

tonkinese
BREED CLUB



Tonkinfo

Issue 20, Autumn 1999



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BREED CLUB

President: Mrs Alison Ashford RGN FZS

COMMITTEE 1999

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Carol Poole

7 Langworthy End, Holyport Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 2HJ, Tel: (01628) 784646

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mrs Brenda Rawlinson

44 Fore Street, Chudleigh, Newton Abbott, Devon TQ13 0HY, Tel: (01626) 854735

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs Linda Vousden

Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX, Tel: (0118) 9619444
E-mail: tbc@mymystic.demon.co.uk

HON. TREASURER: Mr Mike Vousden

Address as per Hon. Secretary.

Membership Secretary & Show Support: Mrs Christine Richards

41 Park Close Road, Alton, Hants GU34 2EZ, Tel: (01420) 86085

Ms Sue Davison

15 Willoughby Road, Horfield, Bristol, Avon. BS7 8QX, Tel: (0117) 9425934

Miss Miriam Haas

33 Polsloe Road, Exeter, Devon EX1 2HW, Tel: (01392) 495275

Mr Kevin Leaver

78 Lower Hanham Road, Hanham, Bristol, Avon BS15 3BZ, Tel: (0117) 9491507

Miss Susan Vogt

85a Burrows Road, Kensal Green, London NW10 5SJ, Tel: (0181) 9607696

Mrs Kathy Wilkinson (Editor of Tonkinfo)

5 Beltana Drive, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 4BT, Tel: (01474) 352711

Club delegate to the GCCF: Mrs Kathy Wilkinson (see details above)

Substitute-delegate: Mrs Christine Richards (see details above)

Kitten register: Miss Miriam Haas (see details as above)

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Rescue & Welfare Officer: Mrs Felicity Jolley

4 Lower Ferry Lane, Callow End, Worcs. WR2 4UH Tel: (01905) 830685

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Notes from the Editor:

As a change this year you will be receiving this before the Club show – remember to look out in CATS for the results.

To serious matters: our Tonkinese go forward on 1 June 2000, YEAH! But what does this mean? Read Maria Chapman's article to find out. I hope you find it as enlightening as I have. Maria, thank you very much for explaining it in words of one syllable.

There is not a Kitten List in this issue as kittens as being snapped up as soon as they come on to the list – some of our breeders have waiting lists for their beautiful babies. Please let Miriam Haas have details of your kittens as soon as possible.

I have tried to make get a mix of serious and light-hearted items that I hope meets with your approval so that you enjoy reading this issue. Please send in anything you would like included, and if you have suggestions for improving the magazine, let us know. Also, if there is anyone who could help with copying 'Tonkinfo', would they please contact the Committee.

Meanwhile, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Next year is gonna be one helluva of a year, so get as much rest as you can, folks, ready to bring out those Tonks!

Regards

Kathy Wilkinson

Chairman's Report

I am pleased to write that the Tonkinese seem as popular as ever, particularly as pets. Kittens are reserved well before their "sell-by date" and a never-ending stream of enquiries come down the telephone. Thank goodness for the kitten list! The standard I see on the show bench is certainly being maintained, although fewer cats are being shown compared with 5 years ago, perhaps after June next year (see BAC report) people will take up showing again. Anyone who would like to show and doesn't know where to start please feel free to contact me or one of the other committee members all of whom show their cats, and would be pleased to help.

BAC REPORT

Well we did it!! We have been granted Provisional Recognition as from June 1st next year (the official show season start). No more assessment classes but we will be able to compete against each other. All the hard work paid off and immense thanks to our Chairman Diana Harper without whose help we would never have got there! Anyone who would like more details on what Provisional Status means, can contact Linda Vousden, the Club Secretary.

Carol Poole

Hon Secretary's Report

Hello All,

WE DID IT - WE DID IT - WE DID IT. Just in case there is anyone who still hasn't heard about it, the GCCF accepted our application for promotion and, as of June 1st 2000, the Tonkinese breed moves from Preliminary to Provisional status. This means that kittens registered after that date will be on the Supplementary Register, providing they have the correct coat-pattern and parentage. It also means that we will no longer be shown in Assessment classes; from June 1st Tonks will compete with other Tonks in Open classes for Intermediate Certificates. I won't take up too much space explaining all this as we have an excellent article from Maria Chapman on the subject. By the way if anyone wants a copy of a single faced SOP you can now print it off my website - <http://www.mymystic.demon.co.uk/>.

I hope you all managed to get a copy of the September issue of Cat World, the Tonks had another very good splash of publicity - so much so that we appear to have run out of kittens, please don't forget to register your new kittens with Miriam Haas!

This year we won't be running a Club table at the Supreme. We can only sell certain items at the Supreme, so the table is really run for the benefit of members. In the 4 years that Mike and I have been manning the table we have met less than 1 dozen members there - so this year, no table. However, we will have a table at Olympia again, in the World of Cats, please do come and say hello and maybe help us out for a while.

Please note, if you need to get in touch with us, Mike and I have a new phone number :- 0118 9619444.

Finally, don't forget that your subscriptions are due on January 1st 2000, you will find a renewal form enclosed with this issue. I look forward to seeing you soon, but if I don't - have a very good Christmas and a great New Year's Eve!

Linda Vousden

Rescue Officer's Report

Could I take this opportunity to relay a story which should strike a cord with all our breeders and owners alike?

In July of this year, I received a phone call from a lady who represents a rescue centre for one of our Northern cat clubs. She told me that a young red point male neuter had been handed in 3 weeks previously and she believed it to be a Tonkinese. I made a note of the details and offered to help find a new home for him. However, she told me this wouldn't be necessary as one had already been lined up and subject to a satisfactory homecheck he would be rehomed over the weekend. I said that although I hadn't been notified of a missing cat fitting his description, I would pass her telephone number on if somebody contacted me in the weeks to come. She informed me that even if somebody did come forward reporting him as missing, she would be unable to pass on any details of his whereabouts as it wouldn't be fair on his new owners. I pointed out that sometimes cats go missing from one part of the country to end up miles and miles away because they have hitched a lift or been taken deliberately. My argument fell on deaf ears as she was adamant that if prospective owners thought the cat might be reclaimed she wouldn't be able to rehome anything. I reasoned that if you had lost a cat in Cornwall, you wouldn't necessarily think to advertise in Yorkshire but to no avail. So, can I please, please appeal to breeders to tell you clients about the rescue service and pass on the telephone number. I know that in the great scheme of things we don't get that many 'lost' or 'found' cats, but this is another example of how a microchip would be invaluable as a first line of defence and if people were only aware that I keep a register of missing or rescued cats, we could save a lot of heartache.

My telephone number is Worcester (01905) 830685 and if I am not there, leave a message on the answerphone.

Fliss Jolley

Some comments upon cats:

'The smallest feline is a masterpiece.'

Leonardo da Vinci

'Animals are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time.'

Henry Beston

'A Man has to work so hard so that something of his personality stays alive. A tomcat has it so easy, he has only to spray and his presence is there for years on rainy days.'

Albert Einstein

'Dearest cat, honoured guest of my old house
Arch your supple, tingling back,
And curl upon my knee, to let me
Bathe my fingers in your warm fur.'

Francois Lemaitre

PROMOTION OF THE TONKINESE TO PROVISIONAL STATUS

1-06-2000

First of all I would like to congratulate you on gaining promotion for the breed to Provisional Status – I know many of you have put in a lot of hard work and have persevered for quite some time to gain this promotion.

Well, now the Tonkinese have Provisional status what exactly does it mean as far as showing is concerned?

What it means is more hard work and quite a different system regarding the judging on you cats.

The Assessment Class for the Tonkinese will no longer apply. Adults, Kittens and Neuters will each have an Open Class which will be split into Male and Female if entries permit. All shows must split their Adult and Neuter Open Classes into Male and Female if both sexes are entered, but it is not yet a rule that Kitten Open Classes have to be split into sex. (There are still a few shows that do not split the kitten Open Classes but these seem to be in the minority).

All cats in each Open Class will be judged to the standard of Points and against one another. The placings in Open Classes normally go down to fourth place. If a first place is awarded in an Adult or Neuter Open Class, the judge will then decide whether to award the certificate. Provisional Status means an Intermediate Certificate can be awarded. If the certificate is awarded then the judge will decide between the male and female, who will be given the Best of Breed. Best of Breed CANNOT be awarded if the certificate is withheld. Likewise, Best of Breed cannot be withheld if the certificate HAS BEEN awarded. A judge can withhold certificates if in their opinion the cat is not worthy on the day. In the Standard of Points there are various faults listed for withholding awards which the judges use as their guidelines. Do remember that judges will be more strict with the breed now it has reached Provisional Status. Even if a judge awarded a Merit in the past they may not think the cat worthy of an Intermediate Certificate, as this is a higher award than a Merit. (As a Challenge Certificate is higher than an Intermediate Certificate).

Kittens are not awarded Intermediate Certificates but if they have won their Open Class they will then be considered for Best of Breed against the opposite sex, if classes have been split. A judge can award a first place but decide to withhold the Best of Breed if they feel the winning kitten/s do not comply enough with the Standard of Points.

The good news is you will not have to supply a copy of the Standard of Points with your show entry anymore. Also, if best in Show is held, Tonkinese can now be considered if nominated or awarded best of Breed depending on the show and how they run their Best in Show.

Show shows ask Judges to nominate a Cat, Kitten and Neuter from the classes they have judged, normally the Open Classes, and some shows automatically consider all Best of Breed winners for Best in Show. At the Supreme all Best of Breed winners are considered and therefore Tonkinese will now be eligible to be considered for Best of Variety Provisional Breed if they have been awarded Best of Breed.

Once at Provisional Status you will not receive the individual critiques at the show anymore but will either have to speak or write to the judge to get their comments, or subscribe to Cats Magazine which publishes all the show reports. The reports normally start appearing 4-6 weeks after the show and will include Open Class reports 1st down to 4th placing and Miscellaneous Class reports down to third place. Unless it is the Breeders Class the critiques will only be for 1st and 2nd place with the 3rd place named only.

As far as new judges coming on to the Tonkinese list are concerned, from 1st June 2000 they will have to apply to become Probationer Judges which is an official training programme, monitored by the Tonkinese Breed advisory Committee. Only if the Committee believe the Probationer to be of satisfactory standard will they then be promoted to Full Judges. At the moment all Tonkinese judges are Full Judges who have judged on at least one other breed list for at least 2 years and they are able to judge Adult, Kitten or Neuter Assessment Classes. Once promotion takes place they will remain full judges being able to judge Adult, Kitten or Neuter Open Classes, but Probationer Judges will only be able to judge Kitten open Classes.

Promotion to Provisional status still means a lot of hard work for you all as the next stage is to work towards Championship Status. To gain this at least 20 cats will have to have been awarded 3 Intermediate Certificates from 3 different judges. So your continued support is still needed to keep numbers up at shows and to win those certificates. Also, initially all colours/coat patterns will be in the one Open Class, but if enough different colours/patterns are shown the BAC can put figures to GCCF Council to split the Open Classes into different colours/patterns. However, to do this they have to prove there are enough cats being shown to warrant the splits. If you can obtain some of these splits before reaching Championship Status it will mean there will be more opportunity of winning Championship Certificates when promotion is granted. This is because when a breed is promoted to Championship level initially the classes are those which are provided at Provisional level.

So keep it up and hopefully all your hard work will finally be awarded with obtaining Championship status in the future and at last having some titled cats.

I hope this explains the changes clearly and wish you all the best of luck and am looking forward to judging some of your lovely cats at their new status.

Maria Chapman

With regard to the problem of trying to find a hotel in Bristol for the weekend of the show – all hotels were booked for Rugby World Cup. When I was enquiring if the Travel Lodges along the M4 had a room for me and 'der boys' (Bruno and Buster) I was told that only one pet was allowed in each room – and apparently the hotel staff check! I thought the following was therefore very apt:

SMALL HOTEL

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote, "I would very much like to bring my cat with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who said, "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a cat steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a cat in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a cat run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your cat is welcome at my hotel, and if your cat will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."

I NEVER KNEW I COULD FEEL LIKE THIS

I never knew I could feel like this.

Yesterday I was responsible for the death of Pi. I know she was ill. I know she wasn't happy. I know it was the right thing to do. So why do I feel like this? I feel as if I'd murdered her. I keep wondering if she might have rallied if I had given her more time. I'll never know now. Maybe that's why I feel so awful. Well, that and knowing I shall never see her again.

She was just 24 hours old, the first time I held her, a squawking bundle of fur. As she grew, she developed the Siamese voice and traits of her mother and the black and white coat markings of her father! Born the wrong side of the blanket was my Pi! So here we are nearly twenty years later and she's gone. Where did all that time go!

They say the first three days are the worst and it seems like a lifetime stretching ahead of me.

Fortunately time does pass and I must agree that by the time day four arrived, I was beginning to think that I *might just* get through this.

That was January. By November I was really feeling that it was time to fill that gap. This time I wanted a 'posh' cat, but which breed? I have always loved the Siamese coat pattern and those blue, blue eyes just make you melt, but these days they are breeding them a bit too typey – a bit long in the face for my liking. However, a cat is for life and I wanted to be sure that I was going to have the right one for me. I bought the cat magazines and saw the National Cat Show advertised. This seemed the ideal opportunity to have a good look at every possible breed. I don't think it's any good just looking at kittens, there's no such thing as an ugly one! You have to see the adults so that you know what they are going to look like when they grow up. So I dragged Jan and Mel, my sister and her husband – both cat lovers, up to London to the show. We had a ball! Wall to wall cats. We though we'd died and gone to heaven! Every time I saw a cat that I really liked, I got the details and Mel took a photo for me. (With the owner's consent, naturally!) The Siamese was still top of my list for all the reasons already given, but look – a colour point Persian. Really gorgeous but all that grooming! And here's a colour-point British Shorthair – so lovely but a bit stocky for my liking. I knew I was in trouble when I saw a lilac Burmese, then a Burmilla and an Asian smoke – and those little Devon Rexes have the sweetest little faces I ever did see! And what about these Tonkinese! They are really something! Like I said, I'm in trouble! I came out of there with piles of info and photos. Far too much really!

Over the next couple of months I sifted through the photos, bought more cat books and magazines and generally read all about the different characteristics of each breed. March found me down at the Wessex cat show in Poole. Today I make up my mind! And I did – about ten times actually. I walked round and round again seeing every cat – and in every cage was the one I wanted! This is no good! Back to the beginning. I took a structured approach this time, eliminating a breed for whatever reason. By the time I'd gone round a third time, I had decided the Tonkinese was the one for me. The personality and looks were exactly what I was looking for. This was a definite decision. All I had to do now was find one – well, two actually, because I'm out at work it wouldn't be fair to have just the one. And I wanted girls, and they had to be sisters! I tell you, I knew what I wanted and I was going to love them to bits.

Over the next few weeks, all my spare time was spent on the phone or travelling round the South of England visiting people who bred Tonkinese! Very few people had litters at that time, but were happy for me to come and see their cats and have a cat-chat. *Everyone was so nice.* Eventually I met a lady who had two Tonkinese sisters left but was a bit concerned as they were a bit on the small side. This didn't worry me as long as they were healthy – they'd soon grow!

As I counted the days to collection day, I bought all the right food, toys, bedding – you name it, I had it. My girls were going to have everything. I'd arranged a week off work and collected them on the first day of my holiday. The little chocolate girl, Sam-shu, was very good in the car but that lilac one, Cassi, was a nightmare! Still, I thought, she'll get used to it. Wrong! She's never got used to it! Anyway, we arrived home and I set the carry-case down in the kitchen. Very carefully, they both slithered out of it and went behind the kitchen door and sat on the pedal bin and stared at me. They looked so sad! I showed them where all the facilities were, including the restaurant and the wash-room – especially the wash-room! After much nudging, each one seeming to dare the other to move first, they started to investigate, but sticking together like glue! I suppose it took all of one day to settle down! In no time they were having a ball, chasing each other upstairs, downstairs, back up again, round the back of the bed, over the bed and off downstairs again. And not quietly either! It sounded as if I had a herd of elephants stampeding around trashing the joint! After a while, they would jump into their radiator cradle and after giving each other a jolly good wash, they'd wrap themselves into one ball and go to sleep. It was heaven to watch them and I'd spend ages doing just that. I'd sit on the floor in front of the cradle and gently stroke them. Immediately, without moving, they'd start purring so loudly. It was fantastic.

I never knew I could feel like this.

Nicki Stevens

TORTIE TALES

Hello, I'm back again. I had a break last issue – bad case of writer's claw (or is that cramp?)

We've had a fairly busy year so far, what with one thing and another. Mum took us to Reading in June – there were lots of people there talking 'Tonk'. It was fun, but Tay nearly let the side down when he tried to return his food! And I got pulled around by some judge people. They were in disguise (no white coats) – but that didn't fool me. I'm not called 'Cleva Clova' for nothing.

I suppose one of the highlights of the year was when Tay became a 'media star' – courtesy of Mum's camera and Panacur. I'm quite proud of him really, but I don't tell him that – there's only room for one ego in this family.

Me and Tay went on holiday again this year – plenty of sunshine and good food. Tay made friends with a dog while we were away – he would sit there chatting to it. I didn't have the heart to tell him it was deaf!

Mum says next year the three of us will get a house with a garden. And me and Tay will have our won special house in t he garden – just like cousin Tam. Perhaps we'll invite him round for tea one day.

Anyway, time to say goodbye. See you in the next millennium – when Torties will rule the world!

Clova .

—

AQUATAY ANSWERS BACK

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Clova's big brother. Mum's at work and Clova's asleep, so I decided to put paw to keyboard and set the record straight.

If you read 'Tonkinfo' last year, you may be under the impression that I'm not quite as bright as my little sister. Well, you're wrong! I'm just a bit more reserved. I'm full of confidence as long as Mum or Clova are with me.

Anyway, I'm quite famous in my own right. How many of you have been photographed with a TV star? And now, as one of the 'faces' of Panacur 99, I can be seen in various magazines and vets' surgeries across the UK. Mum says it's because I'm a handsome lad - and I can't argue with that!

I used to go and spend some time sitting in a white show cage like Clova, but I didn't like it when the people took me out. What did they expect when we're always being told not to go with strangers? Anyway, now I get a day out sitting in a posh cage and I'm happy as Larry.

Recently I've heard that nearly every Tonk in Britain will be at next year's Somerset show. Well - so will I. And there will be a rosette there with my name on it - how many of you can say that?

On that 'controversial' note, I'll say goodbye!

Tay.

WORDSEARCH - no prize this issue, just something to amuse you. Find the word that is not included in the square.

Abyssinian	Angora	Asian	Bengal	Birman	Black
Blue	Bombay	British	Burmese	Burmilla	Caramel
Chocolate	Cinnamon	Colourpoint	Cornish	Cream	Devon
Exotic	Foreign	Kitten	Korat	Lilac	Manx
Merit	Moggy	Ocicat	Oriental	Pedigree	Persian
Queen	Red	Russian blue	Self	Siamese	Singapura
Somali	Tabby	Tom	Tonkinese	Tortie	White

A	B	Y	S	S	I	N	I	A	N	I	A	N	A	M	R	I	B
P	L	A	S	I	N	G	A	P	U	R	A	M	N	O	V	E	D
M	A	B	L	A	C	O	L	E	U	L	B	E	N	G	A	L	I
A	C	M	O	R	E	R	E	D	R	Q	E	K	I	T	T	E	N
E	K	O	E	T	N	I	O	P	R	U	O	L	O	C	R	C	I
R	Q	B	A	R	C	E	C	A	Q	E	S	H	A	L	H	D	W
C	U	T	D	H	I	N	I	F	L	E	S	R	T	O	M	H	U
Q	E	S	O	N	H	T	C	B	I	R	A	R	C	V	I	P	E
K	N	C	S	N	I	A	A	Z	U	M	N	O	A	T	A	N	L
T	O	R	T	I	K	L	T	Y	E	R	L	N	E	G	P	G	X
L	M	R	E	O	A	I	S	L	X	A	M	A	N	X	E	I	H
I	A	X	A	X	R	N	N	I	T	U	D	I	O	N	R	E	S
L	N	N	P	T	O	T	B	E	A	Y	S	S	L	R	S	R	I
A	N	Y	B	B	A	T	I	L	S	M	G	A	E	L	I	O	T
C	I	L	A	M	O	S	I	E	U	E	E	G	B	C	A	F	I
W	C	O	R	N	I	S	H	C	R	E	S	S	O	K	N	A	R
P	E	D	I	G	R	E	E	R	G	D	E	S	E	M	R	U	B

TONKED

Tuckered out. Nothing but stress and challenge all day long. No sooner is an elegant leg stretched mid morning and an eye languidly opened into our sun-filled patio, than some irritating pesky fly finds its way in and dominates the serenity with its infernal buzzing. Naturally, it must be silenced and who do you think has to get up and do it? Sometimes it takes me a good half hour to track the danged things down and afterwards I'm exhausted. One job always leads to another, and whilst I'm demonstrating my fighting skills, I invariably come across an upholstered chair which is showing signs of recovery from a lifetime's clawing and is beginning to look respectable again. As you'd expect, I feel responsible for bringing it back to it's original state of decay and so I have to stop what I'm doing and give it a jolly good clawing. Do you know, if I don't watch them on a daily basis, some of these chairs actually repair themselves! I try to keep up but a chap's work never seems to be done.

Then there's the shopping. Heavens, the amount of bags that woman brings into the house which have to be dived into and demolished! You would not believe a family could need so much food. It seems that every other day she arrives back from Tesco's and there they are; bags strewn all over the place that have to be got into. If I have time, I give them a thorough chew to make sure they're completely unusable.

Oona (that's my sister, the lilac tortie) says the one thing that completely does her in is looking after the washing. Well, that's her task. I've certainly got enough on my plate. What's with this family? Surely there must be washing on this line three or even four times a week. I can quite understand Oona's dismay. As soon as she's jumped up - principally on the sheets - to inspect them, away they are whisked and then they come out again an hour later! And she has to start all over again! Poor girl, I have to sympathize with her.

Or I would, if I had the time. But I'm on garden duty. Making sure our toys aren't completely submerged beneath all these plants that are constantly going in and coming out of the earth. Do you know, I found Mr Wiggly-Worm nearly buried underneath a heap of geraniums last week! Lucky I saw him and dug him up. Even the Old Girl was delighted with my diligence because I heard her screaming with joy. You just can't leave these humans for five minutes without them getting into some trouble or other.

Well, onto the point. Oona and I knew the stress was going to continue and we had to devise some way of coping with it. Quite by chance, a rather handsome Burmese called Rupert who visited recently - amazingly laid-back and relaxed sort of chap he was - put us onto Yoga and we've not looked back! I suspect Oona secretly fancied him but that's another story..... Anyway, he showed us a few exercises and we've since heard he's got a book out. Yoga's done wonders for our overloaded systems and we hope these exercises will help any fellow-fractious-felines in need.

Our first exercise is called Savasana and will prepare you for your Asanas (the stuff that follows). Now lie on the floor and inhale and exhale deeply three times. Have the lights dimmed. *Completely* let go. Try to clear your mind of all stress.

Think about a special day where you had nothing to do (rare, I know, but do your best) and could just laze about in the sun all day. *Feel* that sunshine on your fur! Breathe deeply. Now stretch those long legs! Stretch!

And R E L A X.

Now you're ready for your Asanas. This next exercise is called Aswini-mudra. In your own time, go into the bathroom and find a toilet roll. It needs to be a nice, soft, big expensive one - reject anything that says Value or Economy. Lie on your side with the toilet roll grasped against your tummy by your four legs. Taking in a deep breath, kick furiously with your back legs. Just *feel* the work out in those thigh muscles! Exhale. Now again, really kicking away as hard as you can. *Breathe*. You'll know you're doing it right if hundreds of shards of toilet roll fly up in the air and float down to cover the carpet. Continue with this exercise until the toilet roll is completely destroyed.

And R E L A X.

Our third exercise includes your human. It's called Uddiyana and is excellent for stretching those front leg muscles. We've found it best to use the element of surprise with this one where the Old Girl's concerned because she screams with such delight that it makes the whole thing so much more enjoyable for everyone. Place yourself at the back of your human, silently spring up onto her shoulders and hang from your front paws. Really grip with those front claws fully extended! Feel that stretch in the front legs! *Breathe.* Our Old Girl really loves this exercise and shouts out with glee everytime we do it. If she's holding a cup of tea or washing up, so much the better. The exercise is a marvellous work out for the whole body. Actually, probably for the Old Girl's as well as yours. Take advantage of doing this exercise whenever you see the opportunity.

And R E L A X.

Give these exercises a try and see if you feel better. In even the busiest feline's day, there's time for a moment of relaxation and you owe it to yourself to find it. Remember, Stress can Seriously Damage your Health.

About the author: Freddie is a substantially large, very handsome, one year old Red who lives with his sister, Oona in Docklands, London. He won the Tonkinese Kitten Cup in 1998 and appeared on Exhibition at The National last December. One of nature's true extroverts, his hobbies include decimating net curtains, mercilessly hunting down moths, and kissing strangers.

Maggie Hutchinson



Things Cats Must Try to Remember

Just because Mummy's new gloves have rabbit fur around the cuff, it doesn't mean that I can shred them to bits.

The birds are NOT stealing seed from the birdfeeder.

I will not roll my toys behind the fridge or under the sofa and stare impatiently at my humans until they retrieve them for me.

I will not eat the dog's food.

I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.

I will not lay in wait and attack my owner's feet as they head for the bathroom at 2 am.

The toilet bowl is not a source of fresh drinking water.

The Christmas tree does not have roots and will fall over if I attempt to climb it.

I will not lick my human's face at 5 am on Sunday morning or walk on them after I have used the litter box.

The living room curtains are not to be used for climbing exercises.

Never walk on the kitchen counters when my humans are home, always wait until they are gone before exploring.

The cat carrier is my friend and does not always signal a trip to the Vet.

I will not agitate Fido while he is sleeping. He does not like to be awakened by me pouncing on and biting his neck as hard as I can.

THE TRUTH

Noted Judge.....	He put up our cat
Respected Judge.....	He put up our cat twice
Esteemed Judge.....	He puts up anything that crawls
Specialist Judge.....	Puts up anything that looks like his own breeding
Shown Sparingly.....	Only when we had it in the bag
Show Prospect.....	He has 4 legs, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 tail
Finished in 5 shows.....	And 89 where he failed to win a ribbon
He has good points.....	His head is shaped like a carrot
Won in heavy competition.....	The others were revoltingly overweight
Quiet gentle natured.....	After 4 valiums
Personality Plus.....	Wakes up if you put catnip up his nose
Large boned.....	Looks like a Clydesdale
Good bite.....	Missed the judge, got the steward
Lovely head.....	2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 mouth, 1 nose
Gorgeous Hard Coat.....	If the hair spray lasts until the class finishes
At stud to 'approved' queens.....	Those queens whose owners's cheque 'clears' the bank
Linebred from famous champions.....	Ch Whoozitz appears twice in 6 th generation
Terrific breeding queen.....	Her conformation is the pits, but she throws big litters
Great stud cat.....	Mounts anything that can fog a mirror
Loves children.....	For breakfast, lunch and dinner
Wins another Best In Show.....	His second, under the same judge, our uncle

Both the above were found by *Linda Vousden* on her internet wanderings

CHRISTMAS LAMENT by Berilleon Pluto

I'm a lonely little Devon
Sitting under the Christmas tree;
Everyone's so busy,
They've got no time for me.

I tried to steal the turkey
And got stuffing all over my face;
Mum was absolutely furious
So now I'm in disgrace.

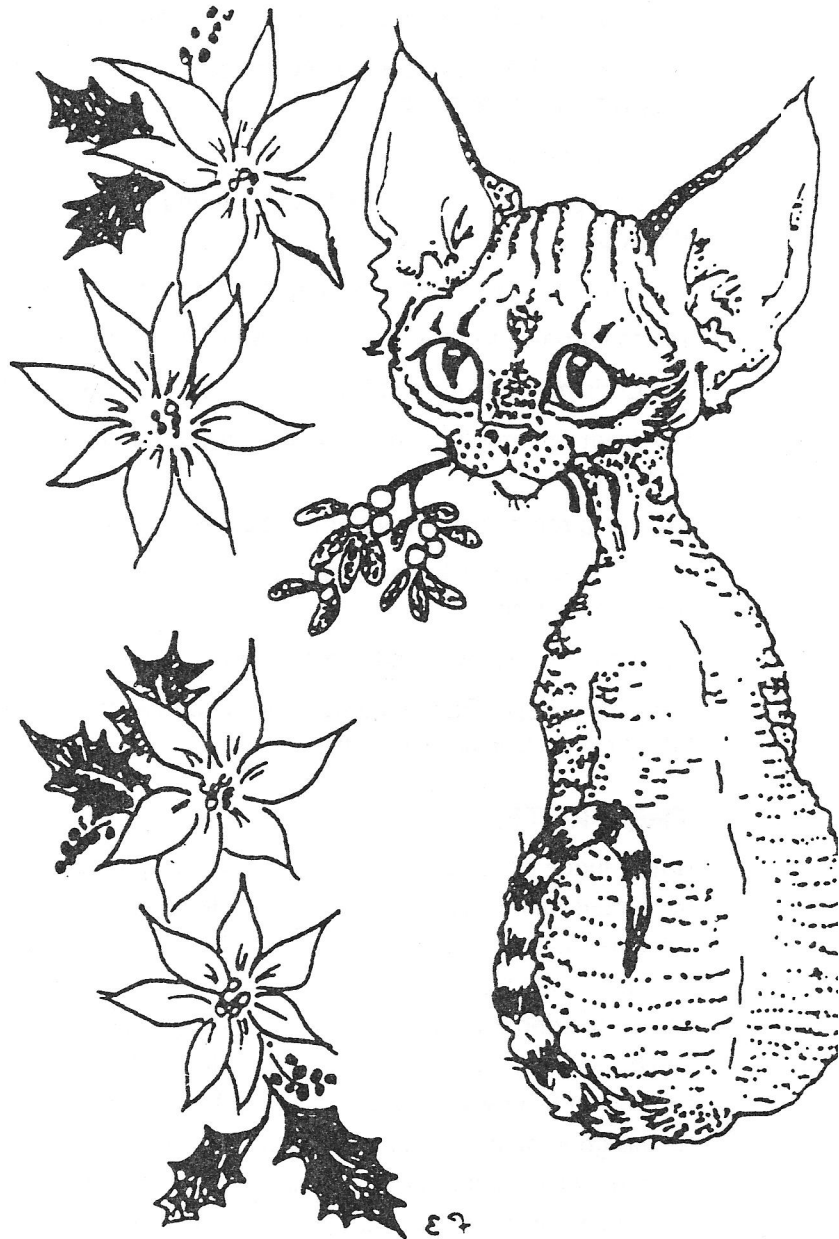
I'd like to nibble a mince-pie
But they've been put away in a tin.
Now Mum's locked the larder door
So I can't get in.

I wanted to help with the cooking
But Mum said firmly 'No thanks.'
It's no fun being a Devon
If you can't get up to pranks.

I tried to arrange the holly
And pricked my paw so it bled;
Then Mum saw the blood on the carpet
And I daren't repeat what she said.

I thought I'd climb the Christmas tree
And be the fairy on top;
But I was caught halfway up
And so I had to stop.

So I'll just sit here with this mistletoe
Until someone notices me
And gives me a hug and a kiss,
Because that's how Christmas should be.



Editor: Thank you, Maggie (Chitty) - Pluto could be a Tonk for the antics he gets up to! I reckon you'll be a slave to a Tonkinese yet!

Inbreeding in Cats

DR T.J. GRUFFYDD-JONES, DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Inbreeding is a controversial subject to breeders of all types of animals. It is viewed with suspicion by many breeders, while others maintain it forms the basic cornerstone for the improvement of breeds.

A working definition of inbreeding is that it is a breeding system utilising matings of related animals. The closeness in the relationship between the two partners and the degree of inbreeding in their backgrounds will determine the intensity of inbreeding. This degree of inbreeding can be mathematically defined as the coefficient of inbreeding.

There are several systems of mating which employ the principle of inbreeding. The closest mating, which therefore provides the greatest degree of inbreeding, is brother to sister - or sib matings as it is known. Father-daughter and mother-son matings also represent close matings. In practice, however, such close matings seem to be seldom utilised by cat breeders and a milder form of inbreeding is employed in the form of half brother-sister matings and matings of cousins.

The use of a closed-stud system is probably the most frequently encountered breeding system which entails inbreeding. The degree of inbreeding will depend primarily on the number of studs kept. Linebreeding constitutes another mating system, although its exact meaning is uncertain. It is generally accepted that it involves concentration on a particular outstanding specimen of a breed, the object of the system being to transmit as much as possible of the 'foundation animal's' genetic characteristics to future generations. Linebreeding is carried out by mating back to the 'foundation animal' the best of subsequent generations of its offspring - ie in the second year the 'foundation animal' would be mated to its daughters or sons, the following year to its grandchildren, etc. Linebreeding necessarily entails a strong element of inbreeding.

Inbreeding has certain basic genetic consequences and to understand these an elementary understanding of genetics is necessary.

The outward appearance (or phenotypic make-up) of an animal depends on its genetic characteristics (or genotypic make-up). The genes are the basic units in the study of genetics and they are found on the chromosomes. Most cells in a cat's body, but not the eggs or sperm, contain nineteen pairs of chromosomes within the nucleus and many thousands of genes are found on every chromosome, each occupying its own specific position. Each gene is responsible for or contributes to a certain characteristic in a cat. Over a

period of many years genes have mutated, the new forms being termed alleles. So a particular characteristic, determined by a particular gene, will depend on which allele is present.

Although most cells contain nineteen pairs of chromosomes, the eggs and sperm are produced by division of 'ordinary' cells and, therefore, contain only nineteen chromosomes. The normal complement of nineteen pairs is regained once the eggs and sperm have fused following fertilisation. So the tom, through his sperm, and the queen, through her egg, both contribute half the genes and chromosomes, or in effect the genetic make-up of the new cat. This means that for a certain position on the chromosome pair, which is equivalent to a certain characteristic of the cat, there will be two genes, one from the father, the other from the mother. The alleles present on each chromosome may be the same, in which case the cat will be termed homozygous for that gene or characteristic, or different, termed heterozygous. If they are different the appearance may be determined by one dominant gene or allele which masks the other recessive gene or allele, or the appearance may form a compromise between the two alleles.

This may appear clearer if related to a specific example. There is a gene which determines coat length. The allele which produces longhair is recessive to shorthair. Therefore in all Longhair cats the allele found in the gene position determining coat length will be the long-haired allele on both of the two chromosomes, ie the coat is homozygous for the longhair allele. However, a Shorthaired cat may not necessarily be homozygous for the shorthair allele. It may have the shorthair allele on one of the chromosomes in the pair, but the longhair allele on the other - ie it is heterozygous. However, since the shorthair allele is dominant to the longhair allele the cat will have the phenotypic or outward appearance of a shorthair, and could be said to be 'carrying' longhair.

This is a very simplified example of how a particular characteristic is determined by alleles and genes. In practice, however, the situation is far more complex. This is for a number of reasons:

1. Many more than one pair of genes may contribute to any one particular characteristic. From our example we learnt that shorthair is dominant to longhair. But this is very much an oversimplification of the situation. In practice there are gradations of hair length - the pedigree Longhair has a much denser, longer coat than the

mog Longhair, while the length of coat varies considerably in Shorthairs. This is because many other genes undoubtedly modify and contribute to hair length.

2. One particular gene may have more than two alleles. For example, there are more than two types of Tabby allele. There are the Abyssinian, the Blotched and the Mackerel Tabbies.
3. There may not be complete dominance of one allele over another and they may instead modify each other's effect. The two alleles which affect body colour and pointing - the Burmese and Siamese alleles - provide such an example. Neither allele is totally dominant to the other and, if they are both present in the same cat, the Tonkinese coat pattern is produced.

The main genetic consequence of inbreeding is that it leads to an increase in homozygosity. In other words it will tend to 'fix' characteristics whether good or bad and, therefore, can be considered to have both potential advantages and disadvantages.

ADVANTAGES

The establishment and continuation of pedigree breeds of cats necessitates inbreeding to some extent. This is particularly true of relatively new breeds which have increased rapidly in numbers, such as the Bengal and Singapura. In such circumstances there will be a limited choice of breeding cats, or genetic pool from which to draw and in considering the early stages of the development of new breeds inbreeding plays an essential part in the fixation of particular characteristics.

The increase in homozygosity, which results from inbreeding leads to a conformity in the appearance of the offspring. This factor may be employed to produce a strain of cats with marked familial likeness.

So the main objective of inbreeding is to transmit and fix outstanding characters. To achieve this goal it is necessary to start with excellent stock - cats which show no obvious faults, since these will inevitably be fixed in the same way as good points. In practice, however, few breeders will employ inbreeding exclusively as their mating system but will incorporate an element of selection in the choice of pairings.

DISADVANTAGES

There are inherent potential dangers in the use of an inbreeding system and these have led some breeders to dismiss such a system as unsatisfactory. However, many of the potential disadvantages of an inbreeding system can be turned to advantages if rigorous attention is paid to culling unsatisfactory animals from the nucleus of breeding stock.

1. Congenital Abnormalities

A number of congenital abnormalities are considered to be hereditary and there may be many more which are transmitted genetically but which do not occur

such abnormalities will be apparent at birth. For example, a young kitten initially may be able to compensate for congenital heart abnormality but, as it matures, clinical signs may become evident due to an increased load on the heart. It is also important to remember that not all congenital abnormalities are hereditary. Developmental abnormalities are seen as a result of interference with the growth of the foetus by substances taken in by the mother during pregnancy. Griseofulvin is thought to be such a teratogenic drug and kittens born to queens treated during pregnancy have shown a variety of defects. Many of other drugs may possibly have similar effects.

Hereditary congenital abnormalities may result from recessive genes. They would, normally be masked and would appear only infrequently as a result of haphazard matings. However, inbreeding would tend to bring such hidden defects to the surface though its effect of increasing homozygosity. This need not necessarily be a disadvantage since it unmasks such faults and enables the operation of remedial action.

2. Reproductive Performance

The antagonists of inbreeding often claim that it leads to decreased reproductive performance and so-called inbreeding depression. However, this is not so much a fault of inbreeding in itself but a failure in its application.

There is a temptation for cat breeders (as with breeders of all types of pedigree animals) to over-emphasise the importance of type, conformation to the standard etc. with consequent neglect to temperament, healthiness and reproductive performance. The latter factors must be considered particularly carefully in the selection of breeding stock if utilising an inbreeding system since any failure will be rapidly exacerbated.

Consistently small litter size is becoming an increasingly common problem in some lines of cats. Not only will this have a direct influence on reproductive performance, but very small litter sizes may have unwanted effects in other ways. If the litter size is very small the foetal hormonal production may be inadequate to maintain pregnancy and may lead to problems in initiating parturition in the normal way.

Much experimental work on the results of inbreeding has been carried out on mice since they have such a rapid reproductive rate. It has been shown that by selecting for litter size the reproductive performance can be improved after many generations of sib matings - representing the most intense degree of inbreeding.

There are several ways in which inbreeding and selection can influence reproductive performance.

a. Number of eggs released: Naturally an increase in the number of eggs shed after mating will increase the potential litter size. It is well recognised that

different breeds of cat have considerably differing rates of egg release and consequently litter size.

b. Increase in 'egg wastage': Many genetic combinations of egg and sperm will be incompatible with life. Some of these may be seen as still born or fading kittens but probably a higher proportion will be weeded out at an earlier stage. This phenomenon is termed 'egg wastage' or early embryonic death. In just the same way that the incidence of congenital abnormalities may increase with inbreeding as a result of greater homozygosity so the number of unsuitable eggs may rise.

c. Reproductive abnormalities: Many causes of reproductive failure such as hormonal imbalances, congenital anomalies of the genital tract etc. may have an hereditary basis. Such faults are likely to be brought to the surface by inbreeding but this does enable the breeder to prevent perpetuation of such faults.

d. Inadequate placentation: Animals have an ability to recognise foreign material and direct their body defence against such matter. This forms the basis for the resistance to infection by bacteria, viruses etc. A remarkable situation exists during pregnancy. For some unknown reason the mother does not recognise its egg as foreign material during the early stages of pregnancy. The egg, therefore, is not rejected or destroyed. However, at a later stage the uterus begins to 'react' to the 'foreign' developing foetus and this reaction forms the basis for formation of the placenta. It has been suggested that as the foetus becomes more similar genetically to its mother, as would be expected to result from inbreeding, so this uterine reaction becomes less marked. This may eventually lead to failure of formation of the placenta and hence foetal death.

3. Resistance to Disease

There is an increasing trend in veterinary medicine to think of the host and not just the ineffective agent when considering infectious diseases. The reason why infections vary in animals may depend on the different response of the animal rather than the infectious agent. In short, some animals may have

better natural resistance to certain infections and this could account for apparent breed dispositions for certain diseases. It is very difficult to confirm such a suspicion since so many factors are involved in the study of epidemiology or the spread of disease.

An important example, possibly particularly relevant to Burmese breeders, of genetic factors affecting disease susceptibility is FIP. There is increasing evidence that genetic factors play a crucial role in some cases in determining whether or not an individual cat will develop FIP disease.

If there is some genetic contribution to disease resistance then inbreeding and selection, if used judiciously, could lead to 'healthier' cats or, onversely, if neglected in the choice of breeding stock could lead to greater disease problems. It is, therefore, imperative that healthiness should be one of the most important considerations in choosing breeding cats.

In conclusion, inbreeding is an essential part of the production of pedigree cats and the improvement of breeds. I doubt whether there are any breeders who do not inbreed to some degree, however mild. Inbreeding does lead to fixation of characteristics so it is important to start with the finest stock and to pay careful attention to the elimination of animals showing undesirable features from the breeding stock. It is also necessary to emphasise the importance of selection for temperament, reproductive capability etc. The ultimate aim of all breeders is to find the right blend of inbreeding and selection.

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING: *Genetics for Cat Breeders*, R. Robinson, Pergamon Press, London, 1977 3rd Edition.

This article originally appeared in the FAB Journal, many thanks to Dr Gruffydd-Jones for letting us reprint it.

DIET FOR STRESS

This diet is designed to help you cope with the stress that builds up during the day, especially as Christmas approaches?

Breakfast:

- 1 grapefruit
- 1 slice wholemeal toast
- 8 oz skimmed milk

Lunch:

- 4 oz lean grilled chicken breast
- 4 oz steamed spinach
- 1 cup herb tea
- 1 rice cake

Mid-afternoon snack:

- The rest of the rice cakes in the packet
- 2 cartons Haagen Daas ice-cream, nuts, cherries and whipped cream
- 1 jar hot fudge sauce

Dinner:

- 2 loaves garlic bread
- 4 cans or 1 large jug Coke
- 1 large sausage, mushroom and cheese pizza
- 3 Snickers bars

Late evening news:

- Entire frozen Sara Lee cheesecake (eaten directly from freezer)

Rules for this Diet:

1. If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories
2. If you drink a diet drink with a chocolate bar, the calories in the chocolate bar are cancelled out by the diet drink
3. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you do not eat more than they do.
4. Foods used for medicinal purposes NEVER count, such as hot chocolate, brandy, toast and Sara lee cheesecake.
5. If you fatten up everyone else around you, then you look thinner.
6. Movie related foods do not have additional calories because they are part of the entertainment package and not part of one's personal fuel.
Examples: Fruit Gums, buttered popcorn, pizza, hot dogs, crisps
7. Broken biscuits contain no calories. The process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
8. Things licked off knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something.
9. Foods that have the same colour have the same number of calories.
Examples: spinach and pistachio ice cream; mushrooms and mashed potatoes.
10. Chocolate is a universal colour and may be substituted for any other food colour.
11. Anything consumed while standing has no calories. This is due to gravity and the density of the caloric mass.
12. Anything consumed from someone else's plate has no calories since the calories rightfully belong to the other person and will cling to his/her plate. (We ALL know how calories like to cling!).

REMEMBER: STRESSED SPELLED BACKWARDS IS DESSERTS

Back to the subject of food, if you have a sweet tooth you may like the following. I first encountered this when I went to grammar school for my 6th form years and was converted from preferring savoury food to almost cadging (no, let's be quite honest, I begged!) this off my school friends when it was on the lunch menu. Try it and see what you think.

GYPSY TART

Ingredients: Small tin of evaporated milk
0.5 lb of soft brown sugar
Sweet pastry case

Method:

Put the tin of evaporated milk in the fridge overnight. Next morning pour contents into a bowl and whisk until over normal size, add the sugar and beat again.

Put basin back in fridge – preferably overnight but for several hours at least.

Rebeat the mixture, pour into pastry case and bake in 'slow' oven at the bottom until a skin forms over the top. Serve.

NB – it should serve 4 but it depends how piggish you want to be!!

I don't particularly like Christmas cake as it is too rich, but this is quite simple to make but still enjoyable for its convenience:

Microwave Fruit Cake

<u>Ingredients:</u>	A	B
	14 oz mixed dried fruit	1 egg
	6 oz dark brown sugar	8 oz self-raising flour
	4 oz margarine	
	1 tsp mixed spice	
	6 fl ozs water	

7 inch microwave-able cake dish – leave ungreased

Method:

Put all ingredients from column A into the cake dish. DO NOT MIX.

Give the dish 3 mins on full power and then mix well.

Add the egg and SR flour (column B) and mix well.

Microwave on full power for 10 minutes. Leave to stand as long as possible before serving.

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.