



This lovely little Christmas Furry is courtesy of Lorraine Phillips (Lilyput Tonkinese) – one of the photo's entered in our recent competition.

EDITORS' NOTES:

Hi, everyone. We hope you are all parcelled up and posting those Christmas cards, planning your menus and busy making those inevitable mince pies. Make sure you have plenty of sherry (margaritas if you prefer) at the elbow and aspirin in the cupboard! However you plan on celebrating this season, and the entry into 2015, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy & Successful New Year. Give our hugs to your gorgeous Christmas Furries.

Best wishes
Kathy Wilkinson & Linda Vousden

(Neither the Editor, Committee nor Club is accountable for opinions expressed by individuals in this or any other issue)

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TONKINESE BREED CLUB WEB SITE

- Kitten List & Stud List
- Downloadable forms and useful documents, Club publications etc.
- Breeders' cats re-homing page
- The Rescue page for lost and found Tonkinese.
- Members 'For Sale' page, for any cat-related items you wish to sell (equipment, furniture, artworks, books, magazines, craftwork, cat houses etc.)
- The Tonkinese BAC page
- Etc.

Please make sure that you use the following address to link to the TBC web site: -
www.tonkinese.info



Hon.Sec's Report

HOU'26C 2 K6DOLF

Linda Vousden

Hi Folks,

I do hope you're all well and looking forward to another season of mists, mellow fruitfulness and mince pies. I've little to report as I've made a point of putting any Club and Tonk news on our web site, as it comes along – so I hope you're keeping in touch with regular visits ☺

Please keep sending in your Merit and Title results to me, and don't forget to add your kittens to the Kitten list – there appears to have been a scarcity of Tonk kittens this past year, but bear in mind that the Club web site gets an average of 2,500 to 3,000 hits *per month*.

Those of you who've rightly been concerned about the Cat Welfare Bill, proposed in Parliament earlier this year, will be pleased to read the following from the October Council meeting (thanks to Jen Lacey for the write-up):

Steve [Crow] gave an update on the Cat Welfare Bill. After several meetings and discussion in which Cats Protection, International Cat Care & DEFRA were involved, he was able to give assurance that the general view was the bill had no chance of becoming law. There was no parliamentary desire to give it any time, and even Cats Protection, who sponsored it, agreed that it was a poorly constructed piece of legislation. However, C.P's original intention was one that we could all share, concern for the welfare of cats and kittens. They didn't have pedigree breeders in mind when putting it together, but those who allowed moggies and cross breeds to have kittens to advertise them on the internet when very young for quite high prices. CP are having to pick up the pieces when new owners no longer want to keep the kittens when they have become ill, and from the breeders dumping those they were unable to sell as cute babies, before moving on to offering their next batch for sale. A Working Party is now looking at ways to address these problems of exploitation through commercial breeding by self-regulation & existing legislation, and the Chair's intention is to ensure GCCF has a key role.

Another snippet from the Council meeting is that most delegates welcomed the idea of making it a rule that kittens are sold fully vaccinated (FPV, FH and FCV) rather than just a strong recommendation – *the only question I have is "why wasn't this done long ago?"*

Good news for the Tonks with our up and coming coat-patterns and new colours (Cinnamon & Fawn) - a GCCF Rule change will permit new breeds eligible for the show-bench, or with upgraded status, to be at shows that are still open for entries at the time of 'promotion approvals' –*at the discretion of the show manager*. This means that we will no longer have to wait four months before we can enter our new colours or Championship coat-patterns!

Work is still under way to produce a more inter-active and user friendly GCCF web site. It was expected to be launched at the Supreme Show, did you see it? It's planned to allow breeders to produce their own pedigrees from the site.

Keep well and warm, and cuddle a Tonk or three!

Cheers, Linda

GCCF NEWS

Those of you who find the GCCF web site difficult to navigate will be pleased to hear that there are plans to create a new and more accessible web site – it is hoped to be available by June 2015.

For those of you who are interested, the GCCF is now going to post Council Meeting Minutes on the GCCF web site – bear in mind that the minutes of the most recent meetings will only be posted as drafts, pending ratification at the next coming meeting. The link to the relevant page is:

<http://www.gccfcats.org/council1014.html>

BREED CHANGES & PROGRESS INFORMATION

If you have any queries about the following please contact Linda Vousden

- **The Tonkinese BAC is now applying for Championship status for our Colourpointed Pattern Tonks.** If all goes well we may be able to hold CC classes for them at our Joint Tonkinese Clubs show in May 2015. We still need more Merist and side class results for our Burmese Colour Restriction Tonks – so keep putting them on the bench. **Please remember to send in your Merit & side-class wins** via the link on the TBC web site www.tonkinese.info/please-add-my-cats-merit

In order to apply for the promotions we have to provide a list of cats registered in these coat-patterns – I have already set-up a form for breeders to complete and I ask that all breeders please send in details of their registered BCR and CPP cats & kittens - <http://www.tonkinese.info/bcrcpp-promotion> (the page can be found under the web site's 'Kittens, Breeding SOPs etc.' tab).

- **The Tonkinese BAC is going to apply for acceptance of the Cinnamon and Fawn colours in Tonkinese.** As our BCRs and CPPs are now accepted, and there are now Siamese in these colour on their Full register, the time is finally right to allow the colours into the Tonkinese breed. It will mean the introduction of some new blood-lines, it will mean some more confusion in correctly identifying colours – particularly the Caramel/Lilac/Fawn group. However the 2013/14 Tonk Registration and Breeding Program requirements will go a long way to help overcome such problems, have you read the Breeding Program yet? Once the colours are accepted they will have the same show status as the other colours i.e. according to their coat-pattern. We have already drawn up a SOP and Registration Policy amendments to cater for them.
- **You may have had problems getting your kittens correctly registered recently** – one of the difficulties is that the GCCF database was not set-up with the full EMS breed code for TCR (mink) Tonks, it wouldn't accept the coat-pattern extension '32'. We have had this corrected. Please ensure that you now use the full EMS breed code on your registration applications, if you aren't sure what they are you'll find them on the web site to see or print off: <http://www.tonkinese.info/tonkinese-ems-breed-numbers>

KITTENS

Advertise yours on our club web site, it's free!

With up to 3,500 hits per month more Tonk kittens are sold via the web than any other medium. There have been less kittens posted on the Club web site than any other year, but we still get enquiries – **so please use the web to let us know you have kittens.**

Please use the form that you'll find on the kitten list page

CHRISTMAS SALE!

Colour Tables for Cat Breeders
only £3 each incl P&P - until end of January 2015

Handy A5 books give you the range of colours obtained from different matings – covering all of the Tonkinese colours including Cinnamon & Fawn. You don't need a whole set - just get the book for your own queen's colour.

For a peek inside a book, and how to order your copy, visit www.catartplus.com



TONK-PROOF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE (?)

Does your Tonk love your Christmas tree, knocking decorations everywhere, or even knocking over the entire tree? Here are some tips to help avoid injury and damage to your Tonk, family & home

Step 1. Avoid real trees – they are potentially more dangerous to your Tonk than artificial ones, the sharp needles can pierce or puncture the skin of an overly curious Tonk, and are irritating/mildly toxic if chewed. However, a chewed artificial tree isn't going to be that healthy either. If you choose a real tree, make sure the water container is completely inaccessible as the water will be poisonous to drink.

Step 2. A small tree will be safer than a larger tree because there is less of it to topple. For a kitten, a tabletop tree might be a suitable choice until it grows up and stops being so playful. Wrap tinfoil around the trunk, Tonks don't like it and it may keep them from climbing the tree. Select a strong and steady base to hold the tree, one that is guaranteed to stay firmly in place if the tree is knocked over. Even an artificial tree should have a firm and solid base. Also, anchor the tree to the wall or ceiling to help prevent it from toppling over should your Tonk land in the tree or pull on it.

Step 3. Choose a safe location for the tree with plenty of room around the tree so that it isn't too near climbing items such as shelves or furniture to act as launch pads for kitty to jump onto the tree from a height. If possible, select a room that allows you to shut the door at night or when nobody is about.

Step 4. Leave the tree undecorated initially, to give your Tonk time to get used to the tree. Fill a spray bottle with water and hang on to it, let her in to investigate but hover in the background with the spray bottle, just in case. If your Tonk shows any signs of wanting to leap at or on the tree, a light spritz of water on her back and a stern "NO!" will get the point across – after a few times it *should* deter her from trying it again. If you're still concerned prior to decorating the tree, spray it with a product called Bitter Apple try a citrus spray, as Tonks are repelled by citrus odor too. If it's a plastic tree, a small amount of Citronella oil shaken into a bottle of water and misted on to the tree makes it smell

unpleasant to the Tonk but fresh and citrus-like to you. You could also place orange peels under the tree to make your Tonk less likely to go near it.

Step 5. Make sure your Tonk is shut out of the way when decorating the tree; if not possible then resist the urge to tease her with decorations as you're adding them. Avoid dangly ornaments that sparkle - less shiny or flat matte objects that don't dangle or spin much will have less allure for your Tonk. Never put catnip stuffed items on the tree.

Step 6. Avoid certain decorations. Tinsel is potentially hazardous for Tonks who may chew and swallow it causing choking or other internal problems such as intestinal blockage – as are ribbons and other items with length that dangle from the tree. Artificial snow is toxic and should not be used when you have pets and small children. If you like decorating the tree with food avoid chocolate of any kind as it is toxic for cats. If you really must have them, place delicate, enticing or dangerous ornaments high up the tree, in the top two-thirds of the tree. Some Tonks cannot help themselves and will climb up high whatever you do. If your Tonk is like this, then avoid having any delicate or potentially dangerous items on the tree at all.

Step 8. Attach ornaments onto the tree securely so that they cannot be simply pelted or lifted off, but do not use rubber bands or anything dangly. When you've attached the decorations, give them a tug to check that they are secure.

Step 9. Be extra careful with electrical wires and lighting. A Christmas tree is complete when its lights are on, but the wires can prove too much of a temptation to a curious kitty. Be sure to tape down excess wire and to make it too hard for the Tonk to reach the power point and cord join. Do not leave wires dangling – wrap wire around the base or tree rather than having it dangling anywhere. Cover exposed wires in wire covers or piping to prevent the Tonk from chewing them. Cords can be coated in "Bitter Apple". Consider using cords that shut off if damaged. Always turn off Christmas tree lights when there is no responsible adult in the room. Use a secure tree skirt to hide all ugly but practical safety fixes at the base of the tree including electrical items.



This is a serious and well-considered article but I have to say that if it makes any difference to your Tonk then I would take a look at its pedigree to see if it really is a Tonk. I recommend that you bear the article in mind – and keep a camera handy to take pictures of your Tonk gleefully, if not wilfully, knocking decorations off the tree, sleeping in the branches or flying through the air as your tree plummets to the ground!

THE TWELVE CAT DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

I'll give you the 12th Day and you can fill in the rest!

On the twelfth day of Christmas I looked at my poor tree

12 cats a-climbing

11 broken branches

10 tinsel hairballs

9 chewed-through light strings

8 shattered ornaments

7 half-dead rodents

6 fallen angels

5 shredded gifts

4 males a-spraying

3 missing Wise Men

2 mangled garlands and my 12 cats laughing at me

KITTEN GLOP RECIPE

This recipe has been doing the rounds for decades and is a good one for any breeder to have in their pet medicine cabinet. It's suitable for healthy weaning kittens and lactating queens, recuperating older cats or kittens who might need a little extra feeding if they start to go off their food (e.g. in very hot weather) - *but not for kittens with any digestive upsets.*

Ingredients

- 12oz of water
- 1 envelope of unflavoured gelatin
- 1 12oz can of whole evaporated milk (not low fat and not condensed)
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons plain yogurt, not non-fat
- 2 Teaspoons light Karo syrup (corn syrup, as sold in Asda or on Amazon)

Variations include the addition of cat vitamins, acidophalus, and three egg yolks added (no egg white), but be cautious about the eggs due to the risk of salmonella with raw eggs. Many older cats have difficulty digesting cows' milk, the acidophalus may help with this, but you might want to try mixing a *very* small amount to test on your older cat first.

Instructions

1. Heat the water, add the gelatin and stir well until completely dissolve.
2. Add the Karo syrup and stir until completely dissolved.
3. Remove from the heat and add the following ingredients in order, mixing well after each addition: **Note:** Heat will kill the live yogurt culture and curdle your eggs, so they must be added *after* the gelatin/water mixture has been cooled with the milk.
 - 1/2 of the canned milk
 - mayonnaise and yogurt
 - the other half of the canned milk
 - *If using* – acidophilus
 - *If using* – egg yolks
4. Put in blender or whisk by hand until completely mixed

If you intend to use the mixture up within two weeks it may be kept in the fridge where it will set like a mousse. If you intend for the mixture to be kept longer pour it into an ice cube tray and freeze. Store the frozen cubes in a zip-loc plastic bag in the freezer.

To Serve

To serve, warm up to room temperature. Do not pour back unused portions into the mix.



CAT HAIKU

*Your head is quite small
Tell me why I cannot have
Most of your pillow*

*Your lips, dry and cracked
I've batted all your Chapstick
Under the sofa*

*There's no dignity
In being sick - which is why
I don't tell you where.*

HEAD PRESSING

Linda Vousden

On my trawls through the internet I found this sweet little picture, but on reading further I learned about a condition, of which I'd not previously heard – but had actually experienced. It's called 'head pressing'. Head pressing is seen in most mammals including humans – years ago I had a brain haemorrhage and I do now remember holding my head against table tops, windows and other hard surfaces shortly before it occurred!



I also realise now that it is exactly what my darling Pagan used to do; she'd sit with me pushing her head hard in to my arm or the back of the sofa and stay that way without moving for long periods. Later, following other symptoms, my beautiful girl was put to sleep to save her from the pain and distress of a neurological disorder.

Head pressing shouldn't be confused with normal behaviours like a dog or cat affectionately "head butting" you. If you notice your pet pressing their heads against a wall, floor or other solid object for extended periods with no apparent reason, it could have a dangerous medical condition. Head pressing generally indicates damage to the nervous system or a neurological condition or illness, it is very important to take your pet to a vet for diagnosis.

The causes of head pressing behaviour can be varied, but may include:

- prosencephalon disease (in which the forebrain and thalamus parts of the brain are damaged)
- tumors (primary or secondary)
- liver shunt
- toxic poisoning (e.g. lead poisoning)
- metabolic disorder, such as hyper or hyponatremia (too much, or too little sodium in the body's blood plasma)
- stroke
- encephalitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. Many things can cause encephalitis. Infectious causes include bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi and tick-transmitted disease).
- hepatic encephalopathy (metabolic disorder as result of liver disease)
- infection of the nervous system (rabies, parasites, bacterial, viral or fungal infection)
- head trauma



Head pressing can be just one symptom among other behaviours and symptoms of neurological problems. Other behaviours and symptoms can include:

- constant pacing or walking in circles
- face rubbing (pushing head into ground)
- getting stuck in corners and/or staring at walls
- damaged reflexes and/or visual problems
- seizures



There is no evidence that any particular cat breed or age-range is at greater risk for this condition. By recognizing head pressing and other neurologically-related symptoms in your pet, you could potentially save their lives. It will help if you can give your vet a thorough history of your cat's health, the onset of symptoms, and possible incidents that might have preceded this condition.

Not a cheerful subject for a Christmas edition – but if I'd known about it before I'd have told my vet – and perhaps we just *might* have been in time to do more for Pagan; so please keep it in mind.

LOVING TRIBUTES TO:

GrCh Angisan Xanadoo Shadow – 2002 - 2014



Our darling boy who will always live on in our hearts and is never far from our thoughts

Our beautiful Shadow passed away this year and we were and still are devastated. Grand Champion Angisan Xanadoo Shadow, was our beautiful brown Tonkinese. We were deeply honoured to have owned (or be owned by) this incredible boy, who had a temperament to die for as well as a mischievous streak which he passed on to all his offspring. Shadow passed away peacefully in his sleep from old age with Donny his son by his side for which we are eternally grateful. He will always be remembered especially by judges at shows, Shadow loved showing, he loved meeting people and being admired and his joy was

complete if he managed to spray up a white coat his aim was legendary. His gorgeous son Chocolatedot At Tyrius known as Rius has taken up his role as Tonkinese stud cat, and a lot of Shadow lives on in him, his mischievousness, loving nature and his intense ability to make everything in the world right again, as well as his own spirited character, he loves to tease our elderly layabouts and then run for kisses totally bemused at the rumpus he has caused he is so much fun just like his dad.

Sadly we also had this message from Karen & Steve - We have just lost Donny, (December 2014), Shadows son who was found curled round Shadow after he'd died in the night. Donny had given up and we fought hard to keep him going as he lost weight but never re-gained it, even though he was eating. We tried all the obvious remedies, all the tests confirmed nothing wrong but he slowly declined and we had to make that hard decision. We conclude he was heartbroken, bless him, at losing his dad.

Karen and Steve Mould (Tyrius)

Mymystic Phoenix – 24 February 1999 – 18 September 2014

We originally asked for her name to be Mymystic Phoenix but was told that we couldn't have Phoenix, as it was the name of a US city. So we registered her as Mymystic Firebird and, as such, she was successfully shown and Merited. However, we rebelled and optimistically appealed, for her to be given the name she was meant to have – surprisingly our appeal was upheld and led to a change of the GCCF naming rule.

So, if you give your cat the name of a town or city, or a girl or boy's name (providing it isn't a famous person) you can thank our sweet Phoenix for being able to.

She was a sweet faced, bright and gentle flame - although her spirit was still bright her poor little body could no longer cope and she was gently sent to sleep to give her peace.

Linda & Mike Vousden (Mymystic)



MEMORY LANE

Do You Remember The Meow Mix advert (1970s)?

– the one that got *that* song into everyone's head. If you never saw it, or have forgotten it, visit here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JuVHCJVYf4>

Do You Remember The Debates About The Existence of Caramel?

I found this little poem in my 'Archive Box', it was written by Lesley Morgan-Blythe (geneticist & Australian all breed) judge around 1999, following a breed seminar.

The Dm Ditty

A coven of judges from various places
Attended a meeting to go through their paces
Believers and t'others, whose motto was clear:
Caramel's fiction - ain't got none here.
Colourblind people all gathered and sat
Prodding and staring at some little cat
With mushroomy points and cold steely hue
That wasn't a lilac and wasn't a blue.
"It looks like the lollies I ate as a child"
Said one daring soul. And the meeting went wild.
"For that, you're suspended! Wash your mouth out with acid!"
Thus chastened, the rest of the meeting was placid.
The agenda resumed and the very next item
(You have to agree - it's futile to fight 'em)
A proposal was put that the earth is quite flat.
So all raised their hands, and that, folks, was THAT!

Do You Remember CATS Magazine?

For those of you who were fortunate enough to be around while CATS and OUR CATS magazines were still running (and able to read all critiques and catch up on the Cat Fancy in general) you may remember the fictional stories told by Jenny Maxwell about members of The Long Haired Green Eyed Rat Bag Club, in particular Di and her friends Anna and Jackie. This wonderful episode was originally published in CATS, Issue 564, 8th January 1993.

"I suppose by now I should be used to Jackie, her with the multiple "husbands" and the kaleidoscope hair, but on occasion she still manages to surprise me. The Season of Peace and Goodwill doesn't usually affect Jackie, she goes on as usual, a sort of punk anti-personnel device, being rude to everybody and getting banned from two pubs a month, so when she telephoned me and offered me a lift to Northern Counties Longhair show you could have knocked me down with a catnip mouse. Not only because she hasn't got a car, but mainly because she says I've been spreading nasty rumours about her cats. I want to make it quite clear that I have not been spreading rumours. I hate gossip and I will have nothing to do with it. More trouble is caused by unfounded rumours than by anything else, and, as I told Pat, if people would take the trouble to find out the facts, we would not only save ourselves a lot of worry, we might also be spared the problems the problems with the breed caused by inexperienced line-breeding back to studs who carry health-threatening defects, but Jackie could tell you more about that sort of thing than I could, and I'm not getting involved. Anna is of the same mind, and said I should just keep quiet about it all, so I shall.

Anyway, the Show, if you will excuse me dignifying it with the name, were you there? Well, never mind, you didn't miss anything worth seeing. I only went because it's quite near. But since our car is not feeling well at the moment, let alone not being precisely legal, I had to accept Jackie's offer of a lift. Half past six I was standing on the pavement with the cat box and the show suitcase, wondering if

it had all been a practical joke when a Range Rover pulls up at the kerb! And there's Jackie, in the passenger seat, scowling at me from under magenta and white skunk-streaked hair, looking like a bod tempered petunia. "Get in!" she yelled, "We're late."

So I scrambled in, and I do have to say the driver was really quite presentable by Jackie's standards, helped me with Toby's box and the suitcase and asked if I was comfortable. I certainly was! It isn't the dud shock-absorber in our car that bothers me, it's the broken spring in the driving seat. I thought we were going to have a really nice, easy drive, but we were picking Anna up too, with three cat boxes and two suitcases and her rather generous hip measurement, so even a Range Rover got a bit cramped.

I couldn't understand why Jackie was in such a state about the time, vetting-in didn't even start until half past seven, until she gave a rather self-conscious cough and introduced us to "Peter. He's a vet. Actually, he's the duty vet at this show." Well! It's rather a long time since I actually read the GCCF rules about shows, but I am prepared to bet quite a lot that there could be some raised eyebrows about exhibitors turning up with the duty vet, particularly if, like Jackie, there have already been some questions about how her cats have got past the vetting-in, which is another example of nasty rumours, although if I'm to be quite honest not as unfounded as most. Anna and I just looked at each other, and at last Anna said something about perhaps it would be better if Peter dropped us off round the corner from the entrance rather than right outside, just in case some people might see us and be jealous of his lovely car, and Jackie, who had gone the sort of colour that does not go well with magenta hair, said she thought it might be a good idea too.

So he did. And just before he left he said something about better get on with the flea-hunt then, and I started to scratch. You only have to say "flea" near me, and it has that effect. Not only me, by the time we got to the entrance we were all putting down boxes every other step and having a good scratch, and the next thing I know Tina's at it too, whiz-whiz-whiz in Jackie's cat box and don't tell me it's because of auto-suggestion when a cat starts scratching, and I said I thought Peter was likely to have a successful hunt, and Jackie was rude enough to say that he was going to be looking at cats not exhibitors, and who was it that had been scratching first? I don't bother to answer these childish insults from ignorant novices, particularly those with the morals and minds of rabbits, so I just suggested quietly to Anna that we would be wise to go into one of the other vetting-in queues, but Anna, who really isn't as careful about her cats as she should be, decided to stay where she was, I wasn't going to expose Toby to Tina's fleas, so I went into another queue anyway.

Of course it turned out to be the slowest of the lot, I'm surprised that woman who was masquerading as a vet wasn't insisting on exploratory operations, and by the time Toby got through Anna and Jackie had already got their cats penned and were looking at the competition. Not that there was much, as you will know if you were there, but there wasn't much in the way of judges either, which is why Tina got a first and the CC, I can only say I think the judge must have thought he was looking at a Norwegian Forest cat or something. Tina's legs go on forever and her face is downright snipey. Needless to say Jackie was delighted, and went strutting around the hall lording it over everybody, even Anna who got a second with her new stud. He's not a patch on old Busby but I suppose he's about as good as you're likely to get nowadays and we can't afford to be fussy any more.

As I said, there weren't any judges worthy of the name, so I wasn't surprised that my Toby didn't get his Grand, in fact I have to say it would hardly have been worth having from a judge like that. The only one with any experience at all was judging him in a side class, which of course he won with no trouble at all, so I was far more pleased with that than I would have been with a win in the so-called Open, which had probably all been fixed before the hall was booked, and don't tell me it doesn't happen.

Then we got to the awards, and we all stood around waiting to yawn, as one does. Jackie got called up on stage for something or other, I forget what, Luckiest Novice Breeder, perhaps. So up she trotted, smirking, and one or two people who didn't know any better clapped, and I did too, and then she said 'She Just Wanted to Say', and Anna and I nearly died. "I haven't been at this long", she said, which was no more than the truth, "but even though there's a lot of nasty gossip in the Cat Fancy" (I was getting ready to kill her) "there's mostly nice people." (There's mostly rotten grammar.) "And I want to say a big thanks to all the people who helped me. Mostly Anna, of course, and Peg and Den. And Pat, and Jean, Oh and Di, thanks for the cat boxes, Di." As I say, Jackie still sometimes manages to surprise me. "

Those Were The Days

Originally printed in Fur & Feather 29th October 1953

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy presented an all-breed Championship Show on 9 October, the first in all its long years of existence [since 1910]. It was a triumph and will long be remembered as, a mark of loyalty in her Coronation Year to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from the whole of the British Cat Fancy.

The finest exhibits from all parts of Britain assembled at the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Westminster. The hall was well arranged by the Show Manager, Mr A A Towe, who received many congratulations and thanks. Clubs affiliated to the Council had allowed their cups to be on view and these made a great display of brilliance on one side of the hall. I should think this was the finest set-out of cups ever at one show.

The central dais overlooking this great hall was beautifully decorated with colourful chrysanthemums. An addition of varying hues of carnations sent over by air from Nice, by Madame Ravel, of the Cat Club de Paris, made a lovely picture. Here in charge of Mrs Brunton and Mrs Burgess were trophies, silver spoons, cups and rosettes and many other lovely prizes to be won outright. So many have never been given before at one show.

Everyone had responded magnificently in helping to make the show a success. From America the Cat Fanciers Association (Inc.) and Mo-Kan Club had sent outstanding rosettes with streamers printed with their names and Coronation Show 1953. These were offered for Best Exhibit in Show, Best, Opposite Sex in Show, Best Abyssinian Cat from Abyssinian CC of America, Best White and Best Blue, also Best Kitten in Show. Fanciers who have attended shows in America know the beauty of these coveted ribbons. Other ribbons and rosettes arrived from several clubs on the Continent and very lovely they were. Continental clubs had sent many golden plaques, spoons etc. I thank all these people and clubs.

Judges came from overseas to augment our own great band of celebrated Judges, many of them of international fame. From France we had Madame Ravel, Secretary General of the Cat Club de Paris, affiliated to the GCCF and, also, Secretary General of the Federation Internationale Feline d'Europe. Madame Gibbon and Madame Sandoz came from Switzerland and Mlle Posthuma from Holland. As extra Stewards who wanted to see our world-famed cats and to see how we judged, we had Mrs Lucas Combs all the way from Kentucky; Mrs Svenningsen, President of the Norwegian Cat Club; Mrs Hjelde and Mrs Magnussen from Sweden; and Mrs Lorentzen of Denmark. All were enchanted with the exhibits and the show. Many telegrams arrived during the day sending good wishes. One was from Mrs Eisenhuth, Copenhagen, President of the FIFe and one from our own Miss J M Fisher, unable to be with us on this great day. Mr Gordon B Allt also sent a telegram. I cannot name them all but thank them for so remembering us.

From over 400 splendid exhibits a panel of five Judges selected as Best Longhair and Best Exhibit, a Golden-eyed White, Ch Carreg Cracker, owned by Mrs Herod. He looked a perfect picture. Their selection for Best Shorthair and Best Opposite Sex in Show, was Banchor Blue Titania, belonging to Dr and Mrs Groom, a Blue Pointed Siamese, just over six months old. What a triumph for her to be chosen over all Shorthair adults and kittens for this honour. Both these winners had been very carefully selected by the panel. Another triumph for Shorthairs was the win of Best Neuter (Longhair or Shorthair) in Show, a lovely Silver Tabby, Believer Silver Carnelian, owned by Brigadier Rossiter.

The Marchioness of Carisbrooke, who came to watch the final judging for Best in Show, presented the coveted awards for "Bests". She was delighted with the winners' and spoke so nicely to the owners. With us we also had Lady Aberconway, known to many for her great kindness in attending our shows. Present, also, was Miss Joan Gilbert, known to millions of television fans, and Mr Beverley Nichols (author and poet), who loved the exhibits and wanted to take them all home with him. He was delighted at the purring of all the cats that came up for this final judging.

It was a wonderful sight to see this great international gathering in the hall, admiring our cats. The culminating point was the dinner afterwards, attended by our overseas guests and many members of the Cat Fancy.

After the toast to Her Majesty the Queen, others were proposed and replied to. Our Vice-Chairman, the Rev Basil Rees replied for the GCCF and made a wonderful speech going back to the early days and bringing to us a dearly loved name - the late Cyril Yeates. This reference made us all so very happy. Thus ended one of the most successful days in the annals of the GCCF and the Cat Fancy.

Kathleen Yorke, Chairman GCCF (1953)

CHRISTMAS TREATS

MR MICAWBER'S HOT PUNCH

This is taken from a letter Dickens wrote in 1847 where he gave his recipe for punch. One or two directions given in the original recipe have been adjusted as they may be dangerous to do today.

*This is a strong punch. Serve it in small quantities. **Prep time:** - 10 minutes **Cook time:** - 10 minutes*

Ingredients

- Zest of lemons, cut into several pieces each
- 1 packed cup brown sugar
- 2 cups dark rum
- 1/2 cup brandy
- Juice of 3 lemons
- 4 cups very hot water
- More sugar to taste



Instructions

1. In a large saucepan combine the lemon zest, sugar, rum, and the brandy. Warm over low heat.
2. Make sure that no exhaust fan is running then stand well back as you light the liquid with a long match or taper. When the flames have burned themselves out, stir in the lemon juice and the water.
3. Taste for sugar. Bring the punch to a very gentle bubble, cover completely and cook 10 minutes.
4. Remove the lemon zest. Set aside to rest for up to 3 hours, or refrigerate overnight if you want to serve the next day.
5. Serve warmed, ladled into handled cups.

MIKE'S NO-BAKE TONKISH DELIGHT *(Should serve 12 but - whatever!)*

Prep Time:- 15 minutes, **Cook Time:-** 5 minutes -

Ingredients

- 400g good-quality dark chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 250ml (1 cup) thickened cream
- 2 tablespoons Cointreau liqueur, or Amaretto if preferred
- 1 x 250g pkt Rich Tea biscuits, coarsely chopped
- 6 x 55g pkts Fry's Turkish Delight, quartered
- 140g (1 cup) pistachio kernels, or unsalted cashew nuts if preferred
- 1 x 170g pkt Ocean Spray Craisins
- Icing sugar to dust
- Double cream, to serve



Instructions

1. Line the base of a 20cm spring-form cake tin with non-stick baking paper.
2. Place chocolate and cream in a saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until chocolate melts and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat. Stir in the Cointreau and set aside for 5 minutes to cool.
3. Combine the biscuit, Turkish delight, nuts and craisins in a large bowl. Add the chocolate mixture and stir until well combined and the biscuit pieces are well coated. Spoon into the prepared pan, pressing firmly to fit. Place in the fridge for 6 hours or until firm.
4. Dust the cake with icing sugar and cut into slices and serve with cream

Photo Competition Results

Through the Club web site we recently ran a Club photo competition – 29 photos were entered, thank you to everyone who participated.

These are the numbers of the top 12 winning photos, each one of which will be featured on the Home Page of the Club web site throughout 2015.

The owners of the top 3 photos (Lorraine & Tamzin) will both receive a small prize.

Place:	Photo No. on web site:	Photo by:
1	1	Lorraine Phillips – <i>Basket of Lilyput Kittens</i>
2	6	Lorraine Phillips - <i>Pearl</i>
Joint 3	2	Lorraine Phillips - <i>Candy</i>
Joint 3	27	Tamzin Mee
Joint 4	17	Linda Vousden – <i>Mymystic Kitten</i>
Joint 4	22	Mike Smith - <i>Saffron</i>
5	28	Linda Vousden - <i>Phoenix</i>
Joint 6	7	Linda Vousden – <i>Tonk Tangle</i>
Joint 6	13	Janina Mischker
Joint 7	5	Julie Singleton
Joint 7	20	Valerie Chapple - <i>Solitaire</i>
Joint 7	25	Wilma Morrison

To see the all of the entries visit www.tonkinese.info



Don't Forget

- Subscription renewals are due in January – see web site for details.
- 2014 Show results to be collated and sent in for the AGM Awards
- Keep sending in your Merit results
- Add you kittens to the kitten list.