



FABULOUS FABLE

aka. Addeish Lansdale Fable (74a) DoB: 24/12/1991
Owners/Breeders: Mike & Linda Vousden
Home of the MyMystic Mob.

Editor's Notes -

Hello all,

Due to problems with PC's and timescales I'm back in the editor's seat just for this issue - so I'm using the privilege to show off my fabulous Fable (named by his admirers). If any member would like thier cat featured here just send a clear photo to the editor, with a SAE for its return, and we'll gladly use it.

Please remember that the more you submit to Topnkinfo the more interesting and varied it will be, in the majority of cases, since Tonkinfo was first issued, we have relied upon the varius editors to fill it themselves! I hope you enjoy this issue, or at least find the contents stimulating enough to write in about.

All the best,

Linda V ☺

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TONKINESE BREED CLUB

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TONKINESE BREED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Christine Richards Tel: 01420 86085

**HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT - Linda Vousden**

Well it goes without saying, *although I'll say it anyway*, that this should be a very exciting year for all Tonkinese exhibitors! In just a couple of weeks time we will have our first UK Tonkinese Challenge and Premier Certificates, and I do wish everyone the very best. It has been wonderful to see so many new Tonks on the bench this past year - the Tonkinese 'look' has definitely established itself.

We are absolutely delighted that Mrs Diana Harper (Club member, Tonkinese judge and, not least, Chairman of the Tonkinese BAC) has accepted our invitation to be the Club's first Vice-President. Diana has so sure-footedly guided and assisted the Tonkinese to Championship that, for the very first time, we were pleased to extend this invitation as a token of our appreciation.

Committee - A few changes to Committee (see details on page 2) - but we *still* need two more members, is there anyone willing to help? *Is there anyone reading this at all????*

Club Goods for Sale - At the AGM we decided that it was time for some new Club goods. Items discussed included Mugs, Notelets, Club badges, Christmas cards. If anyone has any practical ideas or information on useful (and reasonable) suppliers please contact me. If anyone would like to send me clear photos of their Tonks (no professional photos please) we will be happy to consider them for either the notelets or Christmas cards (please include a SAE for their return and a brief note giving the Club permission to use them on Club items). It would be lovely to see our own cats on our Christmas cards!

Web Site Apologies - Unfortunately I've had major problems with my PC this year, and have had to replace it entirely (a good excuse to get a nice up to date jobby). However, it has meant that I've not been able to update the Club web site since February and I have had no working e-mail since then - so anyone who has e-mailed me will not have had a reply! I'm in the process of setting up my new PC and installing all of my missing software and thousands of files. As soon as I've got to grips with the new protocols etc (yes I'm now trying to work with XP instead of my nice comfortable Windows 95) I shall be able to update the web site - please do let me know (by phone at present) if you have any kittens to go on the list, and remember to let Miriam Haas know too. Is there anyone who has not yet been linked to the web site that would like to be?

I look forward to seeing many of you at shows this year, either showing or visiting - not to mention our own show in November, it promises to be a colourful event.

- Cheers, Linda

WRITE TO THE EDITOR !

If you have any comments to make on the contents of Tonkinfo, any items that may be of interest to other readers, suggestions for items you like featured etc. just write to the editor (Mrs C Russell, 4 Wesley Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8BU
Tel: (01202) 720185

Deadline for the next issue of Tonkinfo : 30th September 2003

ON WITH THE SHOWS !

Yes we are already well into the show season but, as you must surely know by now, June sees the start of our new era of Championship. So even if you are not showing a cat yourself why not pop along to offer your support and meet fellow Club members. Here are a few of the 'imminent' shows at which we hope to see Tonks winning their CCs and PCs.

7th June: Merseyside CC, The Leisure Centre, Kingsway, Widnes, Cheshire

7th June: Somerset CC, The Leisure Centre, Alveston Hill, Thornbury, Bristol.

14th June: London CC, The Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Knowle Green, Staines.

28th June - *Tonkinese Cat Club Exemption Show, Liphook, Hants*

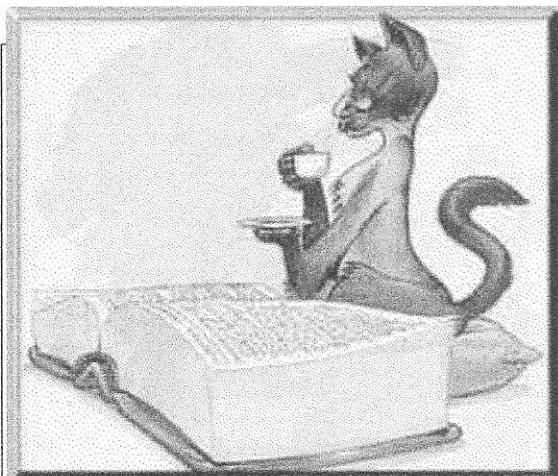
5th July: Wilts & District CC, Oasis Leisure Centre, North Star Ave. Swindon

12th July: Lincolnshire CC, Lincolnshire Exhibition Centre, Grange De Lings, Lincoln.

19th July: East Sussex CC, Angel leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent.

19th July: Gwynedd CC, Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road, West Queensferry, Flintshire.

8th NOVEMBER - TONKINESE BREED CLUB 1ST CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW!

**CLUB PUBLICATIONS**

order from Hon. Secretary

Don't forget that the Club has its own handbook (£2 plus 43p P&P)- useful to all members and an absolute must for Tonkinese breeders. We have Club Pedigrees (pack of 10 for £2 plus 43p P&P) which you are permitted to photocopy for further use; packs of 10 Mating certificates (30p plus SAE) which *all* breeders not using their own

stud *must* now send to the GCCF with their kitten registration forms. In addition we supply free to members (on request with SAE)

- Forms for registering kittens on full register if they have Tonk variant ancestors.
- Explanatory diagram of the Tonkinese Registration Policy.
- Membership Application form to give your kitten owners - *please encourage Club membership.*
- Stud and breeder's lists - *note that these are limited to the information that is supplied to us by breeders and stud owners.*

FELINE ADVISORY BUREAU**Statement on feline renal**

'The FAB recognises that with appropriate highly specialised skills and knowledge, renal transplants can be safely and effectively performed in cats. However, at present, successful transplantation requires a live donor cat, which cannot benefit from the major surgery required. This raises some serious ethical and legal questions. In view of these issues, and the present difficulty in using non-living donor cats, the FAB does not currently support the undertaking of kidney transplantation as a means of treating cats with renal disease.'

PEDIGREE PROTOCOLS**BREEDER'S BE AWARE!**

As most of you know, the Club is trying to build up a pedigree archive. Recently some pedigrees have been sent to us by new Tonk owners that show some breeders are not complying with the GCCF requirements. For example, two pedigrees, provided by a very experienced breeder in the south failed to show the kittens full details (including registration number) and the registration details of the grand-parents were also missing. If in doubt make sure you read the GCCF code of ethics for breeders - which you are also required to

THREE CCs - WHAT NOW?

As exhibitors some of you may be familiar with the process of claiming your Champion or Premier title - but for those who have only shown their Tonks this is a new arena. Don't be surprised if your title isn't awarded as soon as you win your third *qualifying* CC or PC - as with all things in GCCF land you have to claim your title with supporting evidence. The GCCF provides a form for you to complete, which you can obtain by sending them a SAE or print from their web site. Send it to them and they will confirm the details and register your cat's title. Then you can start aiming for those Grand titles!

SPONSORED DIET IN AID OF ANIMAL WELFARE

There
was a cake
here, but it
was eaten!

Hi Folks,

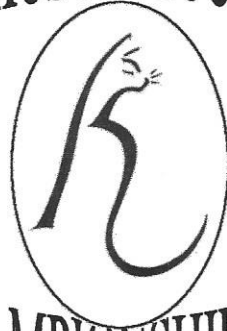
At the end of March, I embarked on a diet. I intend to loose so much weight that as well as benefiting myself I aim to use this endeavour to benefit others.

I hope to raise money through sponsorship or pledges in aid of animal welfare, the amount I raise will dictate how many groups I can donate to but I intend to include the **Cinnamon Trust (a hospice that allows residents to keep their pets with them)** and the **Riverhaven Shelter (a hospice for cats)**. My sponsorship period is from 22nd March to 1st August and I aim to loose in the region of 40 kilograms! My start and finish weight will be confirmed in writing by my doctor. I already have nearly £400 worth of pledges from friends and work colleagues - if you would support me in this please drop me a note indicating how much you would like to pledge (generally people have pledged between £5 and £20) or how much you will sponsor me per kilo.

Thanks for reading this &, in anticipation, thanks for your support - Linda Vousden

WHERE WILL YOU BE?

Tonkinese Breed Club



1st CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Held under GCCF rules.

Saturday, 8th November 2003

The 3M Hall, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire

Show Manager: Mrs HJ Hewitt

The Braes, 160 Hermitage Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 8XH Tel: 01483 474225

Assistant Show Manager: Mrs L Vousden

Lansdale, 12 Robinhood Lane, Winnersh, Berks. RG41 5LX Tel: 0118 9619444

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS FOR A SHOW COMMITTEE

Every year we ask for help with the Club show, with limited success. A Championship show involves even more paperwork, organisation and hands-on activity than ever, so we are hoping to set-up an annual Show Committee.

We need volunteers, ideally within reasonable travel distance of the show venue, who are prepared to meet twice this year (and help on the day of the show). The meetings will both be held in Winnersh (probably early to mid-June and then in October).

We want to make this show an especially happy and memorable event, after all there is only ever the one first time !

So we are asking you once again to think about helping - especially those who live in the Home Counties.

Please contact me as soon as possible, work shared is no work at all!

- Linda Vousden (Tel: 0118 9619444)

Animal Collectors: What the Experts Say by Lynn Manheim

I found this article on the internet, as a breeder I have definitely encountered this type of person seeking kittens - something we should all be aware of .

Once upon a recent time the term "cathouse" was a euphemism for "brothel," but today it is understood literally to be a house filled to overflowing with felines and often dogs and other animals, a house whose owner has obviously lost his or her grip on reality. Every community of any size has such animal hellholes, but short of living next door and being assaulted daily by the stench, one usually remains unaware of them until TV news reports the tragic outcome of the latest humane society raid. Heartbreaking footage of animals in such advanced condition of neglect, starvation and disease that they must be destroyed leaves us shaking our heads in impotent despair. The animal collecting syndrome, now recognised as symptomatic of an addictive personality, an obsessive-compulsive disorder, or both. Commonly these people exhibit a persecution complex, find ready alibis for their behaviour, neglect their personal condition and that of their property and environment, are clever at attracting sympathy and have friends or "enablers" in their lives who facilitate the unhealthy continuation of their addictive conduct.

Randall Lockwood, a vice president of the Humane Society of the United States who has published articles on the animal collector syndrome, believes that although the pattern has been studied as a pathology for only about a decade, such people have probably always been around. According to Lockwood and animal behaviour expert Dennis Fetko, collectors may profess a love for their animals, but are apparently more interested in maintaining control over them than alleviating the suffering brought about by overcrowding and neglect, in fact the suffering often goes unrecognised by these individuals.

Probably because they are in profound denial that any problem exists, collectors convicted of cruelty and sentenced to counselling are extremely uncooperative. Unless they are jailed or closely watched, they are almost certainly emotionally incapable and unwilling to obey court orders to not keep animals for prescribed lengths of time. Recidivism rates are high, with approximately 80 percent of offenders repeating their collecting behaviour. Additional characteristics of the collector personality are:

Living in clutter. A need not only to have too many animals, but to have an excessive quantity of inanimate objects as well.

Denial that there is anything wrong with a visibly sick animal, with filth and odour, or with cramming dogs and cats in small cages for extended periods without exercise.

Belief that only they can care for or cure their animals' illnesses with secret or unorthodox treatments.

Refusal to release any animals, even when good homes are found, or when terminally ill or injured animals are suffering and require euthanasia.

Secretive home behaviour. Although the collector may present a personable facade and appear outwardly normal, rarely will any friend or acquaintance be permitted to visit his or her residence.

In a fact sheet entitled "Collectors: Kindness Gone Awry," People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals asks that those aware of possible collectors alert humane officials to neglect or abuse, even if the owner seems well intentioned. Some shelters may actually be run by collectors PETA recommends that individuals investigate carefully before turning an animal over to a humane group or "rescuer," and "accept no excuses for not being allowed inside." A cluttered, dirty, overcrowded environment is not one into which any animal should be released.

Club Awards Presented at the AGM 2003

Congratulations to the following members for their cat's achievements in 2002, it was good to see more people than ever returning their results.

In order to be eligible for an award, members must send their results to the Cup Secretary (see Committee List) by end of January each year. The TBC web site has a form available throughout the year that you may print off or copy for this purpose.

Most successful adult male - BONZER BRUMAS (J PONSFORD)
 Most successful adult female - TONKAHOLICS ISTAR (C RICHARDS)
 Most successful neuter - BONZER MAH JONGG (J BRENNAN)
 Most successful kitten - TONKAHOLICS ISLA TANIKA (C RICHARDS)

Most successful brown - MYMYSTIC PAGANSUN (V CHAPPLE)
 Most successful blue - TINTORETTO LULLABY BLUSH (K PLUMMER)
 Most successful chocolate (series) - BONZER MAH JONGG (J BRENNAN)
 Most successful brown/blue/choc./lilac - MYMYSTIC PAGANSUN (V CHAPPLE)
 Most successful Caramel or Apricot (series) - MYMYSTIC MISCHA (K WILKINSON)
 Most successful red adult - TONKITU TSUNYI (C RICHARDS)
 Most successful red adult/kitten/neuter - TOSHIKI JOVIAN (L WILLETS)
 Most successful cream adult/kitten/neuter - ROMANTICA CARINA (V & C MACEY)
 Most successful tortie - TONKAHOLICS CHARDONNAY (C RICHARDS)

Most successful tabby adult, male - *not awarded*
 Most successful tabby adult, female - ANGISAN YUMSHUS SCRUMSHUS (C RUSSELL)
 Most successful tabby neuter - MYMYSTIC MISCHA (K WILKINSON)
 Most successful male tabby kitten - *not awarded*
 Most successful female tabby kitten - MYMYSTIC CHIFFON (L VOUSDEN)

The Tonk most often on Exhibition :- MYMYSTIC STARSHADOW (K WILKINSON)
 Most successful exhibitor (who has joined the Club within the last 2 years) :-
 G RAYSON
 Member who has supported the breed by showing the most Tonkinese during the year:- C RICHARDS

**TBC Rescue -
 Pet Beds on SALE!**

Pauline Earley & Valerie Chapple
 (01725) 512339 (01428) 661392

A very happy owner of a rescued Tonk has shown Valerie her grateful appreciation by donating a number of brand new fleecy cat beds from her pet store - to be sold in aid of the Rescue funds. Some were sold at the AGM but there are more available.

At a usual pet shop price of about £20 upwards, each bed is for sale to members at the bargain price of £10. Just contact Valerie for details.

DIARY - NOTABLE EVENTS FOR ALL CAT LOVERS

INTERVET & FELINE ADVISORY BUREAU SEMINARS -
8th June (Scotland), 14th June (Manchester) 21st June (Bristol)
 10am - 4.30pm including lunch and refreshments.

Topics include:

Respiratory disease - latest thinking (speaker - Dr Susan Dawson)
 New developments in control (speakers - Sandra Mc Laughlin & David Sutton)
 PKD screening scheme, recent findings (speaker - Martha Cannon)

Book your ticket by post (£20 for FAB members, £25 for non-members) make cheques payable to INTERVET UK LTD, to Caroline Cann, Intervet UK Ltd, Freepost MK492, Walton Manor, Milton Keynes MK7 7BR. Be sure to state which venue you wish to attend, how many tickets you want and if you have any special dietary requirements. For further information call Caroline Cann on 01908 685362.

FELINE ADVISORY BUREAU CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 18th, Basingstoke.

(Sponsored by Masterfoods).

Open to all FAB members and interested members of the public. A full days of lectures and discussion, topics include:

Newly emerging infectious diseases in cats (speaker - Danielle Gunn-Moore)
 Arthritis and chronic pain, recognition and control (speaker - Louisa Slingsby)
 Coping with a terminally ill cat (speaker - Vicky Halls)
 Discussion of various case studies including the cat with asthma.
 Feline adaptability (speaker - Roger Tabor).

Book your ticket through the FAB (£40 for members, £50 for non-members to include tea/coffee breaks and lunch) Tel: 01747 871872.

TONKINESE BAC Breed Seminar

The GCCF presently requires each BAC to hold, either alone or with another BAC, a breed seminar each year. However the organisers of the Joint Foreign Seminar are not planning another one until May 2004. The

Tonkinese BAC is contacting the GCCF to confirm whether or not we are obliged to hold a breed seminar before then. So as soon as we have some news for you it will be published on the Club web site and/or in Tonkinfo, whichever is relevant to the date of the Seminar.

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 While on this topic, there has been a complaint that we did not make sufficient efforts to inform members of last year's seminar. We refute the complaint. At both the AGM and in the subsequent issue of Tonkinfo we clearly stated that as soon as we had any information on the Seminar it would be published on the web site (as it duly was). Details of the seminar were also published in Our Cats magazine. Since the Club's Committee contact details, and the TBAC secretary's details, are regularly published any member who wanted to attend the seminar only had to call and ask about it if they couldn't find information elsewhere. *We can set the water before you - but we cannot make you drink it!*

As tutor of Feline Psychology for the Animal Care College (UK), I receive some very interesting papers. Each student is required to submit a personal study (in addition to their other studies) on a subject of their choice. I thought you might be interested in this particular paper, which the student has permitted me to print in an edited form.

PUDDIN', THE BLIND CAT, by Joan Black

We have shared our home with a blind cat for nearly two years, initially nobody could tell us anything, even Cat Protection had no information available about blind cats as it seems they are usually euthanised.

Our Puddin' was found abandoned in the woods. He was brought to the Veterinary Hospital where I work. He appeared to be about 5 weeks old and at first it was thought that his eyes had been damaged/removed in some way, closer inspection proved that in actual fact he had been born without his eyes, his sockets were not damaged just empty. The vet said he should be euthanised as CPL had enough work finding homes for 'normal' cats, but I decided that if his blood tests returned clear then I would take him. I have had cats for over twenty years and thought that as a family we could cope, not only with the idea of a blind cat but with the prospect of making tough decisions if he could not find a good quality of life without his eyes. I needn't have worried; Puddin' spent the first week in the hospital waiting for his results to return. I went to the cattery several times each day and once he was used to my voice I could touch him without scaring him, he loved to play and have his tummy rubbed. He had obviously been born in a house as he knew what a litter tray was for, ate from a dish (granted he wore almost as much as he ate) and everyday sounds did not disturb him. By the end of the week we brought him home, a home with 2 children, two other cats and a Jack Russell Terrier!!

At first Puddin' was so little his home was a double cat basket with his little litter tray and food bowl, but he was out whenever a family member was home to watch over him. Within the week he had a little indoor run so that he was safe when we weren't around. He seemed afraid of nothing, he would climb up things he couldn't see and 'scoop' his paw in front of him almost like a white stick, checking to see if there was another level to reach. He got along famously with the dog but the cats were none too sure of this little white ball of fluff that didn't run away when they puffed themselves up and flattened their ears. We had to supervise these meetings, ready to intervene when the big cats thought direct action would send this little stranger packing. As Puddin' outgrew his run we allowed him more freedom, if he wanted to try something that wasn't dangerous we let him. He decided early on that he wanted the budgie and that sitting on the end of the dining table was the place to be if there was any chance of success. When he wasn't following the dog around he was washing her, he walked along the mantelpiece if we left the chair too close, he would try to climb into the chimney if the guard was off the fire at any time. He could sense every open door and was always keen to see what was behind it. By the second or third time he reached the back of the house he had worked out how to use the cat flap – it had taken me weeks to teach the other cats how to use! When the outside door to the garden was open for the dog Puddin' would sit just inside and sniff the air.

As the weather improved and Puddin's confidence grew he took to sitting on the back door step. He didn't seem to want to go off the step, he was happy to sit there for ages. He would listen to the birds and his head would follow them, you would almost swear that he could actually see them, as his hearing is so acute he never lost touch with where they were. Still the adult cats were not interested in being friendly to him, perhaps they sensed that he was different or maybe he just didn't return the right signals, the dog loved him

though.

We live on a farm in the country, our garden is large and was mostly already escape proof due to the rabbit netting on the boundary to stop the wild rabbits decimating the flowers. As his confidence and curiosity grew Puddin' would venture down to the next step for a second before diving back in again. Puddin's outings took him a little further from the step almost daily, he would chase flies, bees, wasps, birds, in fact anything he could hear moving. He would find little bits of bark or stones and play with them. He has even successfully hunted a shrew, which he presented me with proudly. He spent the summer languishing in the sun or napping in his beanbag when outdoors was too warm. My husband started 'training' Puddin' to come back to a whistle, he does understand that it is his whistle and he is supposed to come back, but of course he doesn't always choose to!

He has picked up some rather strange behaviour due to sharing much of his formative time here with the dog, she has little individual biscuits from 'dad' in the mornings – Puddin' sits and waits for his own treats too. The dog has a water supply in the kitchen, which fills the bowl as she drinks from it – Puddin' likes to paddle in it. She is fascinated by the washing machine – Puddin' climbs in as you try to load or remove the clothes. When I put out bread for the birds he rushes around under my feet nibbling the crumbs – cutting out the middle man?

In his day-to-day routine and apparent enjoyment of his life, Puddin' is no different to any other cat I've encountered, if anything he is more contented than some. With his excellent hearing he misses nothing that interests him, he can hear if the dog gets a piece of sandwich and comes running for his share. His excellent radar-whiskers mean that he rarely bumps into things unless he is running away or gets a bit spooked by something new in his home. He seems to navigate our large and partitioned garden with the greatest of ease.

There are practical things which have made a difference to his life, because he has no eyeballs to support the eye lids his eyelashes turn inwards and irritate the sockets, as the tear ducts still function though they have no eyeball to lubricate, it means the his eyes have to be cleaned several times daily. All that is necessary is cotton wool and warm water, occasionally Leo Eye Lotion, but first I have to soothe and to catch him! He has amazing insight as soon as I dampen the cotton wool he can disappear in a flash! The Vet suggested that his eyelids be stitched closed but there is so much expression in his face whether there are actual eyes or not that I would only do that as an absolute last resort, washing his face a few times a days is no hardship for him or us. I would suggest to anyone with a similar situation that you habituate your cat to having his claws trimmed from an early age as you are main plaything for quite a lot of the time, and it helps to limit damage to surfaces at home. Puddin has taken an unfortunate liking to a particular wall in our newly decorated dining room, even though he has a scratching post – another necessity.

Our 'best buy' has been a covered litter tray, prior to that it was a case of sweeping up after him as he could scatter litter several feet in his burial attempts or he would try to scrape everything within reach into the tray. Our biggest waste of money has been pounds spent on special toys, ones that had a scent or a bell or made a noise, Puddin's favourite toy has always been an empty crisp packets poked into a ball shape – they smell and make a noise! Puddin's least favourite thing is the vacuum; he hates the vibration coming towards him so I try to ensure he is installed on a chair or a beanbag in another

room when I do the housework. He doesn't mind the washing machine or the fan oven though both are noisy and vibrate so it must be the movement that scares him. Voices of strangers are a bit scary too, he is very inquisitive but wary until he has heard the voice for a while and no harm has come to him, and then he's right there to investigate.

Having had Puddin' in our family has been a delight for the most part. As a kitten he was definitely higher maintenance than most other cats since we had to provide all the stimulation and interest for his development to be successful, I didn't want him to be timid and afraid all the time, but he is repaying that effort a hundred -fold as he has developed into quite a character. He was born without sight but has the most amazing sense of hearing and an uncanny ability to navigate.

I could as you can see talk about Puddin' for hours, I find him a most remarkable cat and one with which I am most honoured to share my life. If you were in a similar situation I would say don't do your cat the injustice of limiting their lives by the barriers that you perceive to be there, just love them and support them, give them room to grow and develop and I'm sure they will inspire you with their love of life.

.....

So you have the beginnings of Puddin's story and know that I am very attached to him and proud of him too. As Puddin' has grown he has freedom to more or less spend his time where and how he wishes. He is probably most bonded with me, if I speak when I walk into a room he is in he will come looking for me; if he raises himself to a sitting position and bunts me it is for a petting, if he stands stretched up full height and bunts he wants to be lifted up. He always wants lifting if I am on the phone, I haven't decided if it's because I'm speaking to somebody he has no sense of or if it's because the phone is beside the budgie!

I have never known Puddin' to climb trees, but he has scaled a fence and been out in the field with the tups, I think he followed one of the bigger cats. He doesn't venture into the drive by himself but if he is there when one of us goes out he will follow.

Puddin' doesn't hiss now though there are things which spook him, he hates it when it's windy; we are surrounded by large trees and they are noisy in the wind it interferes with his hearing and therefore he probably feels vulnerable. Puddin's litter tray has from the very beginning been a moveable object, I like to move my furniture around and knew that the likelihood of it always remaining in the same place was slim to nil so I made a point of moving it from the beginning. He always susses out where his tray is though he prefers to go outside now. He did use it in the winter when we were under several feet of snow.

I mentioned that Puddin' has to have his eye sockets cleaned regularly, two or three times a day, one of the really amazing things he does is know when I'm going to do that. I can't decide if cotton wool makes a discernible noise or he reads my mind! I can be in the sink a dozen times, walk past him a dozen times and he doesn't flinch or move or anything, as soon as I have a damp cotton wool ball in my hand he's off! He crouches about 1" off the floor, elongates to twice his length and goes at a remarkable pace from place to place so you have to chase him down. He gets sun block on his ears and nose during the sunny days and he is getting quite good at recognising the signs that I'm going to try to do that too.

If you have a crunchy packet he'll come looking for it, he'll chase things around on the kitchen lino – dog biscuits, bits of toys, milk carton lids, pens, pretty much anything he takes a fancy to – and he'll let you join in if he's in the mood! I find as with all cats that since he's been allowed outside he doesn't play nearly so much as when he was inside all the time. When Puddin' is outside he will sit and listen to the birds, chase them if they land

on the grass, he'll chase bees, wasps, flies and leaves when they're dry and crisp so they make a noise when they move. He hunts, successfully on occasion. I've even watched him chase and try to catch a butterfly! I watched him follow it as if he could see it and pounce trying to capture it and though I know nature compensates and his hearing would be good I'm astounded that it is so acute.

Puddin' and the other cats have come a long way in their relationships, though it is not like any other interaction of cats I have shared my home with. He once encountered our neighbour's cat in the garden early one morning and there was much caterwauling but that came from the other cat – a bruiser of a beast. Puddin' came running home unharmed, but the big cats seem to mostly ignore him; they never wash him or sleep near him and seem quite wary when they are around him in the house.

Puddin' has started to close himself into rooms of late, I've watched him do this on several occasions, he stands up at the door and pads at it eventually closing it over, the daft thing is that he has as yet not mastered the art of scooping with his paw to open it again!

One other thing just came to mind – I'll stop soon I promise! Every cat I have ever had has been a 'talker', I blame myself because I talk to them so much especially when they're kittens, Felix starts meowing from the far end of the drive so you know he's on his way home and Blue yips at you when you're late going to bed as that's when she gets her share of undivided attention. Puddin' burbles!

Puddin' was so tiny when he first came home and his neck was shaved at the front where they'd taken blood for his tests. He has, almost from the beginning, played with Zoë the terrier, if anything he was even more physical in his pounces when he was tiny, almost jumping on her back at times, her attitude to him has changed as he has grown, they are almost the same height now. His first bed was a shoe box in the large cat basket, his run covered just a four feet square of lino (for easy cleaning). When he outgrew the run we left everything still on it but gradually moved his things further and further apart until he had the set-up he has now. I can honestly say that Puddin' has never had an accident in the house.

I have always been amazed at his progress and tenacity, but as I read over this story I find myself more proud of him than ever. I just goes to show us that we should not judge our cat's infirmities and differences by our own standards - they are so much more adaptable than we think they are.

Joan's story raises some interesting points. For instance the fact that the other household cats remain wary of Puddin', even though they've never been attacked by him, could be due to Puddin' not knowing to avert his 'gaze' when confronting them - a clear signal of dominance. Although Joan doesn't mention it, Puddin's other intra-feline communication (such as tail and ear signals) are unlikely to be what the other cats will expect in any given situation, causing confusion and wariness on their part. What do you think? - Linda V

TBC Recommendations For Breeders

In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs. Remember that all GCCF registered breeders are now required to provide a copy of the GCCF Code of Ethics to each new owner of their kittens.

- 1 It is inadvisable to use a Tonkinese for breeding if it is on the REFERENCE register (with the exception of Tonkinese born before 01/05/1991 or Tonkinese variants that comply with the current registration policy).
- 2 A stud owner is not obliged to accept a queen to stud
- 3 Studs must be on the active register with the GCCF and must have their Certificate of Entirety (COE) lodged with the GCCF prior to the registration of their first litter. Stud owners should be able to show a copy of the COE to the queen's owner.
- 4 Studs, and visiting queens, should be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis and Cat 'Flu (but not within 14 days before the mating). Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable. Vaccination certificates should be available for inspection.
- 5 Studs must be regularly tested for FeLV and FIV, even if they are inoculated against FeLV. It is recommended that they are tested at least once per year and the documentation should be shown to the owners of visiting queens.
- 6 The stud owner **must** supply the following for the queen's owner : a) A mating certificate that complies with GCCF Section 1 Rule 3d.. b) A full pedigree of the stud showing at least three generations with full registration numbers. c) A receipt for the stud fee.
- 7 The stud owner must make clear any conditions relating to the kittens, or repeat matings, before the queen is left with the stud.
- 8 The stud premises should be available for inspection, by appointment, by the queen's owner prior to the queen being brought to stud.
- 9 Queens must be on the active register with the GCCF.
- 10 It is recommended that queens are tested for FeLV and FIV within 24 hours before visiting the stud, unless from a fully tested household, and the documentation should be shown to the stud's owner.
- 11 Unaccompanied queens should not be accepted to stud (ie. sent by train, bus etc.)
- 12 The queen's owner has a responsibility to make arrangements, including the inspection of stud premises, well in advance of taking the queen to stud.
- 13 The queen's owner should be aware that the stud fee is for the services of the stud and is not based upon results - it should be offered at the time the queen is left with the stud.

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ALL MEMBERS - PLEASE REMEMBER

- ◆ WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMITTEE
- ◆ WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SHOW COMMITTEE
- ◆ KEEP MIRIAM INFORMED OF YOUR KITTENS FOR SALE, & WHEN THEY HAVE GONE
- ◆ SEND IN YOUR ITEMS FOR TONKINFO
- ◆ VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE