

tonkinfo

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£1 (free to members)



Sandra O'Shea's Minaperks Burlington Bertie, Chairman's Choice at the Virtual show

If you are experiencing any difficulty looking after your cat during the pandemic restrictions please contact any of the club committee for information about support, either temporary or permanent.

It will probably come as no surprise to anyone that, at our on-line AGM, we voted to cancel our Club show this year. We do have a licence for December 2021 and hope that there will be a show then, and everyone who can show a Tonk will come out to celebrate it with us.

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Linda Vousden's Malu (Blue CPP) with her first litter of kittens

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HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Linda Vousden

First of all I hope this finds you well and still in reasonably good spirits. As one of the many who are presently on unpaid furlough I can tell you my mind has gone to mush and my grasp of dates has disappeared altogether. To add insult to injury I am scheduled to start back to work on my birthday—but I am grateful that we moved into spring rather than winter! I am delighted to say that my time has been mainly taken up with looking after my first pregnant queen in years, and now her plump litter of Mymystic kittens, born on 3rd June. I guess I'll have to start barricading all the little spaces again.

Thank you everyone who attended our online AGM. It worked very well and was a great help in getting some of our Rules updated. The new Club Rules are posted on the TBC web site. A BIG Thank you to those

who entered our Virtual Show, so many beautiful cats! Hopefully we'll see more of you now you have had a taste of it.

Do you remember the Committee's request for your breeding cat information and updates on your cats' titles and information on your kitten litters for our archives? Well now you have plenty of time to sort out the information that you always intend to send but never get round to.

I shan't take up any more space in *Tonk-info*, if we have any more news this year we'll send you a newsletter. I would like to add to my list of thanks to all those people who are keeping this country cared for and as safe as possible, not forgetting the unsung heroes such as the animal welfare workers.

Cheers and keep well,
Linda

VIRTUAL SHOW(S)

Club members had an unexpected surprise earlier this year: a way to combat the lockdown blues was offered by our club secretary, Linda, who emailed round inviting everyone to enter a 'Virtual' club fun show that she had designed and put together entirely herself. Word soon got around, and as the show was for members only several people joined especially so that they could enter their cats. In the end there were over 200 photographs to process and mount.

The show has now been judged—and the open classes were judged by full GCCF judges, so were won on the basis of correct type—but it will remain online for a good while. Photos of the winners of many of the classes are reproduced in this issue of *Tonk-info*, but do go and look at the full classes. The photographs are all of an amazing standard and it is wonderful to see so many beautiful Tonkinese in one place. The website is:

<https://tonkinesebc-webshow.weebly.com/>

Due to the cancellation of shows over the summer, and now into the winter and next year as well, the Committee has bullied Linda into repeating her wonderful virtual show, and this will replace our annual December show, timed for the same dates in December when our regular show would have taken place. Members will be emailed with details and invited to enter, but now is the time to start thinking about collecting together your best photos and taking some new ones for your entries. It's just a fun show, so there are no certificates to be won, but that doesn't make it any less satisfying to win your class!

If you've never shown your cat, this is a great way to enter it from the comfort of your own sofa, to be judged by qualified GCCF judges following the standard of points. There are also fun classes and photographic classes if you'd just like to share your lovely cat with other people.

Look out for a message from the Club and schedule at the end of September.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Julia Craig-McFeely

Who would have thought when I wrote my last message that our world would have changed so very much by the time I wrote another one. The changes are one reason this newsletter is late. All the things that we used to do related to our cats that brought us together have been cancelled: no shows, no committee meetings, no Breed Advisory committee. But is that really so? Like everyone else we have been forced to adapt and improvise so that the things we care about and enjoy are still there. Committee meetings and the AGM have been held via online meeting software on our computers, and we are looking forward to our first online BAC meeting. Without shows we haven't really got any judge reports to consider, but it will be good to get together with the new committee of the Cat Club and look at things that are always with us, like the Standard of Points and breeding policy.

Lots of breeders found ourselves with litters of kittens coming along that had been conceived before the arrival of COVID-19 and lockdown. We have had to adapt to new ways of managing how we meet and interview our potential kitten owners, and then how we get the kittens to them when they are old enough to leave home. Many of us who had never engaged with video-chats have had to become more than competent, since we often have to explain how to use the system to our potential owners, not simply connect ourselves. We are still working on teaching the kittens how to behave suitably in front of a webcam.

Kittens that were ready to leave home during the lockdown posed some logistical problems, but with a bit of ingenuity and common sense this was managed.

The GCCF did a fair bit of lobbying with the UK veterinary governing body and DEFRA to make sure young kittens could be given their essential first vaccinations and breeders could home their kittens. Some breeders were very concerned that they would be stuck with a herd of rampaging kittens getting bigger and bigger, and eating them out of house and home!

Biology doesn't stop for lockdown, and with similar ingenuity and care we were able to manage a few stud visits, so new litters have been born recently. We still desperately need new breeders to keep the breed alive and the gene pool healthy by maintaining a wide and diverse number of bloodlines.

Linda's virtual show has been doubly welcome as it has provided us with a wonderful selection of photographs for the newsletter. It is fantastic to see pictures from so many different owners and breeders and I hope this will inspire many of you not just to enter the next virtual show, but also to send photos and text for the next issue of *Tonkinfo*. I'm only sorry there wasn't room to put in more!

We can hope that our next newsletter will find us all in a world moving back towards normality, and that you will all be able to remain well and safe until then.

Lilyput kittens, winner in the Virtual Show 'Litter of kittens' category



Rameses Moomin, winner of 'cutest kitten under 14 weeks'

REHOMING KITTENS AMID LOCKDOWN

Lorraine Phillips

Lilyput Tonkinese welcomed our 8th litter of Tonkinese kittens in December 2019. They came after a short break from breeding. Having only three kittens seemed easy, Lulu was a very good mother and we didn't have to do anything to help until weaning time. The weeks passed by very quickly and we welcomed people into our home to choose their new kitten. The two girls were to go to a new home together whilst the boy was going to a home with a previous Lilyput Tonkinese. Everything was going to plan.



First vaccinations and vet check went well but, as they approached their second vaccinations, cases of Covid-19 in the UK started to increase. The kittens were to be neutered at 14 weeks, seven days after their second vaccination. They would stay another seven to ten days to allow for a full recovery. The family having the little boy also had a daughter with lung problems so it was decided he would leave un-neutered. The handover was much quicker than usual but I still had time to explain the kitten pack and feeding regime. The family had a little time to talk to their kitten before being placed in his carrier. They

left for their journey home where he settled in almost immediately. It only took a few days before he was completely at home.

The girls went in to be neutered a week after their vaccinations. In hindsight it was probably not the best idea but we were still following the plan and the new owners were eager for it to be done. All went well although keeping Tonkinese kittens quiet is not an easy task. The next morning they were climbing the curtains and racing around the house. Wounds were healing well which was fantastic because Covid-19 had begun to make life difficult. The plan was that the girls would go to their new homes a week after neutering. They got the all clear at a vet check three days after surgery and another check up seven days later was to be by telephone due to Covid-19 precautions. Then came the word we anticipated, Lockdown! What did this mean for the kittens going to their new homes? Well, the likelihood was that if they didn't leave soon then they would be staying until the lockdown was lifted.

I had to do the handover remotely. I prepared all of the kitten pack and sent email copies of all paperwork so that I could answer any questions before collection. I wrote out comprehensive feeding instructions detailing the types of food and the quantities/timings. I added information about sleeping patterns and personalities. Everything that I would talk about when new owners visited to collect. I then collected all the kitten food I had left and parcelled it up ready for them with clear labels. The person I had been dealing with was on the government's vulnerable list, so it was her husband and son that came to collect. They never came in the house. It felt extremely odd not to be making a cup of tea and allowing the kittens to come and investigate. Instead I'm picking up their carrier



from my doorstep and sanitising the handle before placing a familiar blanket inside with

the kittens. I then placed the carrier back on my doorstep and exchanged good wishes with the husband before shutting the door and sanitising my hands again. I watched them leave through the window whilst emailing the owner to let her know they've left for home. Because I have Multiple Sclerosis I had to be careful as well. For the kittens I think the exchange was a little scary. My kittens are usually extremely confident in their new homes but it took these girls a few hours to venture out of their carrier. However the new owners were getting purrs and cuddles 24 hours later.

It has made me realise that a full written exchange is not necessarily a bad thing. New owners are often distracted when collecting their kitten so, I'm sure, information is missed. I will hopefully have more time to plan and write it with the next litter. So long as my Lilyputs are happy and healthy then I have done my job well.

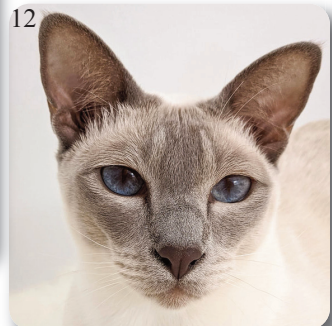
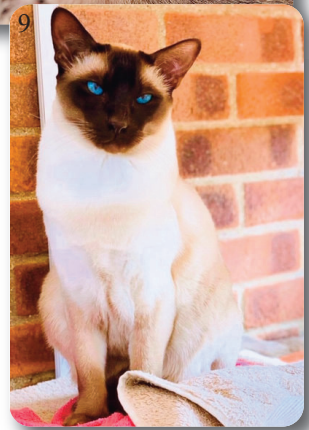




Pictures from the Virtual Show



- Open Class winners:*
- 1 Mike and Lizzi Smith's Chorus Handel's Hercules and (2) Rameses Rascasse
 - 3 Sally Atkinson's Pr Tonkinini Caramella
 - 4 Sandra O'Shea's Mimaperks Champagnecharlie
 - 5 Nikki Phillips' Tonkinini Cheeky Monkey
 - 6 Angel Takoree's Titanonks Eione
 - 7 Allegra Loch's Tonkinini Misty Morning
 - 8 Allegra Loch's Tonkinini Bojangles
 - 9 Sally Atkinson's Tonkinini Peppermint Twist
 - 10 Lorraine Phillips' Lillyput Parma Violets
 - 11 Ulla Korterman's Adfursh White Tiger
 - 12 Beth Noble's Imp Gr Pr Phabbay Sweet Raspberry Jam



BEREAVEMENT AND WHAT NEXT

Lisa Knill

About eighteen or so years ago we bought two Tonkinese kittens. This was not a rash decision, we had a whippet who had lost his lifelong companion and I didn't want to take on another puppy so I did a lot of research and it seemed possible that it might work to get a Tonkinese cat as they were described as the closest to dogs in the cat world. It seemed a simple process: buy a kitten, teach the two species to get on and there everything would be hunky dory.

However, foolishly I took my teenage son with me to see the kittens as he had recently had surgery and was off school. So when a second kitten unexpectedly became available, I found myself the victim of a teenage coup and came home with two. Mocha and Morpheus moved into our house like a whirlwind on speed and after a short period of adjustment Tod, the whippet and M and M became the best of friends. This relationship definitely extended Tod's life and we fell in love with the Tonkinese cat breed.



As time went on Tod moved from this life to the next and M and M settled in to be a cat-only household. The years went by and Morph and Mocha lived the happiest of lives.

It's funny how you don't look towards the future until you have to but after a very short illness Morpheus died at 17 and a half. We all grieved for the softest, most loving, bumbling guy when he left us but Mocha was bereft.



It was really difficult to know what to do with Mocha, she took to her bed, stopped eating and refused to come out however hard we tried with exciting toys or cuddles. I really thought she might follow her brother so my instinct was to get a kitten to see if we could tempt her back to normal. It was not an easy process. I rang several breeders, there were few kittens about, some people didn't think it was a good idea saying that Mocha was grieving and we shouldn't take a kitten at that time but luckily for us Julia felt it was exactly the right thing to do and so we went to visit her family of cats and kittens and were delighted that one was going to be available for us.

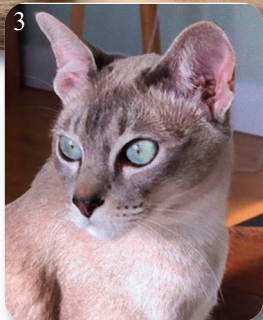
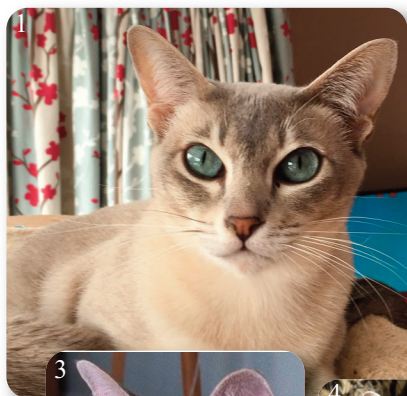
Minstrel arrived with not a care in the world and really had no idea that Mocha wouldn't love her and so within a week they were sleeping together and eating out of the same bowl. Obviously we have to be a bit careful, Minstrel can be quite boisterous and we don't let her get too rough with Mocha but

on the whole we have been extremely lucky not to have had any problems. I'm careful to devote time to playing kitten games with Little M though. Although, I do know people who have not found it so straightforward and have had to keep their cat and a kitten apart most of the time and it has taken far longer to get them to accept each other.

So where are we now, Mocha has taken on a new lease of life, she loves her little buddy to bits and I would never hesitate to do the same again and my plan for the future, bearing in the back of my mind that Mocha is now 18 ½, well it looks like I've got the bug and will most likely breed from Minstrel and keep one of her kittens so that she won't be a solo cat. I should say though, I totally understand that most people choose to have one cat and there is absolutely nothing wrong with this, many cats live perfectly happily as single cats and revel in the undivided attention of their dotting owner. This is just my story, we are fortunate to have a large home and garden with plenty of room.



At the end of the day if you are a person that intends to only have one cat, never ever take a teenager that has just had surgery to see a litter of kittens.



More virtual Show pictures:

- 1 Lorraine Phillips' von Lenne Aqua magica
- 2 Mary Watters' Chorus kittens — hilarious entry in the 'peekaboo' class
- 3 Katie Frost's Rameses Ariel and (4) Rameses Tiswin

HOME-MADE CAT TREATS

Ingredients

1 Tin of tuna in spring water (undrained)
1 Egg, whisked
210g of plain, wholemeal, rice or gluten free flour

Method

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees centigrade. Empty the tin of tuna, including the liquid, into a bowl. Then add in a whisked egg and blend until smooth using a hand blender. Add the flour and stir everything together to form a dough.

Divide the dough into four equal balls and put three of them in the freezer to use another time.

Roll out one ball of dough on a lightly floured work surface until it's about 1cm thick. Then cut out the biscuit using whatever shape you like. It's best to keep the biscuits on the smaller side for your cat.

This part can get a little fiddly and sticky, so you might need to poke the dough out of the cutter using a cocktail stick.

Place your biscuit shapes on a lined baking tray and bake at 180 degrees centigrade for 20-25 minutes. Once they are crunchy and golden brown, remove from the oven. Leave to cool completely before feeding to your cat. These cat biscuits will keep fresh in a sealed container for up to a couple of weeks.

More Virtual Show winners:

- 1 Annette Wright's Tonkinini Pure Magic
- 2 Annette Wright's Tonkinini Trickster
- 3 Daniel and Alex Lloyd's Rameses Tobermory



CREMATION AND CANDLES

Annette Taylor

Mimi and Baci are our second pair of Tonks, and continuity of breed we feel set us up for a relaxed (mostly) early few months. One of our original pair, our beloved boy Sueychana, developed pulmonary lung disease at 15 and despite our best efforts and our excellent vet he was put to sleep in our home a few weeks before his 16th Birthday.

When we knew that our darling Suey was failing I started to research pet cremation. I knew of people who had waited weeks for their pet to be returned to them, and that only crematoriums that gave a written guarantee of individual cremation were really reliable.

Cherry tree is in High Halden in Kent, near Tenterden. I cannot speak highly enough of them. The family were so upset when their beloved horses were carried off to the knackers yard, that they sold their house to buy the land and build the small crematorium. They lived in a caravan until they could afford to build their own house. They collect and cremate horses individually but they also will cremate any pet. No one can drive in without an appointment, as there is a gate at the end of the drive. It is a small building made into two separate reception areas so you see no other people; they give you all the time you need on your own to say goodbye and have a system that lets them know when you leave. Before you go they show you all the different boxes you can choose from.

I spoke to them on the phone before Suey died and they said if we took him by 2 o'clock on the day of his death they would cremate him the same day. We were able to collect our beloved boy only two hours after we left him, and came home with him in a beautiful handmade oak box. The whole thing was only £150, which we felt was worth every penny.

My niece is very into homeopathic remedies and told me about how ordinary candles affect humans, so I researched the effect on pets after Suey died as we often burned candles. Apparently it puts an invisible tar on the coat that cats can't get rid of, so I no longer burn candles, even though there are pet-friendly ones out there if you look for them (though they are expensive).

With Baci and Mimi We have also added Fragaria (wild strawberry) to their water almost since we had them, which helps to prevent food sticking to their teeth (they are still beautifully white). I buy this really cheaply from our local homeopathic shop, only a few pillules are needed with each water change.



Mimi although extremely healthy and having been checked thoroughly by our vet, occasionally coughs, and I think quite a few people have experienced this with their cats. I have found some very good homeopathic remedies which mean she now coughs very rarely. The company who helped me with free advice via emails is a Dutch vet called Vetsend and they have been really excellent. The remedy I had first from them was *Amiquire*, which they cannot get at the moment, the remedy I use instead is *HomeoPet cough*, she still coughs occasionally but not much. Vetsend has a big webpage and if you email them they answer very quickly.

HOUSE SOILING

Linda Voudsen

Stress, anxiety and fear cause most behavioural problems. The cat's inability to cope with sharing its available resources or feel safe in its environment lead to behavioural changes. When it feels threatened it must respond instantly and, to the cat, appropriately.

Stress is part of everyday living—finding a safe place to sleep, getting enough food, interpreting and coping with other nearby animals etc. A cat manifests stress in many ways including displacement activity, excessive grooming, aggression, house-soiling and eating disorders.

Anxiety is the anticipation of danger from an unknown or imagined source. Uncertainty is a significant cause of anxiety, especially if the animal is both attracted to, and frightened by something, e.g. a cat attached to its owner may also fear them if punished by them. A cat whose only companion is the owner is especially at risk from anxiety.

Fear is the response to a recognised, or perceived, threat. An animal's fear response ranges from hiding to aggression, but they normally rely on escape to reduce their fear. The fearful cat's crouching, immobile defensive posture may be seen as an impending attack by the owner, but this is unlikely to happen unless the cat feels further threatened.

HOUSE SOILING

In most cases this is seen in a household of more than two cats. Living with a cat that inappropriately soils the home is unpleasant and often leads to a relationship breakdown with the cat, but you must understand that 'inappropriate' is your perception of the cat's behaviour. There are two categories that may appear to be the same at first:

1. Inappropriate elimination—urinating or defecating in a place unacceptable to the

owners. It is usually confined to a few specific places or a specific material.

2. Scent marking—deliberate urine spraying, or even defecation, to mark territory.

Important Note: In many cases owners try to control a behaviour problem by punishing the cat. Punishment is cruel and ineffective: it actually reinforces the cat's behaviour by causing more stress.

Factors Causing Inappropriate Elimination

The main cause of inappropriate elimination is anxiety which results from countless conditions and/or events. The cause should be established if a treatment plan is to work. Age and infirmity can contribute to the cat being unable to reach its litter-tray in time; the cat may have difficulty climbing into a high-sided tray; an anxious or fearful cat may be reluctant to come out of hiding even when it needs to eliminate, thus increasing the anxiety. If deteriorating mental functions is a factor all you can do is keep the cat comfortable in a more confined, and easily-cleaned, area of the home.

Indoor Scent Marking with Urine

Urine marking (spraying) is one of several territorial scent markings. Other cats may over-mark such signals. Spraying outside the home is normal feline behaviour. Within the home (i.e. their core territory) cats should feel sufficiently secure to restrict scent marking to scratching and rubbing, it is not normal to spray urine or to midden. Most urine marking is distinguishable from urination by the cat's posture and the location of the marks. Spraying is normally executed in an upright position with a small amount of urine deposited on a vertical surface, or over a horizontal surface in a squatting posture, but still low in volume. Indoor spraying occurs when the cat is stressed or becomes

anxious about changes in its life. It needs to reinforce its own scent in the home. Stimuli for spraying include the cat's hormonal state, its personality, environmental changes and changes in its relationship with its other core territory occupants. Areas typically sprayed are demarcations between the home and beyond (e.g. doorways and windows), new objects in the home, furniture and plastic bags. Insecure cats may generalise their marking to include work-surfaces, clothing, electrical goods etc.

TREATMENT FOR HOUSE SOILING

If the soiled locations are many and varied the cat may be suffering severe anxiety or there may be an underlying clinical cause, for which veterinary treatment is required before behaviour modification is attempted.

Controlling the Stimuli (Triggers)

The aim is to make the cat feel more secure in its home. The first step is to reduce or remove the perceived threat, and then you can begin to change the cat's normal response to those stimuli. You should be prepared for an initial increase in the frequency of the behaviour before it declines—this is called 'extinction burst' and is caused by the treatment process raising the cat's stress-level, until it feels more secure.

A cat will often top-up its fading scent, or another cat will over-mark it. By removing the scent altogether, you remove the stimulus to re-mark the area. Wash the area with a hot biological soap-powder solution, when dry wipe it over with surgical spirit to remove any traces of the volatile oils that carry odour (if you can find it, use a dry-granule preparation that is designed to absorb the odour of ammonia and organic matter). If the problem has been long-term and the object cannot be cleaned effectively, the only real solution is to get rid of it or paint over it.

Changing the Cat's Response to Stimuli

Neutering successfully restricts spraying: 90% of castrated males and 95% of spayed females will not spray after having been neutered.

Cats don't normally spray or soil where they detect facial pheromones, which generally provide reassurance. This is why the cat marks its companions by bunting with its head and rubbing with its cheeks. Synthetic facial pheromones (such as Feliway) may be effective in one or two cat households – but not, in my experience, a multi-cat home.

Remember, the cat is in an anxious state so remote deterrents, such as shouting or using water pistols, will increase its anxiety. Food may be a successful local deterrent against spraying and soiling; cats tend to be reassured by its sight and smell. If food is found in a place that they previously associated with threat their anxiety may be reduced. Try placing small bowls of dried food at favoured marking sites, but not near a litter tray. Other useful deterrents, to discourage cats from returning to inappropriate areas, include tin foil, smells such as citronella, up-turned cardboard boxes and placing furniture over soiled areas. A closed door is by far the most effective deterrent.

Here are some of the typical stimuli that you should consider, especially if the cat has previously been clean about the house.

Aversion to litter tray or substrate type.

Anxiety about the litter tray may arise from pain (from cystitis or constipation etc.). Or from an unpleasant/frightening event occurring while the cat was using its tray—disturbance from another cat or person, a sudden noise, too much household traffic in the tray's location or a dirty tray.

Treatment: Deal with the specific cause, then make the tray more attractive to the cat. Place it in a quiet undisturbed location, clean and with comfortable unscented litter (tests

have shown that a fine-grained litter is preferred by cats). Do not use bleach or other strong smelling cleaning agents, a really good scrubbing with hot soapy water is sufficient. Provide extra trays around the house, large enough for the cat to squat comfortably. A covered tray may be suitable but not if the cat is being ambushed by other cats, dogs or toddlers. If you have recently changed the substrate go back to the old type. Remove faeces several times daily and clean the tray out frequently to prevent to build up of ammonia and other gases. If you can smell it, it's far worse for the cat!

Intrusion of a strange cat, invasion-anxiety.

For an anxious cat sometimes just a hint that another animal has invaded its home can cause spraying on any items brought into the home that smell unusual.

Treatment: If a cat is anxious about the security of its home, or perhaps an alien cat has entered the home, there need to be clear demarcations between the home and the outside. Use an opaque or controlled-access cat-flap, it may even be necessary to block the cat-flap up completely. If it doesn't further disturb the cat, move the tray away from demarcation areas. Cover the lower part of floor length windows and block access to window-sills. Use Feliway and bowls of dried food around the home to provide a reassuring environment. If an outdoor cat is the trigger for spraying, discourage it from approaching the home by humane means such as a water hose or booby-traps. Remove anything around the property that might attract roaming cats.

New person, animal or environmental disruption.

Treatment: Forward planning is key. Well before the arrival of a new baby or a new pet gradually reduce the level of interaction with the cat. This gives it time to adjust to having less attention, without associating it with the

new occupant. Allow access to new equipment (cots, changing mats etc.), if possible. If it is a baby coming, play baby noises to habituate the cat to the sounds. If the environment has been disrupted—new furniture, a change of room use etc.—try to restore the previous routine as much as possible. Once the newcomer has arrived provide sufficient resources (affection, feeding opportunities, sleeping areas, litter-trays etc) to avoid competitive situations. If possible, put a tray where the cat has chosen to eliminate since it clearly feels more secure there. Provide more trays around the house.

Spraying for attention. Typical behaviour in cat/owner relationships where there is over-attachment, is the cat spraying indiscriminately in front of the owner, or even on them, to gain attention. The behaviour is maintained with each instance of 'reward' by the owner's attention (pleasant or unpleasant). Other attempts by the cat may include knocking pictures or ornaments down, climbing to a high spot and yelling etc.

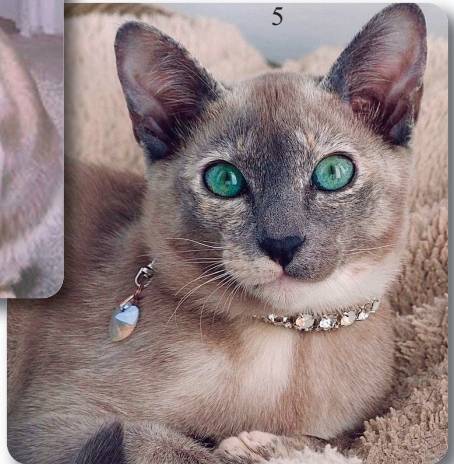
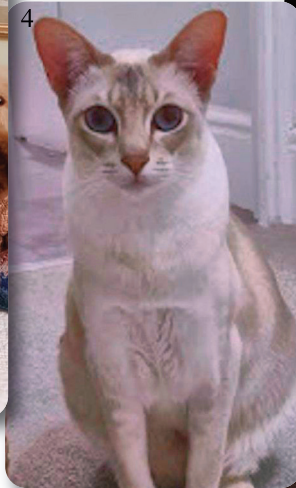
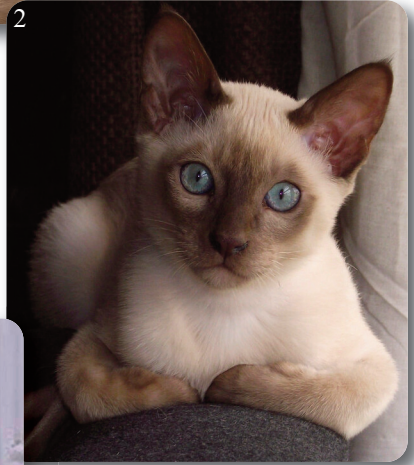
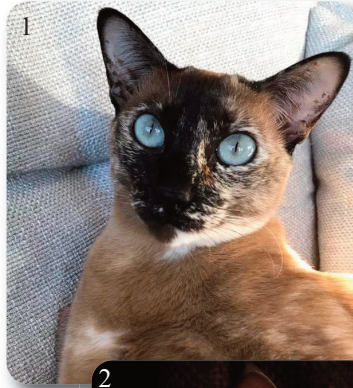
Treatment: Understand that your reactions to the cat (including shouting at it) have encouraged its behaviour by giving it the attention it craves. Practice 'non-reward' by ignoring the cat (e.g. leaving the room) when the attention seeking behaviour starts, until it no longer associates its actions with reward. This can be highly successful, but there is usually a period of more intensive spraying (extinction-burst) as the cat tries harder for your attention before ceasing its spraying. When the cat is not seeking attention you should pet and play with it, so it learns that it will receive attention but not always on its terms.

Classical conditioning. To the use of an alternative substrate (e.g. a carpet or duvet). This is usually due to odour remaining from a previous elimination whether it was deliberate or by accident.

Treatment: If possible replace the object and prevent access to the chosen location; otherwise make it less accessible and less attractive. Re-train the cat to its litter tray by temporarily confining the cat with its bed, tray and food, to an area where the litter tray is the most favourable place to eliminate. Place a little piece of the alternate substrate in the litter tray and gradually add more normal litter to replace it, this may take several days.

CONCLUSION

If you can't identify the stimuli for the cat's behaviour, it may be constructive to initially limit the cat's home range to a single room with no disturbance for a short time: an anxious cat must have a completely safe home base. We all find unacceptable situations stressful; in cats it results in behavioural problem/s not misbehaviour.



More Virtual Show Stunners:

- 1 Raina Vorren's Tonkinini Lucky Sunrise
- 2 Annette Wright's Tonkinini Creme Brulé
- 3 Joy Fairclough's Rameses Abdab
- 4 Annette Taylor's Tonkyway Sonita
- 5 Allegra Loch's Tonkinini Misty Morning

WHY TWO CATS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

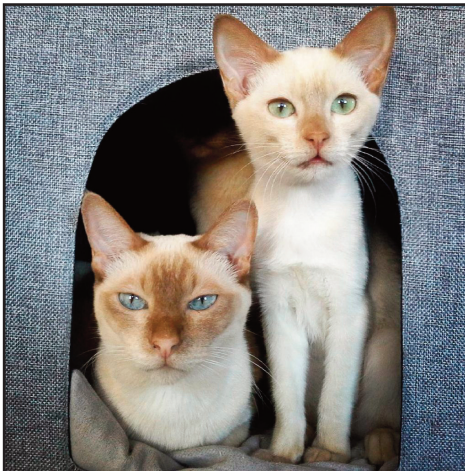
Monika Wernli

In a recent online chat with a group of other breeders, we brought up the subject of the fact that increasingly none of us felt comfortable selling a kitten to live as a single cat. The annoyingly inaccurate cry of 'cats are solitary animals' is repeated with no foundation or sense. All it means is that cats are not pack animals (like dogs), but since they always choose to live in colonies in the wild, that should surely tell us something. One of the breeders pointed me to the website of Swiss Tonkinese breeder Monika Wernli, and she has kindly allowed us to reproduce her web page about single cats here.

Ed.

The following is translation of a text I originally wrote in German. With grateful thanks to Allegra Loch (Tonkinini Tonkinese), who edited, tweaked and improved the text overall to make it suitable for English readers.

Again and again I receive calls from people who want to have and keep a single cat, and preferably a kitten. These days I block them off pretty quickly, but in the past I've always tried to explain that cats, contrary to stubbornly persistent popular belief, are social animals in need of contact with conspecifics (animals belonging to the same species).



Cat cave for IKEA cabinet KALLAX

As far as outdoor cats are concerned, they have the opportunity to maintain social contacts outside the home, but more and more cats are kept as indoor cats only, for a variety of sensible reasons, and they have no choice.

Before I go into the various reasons that are mentioned to me why someone believes it is

imperative they should have a single cat, I would like to point out the legal situation in the country where I live, Switzerland. On the one hand, the Animal Welfare Ordinance stipulates that all social species must necessarily be given a conspecific species (TSchV 455.1 Art. 13), but on the other hand in the case of dogs and cats it allows the conspecific to be replaced by a human which, of course, is not possible, especially in the case of very social breeds, which include all Oriental breeds such as Siamese, Balinese, Oriental Shorthair and Longhair, Burmese, Tonkinese, Thai and Korat. In my experience a social partner of the same species is absolutely necessary. It does not necessarily have to be a cat of the same breed, but it should be of similar temperament, meaning it should be playful, affectionate and intelligent. Nothing can replace the in-depth play, grooming and social interaction that their own species can provide. The fact that cats are inherently social animals is also supported by a growing body of research that looks at the social interactions within semi-feral cat populations. Behavioural researchers have found that as long as resources like food and shelter are readily available, cats prefer to live in groups or colonies that are organized along female-centered lineages, sometimes even participating in communal nursing among related females. Thus the myth of the domestic cat as a solitary species has been largely dismantled by scientific studies over the last few decades (for an overview see *The Domestic Cat. The Biology of its Behaviour*, ed. by Dennis C. Turner and Patrick Bateson, New York: Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition 2014).

One argument that I always hear is that the predecessor cat was also a single cat and happy that way. I always wonder how the owners know that; did the cat tell them? Of course not, but they probably infer it from the fact that the cat has not shown any behavioral problems despite the lack of social contact with conspecifics. One thing I've learned in over 30 years of living with cats, is that cats are extremely accommodating and can adapt very well to the circumstances in which they are kept. They are also extraordinarily capable of suffering in silence, and it takes a lot of time for cats to show their suffering (be it psychological or physical) to the outside world. So, if a cat displays no manifest symptoms, that does not mean that it does not suffer. Cats are designed in the wild not to show any weakness or illness, as predators will pick up on these signals, therefore it takes a huge level of stress for a cat to show outward signs.

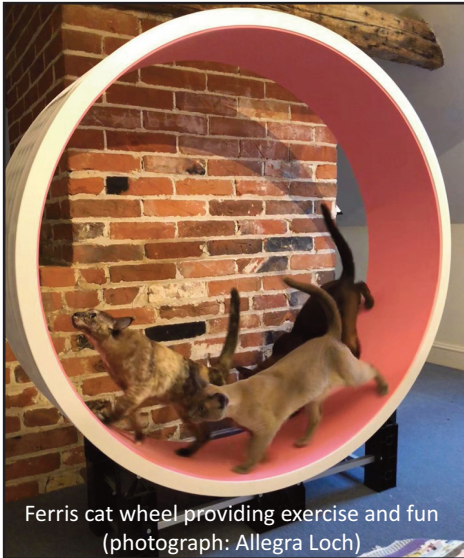
However, there are often subtle indicators that the cat does not feel completely well: loud, incessant meowing, scratching in unwanted places, and in the worst case even inappropriate soiling. It is also understandable that cats who have been kept as only cats for a very long time become loners and are not necessarily pleased when, after years of enforced loneliness, they are suddenly confronted with a play buddy without warning. But even after years without cat company, the majority of cats are happy about a playmate, as long as one makes sure to introduce them slowly and carefully to each other.



Another argument that I often encounter is lack of space. My answer is always the same: where there is room for one cat, there is room

for two cats. For a cat enclosure / cat room, the animal welfare ordinance already cited (Appendix 1, Table 11) requires a minimum area of 7m² for 1–4 cats (plus 1.7m² for each additional cat). Of course, the minimum requirements primarily applies to animal shelters or a separate cat room (for instance for keeping a stud cat). The more room, the better, but I think cats can be happy even in a relatively small space (for example a one-room apartment) if they are designed especially with the needs of cats in mind. For me it goes without saying that cats should have access to all rooms in the apartment. Also, the space for cats can be extended, if you include different levels and make use of the vertical dimension: a room-saving floor-to-ceiling scratching tree or a scratching post fastened to a wall is a good solution, maybe combined with a cat shelf just below the ceiling. Or you can provide a climbing aid onto the wardrobe, where the cat can withdraw to snooze. Also, a sleeping cave in the bookshelf will be gladly accepted, or a radiator hammock. Furthermore, if you make the balcony accessible and safe, the cats will not only be able to enjoy fresh air, but can also be entertained by observing their surroundings. Even if there is no balcony, you don't need to be a master handyman to build a removable peep-box for a window and thus create a welcome viewing platform. The Facebook Group *Kitty Gardens, Catios, House Cats and Catification* has some excellent ideas and resources for indoor cats, for all sizes and layouts of homes and to suit all budgets.

Still another excuse that is often cited is the lack of money. Strangely enough, it is usually about the supposedly high purchase costs of a purebred cat and rarely about the recurring monthly expenses. But even if no unscheduled veterinary costs are incurred, the average upkeep of a cat over its lifetime surpasses the purchase price many times over. As mentioned above, you do not necessarily have to adopt two purebred cats and if you are not fixated on two kittens, many breeders are from time to time also looking for a suitable home to place adult cats, be it



Ferris cat wheel providing exercise and fun
(photograph: Allegra Loch)

for a former breeding queen/stud or because tensions have developed in a cat group for whatever reason. A good combination is therefore to adopt a kitten with its mother. As far as the monthly expenses are concerned, it is true that the upkeep of two cats is more than for one, but by no means twice as much. Cat accessories like a scratching post, cat beds or toys don't need to be purchased in duplicate. With cats that get along well, one slightly larger transport carrier is enough, which is better anyway, as the presence of a companion provides comfort and has a calming effect. With regard to food you also save by being able to buy larger packaging sizes; the same food costs considerably less in the 400g can than in the 200g can (calculated at 100g).

As a long-time cat owner the next argument makes me particularly upset: more than one prospective kitten buyer told me, 'I want my cat to be attached to me and not to another cat'. Not only is this attitude extremely selfish, but it also reveals a frightening lack of empathy for animals in general and the needs of cats in particular.

When keeping pets, it should not only (or even primarily) be about the needs of the human owner, but about how to provide a stimulating and appropriate environment to make the life of one's four-legged roommates as agreeable as possible, especially if, due to hazards outside (traffic, etc.), you can't let them roam free. I can understand the desire for a cuddly, affectionate cat, but you cannot force affection. If you want a cat to cuddle, you should choose a breed that closely bonds with their humans, like an Oriental breed. Any owner of two (or more) cats of an Oriental breed will confirm that they are just as attached to and affectionate towards their owners when they are kept as a pair or in a group. If you live with such cats, you're never alone, because they want to be close to their human anytime, anywhere: in the bathroom, while cooking, making beds, working on the computer or having a cozy evening in front of the TV. No matter where you are, you are usually besieged by several cats as soon as you sit down. So, how absolutely selfish do you have to be to begrudge your cat the companionship of another cat?



Human beleaguered by a bunch of Tonks
(photograph: Allegra Loch)

If, despite all the sensible arguments put forth, an owner still desires to keep only a single cat, then NEVER a kitten. You may occasionally find adult cats advertised in animal shelters or on rescue sites on the internet that do not get along with other cats. Usually that is due to a lack of

proper socialisation, their origins affecting their temperament; then you should definitively give such a cat a chance. But please don't damn a social, outgoing, playful, affectionate kitten to a life of loneliness; rather rejoice in the heart-warming picture of two (or more) cats snuggled together!

THE WAIT

*This year **three** new breeders have joined our ranks and one long-standing breeder also came out of retirement. Waiting for your kittens is a tense and nerve-wracking time and there isn't always a happy ending, but here are some thoughts about it from breeders, new and old.*

Taufiq and David...

It has been an incredible journey transitioning from simply being a pet owner to becoming a Tonkinese cat breeder. We used to think that other, more grown-up people bred cats, not the likes of us—now look at us! Expecting our very first litter at the end of June, and we couldn't be more excited!!

Looking back, it's easy to identify why we decided to breed—the support network! Yes, Tonkinese are an amazing breed, but it's the oodles of support, encouragement and guidance from other knowledgeable, kind and passionate Tonk breeders that has ultimately enabled us to become breeders.

With a little over a week to go before our kittens are born we are filled with excitement tempered by a touch of anxiety, but mainly excitement. The support network means we feel both mentally and emotionally prepared for the next chapter of this special journey!

Julia...

I thought (years ago), that it would get easier waiting for kittens, but it hasn't. If anything I'm more worried and anxious with each litter; The last three days I think are the most stressful. I think everybody has a tendency to imagine the worst, partly because we feel that if we're fully prepared then we can cope with anything that might happen, and that's certainly true for me. It also means that when the kittens do finally appear the relief is massive—and I mean HUGE! Everything is ready, and the girls are very calm. I appear cool as a cucumber, but deep inside I'm hunching my shoulders and forgetting to breathe. Nobody who loves their cats could fail to worry, but I work very hard on making sure the cats think I'm completely blasé about the whole thing. I hope I have got them fooled!

Linda...

Waiting for MyMymystics...

Our first litter since 2010, I've done it all before and got all the books so it should be a doddle. I was a nervous wreck; after all it was not Malu's choice to be pregnant. Her pregnancy was no problem: she thrived and 'poddied-up' beautifully, she was tight, round and kittens were active. The week before Day 63 I prepared the birthing kit and waited. Ok, I know they normally go to 65 days but I wanted to be ready so I waited. Days 63, 64, 65, 66 came and went and I waited—worried sick! I had almost no sleep. Malu was fine, eating, sleeping and belting (waddling fast) around the house. Day 67 just after midnight she went into labour. She comfortably delivered her four fat healthy babies by 2 AM, on my bed. I fed her and to the sound of her purring I fell asleep. Mother Nature is nearly always on top of things.

Christina...

I have to be honest I am a bit of a worrier. Feelings of apprehension and equal excitement were playing havoc in my brain as Biba's due date drew nearer. She's a quiet girl who likes to sit on my lap and be near me, and my deep love for her was mixed with feelings of inadequacy but then feelings of confidence because of the 3 litters of Pedigree puppies I'd delivered many years ago.

I was well organised and had all the equipment and other important stuff I needed for the birth and afterwards. I had read a lot and looked at what could go wrong; that obviously worried me too but at least I had some idea and some info sank in but some of it was forgotten in the excitement of the birth as with so much going on I couldn't think straight.

It all turned out ok in the end but didn't go as smoothly as I'd hoped: Biba produced her first kitten without any trouble and I was in seventh heaven. Two hours later she hadn't produced another and other breeders said, go to the vet. I had to wait and wait for him to come back from another callout, and after several hours was getting really worried. When he finally came he wanted to do a caesarean, but thanks to the support group I knew to ask him for oxytocin. 15 minutes

after I got home no. 2 arrived and then no. 3 20 minutes later.

The feelings of sheer joy of seeing my beloved Biba purring so contentedly with her little fluffy bundles. I was so amazed by their tiny little claws, their little whiskers their strength in fighting for favourite nipples, so tiny, so perfect, so many feelings of maternal protectiveness. I was so terrified something might happen to them that I didn't leave their side for two weeks.

HOUSEHOLD DANGER

It looks so innocent: the washing machine or dryer filled with clothes ready to go on. You look around to check for anything else that needs to go in before you turn it on, then just shut the door and hit the start button.

Some of you will guess what is coming. Despite breeders repeatedly warning new kitten owners to check their machines before turning them on, we continue to hear horror stories of kittens killed in washing machines. And not just kittens, adults too.

Some newer models have a cutout button so that you can stop the machine and open the door in the middle of the cycle, but it doesn't take long for that to be too late, and not many of us stand watching the machine start its cycle.

Another breeder told me of a very near miss for her with a trailing air outlet for her dryer. One of her kittens crawled up the tube and into the machine for the residual warmth. He was found in time, but Bellona (inset), got into the drum, and was not.

So make a warning notice for other users of the machine and before turning on *check, CHECK, CHECK* that your cat or kitten isn't in there.



TBC KITTEN LIST

There are so many enquiries for Tonkinese kittens these days that they are virtually all gone before they get to the kitten list. However, the list is still a valuable resource for potential owners seeking breeders. If you are not already on the TBC Breeders List do let the Club Secretary know.

Furthermore, instead of having just names and contact details it would be nice to see a page of more picturesque adverts so why not send me a breeder card (about the size of a standard business card) or a suitable photo to go with your entry? Just email it to me at tbc.uk@ntlworld.com. I'll let you know if we can enclose it as it is or whether it may need tweaking. Don't forget the listing is free to Club members.

RECIPES FOR QUEENS PREGNANT OR NURSING

Healthy pregnant or nursing queens should not need calcium or dairy product dietary supplements (Tonkinese are lactose intolerant anyway), but they do need higher calorie content. A pregnant queen will need as much as 50% to 200% more than her usual diet over the duration of her pregnancy, which is why gradually mixing kitten food into her diet in an increasing ratio helps to provide those calories. A nursing queen will require twice as much, or more, food than her usual diet and it should be of a high calorific value. Once her kittens are weaned the calorie intake should gradually be reduced over a span of four weeks to her usual feeding pattern. Here are a few calorie-rich extra meals for your precious girl. The vegetables, eggs and starches help to provide the extra roughage with the high protein foods and so avoid stomach upsets.

Linda Vausden

(tspn = teaspoon, tblspn = tablespoon)



Christina Gordon's sleepy Silkorhoid kittens

Kidney & Rice—200 calories, makes 1 meal

4 tblspn chopped cooked kidney
3 oz well-cooked brown rice
1 tspn plain cottage cheese
1 tspn brewer's yeast
¼ tspn olive oil
Mix all in a bowl and serve

Beef Liver—225 calories, makes 2 meals

3 oz chopped, cooked beef liver
2 tblspn minced carrots and leafy greens
1 egg yolk
1 tspn brewer's yeast
2 handfuls of high quality dry cat food.
Mix together in a bowl, adding cat food at the end, and serve

Salmon and Condensed Milk—250 calories, makes 2 meals

4oz cooked, boned salmon
1 chopped hard-boiled egg
½ tspn sweet condensed milk
Mash together in a bowl and serve

Beef & Carrots—330 calories, makes 2 meals

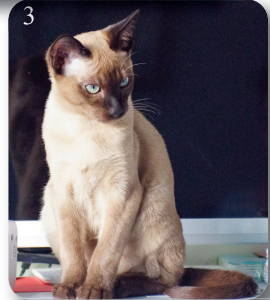
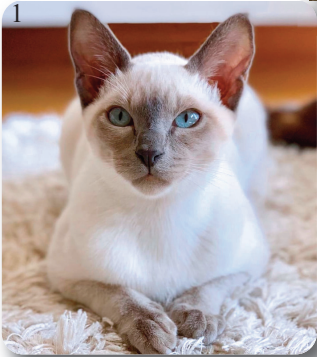
3 tblspn cooked minced beef
2oz well-cooked brown rice or barley
2 fluid oz carrot juice
1 chopped hard-boiled egg
1 small pinch of garlic powder
Mix most ingredients then stir in the beef and serve.

Chicken Stew—350 calories, makes 2 meals

8oz chopped cooked chicken
4oz chopped cooked vegetables (carrots, green beans or peas)
3oz well-cooked barley
1 low-salt chicken stock cube
½ tspn brewer's yeast
¼ pint of water
Boil the water in a pan, add the stock cube to dissolve add remaining ingredients. Take off the heat, cool down to just slightly warm and serve.



Lorraine Phillips' Lilyput Parma Violets charming her way to **Best of Section 5** at the Yorkshire County Show in November 2019. This was a historic achievement for a Tonk, as she had to beat the Best of Variety Burmese and Asian winners to gain this title.



More from the Virtual Show:

- 1 Ulla Korterman's Bustopher Jones
- 2 Kathy Wilkinson's Tonkaholics Serendipity
- 3 Emma Mountcastle's Mooncastle Harry
- 4 Angel Takoree's Titantonks Halia
- 5 Jo Sturgess's Rameses Navarre

Owners of Becky Beard's recent litter have been sending her weekly pictures to show how they are growing!



6 Beth Noble's Kwayskatya Jools
7 Christina Gordon's Silkorchid Essentially Oud



Neil and Natalie Boorman's Lilyput Jaffa Cake, Show Manager's choice in the Virtual Show and winner of 'Best Kitten Indignant Pose'

Marion and Adrian Coles thought, 'why have one chocolate when you could have three?'



TBC Recommendations For Breeders

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In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics and Rules For Registration & Showing of Cats the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs.

1. If breeding first-generation (Burmese x Siamese) Tonkinese, ensure that both parents comply 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 (e.g. Orientals, cats of unregistered or unknown parentage, or experimental colours).
2. A stud owner is not obliged to accept a queen to stud and may refuse mating on application or on inspection of the queen on health or other grounds.
3. GCCF-registered Queens and Studs must be on the active register. Queens not registered with the GCCF may be accepted for mating provided their registration is not endorsed 'not for breeding'. Studs must have their Certificate of Entirety (COE) and DNA test results as required by the Tonkinese Registration Policy lodged with the GCCF prior to the registration of their first litter. Stud owners should retain a copy of the COE and DNA test results to show to a queen's owner if requested.
4. Studs and visiting queens must be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpesvirus and Calicivirus (no less than 14 days before the mating). Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. Vaccination certificates must be available for inspection.
5. Studs should be regularly tested for FeLV and FIV, even if they are inoculated against FeLV and the documentation should be shown to the owners of visiting queens on request.
6. The stud owner must supply the following for the queen's owner: a) A mating certificate that complies with GCCF Rules For Registration & Showing of Cats Section 1 Rule 3d (<https://www.gccfcats.org/About-GCCF/Forms-Downloads>) 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 should be tested for FeLV and FIV before going to stud, ideally no more than 24 hours before the visit (unless from a fully-tested indoor household, when a longer time interval may be agreed with the stud owner), and the documentation should be shown to the stud's owner. PCR testing for Chlamydia, FHV and Calici virus are also strongly recommended for both studs and queens.
10. 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, and should make enquiries about the availability of the stud before testing and making any other arrangements.
11. The queen's owner should be aware that the stud fee is for the services of the stud and does not guarantee conception.
12. Kittens should be registered with the GCCF and must not be sold less than 7 days after completion of a full course of vaccination against at least Feline Enteritis, Feline Herpesvirus and Calicivirus. The breeder must supply each kitten owner with a valid vaccination certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon showing that the first vaccination and booster have been completed; a pedigree certificate that includes at least four generations, at least three with full registration numbers; the GCCF registration card for the kitten.
13. It is essential that all breeding Tonkinese must be DNA tested in accordance with the requirements of the current Tonkinese Registration Policy (see <https://tonkinesebac.weebly.com/downloads>). If you are unable to download a copy please contact the Club Secretary (tbc.uk@ntlworld.com) to obtain one.

*List of available DNA tests applicable to the Tonkinese breed (*currently required for studs):*

*Burmese Head Defect

*Burmese Hypokalaemia

*Progressive Retinal Atrophy (rdAc)

*Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PKDef)

Burmese GM2 Gangliosidosis

Korat GM1 Gangliosidosis (low prevalence)

Mucopolysaccharidosis VI (MPS VI) (low prevalence)