

TONKINESE
BREED
CLUB

tonkinese

tonkinfo

OCTOBER 1993
Issue 5



TONKINESE BREED CLUB

President: ALISON ASHFORD

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Chair, Kitten Register, Recorder: MARY HODGKINSON
Grimspound, 38 Frensham Rd. Crowthorne, Berks. RG11 6OH
Tel: 0344 772939

Vice-Chair, Genetics Officer: TOMMY BISHOP
2 Rose Walk, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3DH
Tel: 0323 492732

Hon. Secretary: DIANA BISHOP
As above

Hon. Treasurer, Show Support Secretary: BRENDA GILL
12 Selsdon Avenue, Romsey, Hants. SO51 7PL
Tel: 0794 517842

Rescue Officer: PAULINE EARLEY
1 Rookery Lane, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hants. SP6 2DA
Tel: 0725 22339

Kitten Register: NELIA MACMAHON
25 The Quadrangle, Findon, West Sussex BN14 0RB
Tel: 0903 872326

Public Relations Officer, Editor of Tonkinfo: LINDA VOUSDEN
'Lansdale', 12 Robin Hood Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berks. RG11 5LX
Tel: 0734 791940

HELEN BARNES
55 Stone Barton Rd, Plympton, Colebrook, Devon PL7 4RL
Tel: 0752 347690

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership Secretary, Fund Raising: JILL MARTIN
Field Cottage, Belgrave Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HE
Tel: 0323 892183

SUSAN VOGT
85a Burrows Road, Kensal Green, London NW10 5SJ
Tel: 081 960 7696

TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair.: TOMMY BISHOP
see above for address

Secretary: SYLVIA CLARK
17 Poplar Road, Bishops Itchington, Leamington Spa, Warwick. CV33 0RG
Tel: 0926 612854

REGIONAL ADVISORS - see inside back cover

WELFARE OFFICER - DIANA WATERS
Furnace Lane, Broad Oak, Brede, E.Sussex. TN31 6ES
Tel: 0424 882129

CHAIR'S NOTES - Mary Hodgkinson

So, here is another Tonkinfo; firstly I am sure we all want to thank Diana Bishop for all her hard work on the editions we have had, and look forward to this one by Linda.

News of another 3rd generation litter elsewhere in this issue.

You may remember that we have been worried about breed numbers in pedigrees - well there are 675 cats registered as Tonkinese on the GCCF register, so now comes the job of checking! I know some of you are going to come to help with this, for which I am most grateful; any member who feels they have a few hours to spare, and would like to come to me at Crowthorne, I should be pleased to have more help - it could take six months to do.

I was glad to see so many lovely kittens at the Kensington show and hope they go on to other shows. I hope that those on 1, 2 or 3 merits will go on to their 4th as, of course, we need them to do. Also those of you who are breeders, especially those who hold a prefix, there is a declaration to sign for our next stage up - see Secretary's notes.

I think that is enough from me - so read on!

ED WRITES

DEAR MEMBERS, here is my first issue of the TBC magazine, I hope you enjoy it. I aim to produce 2 issues per year, the pre-Supreme issue in October and the pre-AGM issue in March, naturally there may be some teething troubles so please bear with me - I am open to ideas, contributions (written or drawn), and constructive criticisms - so start putting pen to paper! So that we all plenty of time to

write in, write up, publish and distribute the magazine on time, keeping it full and interesting, any items you wish to submit should really get to me 6 weeks before the issue month (limited space will be reserved for last minute urgent items). It takes a long time to prepare the magazine and a couple of weeks to copy, and distribute it - remember we are still amateurs with time and resources to match! Among other, regular, items I intend to list the issue numbers of CATS magazine which contain articles of particular interest - so you can send for those specific issues if you don't take CATS regularly. I will also include a 'diary date' section advising you of known significant events prior to the next magazine issue.

We are now three quarters of the way through the show year and as a Club we should be giving ourselves a hearty pat on the back with over 52 merits tucked into our collective belts and over 23 1st places in assorted side-classes (especially 'well done' to Helen Barnes's Sankabar Huxley)! It looks as if we'll have more Club Tonks at the Supreme than ever and hope for a good fistful of merits there. Speaking of shows the Club had a table at the Kensington show in Guildford (July) and did very well, thanks to all who helped - however it is hard work setting up and standing behind the table all day, especially if you have a cat to keep an eye on at the same time! So is there anyone who could help on the Club table at future shows, even if it is only for an hour or so? It would be most useful if we could have a list of people who are prepared to help so that we could occasionally call on you for future shows. I hope to list the shows at which the Club will have a table in the next issue.

NEXT MAGAZINE DEADLINE - 14/2/94

SECRETARY'S NOTES

As many of you know, we are already preparing our application for Provisional status; some of you have already signed the Declaration for breeders working with Tonkinese. We are handing these round at shows and shall eventually be posting to those we haven't managed to catch. There will also be a statement of Merits won and wins in side-classes to be filled in by each of you whose lovely cat/cats have won - I am waiting to hear from the GCCF what format they want for this. Mary is doing a incredible job on the records, I do hope as many people as possible turn up to help her. She wouldn't tell you this herself, but it's only because she is so well respected at the GCCF Head Office that we managed to get a computer print-out from them!

I am finding increasing co-operation and respect for our breed among judges and show managers - thank Goodness! For example Mrs Hewitt, when I paid our table fee (we made £110 by the way) after Kensington, where the Tonks had more kittens entered than any other foreign breed said 'You must be feeling happy now - the Tonks have really got there haven't they?'. This is thanks to all of you who put in the effort and expense to show.

Anne Bailey and George Gow's applications to join our approved list of judges have now been put forward to the GCCF by our sponsoring Club (Colourpoint, Rex Coated & AOV). The Club has given us such wonderful help we must try to make some return and are taking a TBC table at their show 23rd October (Lincombe Barn Folk House, Overdale Rd, Down End, Bristol) we hope all who can will come and support - hopefully bringing something to sell on the table! Don't forget 10% of all our profits now go to the TBC Rescue and Welfare fund. I hope we shall become as successful in this field as the Burmese Club.

At the Three Counties Show there was a beautiful Tonk, registered

as a Burmese and shown among Burmese. I was asked to confirm that this was indeed a Tonk, Brenda and Tommy and I were all agreed. We advised the owner to report this to the GCCF (I hasten to add that the breeder was not a Club member) and I've notified the Burmese Cat Club, assuring them that all our members will look out for any confusions or mis-registrations of this kind, either at shows or in advertisements, and report them. I also assured them that none of our members would dream of selling a Burmese variant as a Burmese, and would report any example of this that they came across. I gathered from the owner of the kitten at the show that this was probably a case of the wrong husband having got there first, but it was just the sort of confusion that some of the Burmese people have been very nervous about, which has made some prejudiced against us. So please be good detectives everybody. All the best to you and your lovely cats.

- Diana Bishop

LOOK OUT FOR ...

A centre page spread in Cat World featuring Nelia and John MacMahon's Adraysh Rickytx. Did you know that Cat World sell copies of their 'centerfolds' (50p) - they'll have some at the Supreme or you may write away for them.

MY 'AFFAIR' WITH THE TONKINESE

(Sylvia Clark - Tonkytime)

When asked to write something for Tonkinfo I thought I'd tell you a little about myself and how I became involved with the Tonkinese. I've worked in the Health Service for the past 33 years and last year decided to retire in order to spend more time at home, I still have a part-time job in a local nursing home. Ever since I can remember I've kept cats as pets but, until 3 years ago, I had never owned a pedigree

cat. Looking for a pre-retirement hobby I decided to try my hand at cat breeding; quite by chance I obtained a lovely cream Burmese kitten who quickly made us all her slaves - including my three non-pedigrees. Having read about Tonkinese I decided I'd like to have some, so I duly put Candy to a Siamese stud who lives nearby. In the fullness of time she presented me with six lovely kittens, three of which I sold, the others I kept, which proved a blessing as poor Candy became the victim of a car accident. So now I have three gorgeous, spoilt Tonky girls two of which have been spayed, the third I am hoping to breed with. When they were kittens I couldn't tell them apart but now they are completely different personalities. Thumbelina is the baby who had to be hand reared when mummy rejected her; she still jumps on the meal table, tries to eat from my plate and has to be persuaded into another room. I recently put her in an exemption show and was amazed to come home with 5 rosettes. Cybele is the naughty girl who has to be constantly rescued from the garage roof or the tallest tree and has also been found in the washing machine and the tumble dryer! Demeter is the quiet, shy one who has to be persuaded out from under the couch when the grandchildren visit. At the Supreme '92 she took one look at all the strange people and promptly retired behind the curtain at the back of the pen; strangely enough she is also the most affectionate one and sits happily on my lap watching her videos. The other two are much too busy getting into mischief. In August I am getting two more Tonky kittens from and I'm looking forward to introducing them to their new friends. Who knows, in the future we may even hear the patter of tiny paws again.

B A N G ! ! ! !

My cat, called Richard, used to go hunting in the field near our

house. There is a man that shoots in that field, he kills rabbits, deer or anything else that moves. One night Richard did not come back for his food and Daddy and Mummy went to look for him (I was asleep). Next morning quite early Daddy told me, I went out looking for him. Then we had to go out for the morning, when I got back Tammy, our old black cat, meowed and made me look under the chair and I saw Richard with a bleeding shoulder, his chest torn open. I called to Mummy and she said "No not really", then she came and saw. I ate my lunch quickly and then we took Richard to the Bookham Vets. He did not like it in his carrying basket.

When we got to the vet as we were an emergency case they saw us at once, we took Richard in and he said that he would have to go to the cat hospital in Dorking. Richard stayed there for three days! While he was in hospital his brother Henry walked round the fields looking for him. He got lost and we had to search for him. When we picked Richard up on the way back we let him free in the car. Henry wanted him to play but of course he couldn't. Then Henry saw his drain tube and hissed at it as if it was a snake.

Now the scar is invisible but Richard likes it to be scratched. He is afraid to go back to the fields on his own so he likes me to take him for walks now. I am also encouraging him to go to another field near by. Richard and Henry are beautiful pale cream cats and they look really lovely galloping through the woods behind me. I'm very glad that Mary Hodgkinson breeds such lovely cats.

- William Wallage, aged 10

[William, I am sure that all the Club members are happy to hear that Richard has recovered. It is awful to know just how cruel some people can be, I'm sure you will continue to be a happy, caring cat owner and thank you for your article.

- ED]



URGENTLY REQUIRED - YOUR HELP!

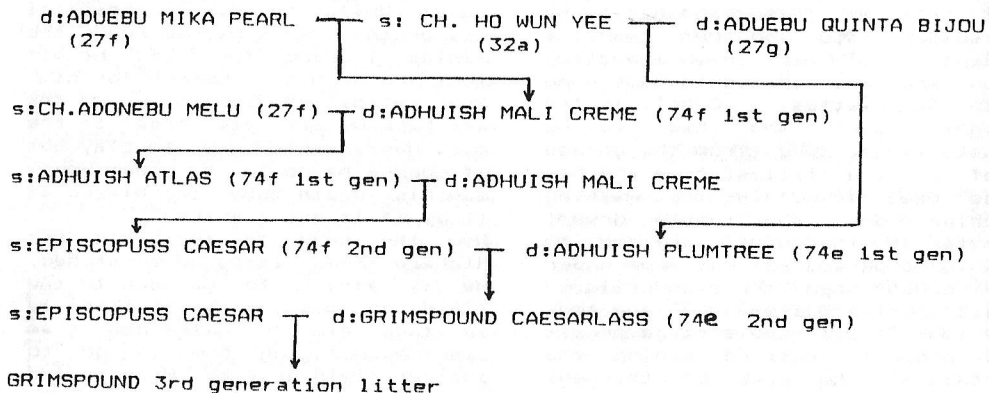
If you were under the impression that such heinous activities as the 'puppy farm' were not to be found in the cat world then think again! Sad to say but 'kitten farms' do exist run by either the unscrupulous and/or ignorant breeder. Earlier this year the RSPCA were called in to a home in Exeter the resulting in 17 cats having to be re-homed. In CATS magazine an article highlighted the problems of cat rescue homes which are overflowing and so unable to help any more cats. The numbers of homeless pets are increasing as houses are repossessed, due to the recession, and owners can no longer look after their pets! Foster homes are urgently needed for all cats. Pauline Earley, our Club Rescue Officer, is urgently trying to establish a network of foster homes for the Tonkinese Breed Club, if you think you can genuinely help out contact her for more detail of what is involved and what is required from a foster 'parent'.

- ED

ANNOUNCEMENT

(Mary Hodgkinson - Grimspound Tonkinese)

I am delighted to announce the birth of one of the first 3rd generation litters (3 tortie girls, 1 red boy and 1 cream boy) to my Grimspound Caesarlax by Episcopuss Caesar. As this litter is directly descended from CH. Ho Wun Yee red point Siamese (the founder of my Tonkinese line) I thought you might be interested to see the line of descent :-



Should this litter be bred from they would go out to an appropriate member of the opposite sex, to lessen the inbreeding but still keep type.

A LONG HAIREd POLE CAT?

Brian Doyle, Editor of 'CATS' magazine told me about a small cat show at the Ackworth and District Agricultural Society this July, there were only 53 cats shown - 2 of which were Tonkinese. Mr Des Leigh had to judge the class 'Adult, best proportioned for age' and gave 1st place to James' blue Tonkinese Addeish Foltare Kane. One of the prospective entrants for the show (but not entered in the end) was a semi-longhair from a pole cat breeder; as Mrs Caroline Purchon-Archer, the show manager, said "The standard of points would have been interesting!".

- ED

BREED ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE (BASC)

Earlier this year, due to overwhelming commitments, Diana Waters stepped down as secretary of the BASC as she felt that she was unable to give it the time it deserved. Mrs Sylvia Clark (see address under committee list) has now taken on that role. We would like to thank Diana for her efforts as secretary and are pleased that she is able to remain on the BASC as a regional advisor.

The BASC met on September 12th to discuss the finalisation of the Tonkinese Standard of Points (SoP), the required 'statement of difference' and the definition of the breeding and registration policy of the Tonkinese. All of which are required by the GCCF in order that the Club may be affiliated and that the breed may progress to championship status. You will be advised of more details of this meeting and the action required from yourselves either in a supplement to this magazine or in the near future; please look out for them.

TONKINESE WELFARE FUND

Here is advance notice that Hazel Forshaw is organising another prize draw to take place at the 1994 AGM. Everyone who brings a can or box of cat food to the AGM will receive one free ticket (the cat food will be given to Pauline Earley for her Tonkinese rescue), more tickets will be available on the day. Anyone who wishes to donate a prize please contact Hazel (0344 773200) or Pauline (0725 22339).

If anyone has any practical ideas for raising funds contact Jill Martin - see committee list.

PHOTO LIBRARY

Mrs Pauline Tarrent, Oakvil Burmese and Tonkinese, has made the excellent suggestion that the Club hold a photographic library of our cats. As the breed is still in its preliminary stage now is the time to collect good studies of early Tonkinese (and the Burmese and Siamese used as the foundation of the breed) studs, queens and litters. The object being to keep a clear visual record of the progress of the breed and in the future to provide the material for the definitive book of the Tonkinese Breed Club. Such a library will also be invaluable as a public relations resource - these 'photos are not to be confused with the more informal photographs that Diana Bishop is collecting for display on the TBC stands in order to give the public an idea of the nature of the breed.

So I am asking for as many clear head and body studies as you can spare in either black & white or colour - please write your name, prefix, photographers name and details of the cat (ie: name, colour, date of birth, sex, breeding status, parents and any interesting show notes etc. about the cat) on the back of each photograph and send them in to me, Linda Vouden. Your contributions will be very much appreciated.

TBC - STUD LIST

Mary Hodgkinson is currently compiling a Club stud list. If you wish to be sure that your stud is included please send details of the stud and it's parents and grandparents. You may send them to Mary or to myself as I am putting the list on computer. Once compiled any Club member who would like a copy of the list should send me an A4 SAE plus an extra 2nd class stamp, this is to cover the cost of photo-copying. - ED

MERITS AWARDED THIS YEAR

There are currently over 65 merited cats on the Club list, over 15 of which already have 4 merits or more. Since the list is now so long I only mention here those cats who have won merits this year - as recorded in CATS magazine, up to and including the September 17th issue (note that the judges' write-ups may take up to three months to be published after the actual show dates). A full Club merit list will be available at the 1994 Tonkinese Breed Club AGM.

MEMBER	CAT'S NAME	MERIT TOTAL	1993
BARNES, H MRS	SAMKABAR HUXLEY	74C	3
BISHOP, DR & MRS	ADRAYSH DAWN CHORUS	74F	2
BISHOP, DR & MRS	EPISCOPUSS CAESAR	74F	2
BISHOP, DR & MRS	EPISCOPUSS FABIAN	74F	1
BURKE, D MRS	ADINNSH MEILATI TU	74D	1
BURKE, D MRS	ADINNSH WONG MEI	74D	1
BURKE, D MRS	ADINNSH XIN WUN	74F	1
BURKE, D MRS	ADRAYSH OLI TU	74D	2
BURKE, D MRS	ADRAYSH LILAC FREEZE	74C	1
BURKE, D MRS	OAKVIL TEMPURA	74F	2
BURKE, D MRS	ADRAYSH LILAC FREEZE	74C	1
GATES, R MRS	BRAUMARIS SU-LIAN	74B	2
GILL, B MRS	TRIMORR TZAR SPACIBA	74F	4
HODGKINSON, M MISS	ADHUISH ATLAS	74F	1
HODGKINSON, M MISS	ADRAYSH HEY FRANKIE	74C	2
HODGKINSON, M MISS	GRIMSPOUND CAESARLASS	74H	2
INIGO-JONES, S MRS	EPISCOPUSS EUROPA	74J	4
MACISAAC, L MRS	ADDEISH BLUEBERRY FORTUNE	74A	3
MACMAHON, MR & MRS	ADRAYSH RICKYTIX	74B	1
MACMAHON, MR & MRS	EPISCOPUSS CASSANDRA	74F	1
MAKEPEACE, D MRS	ROYANDI SYRINGA	74C	2
MAKEPEACE, D MRS	SYLVAKIB CHINCA TOI	74C	2
MARTIN, J MRS	EPISCOPUSS FERNAND	74F	2
NETLEY, R MRS	EPISCOPUSS EPICURUS	74C	2
PEARSON, S MRS	LEAROYD HEIDI	74C	1
POOLE, C MRS	ADDEISH CLARINATH OBERON	74C	2
POOLE, C MRS	CLARINATH MYSTIC STREGONA	74C	1
PRICE, J	TONKABELLA DIGGORY DAI	74B	1
SHARRATT, J MRS	TONKABELLA EVA EVANGELINE	74B	1
SHARRATT, J MRS	TONKABELLA FINGAL FREDERIC	74B	1
SHARRATT, J MRS	TONKABELLA FRISCO FRANCIS	74B	1
VOUSDEN, L MRS	ADDEISH CASPAR LILACFLUSH	74C	1
VOUSDEN, L MRS	ADDEISH LANSDALE FABLE	74A	1
WRIGHT, P MRS	KEO KITTYWITCH	74C	3
WRIGHT, P MRS	KEO PIONEER	74D	2
WRIGHT, P MRS	KEO PRINCESS BLOSSOM	74E	2
ALDERS, P	EPISCOPUSS FABIAN	74F	2

THE PROS & CONS OF INBREEDING -
A SIMPLIFIED VIEW!

This is a very topical subject among cat breeders, and always will be. Probably the best place to start would be - 'what is inbreeding?'. Inbreeding is the mating of any species with a blood relative, ie: mothers, sons, fathers, daughters, uncles, aunts etc. It is irrelevant whether it's as close as father-to-daughter or cousins some way back, it is still inbreeding. The term line-breeding is often used to describe matings with more distant relations, but it is still inbreeding. Of course the closer related that you breed the more probability you have of doubling up on certain genes, good and sometimes bad. The genetic terms in inbreeding are somewhat complex and I do not intend to use them in this article but to keep it as simple to understand as possible. Some genes are more dominant than others and when trying to fix a particular type it can be beneficial to do a son-to-mother, daughter-to-father, or brother-to-half sister mating. This should only be done when the lines are known very well because if there are any faults or defects these will also come to the fore. It can be said that this is the way of finding out about such defects, but as one would need to do the mating at least three times to get a true result I think it is wrong to risk bringing abnormal kittens into an already crowded world. If kittens die or are aborted or don't thrive from such a mating it would be wise not to repeat it. It is thought that certain ways of inbreeding can help to fix the things desired in a breed when preceded by 'selective breeding', I hope you can understand the following explanation.

Selective breeding is establishing a wide healthy gene pool of breeding cats and selecting the best from those matings. This means that breeders work together, doing selected matings and pooling the information on the resultant

kittens, working to get the type agreed by the majority as being that which is most desired.

Inbreeding - when the desired results from the 'selective' matings are achieved then breed from the best of these matings, for instance brother-to-half sister, and select the best from these litters to mate together. This is called 'fixing' what you have. That is always supposing all offspring born before have been well and healthy, as it is very important to have defect free lines.

I have put this very briefly and simply and I can assure you it is a lot more complex than this, to get a better picture it is worth purchasing the book by the leading authority on cat genetics, Roy Robinson, he has published several books on the subject. If anyone wishes to enlighten themselves further I suggest you get his most recent book (published by Pergamon Press).

I think one should perhaps say a little on inbreeding with relation to Tonkinese, my own personal view is that the 'selective breeding' programme should be sought in the first generations of breeding. It is not too late to work together as described above and we can then better learn what the majority think the Tonkinese should look like. It is not important to rush through to third, fourth and fifth generation. It will make no difference to gaining Championship status - that is achieved by having the required number of breeders and cats gaining Merits and ICs. When that is done a first generation Tonkinese can become Champion!

Let's not reduce our gene pool too soon for the sake of leaping up a generation. Let's do more selective breeding towards perfecting this beautiful breed.

Diana Waters - Rohese Tonkinese Club Welfare Officer

OUTBURSTS AGAINST INBREEDING

'I don't care what you say, inbreeding is wrong.' At best this kind of declaration, heard all too often, is a statement of values; at worst, it's bloody-minded prejudice.

Incest is said by anthropologists to be the only human activity prohibited in some form in every society in the world. The prohibition is everywhere supposed to come directly from the gods. Nowhere is it based on genetic ideas of degeneration of the offspring. On the contrary, humans have been breeding animals for thousands of years, often selecting close relatives to mate and improve stock. The clash of values religious versus stock-breeding is dramatised in this story of Aristotle's: a young stallion was made to cover a mare and afterwards (why 'afterwards'?) he realised that she was his mother and galloped screaming over a cliff to his death.

Plainly, much of the passion against inbreeding, in today's TBC as in Aristotle's day, come from vague but powerful religious values, which are irrelevant. But powerful, pseudo-religious passion is a grand weapon to turn on those you envy.

We have been suggesting that it is possible to disentangle the pseudo-religious bloody-mindedness of human beings from the serious question of breeding cats. The obvious question is 'Why Inbreeding?' Roy Robinson gives the basic answer ('Genetics for Cats', 2nd edn. p.83): '... inbreeding means the pairing together of closely related animals. ... if continued for generations, it will produce an increasing homogeneity in the offspring.'

And there it is in a nutshell: whatever qualities you value in your animal, whether the special beauty of your cat the speed of your horse, the intelligence of your sheepdog you will want to reproduce in later generations. Another animal with those qualities will be the best partner to

reproduce what you value in your own animal. If that partner is closely related, then the offspring will be more closely similar in their resemblance to the original parent.

It would be quite possible to avoid inbreeding, especially if you had centuries to accomplish your breeding purposes, an infinitely large population of animals - and a big bank balance. You could roam the world, picking up suitable animals here and there and eventually making your slow way to your breeding objectives.

The other extreme from this fantasy is when a mutation happens to a single individual cat. The only possible way in which a strain, such as the Cornish or the Devon Rex, could be created from a single cat is by repeated inbreeding. Exactly the same was true of Wong Mau in California, ancestress of our Tonkinese, as well as (more famously) the Burmese breed. Many other famous breeds, for varying reasons, have begun with intensive breeding.

Between these extremes of infinite resources and single mutation comes the procedure known as 'fixing the type'. Because inbreeding, as Roy Robinson says, increases the homogeneity it is the best and certainly the quickest way to reach that happy condition where a judge can tell at a glance from many conforming features that s/he is confronting a Tonkinese.

While colour is not part of the 'type', breeders who prefer a particular colour may well find that studs are in such short supply that inbreeding is the only answer.

A longer piece on genetics for fellow-Tonkinese-breeders is brewing. It is intended to be more like a manual. This piece above I mean as a counter-blast to all the ill-informed and even fanatic 'outbursts against inbreeding' which I have grown so tired of over the years. I conclude with a strong quote from Roy Robinson (p.88)

'The question whether or not to

inbreed can be a difficult one to answer. However, one aspect is certain: if a breeder wishes to found his own strain with its own particular characteristics and uniformity of offspring, some measure of inbreeding is essential. The reason is that a high level of homozygosis cannot be attained in any other manner. Selection cannot do it. It can do so spuriously in the sense that the parents may be alike in appearance because a certain type are selected. But what of the offspring? These may be variable, with only the odd individual tending to resemble the parents. In breeders' jargon, inbreeding is necessary to 'fix' the characteristics which are being selected. The appropriate genetic term is 'fixation' of genes. There is little doubt that inbreeding is valuable in stabilizing the results of selection.'

TOMMY BISHOP, Episcopuss Tonkinese

[All quotes and extracts, in the above article, taken from Roy Robinson's book 'Genetics for Cats' are reprinted with the kind permission of Pergamon Press - ED]

OH WHAT A NIGHT!

(Ruth McCarthy - Taylois Tonkinese)

On a hot Summer's eve, a very anxious novice, my first litter of Tonkinese were soon to arrive. Well the first baby was born at 12.30am but not without a lot of hard work from my queen and the expert help of my good friend, because this baby had died late in the pregnancy so poor Tia (Tajens Venus) had nothing to stimulate her contractions.

I was so relieved when Tia had passed this baby, but also very upset - and there was worse to come.

The second was a normal birth, what a relief to see this tiny

kitten breathe and soon crying his head off for food.

Off we went again, the third baby was a breach and so was the fourth and the fifth, but all were well. The sixth baby was due to arrive but poor Tia was so tired she could hardly push any longer, the stillborn kitten had taken a lot of her strength, and yes the sixth was another breach birth - and a big one.

I know if it had not been for Tricia Jenkinson's wealth of experience he would not have survived as he needed a lot of assistance just to arrive, and an awful lot more to help him live.

It was 4am and we were all exhausted - hoping that the big brown boy was the last, but after what seemed only a short time, Tia started pushing again while I was still rubbing the last kitten to keep him going. I heard Tricia say "Oh good, head first" and thought to myself "thank goodness" only to hear her say "Oh no, it's gone back". It had turned and was another breach but it also had the cord tight around it's neck - however Tricia came to the rescue again and thanks to her I have six beautiful Tonkinese babies. We finally finished at 5.30am - all very tired.

I remember saying to myself all through that delivery "Never again" but here I am expecting a litter from Tia's sister Remy (Tajens Vanity) end of September. With the experience I've gained I feel more able to cope next time. All the babies are well and thriving and I dread the day they go to their new homes, I love them so much - my naughty little darlings.

[Ruth, I'm sure I speak for most breeders when I say that the first litter is usually the nearest to your heart.

Readers, at the time of going to press Ruth is still awaiting the birth of her litter from Remy, I know you'll join me in wishing her all the best.

- ED]

WHAT GENERATION IS IT? (Linda Vousden)

Now this may be a case of teaching grandma to suck eggs but I have been asked to clarify the definition of a Tonkinese generation - apologies if it seems a little belaboured but here goes!

A Tonkinese's generation = the LOWER generation of the parents + 1

Confused? - well here are some examples and for the sake of argument let's call the Burmese(B) and Siamese(S) both generation 0.

B(0) x S(0) = T(gen 1) ie: 0+1 = 1
 B(0) x T(1) = T(gen 1) ie: 0+1 = 1
 S(0) x T(3) = T(gen 1) ie: 0+1 = 1
 T(1) x T(2) = T(gen 2) ie: 1+1 = 2
 T(2) x T(4) = T(gen 3) ie: 2+1 = 3

QUICK REMINDERS

1) To all who haven't done so already - please be sure to send a copy of your studs/queens/pets pedigree to Mary Hodgkinson for the Club records as they're required for Club affiliation with the GCCF, and may also be used in conjunction with the photo library.

2) To all breeders - be sure to keep up to date any details that you have sent to Nelia & Mary, for the TBC kitten list. Unfortunately there are a number of kittens listed which are sexless, colourless and often no longer available.

3) To all - the elegantly illustrated TBC T-shirt is available (in various sizes) in either black-on-white or aqua-on-white. Contact Brenda Gill to place your orders.

WHAT'S IN A [CAT'S] NAME? (Brenda Gill)

One of the fascinating features I find when reading through the cat magazines is the name of the cats and their prefixes - how have people decided on this very important issue? Were there peaceful or passionate debates on the subject, did children ought to have their say, what influences were brought to bear?

I can only speak for myself - whilst awaiting the birth of my first litter from Oakvil Tilly I spent hours on trial names and eventually decided on Trimorr. 'TRI' because I thought of the triangle (Burmese, Siamese, Tonkinese) and 'MORR' because I think people should 'try more' Tonkinese (biased)! The individual names were easier as I decided to start with T and then follow in my next litter with R - as in the prefix.

Tilly was mated with Adhuish Atlas whose nickname is King, so my boy became Tzar. As a dear friend of mine speaks Russian he suggested Spaciba, meaning 'thank you'; hence my boy became Tzar Spaciba - thank you King. The same friend is French born so I named my girl Tamourelle ('Love her') as she will always remind me of his help and support. Why not write and tell us about your names? There must be some fascinating tales (tails)!

[I heartily agree Brenda, and since you mention tails I named my first Siamese 'Moral' because she had a beautiful tail - and every 'tail' must have a Moral! - ED]

'CATS' - Issues of interest.

No. 589 - Definition of inbreeding and line-breeding by Roy Robinson.
 No. 593 - 1993 breed review supplement including some of our Tonks.

No. 594 - Cats made up to Champion and Gr.Champion, 1/2/93 to 1/5/93.

No. 595 - Lists breeders suspended/disqualified from GCCF since July '77

A HEALTHY SUBJECT (?)

I have heard from more than one breeder about the after effects of kitten inoculation (against feline influenza and enteritis), since some of my own kittens suffered a mild dose of 'flu following their inoculation I would be interested to hear from other breeders on the subject. Which vaccines have you used (and have you ever been offered a choice by your vet), do you have your cats vaccinated against FeLV, how often do you have them tested for it? The Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB) produces some very interesting pamphlets on these subjects and, although the terminology does seem to be aimed more at the veterinary profession than the 'average' breeder, they are well worth reading. I have asked one of our own breeders, Carol Poole of Clarinath Tonkinese who is a veterinary nurse, if she would write an occasional article for Tonkinfo. - ED

FELINE LEUKAEMIA VIRUS (FeLV)

(Carol Poole. BA VN)

FeLV causes malignancy of the white blood cells. It only affects cats and cannot affect humans. It is found worldwide in cats usually over three years of age although kittens under eight weeks which come into contact with FeLV die very quickly. FeLV is transmitted by direct contact from cat to cat, from saliva, urine, faeces, milk or nasal secretion and in the uterus to unborn kittens.

Once infected there are three possible outcomes :-

1) 40% of cases make a complete recovery, eliminating the virus and developing an immunity.

2) 30% of cases make an apparent recovery but the virus lies dormant in the bone marrow and may reactivate at a later date.

3) 30% of cases show continued infection with the virus circulating in the blood. Of these 80% die within three years. These persistently viremic cats will

show signs such as high temperature, lethargy, anorexia, enlarged lymph nodes and can be further divided into neoplastic (such as leukaemia and lymphosarcoma) and non-neoplastic which exhibit infertility, non-regenerative anaemia, mouth ulcers and chronic infections; ie: the cat that is persistently unwell, gets better then a few months later becomes ill again due to immunosuppression from the virus.

If the cat is from a single cat household, and can be kept indoors away from other cats, it can be kept as long as the cat is happy. Quality of life is the criteria otherwise euthanasia is the kindest thing. Multicat households need to have all cats tested. Cats that test positive, but are healthy, should be tested again in four weeks, if the result is then negative they should be retested at regular six month intervals. It is possible to get a false positive but not a false negative. As the virus is very fragile outside the cat a good detergent is very effective in cleaning the house from the virus.

It is best to get all cats tested first before considering vaccinating, it is a waste of money to vaccinate cats which already carry the virus. Vaccinations are initially a course of two followed by annual boosters. Kittens born to vaccinated queens do not need testing before vaccination providing this is done before they are three months old when the immunity they have retained from the queen has worn off.

Vaccinated queens do not test positive when tested prior to going to stud.

[* neoplasm - an abnormal new growth of cells or tissues from ordered original tissue; tumour.

- ED]

SHOWTIME !!

There are some members who have never been to a cat show; in the period from June to December this year there will have been 65 GCCF shows alone! In the 'Dates For Your Diary' section I've listed the remaining county cat shows for you (up to end of Dec. '94). Cat shows normally open to the public from 12.30pm and usually only cost £1.50p entrance. So why not come along and meet some more Club members, especially at the Supreme and National shows. I'll not normally list so many shows in the diary section as it takes up a lot of space, but GCCF shows are advertised in detail in CAT WORLD magazine and if you really become hooked the GCCF (address in Cat World) publishes a list of the year's shows for £2.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :-**OCTOBER**

Sat. 9th - CAMBRIA SHOW, Newport Centre, Newport, Gwent.
Sat. 16th - KENTISH SHOW, Stour Centre, Ashford, Kent.
Sat. 30th - YORKSHIRE SHOW, Exhibition Centre, Doncaster.
Sat. 30th - E.SCOTLAND SHOW, Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh.

NOVEMBER

Sat. 13th - CHESHIRE SHOW, Sutton Leisure Centre, St Helens, Merseyside.
Sat. 20th - SUPREME SHOW, NEC, Birmingham.
Sat. 27th - W.SCOTLAND SHOW, Civic Centre, Motherwell, Strathclyde.

DECEMBER

Sat. 4th - ULSTER SHOW, Leisure Centre, Craigavon, N.Ireland.
Sat. 11th - NATIONAL SHOW, Olympia, London.

**BREED ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE
REGIONAL ADVISORS**

For those who are new to the Club the role of the regional advisor is (among other things) to give help and advice to Tonkinese owners and prospective owners, to hold a copy of the Club kitten list and pass on kitten details provided by members to the registrars.

AREA 1 - SOUTH, SOUTH EAST

TOMMY BISHOP - see committee list

CAROL POOLE - 7 Langworthy End, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 2HJ Tel: 0628 784646

MARY HODGKINSON - see committee list
 DIANA WATERS - see under committee list

AREA 2 - SOUTH WEST

BETI ALSTON - The Old Chapel, Congdon's Shop, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 7PN
 Tel: 0566 82482

HELEN BARNES - see committee list

AREA 3 - ANGLIA, EAST MIDLANDS

NANCY CURTIS - The Old Forge, 52 The Street, Icklingham, Bury-St-Edmunds, Suffolk
 Tel: 0638 712021

PAULINE WRIGHT - The Stores, The Common, Freethorpe, Norfolk
 Tel: 0493 700217

AREA 4 - WEST MIDLANDS, WALES

JACQUELINE BALL - 99 Park Road, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 6LJ
 Tel: 0252 370607

SYLVIA CLARK - see BASC committee

AREA 5 - NORTHERN ENGLAND

JEAN SHARRATT - 1 Woodlands Road, Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9HR
 Tel: 0422 378159

AREA 6 - SCOTLAND

TOMMY BISHOP - as per Area 1
 JEAN SHARRATT - as per Area 5

Rohese Cattery

**Establishment that specialises in Cat Care**

ROHESE is set amidst 2.5 acres of garden in a beautiful Sussex valley. Our unique luxury pine chalets are insulated and heated providing ideal long or short term accommodation all year round. Each has a spacious covered run with tree scratching post and seats.

Cats of all ages are knowledgably boarded, as well as queens with kittens. We do a local collection and delivery service.

All cats MUST have a current vaccination card against enteritis and flu.

Lots of love given at all times, large family houses available for four or more cats from the same home.

Visitors are most welcome, just ring for an appointment.

ROHESE

**BURMESE · SIAMESE · TONKINESE
HAVANA · ORIENTALS**

We breed SPECIAL KITTENS for SPECIAL PEOPLE, from our lovely queens.

Health, Temperament and Type are our standard. We also have the 'dads' (Siamese · Burmese · Havana).

Enquiries for Stud · Kitten · Boarding or to view our cats and cattery:

Tel: (0424) 882129

**Diana & Tony Waters, Rohese Cattery
Broad Oak, Brede, East Sussex**

**LANSDALE CATS - Mrs Linda Vousden**

High quality wood and leather gifts decorated by pyrography. I specialise in feline portraits on quality leather handbags. I also make a range of gemstone and freshwater pearl jewellery. Ideal Christmas presents!



Send me a SAE for price list - see committee list for address.

>>> Special Offer - I am donating 75% of all profits made on a range of leather or wood items purchased by Club members, featuring the Tonkinese logo, to the Club Rescue and Welfare fund - details on price list.

tonkinese

TONKINESE BREED CLUB

Hon Secretary Mrs D Bishop 2 Rose Walk Seaford E Sussex BN25 3DH Tel 0323 492732

PLEASE NOTE

You will find enclosed for your consideration a proposal for changes in the Standard of Points, put together by the Breed Advisory Sub-Committee and based on input from our own Regional Advisers, various members' suggestions to Officers, and comments from, and discussion with, several judges. The Special General Meeting provisionally planned by the BASC for this purpose was cancelled, due partly to expense, partly to the fact that it was felt more democratic to our far-flung members to operate by post.

Please let me have your reactions before October 25th (postmark) at latest, so that, if you vote in favour, I may put it before Committee on October 31st and, if approved, on to our Sponsoring Club as soon as possible. Please enclose any comments you may wish to make on a separate sheet from your voting slip, with your name in block capitals on it.

Thank you.

DIANA BISHOP, HON SECRETARY, TBC.