

Clarinath Nightshadow (Boomer)

Owned and bred by Mrs Carol Poole,
Lilac Tonkinese male, sire of many beautiful kittens.
BIS 1996, BIS Neuter 1998

Notes from the Editor

This edition of Tonkinfo is dedicated to the memory of Carol Poole, the chairman of our club, who sadly passed away recently. The front page photograph of Clarinath Nightshadow, a.k.a. Boomer, is a small tribute to Carol's hard work and dedication to the advancement of the Tonkinese breed in the UK.

As always, I would be delighted to receive any stories, articles and photographs you would like to see published in the next edition of Tonkinfo. My address and contact details are in the committee list overleaf, or you can e-mail contributions to tonkinfo@tonkinese.co.uk.

Jane Tyacke

Cat Quotes

"There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast."
(Unknown)

"Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this."
(Anonymous)

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."
(Jeff Valdez)

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ton³inese
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CAROL POOLE VN BA(Hons)

(Clarinath Tonkinese)

It is with deep and personal sorrow I must tell you that Carol Poole, our Chairman, passed away on Sunday, 12th August, after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. Such was her commitment to the Club and the Tonkinese that most of you didn't know how ill she was.

I first met Carol in 1991 and we became very close friends, sharing so much of our lives. I admired and respected her for the characteristics that others saw in her. She was honest, forthright, loyal and caring; she was passionate about her family and about her cats. Carol was a person of strong beliefs that never conflicted with her open-mindedness. She always took pleasure in the success and happiness of others.

For many years Carol was the practice manager at the Farnham Veterinary Clinic in Slough and I know personally how well respected she was by the vets, staff and clients there; and also at the Langford Veterinary College in Bristol where she had many friends. How many of us have reason to be grateful to her for her knowledge, skills and moral support?

It was only this year, with the retirement of her husband Chris, they moved from Maidenhead to their new home in Devon - looking forward to a more relaxed way of life and enjoying the easy access to the moors that Carol loved to walk with her dogs. Carol and Chris celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with their daughters (Wendy, Angela and Jessica) and many family members in July. Besides the Tonkinese, Carol had so many interests in life including riding, her garden, antiques, bell-ringing, music, nature and her love of the fantastic. Her prefix, Clarinath, was chosen for the bronze dragon in the Anne McCaffrey books that she enjoyed so much. One of her most beautiful cats, Clarinath Nightshadow (known to all as Boomer) was the Club's first Overall Best In Show winner. Boomer sired many lovely kittens, ensuring that the Clarinath prefix will be remembered in the UK history of the Tonkinese.

Carol worked hard to help the Tonkinese progress along the right path, work that we all benefit from today. She was one of the founding members of the Club, joining the Committee in 1994, and since 1997 has been the Club's most effective Chairman. Carol was also the Secretary of the Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee. There is no doubt that both groups will miss her dedication, expertise, advice and companionship. She was not a person who sought a high profile so her hard work was sometimes underrated, but her presence will undoubtedly be missed.

Deepest sympathies are extended to her husband Chris, and to all her family and friends. She has touched many people's lives. I know she would wish you all health and happiness.

Linda Vousden

TBC Show 2001

The Club's 10th Anniversary Show, on 3rd November at Bristol, will be dedicated to Carol's memory. We hope you are there to help us make the show a memorable one.

Hon. Secretary's Report

This has been a year none of us shall easily forget. There can be very little to say about the events of September 11th that hasn't already been said. The horror and sorrow that we feel is profound.



Linda Vousden

Unfortunately, this has not been the best year for many of us. Besides the loss of our friend and colleague, Carol, some Committee members (including myself) have had to deal with various issues that have occupied a great deal of our time. So we ask your indulgence for the lateness of information this year. In fact for the past two or three years we've been asking members to consider standing for Committee - an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm is both desirable and necessary. Please consider supporting your Club in this way. If you are interested send your nominations to me before 28th February (a simple letter, signed, proposed and seconded is adequate). If you would like to talk the idea over with me, to find out what's involved etc., then you're welcome to call me on 0118 9619444.

and now for something completely different

I trust that many of you are reading this at the Club show on November 3rd, that you are having a good day and have volunteered half an hour of your time to help out in the kitchen, on the door or on the Club/Raffle table etc. Many hands make light work!

This is the last time our Show will be at this venue. I am delighted to tell you that we have been granted approval to move our 3rd Sanction Show (2002) to the Bracknell Leisure Centre, Berkshire. Those of you who've been to the Kensington Kitten & Neuter CC show will already be familiar with this venue. Three shows will be held at the Leisure Centre on the same date (the Kensington K&N CC, Bengal & Ocicat Club and Tonkinese Breed Club) we'll share the hall and facilities with the Bengal & Ocicat Club but ours will still be a separate show. Clearly there are many advantages - no more queuing up outside for vetting-in, good parking, catering facilities, licensed bar, very close to Bracknell for shopping etc. The venue is easily accessed from the M3, M4, M40 and M25. We'll share the expenses of hall, vets, judges and printing fees with the Bengal & Ocicat Club. Also, we have many judges in common with the Bengals and Ocicats. An added perk is that those of you who wish to show two different breeds (Tonk & Russian for example) can do so on the same day e.g. TBC Show and Kensington Show! The date is yet to be advised.

A final piece of good news is that for 2002 we have been granted an Open Class split of colours (into two groups - 1 = Brown, Blue, Chocolate, Lilac and Caramel 2 = Red, Cream, Apricot, Tortie, Tabby & Tortie-Tabby). Sanction and Championship show colour splits are entirely dependant upon attendance at previous shows (and we are just 1 show away from Championship) so join us in 2002 to help boost our attendance figures for the future!

All that remains to be said now, and I take great pleasure in doing so, is -

Have a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous
2002!

"... an injection of new ideas and enthusiasm is both desirable and necessary. Please consider supporting your Club by standing as a committee member."

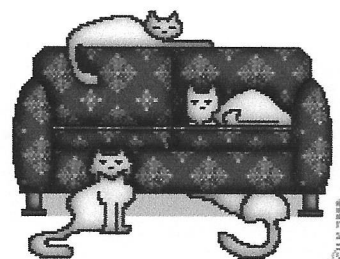
Show Results

While completing your subscription renewals (form enclosed with this issue) don't forget that this is the time to start collating your show results. Send your results to Brenda Rawlinson (see Committee list) before the end of February in order to be eligible for an award at the April AGM - remember we are still collecting results for our application to have the Tonkinese promoted to Championship status!



You Might be a Cat Person if.....

- you cut your after-work activities short just so you can get home to see your cat.
- you sleep in the oddest positions, just so you can accommodate your cat, even if he/she chooses to plonk itself in the middle of your bed.
- sleeping with your cat and getting stray particles of cat litter from your cat's claws in your bed doesn't bother you.
- when you're telling a friend about having to take the cat to the V-E-T, you whisper and your eyes dart furtively around the room to make sure your kitty isn't within earshot.
- you cried more than the cat did the day you dropped him at the vet's to be neutered.
- you feel naked if your clothes aren't covered in cat hair.
- you plan your schedule around your cat.
- you take your cat everywhere because you, I mean she suffers from separation anxiety.
- you have more cat toys than clothes.
- you get a fish tank and fish as pets for your cat.
- you call your own answering machine just so that the cats can hear your voice.
- your cat has more say than your spouse.
- you don't need an alarm clock, because your cat wakes you up before the alarm clock goes off.
- you've stopped caring about the amount of fur on your clothing on the rare occasions when you actually go out in public.



Catastrophe

Charles Carroll
Tells the story of how
Catastrophe became
part of the family.

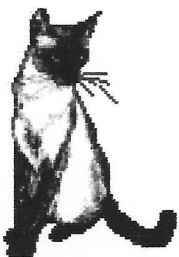
(reproduced by
kind permission of
the Old-style
Siamese Club)

This story begins with a tragedy: we'd bought two Tonkinese kittens from a breeder in Oxford, but before they were not much more than 6 months old, one of them had died, apparently poisoned by something she ate. We never found out what had done it, despite incredibly exhaustive tests while she lived and a careful autopsy. Her sister was well and happy, but we felt bereft, and were excited when the Tonkinese breeder told us she'd found us a Siamese, born only a few days later than our Tonks, who was in need of a home as he had been left behind when his litter mates found homes. The Tonks had walked in and instantly made themselves at home, we expected the same thing with our new Siamese. *However...*

The book said a healthy, happy Siamese cat should be affectionate, vocal and eager to eat. As I pushed cat food through a hole in the bathroom floor at 2 o'clock in the morning two thoughts occurred to me: first, the book was wrong; or second, despite appearances to the contrary, the animal currently hiding under the floorboards was not a Siamese cat. Perhaps some sort of large mole. Either way, affection didn't seem to be very high up its list of priorities. As for my list of priorities it looked like this: 1) Sleep, 2) Get cat out from under floorboards, 3) Send it back to breeder. I went to bed. Since our Tonkinese was called Calamity, it seemed only natural, and appropriate, to call the newcomer Catastrophe. When we first met him at the breeder's cattery in Oxfordshire he was a big purring bundle of fur. We were assured he was the most affectionate, well-behaved, charming, child-friendly cat that ever set foot in a litter tray - even the local mice liked him. So out came the chequebook and ten minutes later Catastrophe was in the back of the car heading down the M40.

Introducing new cats to the Carroll household has never been a particularly difficult affair. Generally we put the box on the floor, open the door and wait for the newcomer to emerge inquisitive and eager to explore its new surroundings. So we waited. And waited. Then we lost patience and gave him a little encouragement. I now accept that this process might have been handled a little better. His exit from the box would be familiar to anyone who has seen a Pershing missile launching from a nuclear silo. He shot across the kitchen floor, rose several feet in the air, bounced off the microwave and landed on a work surface before realising he was in a corner with nowhere to hide. In a textbook display of what not to do I lunged after him, a gesture he clearly misunderstood, ten seconds later he was behind the oven. I turned to my wife, "Are they meant to do that?" For Catastrophe it was a case of 'any port in a storm' and if he'd had a chance to think it through he probably wouldn't have opted for the back of the cooker, but that night he put right his mistake by heading for the bathroom. The following morning we looked behind the cooker and - horrors - he'd disappeared.

Most of Day Two was spent with mounting panic searching for the new hiding place. Needless to say, underneath the bathroom floor was not the first place we thought of looking and nor was it the fiftieth or the ninetieth. In fact it was only as I threw my socks in the laundry basket at the end of the day that I saw the small gap where one floorboard fails to meet the wall. I put my socks back on and went to find a torch. There is no dignity involved in searching for a missing cat. I grovelled on the floor with the torch in one hand and a mirror in the other trying to reflect light round a corner to get a clear view of the space between the joists. Just out of arm's reach a pair of red eyes stared back.





Catastrophe (2)

It would be going too far to say that they looked smug, but something about the situation told me that the cat had the upper paw. I might control the food and water supplies, but the eyes said "I've only got to do one poo down here and you'll have to take up the whole floor." I tried to tempt him out with food, I tried to drag him out by force, I even thought about trying to starve him out, but in the end I went to bed. Twenty minutes later I was asleep and he popped out for a snack.

This went on for the next three weeks. Every night he would wait until he was sure everyone was asleep, then he'd creep out for a bite to eat before crawling back under the floorboards at first light. Eventually in desperation I went to bed with a screwdriver under the pillow and pretended to be asleep. Sure enough, out he came and while he was downstairs I whipped out the screwdriver and closed the hole. Siamese can get quite angry can't they?

His new home was under the bed. This was an enormous step forward! Now we could see our new cat without lying on the bathroom floor with a mirror. But he became adept at staying hidden behind something so we finally abandoned the attempt to win him over, accepting that we had bought a Siamese cat that simply didn't like us. Christmas came and went, then one morning in January we were woken by a yowl from under the bed. After four months, two weeks and three days our cat had spoken to us. Joy unbounded! Perhaps he'd finally decided we weren't trying to murder him and he was going to be a bit more friendly. We jumped out of bed. He hid. But the relationship had moved into a new phase: the 'under the chair' phase. Catastrophe gradually began to annexe new territory. From his power base under the bed he colonised the bedroom chair, then the washstand and finally on one momentous occasion we walked into the room to find him sunbathing on the duvet. There are few pleasures in life greater than seeing your cat in the daylight for the first time in five months - even if it is only for three-quarters of a second. The annexation continued. During spring whole rooms were conquered and daylight forays became commonplace. Still, whenever he encountered a human he would go into retreat.

Then came the 'gay period'. For reasons best known to himself he eventually decided to allow me to touch him. I didn't kill him and I think he was encouraged by this. In due course he even deigned to be picked up, but still wouldn't let my wife, Kate or three year-old daughter anywhere near him. Kate announced that he must have certain latent tendencies and suggested it was high time he visited the vet. In truth, this was something that should have happened months earlier, but there had never been a hope of getting him into a box. So after being cruelly tricked in an episode I still don't like to talk about, he was taken to the vet where our concern and affection for him was demonstrated surgically. It's possible this may have changed the way he viewed us. Conceivably his little pussy brain might have thought about the experience and concluded that if other people behaved like the vet then perhaps his new owners weren't so bad after all. Whatever it was, by degrees he became more and more bold until one night last month he walked into the sitting room, yelled at us and sat down on my lap purring. From there the relationship progressed by leaps and bounds. He started going outside and more importantly, coming back again. He now insists on being present at my daughter's story time each night and demands to see the pictures. He's also taught Calamity how to rip up the stair carpet.

So what have we learned from the last nine months? Well for a start, if the book says introduce your new cat to the household slowly then that's what it means. Secondly, and I can't stress this too highly, nail down your floorboards before you let a Siamese into the house. Thirdly, if you want to avoid all this trouble, get a *Tonk*.

Finally, if you do happen to find yourself with a Siamese trapped under the bathroom floor, try reading it 'The Three Little Pigs' - they seem to like it!



Some Common Skin Problems.

Alison Ashford

*An informative article
about common skin
problems from the
President of our club.*

Providing a cat is given regular, daily grooming there should not be ANY problems with the skin. However, occasionally problems WILL present themselves, and it is for these unfortunate owners that I am writing this article.

The skin of a cat varies in thickness from .37mm. to 1.9mm. It is more pliable and elastic than is the skin of dogs, and is composed of two distinct layers, the epidermis (outer layer), and the dermis, or inner layer. Because it is so thin, it is easily damaged or infected, although the coat protects the cat to a great extent. White cats are sensitive to the sun, their ears becoming easily affected by the sun. Because of this sensitiveness, white cats should be kept indoors during the summer months, unless their ears are protected by one of the sun-screen creams.

Most infuriating of all the skin diseases, because there is now no definitive treatment, is CHEYLETIELLA. This is a very irritating rash that occurs when the mite is burrowing its way into the skin. It is one of the few diseases that is zoonotic, i.e. it can be passed to and from humans to cats. In fact my Vet said that when he suspected the mite infestation, it was easy to diagnose by asking the owner to strip!!

When an infestation is suspected, it can definitely diagnosed by a skin scraping, which can be examined microscopically for the presence of the mite. If it IS present, the problem is to find a drug which is effective AGAINST the mite. At one time a dusting of ALUGAN powder would quickly dispose of the pests, but now the E.E.C. has ordered that it may no longer be used, so (unless owners have access to the powder!) eradicating the mite DOES represent a problem. My own Vet now advises a good bath in Fairy Liquid, a thorough dry, and then the application of FRONTLINE (made by Rhone Merieux). I am fortunate not to have had the wretched mite recently, but I am sure that Frontline is effective.

'Stud Tail' is another common and annoying skin complaint which affects both males AND females. It is a form of acne, which affects the areas of skin at the base of the tail and under the chin, although other areas CAN be affected.

Basically, this is a disease in which the hair follicles of the chin, lip, and base of spine become clogged with keratin and sebum, and there is a slight area of alopecia. Occasionally the area will become infected with Pasteurella or streptococci or staphylococci, and pustules develop. It is important to keep the area spotlessly clean, by the use of detergents, or, if pustules are present, by cleansing with a topical application of Chlorhexidine. This should be continued, three or four times a week for several weeks. If the area is really infected, a Vet should be consulted, and he will probably prescribe an antibiotic.

A more serious condition is caused by immuno-suppression. This is commonly known as Rodent Ulcer, with the most commonly affected areas being the mouth and the base of the tail. In these areas the hair disappears and there is red-brown ulceration of the skin, with raised borders sometimes covered by a hard crust. Lip ulcers are not usually irritating. Such ulcers are, OCCASIONALLY malignant, but this is not usual.





Some Common Skin Problems. (2)

These ulcers will often heal NATURALLY, but very effective treatment can be given by cryosurgery (surgery by deep-freeze technique). After this treatment the condition does not recur. Psychogenic Alopecia is a fairly rare condition in which patches of localised baldness occur on the back, thighs abdomen and genital areas. Found most often in Siamese & Abyssinian breeds, the condition is thought to be caused by stress and anxiety. It is important to discover the cause of the alopecia before starting any treatment. Usually, a tranquilliser, such as Diazepam will be effective. This is given twice daily for three weeks. Sometimes a 'mood modifier' such as Megestrol acetate will help the cat to relax and the condition will clear.

Finally, I come to Ringworm, or Dermatophytosis, to give this unpleasant skin disease its correct name. I can remember catching Ringworm from a little cat which had been given as a wedding gift in my first marriage. This large red ring appeared in the centre of my Forehead, like a tribal caste-mark! I was very conscious of it, but, since the Cat Fancy was unknown to me, the infection soon cleared, using only an anti-fungal cream, and nobody worried. How different it would be today! One part of the Cat Fancy which I do NOT admire is the section which becomes completely hysterical about such things.

Of course, it is due to a small faction which uses the knowledge of the disease as a form of blackmail on poor, unfortunate breeders who are honest enough to acknowledge that they have a problem. So, once the cats have been treated, the owners most probably need a course of psycho-therapy! It really is no joke, but I do not know HOW to treat it

As most cat owners know, the first signs of Ringworm are constant scratching of the skin around the neck and ears. The hairs fall out, leaving a small, hairless area on the head and legs, In the centre of these rings there MAY be a small, crusty area 'like cigarette ash'. When ringworm is suspected, ALL cats from the household should be checked by the Veterinary Surgeon. Brushings from each cat should be taken, and sent to a laboratory which is known to check for Ringworm. Examination beneath a Wood's lamp is NOT sufficient, as not ALL the types of Ringworm fluoresce under the lamp.

These tests may take up to a week, which seems an endless time to the anxious owner, but it is necessary. If the cat is positive, the WHOLE cattery must go into isolation, with strict precautions being taken. It would take a complete chapter to write about these, and I think these should feature in another issue. Once Ringworm has been diagnosed, the entire Cattery must remain in isolation for the better part of a year, so, it is only by being completely honest that we can eradicate this disease. The Feline Advisory Bureau is presently working on a possible Ringworm vaccine, but it is proving to be a very difficult task. My Vet has told me that one single hair can remain infected by Ringworm for up to FIVE YEARS! This is a frightening thought, and I do hope that readers will take the matter seriously. Extreme care must be taken when disinfecting premises. I still believe in using Formalin Gas. This is easily done, but it could be dangerous in the wrong hands. For the benefit of those who would like to try it, here are the directions:-

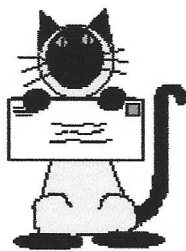
Required: 4 fl. oz. Pure Formalin (Formaldehyde)
1 oz. Potassium Permanganate Crystals

Method: Remove all flowers and living things from room to be treated. Seal under any doors or windows Place large Pyrex bowl in centre of floor. Into this place crystals of Potassium Permanganate. Pour onto these the liquid Formalin..... and RUN!

The gas is quickly produced and gets into every crack and cranny, killing all it contacts. Leave the room closed for at least 12 hours, longer if possible. I have used this over the years and rely on it completely.

Good luck to you all!

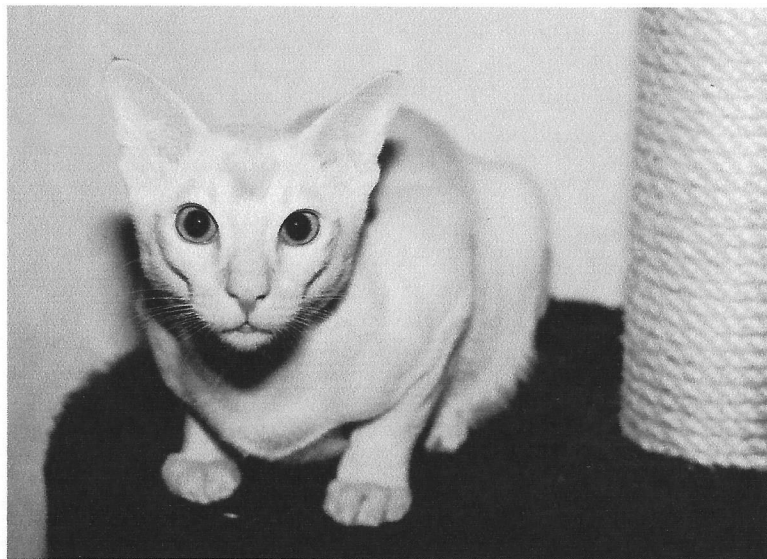
The Gallery



This is the second appearance of 'The Gallery', a new feature, specifically designed to give all Club members a chance to show off their beautiful Tonks. This space is **not** reserved for show cats only, if you know that your Tonk is a shining star, and want the rest of the Club to appreciate him or her, just send in a photo!

Come on, what are you waiting for! I will return all photos after scanning as long as a SAE is enclosed (for address and e-mail details see committee section).

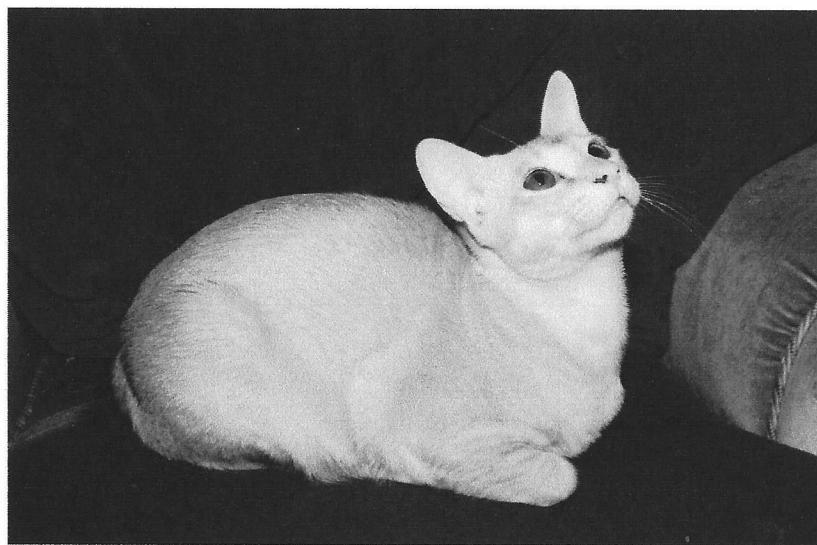
Jane Tyacke



Tonkitu Persimon, aka Bertie (74d)

Thanks to Jenny Queen for sending in these lovely pictures of her two red boys, Bertie and Charlie.

*Owned by Mrs Jenny Queen,
Bred by Mrs Doreen Burke*



Tonkitu Titian, aka Charlie (74dqy)



Great Yarmouth takes a spratfall

Last August, cats in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk had a special treat: it rained fish.

A 'rain' of baby sprats covered the lawns of several terraced houses just behind Great Yarmouth's seafront. The phenomenon, which is surprisingly common, occurs when small tornados, or waterspouts, form over bodies of water. These suck up water - and anything in it, become airborne in a cloud, and then fall like rain when the cloud bursts. The Met Office has had reports of communities pelted with fish, frogs and even plants. So when your next seaside holiday is ruined by a thunderstorm, your cat might just be getting lucky!

RSPCA Backs Animal Sanctuaries Bill

A new bill will require regular licensing and inspection of rescue centres.

The RSPCA has today (2/8/2001) welcomed the launch of a new Bill that would require animal sanctuaries and rescue centres to be licensed and regularly inspected. Brigg and Goole MP Ian Cawsey (Lab) is to take a private members' Bill through the House of Commons which would close a loophole in the law that requires boarding kennels and catteries to be licensed, but not animal sanctuaries and rescue centres.

If passed, the Animal Sanctuaries (Licensing) Bill, launched today at an animal centre in Gilberdyke, Goole, would require the welfare of animals in sanctuaries to be monitored through regular inspections. The RSPCA has helped to draft the Bill. The RSPCA's chief veterinary officer, Chris Laurence, said: "We are delighted that Mr Cawsey has recognised the need for animal sanctuaries to be subject to closer supervision. All too often well-meaning people start animal rescue centres only to find they cannot cope with all the animals that come into their care and in the end it's the animals that suffer. Licensing would introduce minimum standards and would also protect the people running centres because problems would be spotted sooner and help could be given before the situation gets out of hand."

Give a Stray a Christmas Dinner

The next time you pass your veterinary surgery, pop in and see if they are taking part in the "Please, Give a Stray a Christmas Dinner" campaign this year. The campaign was highly successful last year. It aims to collect donations of cans or packages of dog and cat food for Christmas to help local animal charities to give cats in their care a special Christmas dinner.

Veterinary surgeons who have taken part in the campaign in past years have reported that pet owners are more than happy to make a practical contribution while the charities are highly appreciative of the extra food, at what is, regrettably, one of their busiest times of the year.

While you are doing your own Christmas shopping and happen to run into the Rotary Club collecting cans etc for the elderly, don't forget that they too have pets, and will often go without their own food in order to feed their pets - so as well as a tin of ham or peaches, why not pop a packet of cat biscuits into the collecting bins?

The above articles were trawled from the Internet by Linda



Advertisements

THE OLD-STYLE SIAMESE CLUB



The Old-style Siamese Club was founded in 1999 to support and promote the breeding of the old-style Siamese. Old-style breeders are specifically guarding against the over-typed look that has led to some serious health problems in the Modern Siamese in the USA.

One of our principal aims is to promote good relations between, and respect for, breeders of all types of Siamese cats. We wish to bring breeders of all Siamese together to share their knowledge and experience and work together to establish a sound, healthy gene pool for the future.

We support breeders and pet owners by providing stud lists, breeder and pedigree information, and by maintaining a kitten list and a newsletter for the exchange of views and news of the breed as a whole, as well as the old-style in particular. Recent publications include a reprint of the Chapter on Siamese from Frances Simpson's *Book of the Cat* (1903), a historical survey of the Siamese standard of points from the first one devised, a stud book with colour pictures of each stud and the true story of the travels and adventures of a Siamese with her owners as they crossed Australia.

We are affiliated to the Feline Advisory Bureau, pre-affiliated with the GCCF, and look forward to full affiliation. We encourage breeders to take a long-term view by placing health and temperament first in their breeding program, rather than compromising simply to achieve a particular type in the short term.

At present there are more than 75 breeders of old-style Siamese in the UK (some of whom have been breeding Siamese for nearly 60 years), and more than 35 old-style stud cats. We welcome all those who wish to support and maintain the old-style Siamese, those who show, and those who just love the Siamese. Non-members are encouraged to put their kittens and studs on our lists as our principal aim is to provide a service for those seeking these cats. Please send us your pedigrees for our Siamese database.

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Do you run a business or provide a service that other members of the TBC might be interested in? Why take the opportunity to tell your fellow club members all about it?

You can place an advertisement in the next issue of Tonkinfo for the extremely reasonable rate of £5 per half page of A4.

- Contact the Editor (see committee list) for further information. -



Your Cat's Guide to Computers.....

Cats are using computers more and more these days. As it turns out, computers are the perfect objects to sit on, rub up against, spit fur balls on, muck up with cat hair, and hiss at.

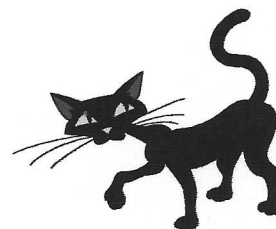
Forget the sewing basket with the spools of thread. Forget the laundry basket with shreddable tights. Computers are much more attractive. What more could a cat want than floppy disks to trounce, monitors to scratch, mouse pads to claw, and laser printers for yoga or acrobatics practice. And, unlike the common stereo or TV, computers have lots of sensitive electronic components that can be rendered inoperable by a single cat hair. And unlike mice, squirrels, or other cats, computers don't fight back. Computers hold other advantages for cats. Consider the prestige factor. Simply sit in front of one for a long time without moving and people will think you are a very smart dude. Try sitting like that in front of the refrigerator and people will start making jokes about you.

Maintaining Your Dignity in Front of a Computer

- Remember that you are a creature of beauty and intelligence. If the computer fails to cooperate, simply sigh and turn your head away ever so slowly. Maintain your dignity at all costs.
- Flip your tail at the computer's screen if it fails to adequately acknowledge your regal presence. Then gnaw its electrical cords.
- Never sit on top of the monitor. You may fall off. But do make sure to drop as much cat litter into its vents as possible.
- Never eat shrink-wrap. It's too hard to digest. Try disk labels instead.
- Never stick your nose inside a printer that goes "clack-clack" when it's going "clack-clack."
- While dropping a dead mammal on the keyboard when someone is typing usually never fails to elicit some kind of response, most humans will misinterpret the action. They will think you are offering them a token of affection, when what you are actually trying to tell them is that they should stop fooling around with the computer and go hunt for small rodents before they and their family starve.
- Never underestimate the power of stepping on someone when they're trying to use that stupid computer. Should they try to remove you from their lap, grab a lampshade with one paw, flail your back feet in their face, and mew your heart out. Eventually they will return you to their lap. They will apologize, pet you, and feel guilty for having taken you from your mother at such an early age.
- Don't let a human con you into thinking it's OK to stroke you with one hand while typing on the computer with the other. You want to be stroked with both hands! You are a direct descendent of the Egyptian cat-goddess Bastet and deserve no less. Should they persist in giving you only half their attention, rise up on your hind legs and position yourself so that your body obstructs their reach of the keyboard. Flap your tail in their face to make sure that they devote their full attention to you.
- Contrary to rumour, no one has ever lost a tail in a disk drive door. If people warn you that your hair is apt to short out the computer, ignore them. If it does, someone will fix it. If they don't, who cares?
- So what if a computer can perform 8 million mathematical calculations each second? You can sleep for 16 hours straight in a computer box. I ask you, who is the superior being?
- Unlike cats, computers are not perfect. You got here first.

If cats could write computer books, they would surely have a lot to tell us about these brutish machines with an insufficient amount of body fur to be truly stylish.

Here are a few tips from an anonymous Kitty.



Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the Coronavirus Titre Test

Julia Craig-Mcfeely
Sets out the known facts about Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the titre test.

(reproduced by kind permission of the Old-style Siamese Club)

This article has been prompted by some alarming misconceptions about FIP that are prevalent in the Cat Fancy and are being spread by repetition. Some of this misinformation has led to perfectly healthy cats being destroyed—only a part of the enormous harm done when false information is advanced disguised as fact. Rather than become yet another person 'talking through my hat' about this invidious problem, I have consulted the following sources which are easily available to members of the public:

- Feline Advisory Bureau Fact Sheet on FIP
- *A Guide to Coronavirus Antibody Test Results* Datasheet from Glasgow University Feline Virus Unit (where titre tests are carried out)
- My own vet
- Four breeders who have personal experience of FIP in their catteries
- One breeder who has a large breeding cattery including 3 studs, all of whom recently tested seronegative.

First, corrections to some commonly held misconceptions:

- **Coronavirus (FCoV) is NOT the same thing Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)**
- **The Antibody titre test is NOT a test for FIP**
- **Cats with an FCoV titre have NOT necessarily been in contact with FIP**
- Sick cats with a zero titre may still have wet FIP
- There is currently **NO ACCURATE TEST** on living animals for FIP
- The only accurate way of diagnosing FIP is by immediate post-mortem
- **Healthy cats with a positive titre DO NOT HAVE FIP, and are not necessarily shedding FIP or FCoV**
- Only 1 in 10 cats who come in close contact with FIP ever develop the illness
- **70-80% of all cats** have, or have had, FCoV
- Multi-cat households (i.e. more than three cats) are most at risk from FCoV and FIP, the more cats, the higher the risk factor
- There is no single FCoV, just as there is no single 'flu virus
- There is no such thing as a negative titre, only a zero titre, though a zero titre is sometimes referred to as 'seronegative'.
- FIP can be 'caught' in one of two ways: 1) by direct physical contact with an infected cat (e.g. mutual grooming), 2) spontaneously from the mutation of an otherwise harmless FCoV. Keeping your cats shut in and away from other cats is not a guarantee against FIP.
- There is some evidence currently under investigation that faeces of infected cats, or cats shedding FCoV or FIP can be infectious to other cats coming into contact with the faeces e.g. in a litter tray. Research is being directed to analysis of faecal matter as a way of possibly determining carrier status in otherwise healthy cats. **HOWEVER** this research is in its early stages and it is not yet known if it will be useful
- FCoV and FIP virus can be killed with ordinary household disinfectant



Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the Coronavirus Titre Test (2)

WHAT IS FCoV?

Feline Corona Virus is the name given to a family of constantly mutating viruses that usually cause a brief stomach upset (e.g. 12-24 hours) in infected cats. The vast majority of cats simply throw this off with no further side-effects, as they might any virus, by developing antibodies to it. In households of three or fewer cats, the virus will usually die out naturally. With more than three cats, it is possible for the virus to re-infect cats who have previously recovered. This is because of the mutation of the virus: by the time cat no.4 catches the virus, it has mutated sufficiently that the antibodies in cat no.1 are no longer effective against it, thus allowing it to go round and round the household indefinitely. It seems that in households of 3 cats or less, there is not sufficient environment for the virus to mutate. This continuous mutation is one of the reasons that there is currently no test for, nor vaccination against the virus. FCoV is neither lethal nor, of itself, particularly dangerous.

WHAT IS FIP?

FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) is a relatively rare mutation of FCoV: the virus that started as an infection in the gut mutates in an unusual way and invades the surrounding tissue, becoming FIP. Once this mutation has occurred, the disease is inevitably fatal. **HOWEVER**, since vets usually only see cats who have become ill, there is no evidence to say that some cats do not throw off the FIP mutation in the same way as they would throw off any other FCoV. Certainly the evidence from households where one cat has died of FIP but none of the others (no matter how close) have even developed the illness suggests that either some cats can throw it off, or that it is not nearly as infectious as many people fear. Many breeding or pet-only households have had a single case with no further problems in any cat.

There are two forms of FIP: wet and dry; wet is the more common type. In the wet form, the cat basically fills with fluid and it is very obvious when it is the gut that is affected because of the visible bloating. If the chest cavity is affected it is more difficult to see, but the cat will usually develop breathing difficulties from the pressure on the lungs. The dry form has more complex symptoms, including cloudiness in one eye - however, there are numerous other diseases that also have these symptoms, and there is no reason to suppose that a cloudy eye means FIP. There are many other symptoms: usually a high temperature that is unresponsive to antibiotics precedes the full-blown phase of the disease. The only way to be sure the cat has FIP is by post-mortem examination, as so many of the symptoms could also be caused by other diseases or conditions, and not all the known symptoms will occur.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF THE TITRE TEST THEN?

The titre test is a simple count of FCoV antibodies. A cat that has just recovered from a mild gastric upset caused by FCoV will show a high antibody count, and this will tail off over time unless the cat is re-infected or is in contact with a shedder of the virus. **Cats with wet FIP do not always show an antibody count at all (i.e. they can be seronegative on blood testing).**

The following is reproduced exactly (including all bold and italic stresses) from the *Guide to Coronavirus Antibody Test Results* and refers to titre test readings done on cats who are ILL. Note the fact that nearly every statement is qualified by words such as 'usually' or 'should', and that the titre reading for a cat with wet FIP is anything from **zero** to more than 1280. Clearly it is almost useless in diagnosing wet FIP. I don't pretend to understand all the terms here, but have reproduced them exactly for those of you who do understand them, and also because even with limited understanding this can have meaning for most of us (> means 'greater than' and < means 'less than').

Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the Coronavirus Titre Test (3)

Dry FIP

The anti-FCoV antibody titre should be 1280 or higher. A titre of less than 320 usually rules out dry FIP. Ocular lesions, a non-regenerative anaemia, an albumin : globulin ratio of less than 0.7 and an a -I acid glycoprotein (AGP) result of >1500 µg/ml should also be present before making a diagnosis of FIP

Note: Healthy cats with FCoV antibody titres do not have dry FIP.

Wet FIP

Antibody titres vary from 0 to >1280. The reason why a few cats have a titre of 0 is that antibody is bound to virus in immune complexes during the pathological process and is unavailable for our test. The total protein content of the *effusion* [i.e. fluid drawn from the body cavities] should be greater than 35 g/l, the albumin: globulin ration of the *effusion* should be less than 0.7 and the AGP of the effusion or plasma should be >1500 µg/ml. In addition, there should be <3 x 10⁹ white blood cells and they should be predominantly macrophages and neutrophils.

If in doubt, contact us to discuss the availability of further diagnostic tests.

Remember that cats with other conditions can coincidentally have anti-FCoV antibodies, especially those from multicat households or with a history of coming from a cat breeder/rescue organisation within the last 6-12 months.

There are various reasons why a cat owner may want to have the Titre test done on a healthy cat, but most usually this is because the cat has been in contact with a case of FIP or a FCoV excretor. The Glasgow datasheet gives the following warning:

In either case, make it clear to the owner before testing that it is very likely that the cat will be seropositive. Almost all cats exposed to FCoV become infected. Reassure the owner that this does not necessarily indicate a poor prognosis for the cat: approximately 9 out of 10 cats infected with FCoV will not develop FIP and many will eventually become seronegative.

The datasheet continues by giving advice either in the case of the owner getting new cats or regarding the prognosis for the surviving cats. To summarize: if the remaining cats are seronegative they will not develop FIP, and it is safe to bring a new cat into the household. However the new cat should be tested for FCoV antibodies to avoid re-infecting the household. If the remaining cats are seropositive "there is a low probability (about 1:10) that the cat will develop FIP" and it would be unwise to bring in another cat unless it also has antibodies to protect it.

Seropositive cats that do not come into further contact with FCoV will demonstrate a falling titre, and will lose their antibodies altogether in periods of 3 months to several years. This can be hastened in multi-cat households by completely splitting the cats into groups of no more than three until they are all seronegative—this means no contact *at all* between the groups. In a large household where some cats are seropositive and others are seronegative, then the seropositive cats are probably not shedding virus.

A cat can carry FCoV without showing any symptoms for a long time, only to have it emerge when the immune system is put under stress: e.g. during kittening or lactation with a breeding queen and at rehoming or neutering with a kitten or older cat. Many breeders find their kittens experience 'weaning tummy' which is diarrhoea that runs through a litter of kittens at about weaning time, or 5-6 weeks of age, which is coincidentally also the time that the maternal antibodies wane. Usually, the kittens suffer no more than temporary discomfort and possibly some slight weight loss, though occasionally the upset can be bad enough to require antibiotic support and additional fluids. This is not necessarily caused by FCoV, and even when it is, it rarely develops into FIP.



Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the Coronavirus Titre Test (4)

Some breeders only discover they have a carrier in the house when a kitten they have recently sold dies of FIP, either within 2-3 weeks of rehoming, or just after neutering. The kitten's underdeveloped immune system will not give it the protection that the adults in the household may have, and stress lowers the immune response further, allowing the virus to mutate. A significant body of evidence suggests that there is a genetic link to FIP susceptibility.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT FIP?

The Feline Virus Unit at Glasgow University is the centre in the UK for a study concerning FCoV and FIP. This is headed by Dr Diane Addie. She has a group of catteries who have experienced a case of FIP and/or who have seropositive households and these cats are regularly tested to provide her with research data. She is working on all aspects of FIP and FCoV, but obviously looking for a way both of identifying carriers and also finding an effective test with the end goal of a cure. If you are thinking of having your cats tested bear in mind that it tells you very little about FCoV and *nothing at all* about FIP if your cats are healthy.

In the USA a vaccine has been marketed, but tests showed that vaccinated cats are substantially *more* likely to develop the disease than unvaccinated cats, so it's back to the drawing board with that one.

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you have had a case of FIP or if you have FCoV seropositive cats, then you are not helpless. Firstly, a strict regime of cleaning and disinfecting litter trays will ensure that there is minimal contact between cats and the faeces of other cats in the household. Many breeders who have had one or more cases of FIP found that as soon as they instituted very strict regular disinfection both of the litter trays and the general environment the cases ceased. My vet thought this was irrelevant, but all those who have actually experienced FIP felt that disinfecting had made a significant difference.

There are a number of 'alternative' sources of help for seropositive cats: firstly there is the homeopathic nosode which some people use as a 'vaccination' against FIP, though it is unlikely that it is effective as such. No tests are available, and homeopaths are divided about the use of Nosodes for vaccination. However, the Nosode can be used homeopathically as a treatment for cats who have been in contact with FIP, and *may* offer treatment of the early stages of the infection and prevent it from developing fully. Herbal immune boosters have been available for some time and are widely used with good effect. Echinacea is the commonest immune booster, but I have found that a product called 'Immune Plus', which is a combination of vitamins and all the immune-boosting herbs is a superb pick-me-up for cats, and I always give it to queens following kitting. A human product called 'Moducare' has similar beneficial effects, and one vet found that it 'cured' a cat which he believed had FIP.

BREEDING AND FCoV

Breeding from seropositive cats, or cats who have been seropositive is not wrong, nor is it a recipe for FIP: FCoV is NOT FIP: Coronaviruses are rarely dangerous, usually causing a mild stomach upset. However, to be safe, you need only wait until all your cats are seronegative and you no longer have any FCoV carriers. Several unique and important bloodlines have been saved this way, without endangering anyone else's cats.

Several breeders have noticed a link between certain lines and a higher occurrence of FIP in the offspring, suggesting a genetic susceptibility to the FIP mutation of FCoV. For this reason, it is unwise to repeat a mating that has resulted in FIP offspring. The FAB fact sheet states that FIP seems to be more prevalent in the Burmese than in other breeds. Glasgow recommends that if a household is seropositive, only seropositive studs should be used, and similarly if seronegative only seronegative studs, to avoid introducing the virus into an otherwise clear environment. They also recommend early weaning and separation of kittens from their mother at around 5-6 weeks of age, stating:

This method has been found to be completely effective in producing FCoV-free kittens. However, some breeders prefer to isolate seropositive queens and retest them every 6-12 months until they become seronegative, before breeding again.

Feline Coronavirus, FIP and the Coronavirus Titre Test (5)

Breeding from seronegative cats is in itself fraught with difficulty: a cat with no antibodies is far more susceptible to FCoV infection if it comes in contact with a cat (such as a stud) that is seropositive, and most breeders do not routinely titre test either their queens or their studs. This has caused serious problems for some breeders who have found their cat populations to be seronegative. Since **the majority** of the cat population will have some antibodies to FCoV, having a seronegative breeding household is a cause for concern rather than a cause for celebration, as you could be faced with the prospect that if your cats ever came into contact with FCoV, they would have no natural antibody protection.

Here's an interesting comment on an e-mail cat list from a breeder in the USA:

My personal experience is that there is nothing to do to prevent FIP. I lost almost an entire litter about 3 years ago. All of the adults in my house were negative for coronavirus. No cat had gone in or out of my house from the time the female was bred until kittens started dying (not even to a show or a vet). I have not had a problem since. We have a saying here about it. "If you meet a breeder that tells you they have never had FIP in their cattery, they are either really new, or lying".

And the following comes from a summary of a paper given by noted U.S. veterinary researcher Dr. Neils Peterson at a conference of the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) at the University of California:

Dr. Peterson had an FCoV negative cattery of a number of research cats and suddenly got an outbreak of FIP - just as happens to breeders - and it was that which has led him to nearly 5 years research to find out why. He is still saying - like Dr. Ott before him - that breeders can expect occasional losses to this disease without any warning.

FINALLY

Don't take my word for it! If you need to find out about FIP for yourself (and the chances are that you will at some point) the sources are there, and the information is kept as up-to-date as possible.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- The Homeopathic FIP Nosode is available from Ainsworth's Homeopathic Pharmacy (they will post it to you the next day). Their veterinary advisory is Mr Pinkus, and you should discuss dosing and potency with him before ordering.
- Website: <http://www.ainsworths.com> (you can order online); Telephone: 0207 935 5330
- Immune Plus is obtainable from Acorn Natural Supplements - large capsules that can be pushed down the throat of an easy cat, mixed with water and syringed down a more difficult cat, or mixed with a treat food as it does not taste nasty. I have one cat who likes it so much he will happily crunch up a capsule if offered.
- Website <http://www.petsforlife.co.uk/itm00075.htm> (orders can be placed by phone or e-mail sales@acorn-supplements.co.uk); Telephone 01580 881333
- The FAB fact sheet can be downloaded free from the FAB
- Website: <http://www.fabcats.org> or by post: Feline Advisory Bureau, Taeselbury, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD (please include SAE).
- The *Guide to Coronavirus Antibody Test Results* comes from Feline Virus Unit, University of Glasgow, Veterinary School, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 1QH; e-mail Feline@vet.gla.ac.uk
- Other websites for FIP information:
- <http://www.newmanveterinary.com/fip.htm>



Paw Links

Here's another list of some of the **hundreds** of websites devoted cats available out there on the world wide web! Some are informative, some are just for fun, and a few are downright wacky!

Please remember that Information on all kinds of topics is freely available, but do make sure that you check the validity of facts on display, particularly in relation to any medical or veterinary information.

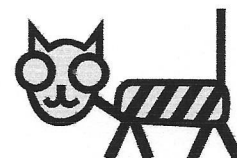
Jane Tyacke

- | | |
|--|---|
| www.thecatbasket.freeseve.co.uk | A site for 'cat people' everywhere! |
| www.everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-cats.com | The name says it all.... |
| www.catsarefrommars.com | You've heard of 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, right? But you never imagined it was just a "smokescreen" to throw you off the trail of the truth.... Cats Are From Mars! |
| www.catsunited.com | This web site is a tribute to cats all over the world and the people who care about them. |
| www.plants-and-your-cat.com | Get the facts on flora, fauna and your feline. Includes a list of plants poisonous to cats. |
| www.dogs-with-cats.com | A site providing advice and aiming to promote harmony in cat and dog households. |
| www.pets-and-life.com | This magazine site delivers interesting and sometimes humorous information about life with pets. |
| www.offthemark.com/cat.htm | A popular cat cartoon site updated daily. |

Don't forget to visit

www.tonkinese.co.uk

the TBC website





GCCF Code of Ethics

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.