

tonkinese
BREED CLUB



tonkinfo

Autumn
1998
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Notes from the Editor:

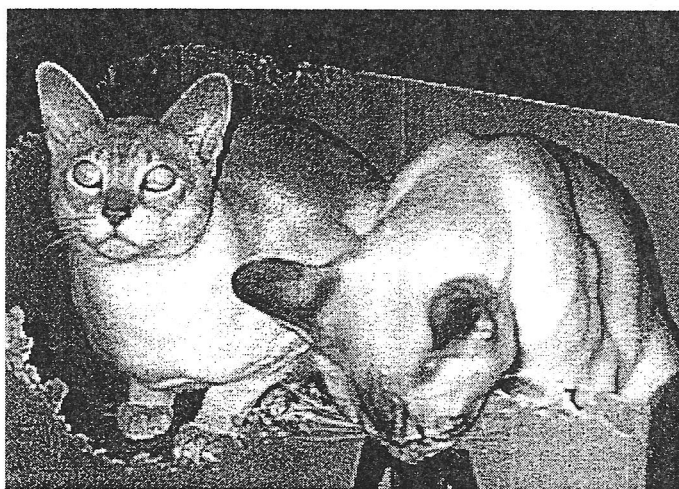
Hi there!

We have all come across people who say that cats are 'just animals', 'don't think for themselves' etc. Well, all I can say is that they can't have actually 'lived' with a cat or cats. How could they? To do so means that you would have a relationship of some kind with that cat you share a living space with. They ought to live with my lot (or your lot I am sure) and I am sure they would change their view.



Here are my 2 chewers – Nimrod and Mischa.

This picture shows Nimrod in action, it's not good, but at least it may give you some idea of what he can do! I have told you a little about the trouble this habit of his gets me into – he got one of Jo



Richards's poem for the last issue, do you remember? He even got a mention in the Newsletter of the Kensington Kitten & Neuter show this year because he'd got me in a muddle re the subscription. I'm not sure if people really believe me but I have plenty of evidence if anyone would like to see it!

Nimrod usually gets the blame for any chewing, but Mischa does it too. My lovely Bandits are so good compared to these 2 tearaways – is it the tabby that does it, do you think?

NB: It was nice to have a couple of new contributors to the magazine for this issue, especially from someone who is not actually a member of the club. PLEASE will you think about sending something in?

There's no competition this time – my brain still aches from Linda's one. Would anyone like to supply the next one?

Well, I'll let you get on to read the rest of the issue. It only remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards

Kathy Wilkinson

Old issues of 'CATS' magazine

Some members are sorting through their old issues of *CATS* magazine. If you are interested in obtaining any - at a nominal cost per copy that will go to the Welfare Fund – please see me at the show or the AGM.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Hello all Tonk people! Things in the club have been moving along smoothly over the last few months with the committee working towards the 3rd Tonkinese Show in November. Helen Hewitt is our very able Show Manager and Susan Vogt her assistant. The schedules were printed, vet and judges are booked, and panic had not yet set in when I wrote this.

The seminar was very successful, all the cats were very well behaved and much admired. The judges who attended were very helpful and also knowledgeable. Unfortunately the judges who attend the seminars are usually the ones who keep a breast of the standard of points and show great interest in the Tonkinese. The judges who judge us once a year and rarely look at us are the ones who never attend the seminars and the ones who we need to come. However, this is something all breeds have to contend with. Those who did come were very welcome and we were particularly pleased to welcome our three new judges, Maria Chapman, John Hansson and Cilla Rowlands.

I look forward to seeing you all at our show.

Carol M Poole

KITTEN REGISTER

I have been in charge of the Kitten Register since mid April when I was 'volunteered' for the job at my first committee meeting.

Since then I have received enquiries from all over the UK and Ireland. One lady rang on behalf of a friend in Holland, so I hope you breeders are producing multilingual kittens!

Not everyone is able to travel that far, and most people are looking for breeders near to their home. Some are quite specific as to what colour and sex they want, others just 'want a Tonk'. A lot of people who phone are past Burmese/Siamese owners who have seen Tonks at shows or in magazines and decided that this is the breed for them.

I have received a couple of 'follow-up' calls from people who are now living with their kittens to say thanks for putting them in touch with a breeder. Having lived with my 2 Tonks for 2 years it is good to hear that perhaps I have helped other people discover the joys of sharing their lives with a Tonk.

Kitten List – 1/10/98

Breeder	County	Tel number	Details	Ready
Sue Davison	Avon	0117 942 5934	1 female, brown	end November
Chris Richards	Hampshire	01420 86085	1 male, cream/apricot	Now
Sue Hill	Hampshire	01705 597160	2 females, blue	Now
Carol Poole	Berkshire	01628 784646	1 male, 2 females, blue	Now

Miriam Haas

Hon. Sec's Report

Did you know that I once beat Sean Connery in a round of golf at Wentworth?

Of course I didn't but it got your attention, didn't it? If you're anything like me then the Editorial, Chairman's report and Secretary's report tend to be low on the list of things you want to read in Tonkinfo. However, now that you have cast your eyes this way ...

... if you are reading this at the Club show, after having perused your catalogue, it won't be any secret to you that the GCCF have accepted the Tonkinese BAC's request for two new colours to be recognised - Caramel and Apricot (in their assorted forms). The appropriately named Bonzer Blue Print (Karen Hood's lovely Caramel Tabby, bred by Jenny Ponsford) has the distinction of being the first Tonkinese of these new colours to be officially shown (some of you may already have seen him exhibition this year). Good luck with Star's show career, Karen!

The GCCF have also accepted the BAC's revised Standard Of Points, which tightens-up and enhances the show standard in anticipation of breed promotion. The new

SOPs are available from the Club table at both our show and the Supreme show. If you can't make either of these shows just send me a SAE plus 10p per SOP copy - and remember to say which colour/s you want.

I know most of you have heard it all before but yes, we are once again preparing paperwork for our breed promotion application, to be submitted next year. I say we because as usual the Club Committee will be working very hard to collate the necessary paperwork for the BAC. Last time we applied for promotion the GCCF Executive felt that the phrase 'contrasting points' appeared too often in our Merit critiques. Hence one of the reasons for getting judges to attend our BAC seminars is to try and promote the use of desirable terminology (eg: gently merging, blending, correct expression etc.) - but this could take some time! In the meantime, we desperately need as many examples of good critiques as we can get our paws on. We need you to help.

[Play mood music here... the victory theme from "Rocky"]

So the call is out again folks - please, please send us copies of your Merit critiques. The more we have, the more selective we can be - so that we *will* meet the requirements of the GCCF Executive Committee!

Okay - back to slightly less important issues. Look out for the Club Book. Yes, it's now on sale from the Club table or to order by post (see the order form in this issue). Check out the order form and you'll see that we are also happy to send out copies of the Club information leaflets and membership forms, free, to breeders and owners who want to spread the word. Come and spend a few pennies on goodies (some special items available in time for Christmas) available from the Club table at our show and at the Supreme - while you are there how about giving just *half an hour* of your time to spread the work load for the faithful few who work so hard on your behalf.

It's subscription time again - or will be in just a few weeks. Hasn't this year shot past? For your convenience we've enclosed a renewal form in this issue, if you don't want to cut it out you are welcome to photocopy it. Breeders - this year you can pay your kitten register fee with your subs. renewal. This will get it over and done with so that you don't need to worry whether or not you've paid when it's time to advertise your kittens through the register - which, by the way, has been working so well that we've had more customers than kittens this year.

If you are entering a Tonk in the Supreme show, note that we are offering a prize for the best decorated Club pen. Get your imaginations in gear and set off those gorgeous cats to purrfection.

Well that's more than enough from me - have a lovely day at the Tonkinese Breed Club show and look forward to seeing many of you at the Supreme. Don't forget to visit us in the World of Cats at the National show - at Earls Court this year, so don't go to Olympia! Finally, if I don't get another opportunity, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Linda Vousden

Do You Speak Tonkinese?

Here are the answers to the quiz about Tonkinese that Linda Vousden set for you in the last issue of Tonkinfo. Well done to all of those people who had a go. Congratulations to *Helen Barnes* who had the highest score with only one wrong answer. Well done also to *Miriam Haas* who came 2nd and *Kathy & Richard Wilkinson* in 3rd place. Prizes on their way!

1. a. The coat-pattern distinguishes a Tonkinese from a Tonkinese variant.
2. b. In the West the Tonkinese was originally known as the Chocolate Siamese.
3. d. All of the cats named were genetically Tonkinese.
4. b. A Burmese variant is a variant of a Burmese, it is NOT a Tonkinese variant with a Burmese coat-pattern.
5. b. The Tonkinese type is its shape (in this context *type* refers to head and body shape).
6. b. The term 'tonkinese expression' means the unique appearance of the Tonkinese coat-pattern.
7. b. Prior to the recent acceptance of Caramel and Apricot colours there were 20 Tonkinese colours recognised by the GCCF (Brown, Blue, Chocolate, Lilac, Red, Cream, these 6 colours in Tabby, plus Tortie and Tortie-Tabby in Brown, Blue, Chocolate and Lilac.)
8. c. In a litter of first generation Tonkinese kittens (Burmese x Siamese) there re no variant coat-patterns.
9. a. or b. If one parent is red or cream and the other is a solid colour the female kittens will all be tortoiseshell, but if the queen is tortoiseshell and the sire is red or cream then it is expected that half of the female kittens will be tortoiseshell.
10. c. If both parents are red or cream then none of the female kittens will be tortoiseshell.
11. a. Harrison Weir wrote about the Tonkinese (calling them Chocolate Siamese) in 1898.
12. a. The Tonkinese were first officially recognised in the UK in 1986 by the CA.
13. a. It is false to say that a Tonkinese with a variant coat-pattern cannot have aqua eyes.

TONKINESE BREED CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS RENEWAL FORM 1999

Names (Mr/ Mrs/ Miss/Ms/Dr):

Address :

Tel: E-mail:

Do You have a Web Site featuring your Tonkinese or other cats?

Web Site address:

Annual Membership fee: Single - £5 Joint - £7 Junior - £2
(Please circle as appropriate)

Annual Kitten Register fee: £3

I enclose the sum of: £
(Cheques or Postal Orders payable to the Tonkinese Breed Club)

Please send your form and remittance to:
Hon.Treasurer, Mr MJ Vousden, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh Berks. RG41 5LX

We are aware that you may have signed this declaration several times before but it is necessary to keep them up to date for the purposes of breed promotion with the GCCF. Thank you for your assistance.

I declare that I am continuing to work with the Tonkinese breed in accordance with the requirements and policies of the GCCF.

Name/s (Print please) :

Prefix: Date/Year granted:

Signature/s: Date:

SHOW SUPPORT

Thank you again to everyone who continues to show their cats. Keep up the good work! Remember that your cat can qualify for:

10 Merits	-	a green rosette
20 Merits	-	a white rosette
25 Merits	-	a silver rosette
30 Merits	-	a pearl rosette
40 Merits	-	a red rosette
50 Merits	-	a gold rosette

These rosettes can be obtained by sending photocopies of Merit critiques to me as you qualify for them. The certificates and rosettes will then be given out annually at the AGM. Anyone wishing to claim these rosettes MUST send in copies of their critiques to me before the end of January 1999.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership forms are available from me and should also be returned to me.

Chris Richards

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - write them in NOW

1998

12 December	National Cat Club, Earls Court
19 December	Maidstone & Medway Cat Club, Gillingham

1999

2 January	Midland Counties Cat Club, Telford
16 January	Short-Haired Cat Society, Telford
6 February	Shropshire Cat Club, Stafford
13 February	Croydon Cat Club, Guildford
20 February	Bristol & District Cat Club, Chipping Sodbury
6 March	Northern Ireland Cat Club, Lisburn, Co Antrim
20 March	Surrey & Sussex, Woking
3 April	Kernow Cat Club, Plymouth
10 April	Essex Cat Club, Edmonton
1 May	Manchester & District Cat Club, Stockport
22 May	Suffolk & Norfolk Cat Club, Godmanchester

Details of these shows will be advertised in *CATS* nearer the time, or are available on the list published by the GCCF – ask anyone who shows regularly and they will be able to give you the name and address of the Show Manager of the show you are interested in if you want to start showing your Tonkinese or Moggie. Otherwise come along and talk to the Tonks who will be there and introduce yourself to their owners, even if they are not a member of our club, I am sure they will be pleased to talk 'Tonk'.

Thoughts for the day:

'People meeting for the first time suddenly relax if they find they both have cats. And plunge into anecdote.'

Charlotte Gray

'Only cat lovers know the luxury of fur-coated, musical hot water bottles that never go cold'

Susanne Millen

Free - Baby To A Good Home

We just got a new kitten so the baby must go !

Two year old female, answers to the name of Chelsea. She is good around kids, doesn't cry too much, mostly potty trained and weaned. She has all of her shots and is free to a good home.

Believe me, we hate to dump her off, but we are afraid she might hurt the new kitten, and we couldn't let that happen. What if the baby smothered the kitten trying to stay warm? Or worse, licking the milk out of the kittens mouth? We really cannot take that chance. I know it is an old wives tale about a baby stealing the kittens breath, but the whole idea is too scary.

A kitten could catch a disease from a baby! I mean without a nappy, they tend to go to the toilet anywhere they want to. That is so unsanitary! What if the kitten got salmonella from the baby?

What really worries me is when babies get older, they tend to go out and start "catting" around with the neighbourhood kids. Unless you lock them up you may have another litter to contend with. You can't even have them neutered like you can a cat. This is another reason we don't feel up to the ownership issues.

So I am trying to find a good home. I would hate to take her to shelter, but a parent has to do what a parent has to do.

So if you are interested and you think you can be a good owner, please drop me a line. Hurry, we only have one left!

Editor: Karen Hood found this on the Internet and sent it in. I hope you find it as amusing as I did. I have various members of my family (human) I would gladly swop for a cat any day!

The First Show & The Unusual Cat

The story begins when Bonzer Blue Print (aka Star) a Blue Tabby Tonkinese was brought home to live with his sister (a Russian Blue called Sky) in September 1997.

Between September 1997 and February 1998 both Jake (Daddy) and Myself (Mummy) kept looking at Star waiting for the blue of his coat to develop (since we had been informed it could take up to 2 years for the colour to come out, we thought he was just a late developer!). We kept comparing him to Sky and wondered why his shade of blue was completely different from Sky's.

The day of the show arrived - My very first one and Star and Sky's first one also. The day was going along quite nicely until I went to the results board at around 12.30pm. Once I had found the slip with his pen number on I saw the letters NM. I stood looking at it wondering what it meant (you have to remember it was my first show!). I walked back to Stars pen to check that he was coping with his first show day and started a conversation with the owner of the Tonkinese in the pen next to me. She introduced herself as Felicity Jolley and explained that NM meant No Merit and that I shouldn't get too upset as I would find out why the merit was not awarded when a pink slip appeared on the pen. Being the patient person that I am it seemed to take about 2 days for this pink slip to appear (slight exaggeration I know!). Then as if by magic there it was having sneaked onto the pen when I had left my post for a few minutes. This was when the fun started.

I had a wonderful write up from the judge and felt a very proud mummy, but the quote at the bottom of the slip was to lead me into a lot of confusion and attention that day. It appears that Bonzer Blue Print was not as I thought a Blue Tabby but is a Caramel Tabby, (well that explained why the blue was not developing!). After this point it seemed that Bonzer Blue Print was the talk of a number of judges and a few of the exhibitors. I can tell you know this was quite scary for a first time exhibitor, receiving all of this attention, but in usual Tonkinese style Star lapped up all of the attention.

I would like to thank Felicity Jolley at this point for making a first time exhibitor welcome into the cat fancy.

On the day of the show I was told that I should phone Linda Vousden the next day, as there was going to be a meeting where Diana Harper would make her aware of my predicament. I made my phone call to Linda which was basically a HELP what should I do now (?) call, as I and the cats had enjoyed our first show and wanted to carry on in the future, and she was fantastic, explaining how this had happened, what the view of the club was and general advice for a novice within the cat fancy. Between us and Jenny (Ponsford - Breeder of Bonzers) a way forward was worked out and from that point the career of 'Star on Exhibition' began. He has now been exhibited at 6 shows (between March and October) and enjoys every minute of it.

I have now been a member of the TBC since January 1998 and have met a lot of very friendly and helpful people who have guided and advised me through this problem and also the world of the Tonkinese. Thank you to you all.

Now though the story is coming to an end, as, probably, after the 28 October 1998 my beautiful Caramel Tabby Tonkinese Boy will be able to enter into competition once more after a break of 9 months. You will be able to see him in his second debut (I count the first show as a false start!) at the TBC show (Quite appropriate I feel).

I would like to thank Linda for everything she has done for me and of course Star. If it wasn't for her another Tonkinese may have left the show bench.

To all of the club's members. As I have found this club has a lot to give to its members so we all have a lot to give it back, and I am so glad that I decided to be owned by a Tonkinese otherwise I would never have been able to join this club.

Karen Hood

How to DIY - or 'living with a cat'!

I couldn't believe it. When the last Tonkinfo was literally being 'put to bed' from off the printer and being put into its folder ready to take into work for copying, there was this enormous crash from the kitchen. I rushed out there and lo and behold! The kitchen curtain rail was hanging off and there was Nimrod hanging from the net (more tattered than ever).

Once again Nimrod was trying to get on top of a set of cupboards. He (and Mischa) can manage the ones over the microwave but can't get onto the other 2 sets. Periodically it seems to really aggravate Nimrod that he can't do this, as Buster and Bruno can get on to these - Bunty can't because she's small and as a special treat she sometimes gets a helping hand under her botty to help her - and they seem to get up there and look at Nimrod and Mischa as if to say 'ya boo! Look where we are!'

I have tried to help them get up there but the 'Little Guys' are so solid - Mischa especially and he usually goes all sappy and limp when I am trying to give him a helpful shove, so that I end up laughing maniacally as my arm gradually sinks down because of the combination of gravity and Mischa's fat ***. Nimrod doesn't like to be helped, and, until recently, sat there bawling back at the brown boys.

However, back to the Tonkinfo episode. Nimrod had got on top of the microwave cupboards and then tried to cross over to the other side via the curtain rail. He'd got a little way, the curtain rail had broken out of the holders on the wall and dropped down and Nimrod had grabbed the nets and hung on for dear life.

Curtain rails are a continual source of trouble in our home. When the moggies were small, Tiffany and Tabitha often draped themselves artistically from the front room curtains, and just as you got to them to unstick them, they'd do it themselves. As they got bigger - and I mean BIGGER - we would often get home to find a curtain rail in the lounge on the floor. So we keep a spare ready - I don't know what the local DIY stores would do without us!

I suppose we could use a stronger type of rail, but we decided that it would be better to use one that will break rather than one that would come out and bring some wall with it. However, we have chosen a brand that can only be bought with the curtain hooks, meaning that we have millions of spare hooks as compared to usable rail.

When the rail comes down it looks like little bites have been taken out of the back, but this does mean that we can sometimes just move it along a little and re-use it. This only happens a couple of times though before a new piece has to be used.

I also used to be quite good at sticking pieces of wallpaper back onto the wall when my 'old gang' had pulled some off. Now I can 'repair' the curtain rails in just a few minutes, depending on how many cats are helping me. Isn't it amazing how much you can learn to do when you don't want to upset your husband because the cats are definitely all mine when they've been naughty?

Note: Nimrod has now realised that it's best to climb the curtain near the cupboards and then only when the curtain is pulled back. He shoots up there now. Richard is furious when he sees him doing it, but I just shrug my shoulders and let him get on with it.

However, Mischa has started copying Nimrod, but as he is a lot heavier the curtain rails are down again. Ah, well

What stories have you got to tell about covering up your cats' naughtiness and how you cover up for their escapades?

The Cinnamon Trust

The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity which seeks to relieve the anxieties, problems and sometimes injustices, faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets, thereby saving a great deal of human sadness and animal suffering.

It is now acknowledged that pets can positively benefit the well-being of elderly owners. For many elderly people living on their own, their pets are their only reason for living as they are their constant companion providing 24 hour a day company, every day, comforting, loving and protecting them, not only from outside threats, but also offering the more subtle form of protection from loneliness and despair.

The special relationship between owner and pet add incalculably to the quality of life, but all the pleasures and benefits can be neutralised by anxiety about the fate of their devoted companion should the owner die, fall ill, or have to move to residential accommodation. If an 'old faithful' dies elderly owners are often reluctant to have another pet for these reasons, and life for them can lose much of its purpose.

The primary aim of the Cinnamon Trust is to keep the elderly and their pets together as long as possible in spite of any difficulties that may arise. A national network of volunteers has been established to provide help at home – for example, walking the dog for a house-bound owner. A national fostering service is available for pets whose owners face a spell in hospital – volunteers take the pets into their own homes and supply love and care until pet and owner can be reunited.

Anyone, of any age, can make arrangements for pets that may outlive them to be cared for by the Trust. If possible such arrangements should be made well in advance so that owners have peace of mind in the knowledge that their companion will have a safe and happy future. The Trust will also look after pets whose owners have to go into residential care where pets are not accepted.

Whenever a pet is in the care of the Trust the owner is kept in touch with visits if possible, or regular letters and photographs.

Many elderly people whose pet has died also contact the Trust, bereft and very lonely. It is often possible to place a bereaved pet with them and somehow there is always an immediate understanding between the two.

Case history – Mitzi

Richard didn't have long to live and his only concern was his cat, Mitzi. At 8 years old she had hardly ever been outside. Beatrice contacted the Trust, her beloved cat had died. She was house bound and very lonely. Mitzi fitted the bill perfectly. Richard and Beatrice wrote to each other every week until his death. Two old people, new friends, devoted to one little cat.

The Trust's sanctuary at Poldarves in Cornwall is unique. There are no kennels or cages, only settees and armchairs in large warm rooms with rugs on the floor – all familiar, comforting and comfortable. The routine mimics that of the average household and loving, experienced care ensures that even a very old animal soon feels at home and settles happily. Fundraising is underway for a second sanctuary.

The Trust also has a register of Pet Friendly Care Homes covering most counties, which is available from the Head Office. The Register lists all types of accommodation for the elderly where pets are welcomed when their owners have to go into care.

The Trust does not make a charge for its services, but naturally hopes that pet owners who benefit from its work will make a contribution towards the cost. It is hoped, for example, that an owner would remember the Trust in a will when a bereaved pet would be coming into its care. It is entirely dependent on contributions, receiving no state or local authority aid.

Further information about The Cinnamon Trust is obtainable from Foundry House, Foundry Square, Hayle Cornwall TR27 4HH, telephone 01736 757900.

Editor: I picked up a leaflet about the above charity recently and was so impressed that I thought I'd let you know about it too. Richard and I are having to sort out pensions and other financial affairs at the moment and the topic of writing a will has raised its ugly head. It is something we all know we have to do, but you might have put it off for the same reasons that we have - not feeling our age (until recently anyway!) and trying to decide what should happen about the cats.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Mr & Mrs L Clark of Rochester, Kent, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and so will not be attending our show! Can we accept this as an excuse? OF COURSE – but just this once.

We all hope you have had a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you next year!!

Some Humour

Q. What do you call a cat that works for a doctor?

A. A first-aid kit

Q. Why do cats change their size?

A. Because they are let out at night and taken in in the morning

An errant husband

Carole Poole sent this in for your consideration, feeling that it is especially bound to strike a chord with some husbands.

'My youngest daughter has been filling in application forms for a trainee solicitors and one of the questions was 'If you could pass one law to effect a change in society, what would it be and why'. My husband suggested the following which I found very amusing (and I hope fellow club members do too). He does sometimes accompany me to shows and of course has to wear ear plugs to avoid all the telephone conversations!!'

If you could pass one law to effect a change in society, what would it be and why.

Domestic cats are destroying the quality of life for millions of people. They exercise a strange malignant influence over susceptible female owners, gradually destroying all higher functions. These poor deluded creatures then collect together in pitiful groups where they imitate the felines with which they have become infested. Hideous screeching and catfighting can be heard by anyone brave enough to approach. Humane disposal is the only answer and needs to be enforced by law.

Something should be done about the cats as well!

Tortie Tales

Hello, it's Clova again. Mum's gone to work so I thought I'd use my spare time to tell you what me and Tay have been up to since the last issue.

We've been on holiday twice this year. In May Mum went to Scotland for a week, but we didn't fancy that so we booked ourselves into a very nice hotel in North Devon. That was good, but we were really pleased to see Mum Again.

Then in August the three of us went to stay with Auntie Lilith and Cousin Tamlyn for a week. That was great – a whole house to run around in. And they've got a tunnel to another house which is just for the cats.

Tay and Tam get on really well. They're very alike – they run around for a short while and then stop for a long while. Typical boys – no stamina. And every time Mum opened the fridge they would both sit on top of it waiting for the ham to jump out into their mouths. I have much more self respect - I learnt that from Auntie Lili when I lived there. Besides – I don't like ham.

Now we're home again and things are back to normal, although I'm sure the windows have changed since we went away.

I've just heard Mum talking to someone about a show. That means the claw clippers will appear soon. Mum does her own claws first, then Tay's, just to prove to me that it's OK. Who's she trying to kid? - I'm a tortie – I am NOT to be messed with! Usually I let her clip a few, but that's all. So, next time you see me at a show, don't look too closely at my feet.

Anyway, time for me to say goodbye – I've got to repaint my face and it takes me ages to get the line dead straight.

Miriam Haas

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS CAKE!

This recipe was given to me by Maggie Chitty, who, although not owned (yet?) by a Tonk, is owned by several cats. I had spoken to her a few times at shows but have got to know her a lot better through my role as GCCF Delegate. She has been extremely helpful to me in 'learning the ropes'. Thank you, Maggie, for your help and your contributions to this mag.

Ingredients:	1 cup water	8 oz nuts	1 cup brown sugar
	1 cup sugar	1 bottle whisky	1 tsp baking soda
	4 large eggs	2 cups dried fruit	juice of 1 lemon

Method

Sample the whisky to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check whisky again! To be sure it is of best quality pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat! Turn on electric mixer, beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl, add 1 tsp sugar, beat again. Make sure whisky is still OK! Cry another tup! Turn off the mixer, break 2 eggs and add to bowl with dried fruit. Mix on the turner! If dried fruit gets stuck in besterer, pry it loose with a drewscraver. Taste the whisky to check for tonciciicity. Next sift two cups of salt – or something! Check if whisky is still OK. Sift lemon juice and strain nuts. Add 1 tablespoon sugar or something! Grease the oven and turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner! Throw the bowl out of the window – check the remainder of the whisky – and go to bed!

SHOWDOWN!

There was a cat whose name was Slim;
His folk were very proud of him.
They took him to Shows galore
Where he won prizes by the score.
But while his owners enjoyed showing,
Poor Slim simply hated going.
When the extra grooming started
Wily Slim hastily departed;
And when his travelling box he saw,
He fought his owners tooth and claw.
At vetting-in he hissed and spat,
More like a cobra than a cat.
In his pen they gently placed him
And then tenderly embraced him,
Saying, 'Slim, please be a good boy,
Your Show success gives us much joy.'
But Slim just gave a crafty smile;
He'd show them in a little while!
Then came the imperious call,
'Exhibitors must leave the Hall!'
When the judge and steward came to Slim,
They really liked the look of him.
The steward heaved him on to the trolley,
Which was an act of utter folly.
Slim sank his teeth into the judge
And his jaws they could not budge.
When she heard the poor judge yelp,
Another steward came to help.
She extricated the judge's finger
From Slim's teeth and did not linger.
Back into his pen he went,
Where, with all his anger spent,
He sat glowering at one and all.
His owners were summoned to the Hall.
They withdrew him from the Show
And, shame-faced, did homeward go.
But while his owners were sad and tearful,
Slim was rapidly growing more cheerful.
There would be no more Shows for him;
It was a triumph for naughty Slim!
The moral of this story is
Shows put some cats into a tizz.
So if your cat is one of these,
Leave him at home to take his ease!

Maggie Chitty

assisted by William, Rupert, Shula, Chérie, Emma etc etc etc! ie her feline family

KEEPING YOUR CAT SAFE INDOORS

When your cat stays indoors you would think he or she would be safe, wouldn't you? The main danger you want to protect him or her from is outside, the main danger being getting run over, but there are many dangers lurking indoors. The following illustrates just a few, the list is not exhaustive.

Put yourself down to cat level and look at your home again.

Office/work areas

Kittens are fascinated by electrical flexes and may try to chew them as well as playing with them. It is possible to buy protective covers for flexes that pass across walked on areas, not very smart but definitely better than risking electrocution from worn cables. Coat flexes with vinegar or Tabasco sauce to make them unpalatable. If a cat or kitten plays and becomes entangled in flexes it may bring down a heavy piece of equipment.

Older cats may even spray electrical appliances such as a computer or printer, which could cause it to explode or parts to corrode. Try to keep appliances away from floor level if possible.

When kittens are in the home, be careful how you tread as they can easily be trampled and injured. Shutting doors is something else to be careful of too - tails can be easily trapped and damaged.

Paper clips, staples, plastic fixings of all kinds are attractive to cats and kittens, so keep them in containers. Pick everything up. Cats swallow unsuitable objects probably because they have picked them up in an experimental way.

Elastic bands are fascinating to cats: they can be pulled and let go so that they 'ping' away and can be chased to where they land. It looks like a harmless game, but they are dangerous. So are paperclips, safety pins, plastic ties from plastic bags and other office accessories.

The kitchen is one of the most dangerous places for a cat or kitten:

The most obvious danger would seem to be the cooker, as the gas or electric rings take a good while to cool down after use. Frying pans and hot saucepans are dangerous to cats both on the hob or when being carried around the kitchen. So try to keep your cats off worktops and hob - easier said than done, I know! Knives and utensils should be put away as soon as possible.

A washing machine and/or tumble dryer should be left shut as they make a tempting hidey-hole for nosy cats and kittens. You would think it would not be difficult to miss a sleeping cat in the machine, but if it has snuggled down into the laundry than it could be missed - this occurrence is frequently reported so don't dismiss it as being the fault of a careless owner. Shut the door!

A cat buried down asleep in a laundry basket of dirty washing could possibly be dumped into the machine and the cycle started. Always check - it's handy to do this anyway because how many times do you find you've left a dark colour in a white wash and the colour runs!

Opened cans of food, not just cat food. If a can has been opened with a tin opener sharp edge will be left and your cat may cut himself badly trying to get at the food in the tin.

Cleaning materials - these often contain chemicals harmful to cats. I think we all know about not using any disinfectant that turns water milky white, but remember that phenols are also present in some soaps and shampoos. Take care before using any disinfectant or antiseptic on your pet - you'd be careful with a baby, so be careful with your cat too! Make sure anything you wipe over/wash with cleaning materials is thoroughly rinsed and dried before allowing cats access to that area - they absorb so much through their pads and fur.

Then there is the **bathroom**:

Cleaning materials - see above.

The medicines which may be kept in the bathroom cabinet. Painkillers such as aspirin and paracetamol are lethal to a cat, even in small doses and paracetamol is apparently one of the most causes of cat poisoning. Do not even consider administering painkillers to your cat except on veterinary advice.

Keep the toilet lid down, especially if you have put bleach or disinfectant around the bowl. Cats and kittens seem fascinated by toilets and it has always been my nightmare that one of my Mob will fall down and get stuck when I am not at home.

Don't leave a bath unattended whilst running water into it. Your cat could drown or be scalded.

HOBBIES

If your hobby is sewing of any kind, be sure that your needles and thread are kept away from your cat. They are a common cause of emergency surgery as once the cat or kitten starts to play and chew the thread, it cannot bite it off and has to swallow the whole length and often the needle at the end as well. The needle could pierce vulnerable organs such as lungs, whilst the thread could get caught around the base of the tongue, pull tight and get extremely painful. It can also cause very nasty tangles with internal organs so that vets have to operate at a number of different places to remove all the length of thread - making such an operation long and recovery painful. Buttons and thimbles are also easily swallowed.

Knitting yarn can cause similar problems as sewing thread. Remember that if you see some yarn sticking out of the cat's rear end, don't try to pull it out however tempted you might feel to do so. The cat will possibly be upset by the piece of yarn protruding from his or her bottom but don't even consider it. You have no way of knowing how long that piece of yarn is, and by pulling it you could cause problems.

Elastic bands are totally indigestible and cause serious and painful blockages in the stomach, requiring delicate surgery to remove them.

House plants

All cats need grass to help their digestion. If you do not provide one of the little tubs that can be bought at a pet store and grown at home, then your cat may improvise with one of your houseplants.

Some of these are poisonous (to humans as well as animals):

- Azaleas
- Castor oil plant
- Chrysanthemums
- Crotons
- Cyclamen
- Dumb Cane or Diffenbachia
- Mistletoe
- Poinsettia
- Polka Dot

DIY

It is probably quite obvious that cats should be kept away from paint of all kinds, but wallpaper paste, adhesives and wood preservatives can also harm cats. So consider the consequences of such actions as sanding down of old woodwork such as floors which may have been treated. The dust will contain these chemicals so can easily be ingested and/or breathed in. So although you, the operator, may be wearing a dust-mask if you are sensible, your cats cannot do the same. Keep them out of the way until the dust in the area has settled and the wood has been resealed.

Also, if you have lifted any floorboards, check carefully before you replace them – a cat could be hiding underneath. The same goes for the roof space – make sure no-one is left up there.

SUMMARY

So be careful. Things that you don't give a second thought to could be a health risk to your cat.

Pick everything up. Cats swallow unsuitable objects probably because they have picked them up in an experimental way.

Bored cats indoors may take up plant eating for entertainment or because they need something to substitute for not having grass available – so grow a container of grass, it isn't difficult.

Remember that what goes on the outside of the cat usually ends up on the inside! So think 'external' if you suspect your cat has been poisoned. Clean up spills and lock away chemicals of every kind - cleaners, disinfectants, paints, insecticides etc.

Cats playing have no more sense than a 2 year old child. When you see a cat playing with something, go and find out what it is, just as you would with a child.



TONKINESE BREED CLUB

Goods Order Form

The following are available to order from the Honorary Secretary. You are welcome to photocopy of this form. Please indicate the items required and send your order to:

Mrs L Vousden, Lansdale, 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX

QTY	ITEM	COLOUR	PRICE EACH	TOTAL COST
	SOP (state colour or breed no. required)		£0.10*	
	BREEDER'S GUIDE (including Stud List)	-	£1.50*	
	CLUB BREEDER'S LIST	-	£0.20*	
	CLUB PEDIGREE FORMS (pack of 5)	-	£1.50*	
	TONKINESE REGISTRATION POLICY	-	£0.10*	
	TONKINESE NOTELETS (assorted pack of 5 with envelopes)	-	£2.50*	
	SHOW RESULTS RECORD BOOK (Red, blue, green or yellow cover)		£2.80	
	SHOW RESULTS BOOK - REFILL PACK	-	£1.00*	
	TONKINESE BREED CLUB BOOK	-	£6.50	
	ENAMEL CLUB BROOCH - Pink, blue or lilac, featuring logo in gold. (Only a limited number remaining)		£4.80	
TOTAL =				

The following items are free to Club Members upon receipt of a large SAE. Or may be obtained from the Club table at the following shows: TBC, GCCF Supreme, and National Cat Club.

	TBC MEMBERSHIP FORMS - give one to your kitten owners.	-	-	FREE
	THE TONKINESE - A handout giving some information on the Tonkinese and the Club.	-	-	FREE

Name:

Date:

Delivery Address :

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* For these items enclose an A4 size SAE, other items have p&p included in the price.

I enclose the sum of: £

(Cheques or Postal Orders payable to the Tonkinese Breed Club)

**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY'S
GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS**

Registered owners of all GCCF registered cats/kittens accept the jurisdiction of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy and undertake to abide by this general code of ethics.

1. Owners should think carefully and take advice before getting a kitten and choose a breed of cat suited to their lifestyle. They should only keep as many cats as they can care for adequately.
2. Cats and kittens must be provided with warm and comfortable housing, with plenty of opportunity for exercise and play. Cats should be kept indoors at night for their own safety.
Drinking water must be available at all times and cats must be fed regularly and adequately. Breeders will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing cats in a new home.
3. All cats need some grooming to keep the coat in good condition and to check for parasites, eg fleas. Longhair cats need daily grooming to prevent the formation of knots and matted areas of fur, which cause considerable discomfort to cats.
4. Veterinary attention must be sought whenever a cat is showing signs of illness.
5. Cats that are bought as pets, not for breeding, should be neutered or spayed at the age recommended by your veterinary surgeon. If cats are registered on the Non-Active register, this means that under no circumstances should the cats be bred from; no progeny from these cats will be registered by the GCCF.
6. Breeders agree only to sell cats where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life. An offer should be made at the time of sale to help with the rehoming if at any time circumstances require the cat to be found a new home.
7. Owners should not sell any cat to commercial cat wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow cats to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.
8. Breeders must not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise cats nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of the cat and must draw the attention of purchasers to the implications of the Non-Active register when selling pet kittens.
9. Breeders selling a kitten on the Active register should offer advice and support to the new owners. Owners should not breed cats in a way that is deleterious to the health of the cat or the breed.
10. Owners should consider carefully the best means of identifying their cat in case it should become lost. This can be done by means of a microchip, which can be painlessly inserted under the cat's skin by your veterinary surgeon and then registering the number of your cat with the RSPCA registration scheme run by the Kennel Club and also by notifying the GCCF of the cat's chip number. The alternative is for the cat to wear some form of identification on a collar. However, there are dangers for cats wearing collars as they may become hooked up and caught by them or more likely the collar will break or come off over the cat's head, so preventing easy identification.
11. Breeders/owners must ensure that all relevant Governing Council of the Cat Fancy documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a cat in accordance with Rule 10 (see below), *including* a copy of this code.

N.B. Transfer of Registration - GCCF Rule 10

- 10a. When a cat or kitten is advertised or sold as a pedigree cat or kitten the breeder shall, at the time of sale, provide the purchaser with a properly completed pedigree signed by the breeder, carrying 3 generations at least, showing all the breed numbers and registration numbers, also the breeder's name and address.
- 10b. If, at the time of sale, the cat or kitten is registered the seller shall provide the purchaser with a transfer form, duly completed and signed by the seller, unless it is jointly agreed in writing by both parties at the time of sale not to do so.