatz Pharoahs Kiss, a blue pointed tonk.

On 6th August Katy produced 4 lovely babies – one red tabby, one blue and 2 pink ☺

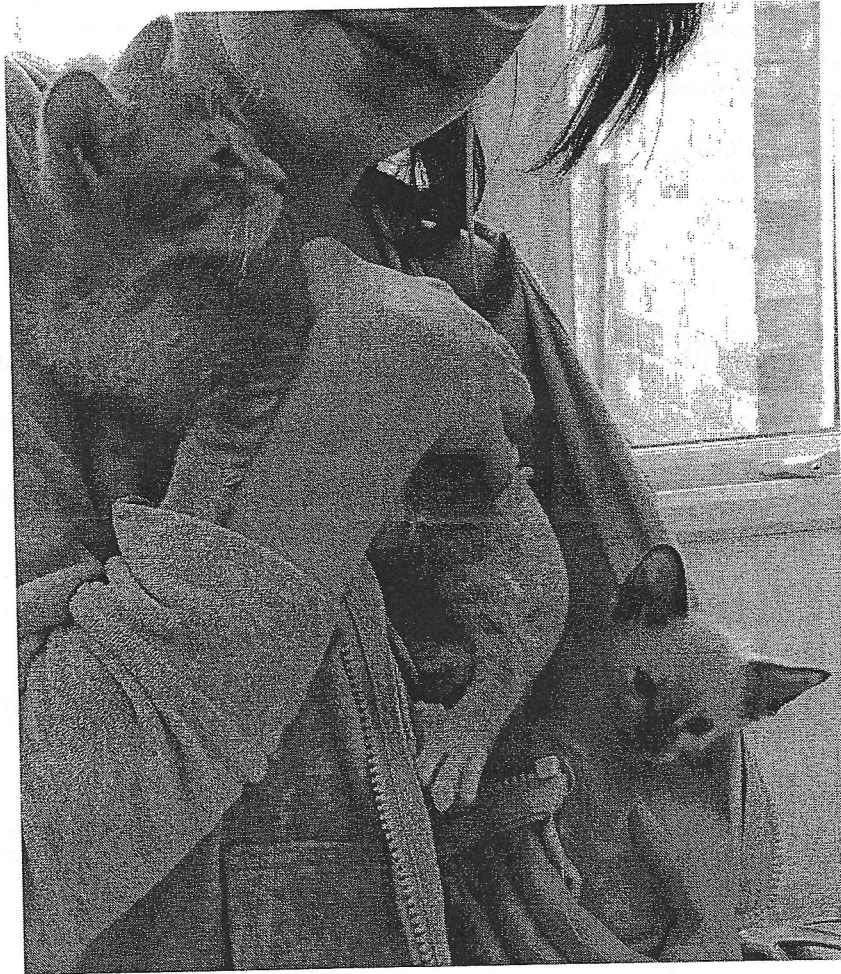


I was extremely lucky to find that they were all curly and the 2 pinks and the blue were girls so would develop tortie markings at some point. I watched their development with great interest. They were lovely fat babies and very precocious, climbing out of the kitten pen much earlier than the Tonk or LaPerm kittens usually do. To my delight the pink girls soon developed their true colouring and became darker point kittens (tonkinese coat pattern). This was a real surprise to me until I remembered that Katie's dad was a Tiffanie which introduced the required genetics.



LaPerm kittens from a Tonkinese outcross

The kittens are developing proper little characters now. The tonk coat pattern pair are very bold and inquisitive. Definitely tonks in curly clothes. The other two are very affectionate but not quite so bold. So far I am really pleased with this litter and the shorthaired coat is more pleasing than I thought it would be, soft and springy. I was very lucky that I had no straighthaired variants in the litter but I know that I would neuter any from future litters before they went to their new homes to safeguard the tonk gene pool.



This is the most recent photos of the kittens. Unfortunately, they are 5 days too young for me to bring them out on exhibition at the TBC show but I'm sure you will be seeing the bottom kitten. Amorcatz Shortncurlee, on the showbench soon.

Sue Amor

Proposed changes to the annual awards made at the AGM.

Ann Cox-Horton

The present system:

Our present method of working out which cats to make annual awards to at the AGM involves an awful lot of work and effort. Why? We have to work out what points to allocate each cat on two different systems.

Some awards are made by using points system A and some by using points system B, e.g. the Melusine Romantica Leonora Memorial, awarded for most successful red adult/kitten/neuter (self), is awarded under points System A, the Wizardora Cup, awarded for most successful red adult (self), is awarded under points system B. We end up working out the points for all cats under both systems.

Why do we do it this way? I don't know the history of the points system but it might have something to do with the original merit system before we were eligible to hold championship shows. The system does not appear to have changed for quite some time.

What the committee propose is ONE system for all the awards made at the AGM.

The committee feel that the system proposed is a fairer system:

Points will be awarded for winning Best of Breed. This is not taken into account under either of the old points systems.

In classes where the competition is stiffer, i.e. Open (and Grand and Imperial) and Best of Breed, winners are awarded higher points than side classes.

The allocated points drop when the cat wins but the certificate is withheld.

Second and third place in any class gains points.

Account is still taken of how many cats were in the class.

We would also cut down on the time that it takes to work out the results because we would only work them out once for each cat.

We really value the awards that people have given to the Club so that we can reward the efforts of those who show their cats. We want to make those awards meaningful and fair.

We also need you to send in your results.

If you don't enter you cannot win an award. There is a form on the website for keeping your records, or you can use your own form, providing it gives the information that we need. Send in your results for this year by 31 January 2010 to be eligible for an award.

The Supreme Show

This year two of the committee members, Catherine Barnard and Liz case are manning a table in 'Club Row' at the Supreme. If you attend the show please drop by and see them.

N.B. The Supreme Show is taking place on **21st November 2009** in Halls 17 and 18 NEC Birmingham.

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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