

Our Front Cover Cat is
Cassie
courtesy of
her owner: Marie Deghy
and photographer: Julian Deghy

Editor's Notes - Linda Vousden

I especially hope that you enjoy this issue as it is going to be my last Tonkinfo — to see why please read the Chairman's Report.

As yet we don't know who'll be producing the next issue so please send your items to me and I'll make sure that they are passed on. Thank you to those of you who sent me items for this issue. ☺

Hopefully you are reading this at our 5th Championship show, if so I hope you enjoy your day and spare a thought for all the hard work that has gone into it, our special thanks to Kathy Wilkinson for all the extra goodies she has provided for us.

While all reasonable discretion will be shown, neither the Editor, Committee nor Club are accountable for opinions expressed by individuals in this magazine

In This Issue:

Committee list	2
Chairman & Hon.Sec's Reports	3
Tonkinese Promotion	4
TBAC Breed Seminar	5
Scarlet's Had Kittens	6
A Few Colour Questions	7
These We Have Loved	8
Feline Acne & Stud Tail	9
First Time Breeder—2 Litters	10
Christmas Dinner for Strays.	14
Just Litter	14
Why Keep Them Indoors?	15
Did You Know?	16
Is You Cat A Joker?	17
Sue's Tip	17
Happy Christmas	17
Recommendations for Breeders	18

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Chairman's Notes—Linda Vousden

Time to Retire—by the 2008 AGM I'll have 15 years of Committee service under my belt.

I joined the Committee in 1993 and looking back over the years I was surprised — I've served as Publicity Officer, Tonkinfo Editor (20 issues), Membership Secretary, Assistant- and then Joint Show-Manager, Hon. Secretary, Webmaster, Vice-Chairman (for one blissful week before I dragged back as Secretary) and Chairman. I'm pleased to say that I've only missed one Committee meeting (one of my girls was delivering kittens that day). I think its fair to say that I've pulled my weight for the Club and so I shall be retiring at the 2008 AGM.

Please be assured that I am NOT retiring for any other reason than that I thinks its time to do so. For some time I have wanted to dedicate time to writing a second book on the Tonks and find that its just not possible to do this and work on both the Club Committee and the TBAC.

I am going to miss our Committee meetings but I am happy to say that I shall continue to maintain the Club website and kitten list, under the Committee's guidance. I shall also continue to build & maintain the official Tonkinese pedigree database and Tonkinese archives (show results, photo-bank etc.) so please keep sending your details to me.

I've always been a collector and when I first came into Tonks in 1991 I already had a large collection of cat books, so it was a logical step for me to gather information on Tonk history, pedigrees, results etc (much of which came in very handy when we were seeking breed promotion over the years). When the TBAC was set-up I became the archivist and I just love finding snippets of information, like pieces of a jigsaw to fill in gaps in pedigrees. I've found some real gems while researching for the book I'm writing now!

.... **finally**, welcome to our many new Club members, UK and Overseas. If anyone has questions about the Club or the breed please feel free to contact me and I'll do my best to answer them —

All the best, Linda

Hon. Secretary's Report—Sue Amor

Hello everyone. I can't believe it's time to write my report for Tonkinfo again!

Must be a sign of old age that time moves so quickly. It is an exciting time for Tonks with the TBC show at the end of the month. Have you got your flowers in your hair? I love any breed show as it is so lovely to see so many of the same breed in one place. Of course, our own show is even more special!

As ever the Tonk BAC is working tirelessly behind the scenes, monitoring our judges, making sure all the relevant documentation is in place. The committee is also working really hard but, as always, could do with help from you. If you have just a little time to spare please think about joining our hardworking bunch. We can always do with fresh blood (especially in the run up to Halloween!)

How many of you spotted that this is issue 36 and not issue 35 as expected? This is because I've noticed that we had two issue 27's — so I'm catching up! [Ed.]

What Happened At The TBAC Open Meeting?

The TBAC have voted to apply for recognition of Tonkinese with either pointed or solid coat-patterns for Preliminary registration (with the ultimate aim of Full registration)—on the grounds that they have the 2nd & 3rd Tonkinese coat-patterns - not 'variant coat-patterns'. So an open meeting was held to inform all who were interested of the steps to be taken. Attendants were told of the very involved and lengthy process of promoting a breed or obtaining recognition for an additional coat-pattern or colour—this can take a good couple of years or even longer if there is opposition! The Tonks certainly have opposition.

The pointed and solid coat-patterned Tonkinese constitute 2/3rds of the Tonkinese breeding group. Since they are unable to be shown there is a tendency for some breeders and potential owners to, incorrectly, view them as 'inferior' Tonkinese. Preliminary Recognition of these coat-patterns will be beneficial to the long-term health of breed by encouraging breeders to make full use of the available gene pool.

In accordance with GCCF Rule 30 any applications for Preliminary recognition of a new coat-pattern must be preceded by a breed seminar. The seminar is to demonstrate how the coat-pattern is different from the existing pattern/s and the GCCF Executive must be invited to attend. Well, they were duly invited but declined the invitation. Unfortunately the reason for declining was incomprehensible: -

"On the basis of recognising the Tonkinese breed is between Burmese and Siamese. They have to prove that the pattern is significantly different from Tonkinese and would not pass as A.O.V. Therefore, they would have to cordially decline."

The TBAC have written back to the GCCF Executive and have elaborated upon the reasons for holding the seminar—and re-issued the invitation.

There are many arguments for the Tonkinese A.O.V recognition, and a few concerns about it :-

1. **Q.** What do we do about breeders who might breed for only one coat-pattern. **A.** *It doesn't matter, as it still makes use of the existing gene pool and keeps the availability of pointed or self coat-patterns for other breeders.*
2. **Q.** What is to prevent a breeder from not registering their kittens, then using them in another breed with false papers (this is more likely to happen with the pointeds than the selfs)? **A.** *Nothing, just as there was nothing in the past or now to prevent it from happening - with ours or any other breed.*
3. **Q.** Judges have enough trouble with our cats already, especially side-class judges, without adding to the problems - to the detriment of cats presently being shown. **A.** *Should we let a few problems that we may encounter now deter us from providing for the long-term future of the breed? There will always be judges who make ill-informed judgements rather than consulting the SOP or other judges, this won't change. However, by showing all three coat-patterns it will ensure that the judges who need to, will focus on type rather than **just** coat-pattern.*

..... And As a Tonkinese Breeder/Exhibitor What You Can Do To Help!

- ♦ Make a point of attending the Breed Seminar. We are inviting members of the Executive and our Judges to attend so imagine how it would look if our own breeders didn't turn up!
- ♦ Make a point of putting your solid and pointed coat-patterns on exhibition – to make it clear that we are serious and united in our effort to have these cats promoted. The more that judges and public alike see them the more seriously they will be taken, and *understood*. Invite judges to come along and see your solids/pointeds at a show – the cats on exhibition are often overlooked. The TBAC may be able to provide literature that you can use on your exhibition pens. Lets make this a concerted and active campaign - one that the rest of the Cat Fancy knows we are serious about and won't give up on. Most judges have never seen Tonk solids or pointeds and incorrectly expect them to look just like the Burmese or the Siamese.
- ♦ Make a point of keeping the TBAC pedigree archives up to date – the more statistics we have to support our application the better, especially to demonstrate that breeders are using their solids/pointed for breeding and that they are being correctly registered. Unfortunately there are breeders who still don't register their solid/pointed coat-patterns; we need to convince the Executive that this is the exception rather than the norm. If it helps, I can provide a form for you to send by post or e-mail, giving details of your litters, as we did for our Championship application.
- ♦ Make a point of reporting show entries back to me, to start seriously collecting statistics of entries all over the country ready for when the solids/pointed are eligible for Championship classes of their own! If you are at a show, even if you are not exhibiting yourself, collect the details of the cats and colours that are there! Again, I can provide a form for you to send by post or e-mail.
- ♦ Although the term variant is perfectly correct, in the context of variations of coat-pattern, it is time that we all started to read from the same page. Lets banish the term Tonkinese Variant – from now on we only refer to these coat-patterns as solid or pointed; and woe betide anyone who speaks of *Burmese* or *Siamese* variants!

Linda Vousden (*Hon. Secretary—Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee*)

>>>>> DATE FOR YOUR DIARY <<<<<
Sunday May 11th 2008

Tonkinese BAC Seminar

St Marys Church Hall, Winnersh, Berkshire—from 1pm
Tickets available from Linda Vousden (see address on page 2)

Any updates concerning the seminar, forms available for your use or other relevant notices will be posted on the TBAC page of the TBC web site - www.tonkinese.info

Scarlet's Had Kittens !

My cat Scarlet is getting very fat; she has kittens in her tummy. This picture was taken a few days before the kittens were born.

Everyday mummy would pick me up and I would say "Have the kittens come yet?" and mummy said "Not yet, they'll be here soon".

Then on Tuesday March 27th mummy said, "We need to get home quick Scarlet is about to have her kittens". When we got home Scarlet was all wet by her tail and on her back legs and she was making a loud purring noise.

This seemed to last ages and nothing was happening, eventually a kitten started to come out, slowly it came out and mummy had to help Scarlet open its sac. Scarlet licked the kitten and it started to breathe, she ate the sac and the placenta (it looked like a little blood clot).

When Scarlet has cleaned the kitten, it didn't look as slimy. Then another kitten started to come out, there were 6 altogether, 4 boys and 2 girls.

When they are born their eyes are closed and their ears are folded down. Scarlet has to do everything for them; she feeds them milk, washes them and even eats their poo. One of the kittens wasn't very strong and, even though mummy helped to feed him he died.

Their eyes start to open when they are about 1 week old and they all have their eyes open by the time they are 2 weeks old.

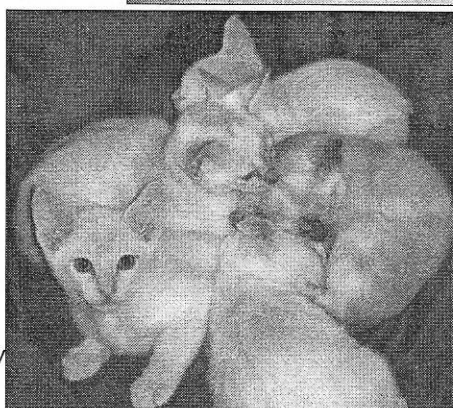
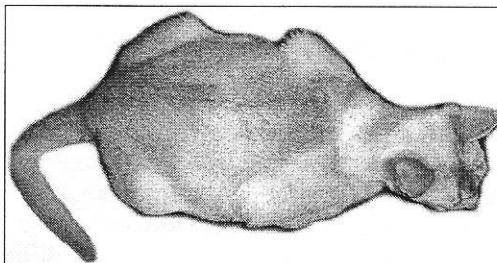
Their ears start to open when they are 5 days old and by the time they are 3 weeks old their ears stick up straight.

Kittens learn very fast, they start to crawl when they are 2 weeks old and can stand up when they are only 3 weeks old. Soon after they learn to stand up they start to walk and then run everywhere.

They look very funny when they start to move around.

A pictorial tale by Natasha Kerman

(courtesy of Andrea Kerman, Pukkatti Tonkinese)



A Few Colour FAQs—Linda Vousden**Q. Why don't Tonks have all of the colours of the Siamese (i.e. Cinnamon and Fawn)**

A. When the Tonkinese was recognised by the GCCF, and its colours agreed upon, the Siamese had not yet recognised the Cinnamon and Fawn. Remember that Tonkinese registration policy requires that only Siamese on their Full register can be used in breeding Tonks.

Another reason is that the Fawn (being a combination of Cinnamon and Blue) would modify to Caramel just as the Lilac does (the combination of Chocolate and Blue). We have enough difficulties at present recognising our clean dilutes from the caramels without adding another variation. Furthermore, the Tonkinese Chocolate varies considerably in appearance depending upon the breeding (it may even be due to the degree of Burmese or Siamese influence in its ancestry). So for now the Cinnamons and Fawns are colour to be considered for the future, when we have a more understanding - and common agreement, of what we are breeding/showing now

Q. Why can't we use the Caramel and Apricot Siamese in our breeding?

A. Once they are on the Siamese Full register they *can* be used, as per our Registration Policy. When the Caramel and Apricot colours were officially recognised in the Tonkinese, it wasn't entirely due to them being recognised in the Siamese — in fact we recognised Apricot before the Siamese did. We felt we had to accept these colour modifications because they were already occurring in the Tonks - inherited from both Siamese and Burmese (which were on their Full register but as Blues/Lilacs/Creams). Incidentally, the Burmese fraternity still does not accept that they have the Dilute modifier gene in their breed.

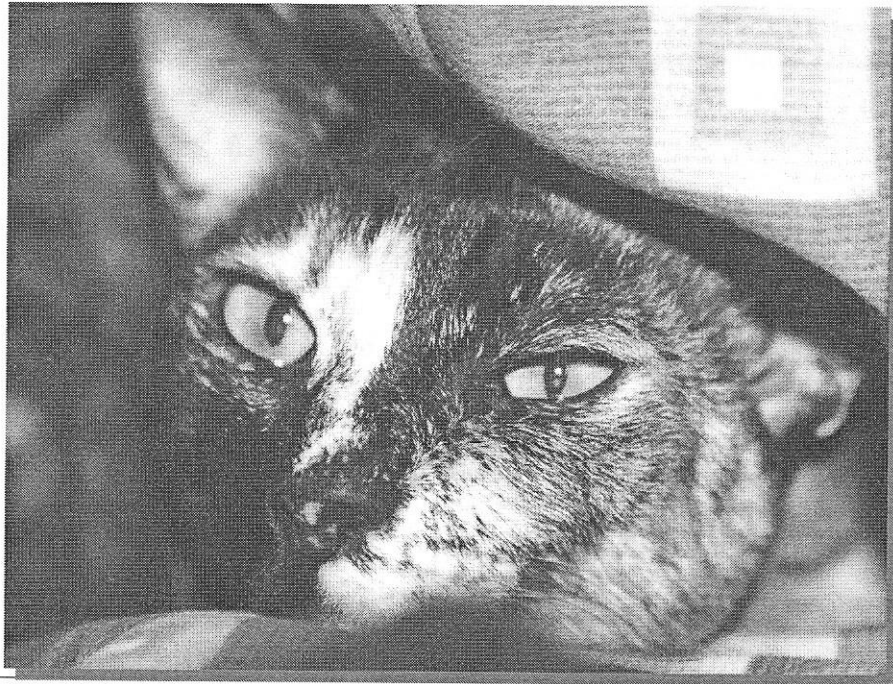
Q. Why is there just one Caramel when it can be Blue or Lilac based?

A. The reason that the caramel colour is just called Caramel even though it has two different dilute base colours (or three if you include the Fawn) is because the effect of the Dilute modifier gene is so variable that it could be extremely difficult for a judge to tell the difference between a Blue base or a Lilac base without knowledge of the breeding (which of course is not permitted). Sometimes you can clearly see the difference between the Blue and Lilac based Caramels - but not always. Remember that the Standard of Points is written essentially for judging purposes.

Giving one name to a colour that can have different bases is not a new concept. Cream is either Blue or Lilac based, and therefore so is its modified colour—Apricot. Red is either Brown or Chocolate based.

If we ever accept Cinnamon and its dilute, Fawn, into the Tonkinese we would have a Red that is Brown, Chocolate or Cinnamon based; a Cream that is Blue, Lilac or Fawn based; a Caramel that is Blue, Lilac or Fawn based and an Apricot that is Blue, Lilac or Fawn based!

STOP PRESS: Tonkinese Success for our new member from Italy!
Valerie Genesini's 10 month old girl, Canelle, attended her first show at Cerea (near Verona). Canelle won two Nominations (1st & 2nd day) plus special prizes for Tonkinese Kitten and best Opposite Sex—a promising ambassadress for the Tonks in Europe.



Grand Premier MELUSINE BELLACLOVA

1st June, 1996 — 7th June 2007

Clova was unique, a tortie with a capital T. Her 11 years on this planet went by far too quickly, but she has left us with so many happy memories.

We will never forget her ~ Miriam & Tay

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE

This year seems to have been especially sad, as many of our wonderful Tonks, who were with us when we started our journey of recognition, have left us. To list them seems disrespectful, we know who they are and we miss them.

I shall walk in the sun alone whose golden light you loved;
I shall sleep alone and, stirring, touch an empty place;
I shall write uninterrupted (would that your gentle paw
Could stay my moving pen just once again!)

I shall see beauty — but none to match your living grace;
I shall hear music — but not so sweet as the droning song
With which you loved me.

I shall fill my days— but shall not, cannot, forget.
Sleep soft dearest friend;
For while I live you shall not die.

Michael Joseph

Feline Acne and Stud Tail*Information from the FAB Web Site*

Feline acne is probably more common than is generally appreciated, as most cases are mild and pass unnoticed. More severe cases, however, may respond slowly to treatment and seriously detract from the appearance of the cat.

Over-activity of certain sebaceous glands is relatively common and is seen as excessive greasiness of the overlying fur and skin. This is particularly noticeable on the chin of white or pale coloured cats and appears as a yellow, greasy discolouration. There may also be flecks of black, greasy material on the chin which may be mistaken for flea dirt.

Overactivity of the glands at the base of the tail is often known as 'stud tail'. Stud tail is most common in entire males, but, despite its name, is also seen in neuters and females.

Feline acne may occur at any age and in any breed or sex. In mild cases, the associated hair follicles become plugged with the black sebaceous material forming comedones (blackheads). In severe cases inflammation develops, with a mass of discharging tracts or sinuses. Cats with mild feline acne or stud tail show no associated clinical signs but in severe cases there may be inflammation and irritation of the overlying skin. The point of the chin may become grossly swollen and there may be an enlargement of the draining lymph nodes of the head and neck.

Treatment

Treatment of feline acne and stud tail involves removal of excess sebum. An antibacterial surgical scrub, such as chlorhexidine, can initially be used for this purpose two or three times daily. In mild cases no further treatment is necessary, but in cases showing infection antibiotic therapy will be required.

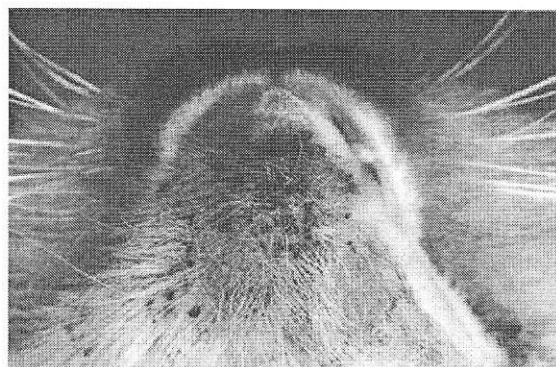
Topical preparations are of very limited value for severe cases because they are soon licked or cleaned off by the patient, and antibiotics should be given orally for four to six weeks. Severe cases may also be treated with steroids to reduce the inflammation.

Keeping the acne at bay may require clipping and daily application of chlorhexidine. Supplementation with essential fatty acids (evening primrose oil/fish oil) orally on a daily basis has been reported to help some cases. Most cases respond satisfactorily but some cases with serious secondary infection may require prolonged treatment.

So check your cat daily—prevention is easier than cure.

For a more details go to
<http://www.fabcats.org/owners/infosheets/disease/skin/acneandstudtail.html>

Picture Courtesy of the FAB



First Time Breeder—Two Litters!*Paul Watters (Vyvera)*

Whilst waiting to become the proud owner of two female Tonkinese kittens (Suki and Sky) discussion

took place between myself and their breeders about putting them on the active register although it wasn't my original intention become a breeder. Instead of skimming over the chapters on breeding in the cat books I started to read intensively and extensively about the subject. Also, having met a few really great friends in the Tonkinese world, there soon were very lengthy phone calls about the pro's and con's of various aspects of cat breeding. One discussion was about the benefits of having two litters together and whilst I considered the arguments I dismissed it as being something that would be not be wise for me as a first time breeder. Last year however I was in the fortunate position of being on a sabbatical from work to undertake some research and was going to be at home for the best part of four months. Events colluded and I had two very lusty 18 month old Tonkinese who were obviously mature enough to be mated. My home situation was ideal in that I would be able to be there with the girls if they had kittens so, in what I would retrospectively consider a moment of madness, I decided to have them both mated around the same time so that they could share parenting and have the maximum support from me while they were doing so.

Suki went to stud first and she had hardly got home before Sky started calling and was promptly whisked off to see her chosen spouse. What followed next were two totally absorbing months as both pregnancies progressed. Like most prospective parents I started to prepare and all sorts of bits and pieces were bought with all likely eventualities being catered for. The girls grew bigger by the day and spent most of their time together. Calmness prevailed and all was happy and well.

On the morning of 28th November Suki was obviously in labour and the excitement was tangible. Sky wouldn't leave her side and was there to assist as four rather large kittens found their way into the world. Everyone was ecstatic and when the all was over and everything cleared up Sky joined Suki and the kittens in their bed and looked as proud as punch as if she had produced the kittens herself. She was not the least bit shy about helping with washing etc. and domestic harmony ruled. I'd been advised to take Sky away from Suki as there had been some concern that the kittens would suckle from her and so deprive her kittens when they eventually arrived of vital colostrum. When I attempted to do this later in the day both girls were fraught and in the interests of all parties, including the kittens, I let them back together again. Over the next eight days both girls attended to the kittens but at no time did I ever see a kitten try to suckle from Sky.

On the evening of 8th December I decided to have an early night as Sky's kittens were due the next day. She had been quiet all evening but showed no signs of being in labour. I lifted her off my knee and was most surprised to see a tail and foot emerging from under her tail! I now realise that Sky already thought she had a 'nest' and therefore didn't display the obvious signs of 'nesting' that Suki had. Sky's intention was that she would have her family in the same bed as Suki and her kittens so she hopped in beside them. I however didn't think that this was the most appropriate option so tried to convince her to stay in her own birthing box which had been set up days before. This proved to be very difficult and she would not settle down to have her first kitten in this box. There began the beginning of one of the most stressful evenings I have ever known! I'd put her in her own box but she'd keep hopping out and jump in beside Suki and the kittens.

The emerging kitten appeared to be stuck and Sky showed no interest in what was happening to her. Just as I thought that the vet needed to be contacted the kitten suddenly shot out with it's placenta attached. Sky took nothing to do with it and joined her 'ready made' family in a defiant gesture indicating that she wasn't to be disturbed.

The delivered kitten was lifeless and I was busy trying to revive it to be too concerned with Sky who was having no obvious contractions. After a few minutes the kitten started wriggling and life poured into it. Relief! I put it in Sky's birthing box and gently lifted her in to try and get her to take an interest in it. She was immediately joined by Suki who was delighted to have yet another baby and proceeded to try and transfer it to her own nest. In the meantime Sky started producing another kitten and suddenly it seemed that they were coming one after the other.

To cut a long story short she delivered six beautiful kittens in all and the only place she wanted to be with them was with her sister and nieces and nephews and so that is where she ended up.

The following few weeks were a blissful collage of contented mothers and blossoming kittens. All kittens gained weight appropriately despite the fear that the four older kittens would perhaps get the lion's share of milk, they being heavier and more advanced. Kittens latched on the most accessible nipple regardless of who their mother was. All was well and I naively thought that having two litters together was indeed a wonderful thing and why would anyone think otherwise. That assumption was shortly to be challenged big time!

Continued on the next page



Suki and Sky—sisters helping each other to give birth

First Time Breeder—Two Litters! *continued*

When the older kittens were about three weeks old I decided to move all the kittens out of the spare bedroom and into the 'kitten room' which has been appropriately prepared with vinyl flooring, litter trays, beds, toys etc. This room was connected via a passage and although integral to the house was out on a limb. In my opinion an ideal kitten room but the mothers did not agree. Two very indignant Tonkinese queens decided that this well equipped nursery was not a place for their precious babies. No way were they going to stay in a room they considered to be too isolated from the main body of the house.

At every opportunity they would sneak babies into the living room and put them into the sofa through a hole in the lining on it's base. Of course this was a lovely dark and secret place, ideal for kittens in their eyes. And so began one of the biggest battles of will that has ever taken place between cat and man!

If they managed to get a kitten out of the kitten room I would retrieve it from under the sofa with infinite patience and return it to the others. A scheming mother would then pick up another and move purposely towards the door with it daring me to try and stop her. Kittens were frequently found in a collection behind the door waiting in a clutch, their warm nest slowly emptying. I lost count of the number of times I put the kittens back into their bed only to return a short time later to find them all behind the door again. When the kittens were small this was bad enough but as they got older and heavier the act of moving them started to obviously hurt them. Necks became raw and irritated and the cries of the kittens became more urgent as they were dragged along to the door. After one fraught evening I decided that enough was enough. One of the kittens had a particularly sore looking neck and on hearing shrieking of a most painful nature decided to let the girls bring their kittens out.

I made a bed from an old duvet and placed it under the radiator in the living room. It was January by now so the radiator was on all the time and the duvet underneath it made a perfect cat heaven. I brought all of the kittens up and placed them in their new king sized bed and they were joined by two very smug mothers who looked at me as if to say "if you had let us do this weeks ago we wouldn't have given you so much trouble". The kittens of course looked so happy and content but by this time they were five and six weeks old and so litter trays had to be provided! And so my living room became home to ten Tonkinese kittens, two mothers and an elderly Russian Blue. Several litter trays were provided as well as water bowls, food bowls, toys and alternative beds. The cats loved it but I have to say that it was no picnic for me!

There were suddenly kittens everywhere; on top of the television; hanging off lamps and of course climbing the curtains as well as my legs! As soon as I came into the room they rushed towards me in seeking the attention they all craved. At times it was more than fraught but at the end of every day all the cats and kittens just laid out on their massive bed and all were contented and happy. It was indeed a beautiful sight to behold. And so it went on for six weeks or more. My usually respectable living room resembled a demolition site and of course smelt a bit too much of cat pee for my liking! Despite the inconvenience I look back on those weeks now with affection.

What happened to the man who tried to cross a lion with a goat ?

He had to get a new goat of course!

I particularly loved those evenings with sleepy kittens and contented mothers. The kittens thrived, my girls were happy. My old Russian Blue was often 'not amused' but she put up with all the playfulness of the kittens with surprising patience.

By the time the kittens were ready to leave home I must admit that it was I pleased that I'd soon have my space back. When they had gone however, there was a huge vacuum in our world and they were missed terribly. Gradually things got back to normal and the living room became more like it was before (apart from the shredded curtains and battered lamp shades!).

Looking back on it all I can see just how much I learned from the experience of having two litters of kittens together. In some ways I feel that it was the wrong thing to do. I didn't realise how much I needed to learn as a breeder and of course having to learn twice as fast with two litters was indeed a baptism of fire. At the end of the day however I had ten wonderful kittens who were happy and confident by the time they were ready to go to their new homes. I enjoyed watching them grow and had so bountiful pleasure from being with them so much.

Both my girls are calling as I write this and I do intend to breed again from both of them. This time however I will not be arranging a 'double wedding'. They will go off to stud one at a time and the second litter won't be planned to arrive until the kittens from the first litter have moved out! Three or four kittens at a time seems the ideal to me and even five feels manageable. *Ten however is just a few kittens too many to want to repeat the experience!!*



Give a Stray a Christmas Dinner

The next time you visit your vet see if they are taking part in the "Give a Stray a Christmas Dinner" campaign this year. The campaign collects 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.

You might find that your local Rotary Club is collecting tinned and packet goods for the elderly; those who have pets would often rather feed their pets than themselves, if it came to a choice —so pop a tin of cat food in the box along with that tin of ham.

Just Litter

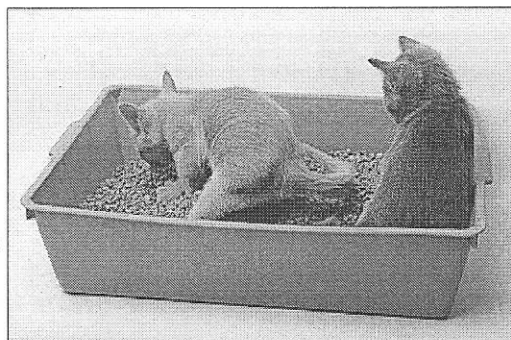
If You Use Litter Trays: -

Retailers have become so careful about plastic bags now, punching holes in them so that children don't suffocate if they put them over their heads, that it is difficult to scoop out the mess without leaving a trail of litter between the box(es) and the dustbin. I now have two piles of plastic bags in my house, one set with holes and one set without.

Sources of bags without holes are: -

- ◆ garden centres
- ◆ £1 (or cut price) shops
- ◆ Charity shops
- ◆ Packaging for magazines, bed linen etc.
- ◆ Waste bin liners

Also useful for those who have dogs and have to clear up behind them.



If You Use Clumping Litter: -

- ◆ Don't use it for small kittens. They put everything they come across in their mouths and you don't want litter clumping in their throats, stomachs or intestines—or have it kicked up to clump in their eyes!
- ◆ After you wash the litter tray, polish it before you put the litter in. It really does make it easier to remove the clumps as they tend to stick to the tray less. My sister was stopping with me once and asked me whether there was anything she could do. When I said "you can clean and polish the litter trays for me" she thought I'd finally gone mad!

For Those Whose Gardens Are Regularly Visited By Cats:-

I have been told that cat doings are highly alkaline. Try planting plants that like alkaline soil such as -

Clematis, Dianthus, Hibiscus, Chrysanthemum, Potentilla, Salvia, Cheiranthus (wallflower) and Madonna Lilies (most other lilies prefer acid soil)

Anne Cox-Horton

Why Should I keep My Cat Indoors?

Linda Vousden

I am one of many who prefer kittens to go to a home where they won't be allowed to roam

freely outside. There are always people who will try to deceive you about this, usually those who think that they have the right to purchase one of your kittens just because they can afford one—so your questions have to be quite canny!

Some people are genuinely confused, because they have been brought up to believe that it is a more natural life for a cat to be free-ranging. In an ideal world this would be true, but in the last few decades the environment that was once suitable for the roaming cat has changed almost beyond recognition — hundreds of thousands of houses have recently been built and with barely any garden; roads are far more congested and the speed of traffic is frantic as drivers manically shaving a few seconds off travelling times!

As we choose to take cats into our homes, so we have the responsibility for their welfare just as if they were our children. So what do you tell your potential kitten owners to convince them to keep their cats indoors? A couple of years ago an article on this subject was posted on my Tonkinese chat list— here is the gist of it: -

Reasons to Keep Cats Indoors (based the original article by Franny Syufy)

- 1) An Indoor Cat Is Relatively Safe from Communicable Disease — Casual contact with other cats can transmit parasites, such as fleas or ringworm, or more serious diseases such as Feline Leukemia, Feline Infectious Peritonitis and Respiratory Diseases). Aggressive contact (fighting) can result in injury and abscesses, and pass on lethal Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.
- 2) Indoor Cats Don't Get Hit by Cars — It is believed that more cats are killed by cars annually than are euthanized in U.S. animal shelters. Even the most careful driver cannot avoid hitting a cat that runs across the street in front of a car. Even so-called 'quiet' or 'country' areas are no guarantee for cats that are less road-aware than 'city' cats.
- 3) Indoor Cats Are Safe From Predators - Outdoor cats are targets for owls, raptors and foxes. A large dog can easily overpower and kill a cat, guard dogs are bred to attack. Don't forget the worst predator, man. Cats are 'fair game' for the moron with a rifle, club, cigarette lighter etc. Even with claws and teeth a captured cat rarely has a chance outside. It's a well documented fact that psychopaths often practice cruelty first with animals.
- 4) Indoor Cats Don't Create 'Neighbour' Problems — Cats roam, dig up flower-beds, spray etc. People who don't like cats may resort to extreme measures to keep the cats out.
- 5) Indoor Cats Are not a Danger to Wildlife— Cats are predators, and left to their own devices outdoors, will eventually chase and kill birds, rabbits, and other small wildlife. Keeping them indoors will help toward protecting wildlife.
- 6) Indoor Cats Can Get Plenty of Exercise & Don't Get Lost Or Stolen — With proper stimulation indoor cats do get plenty of exercise with interactive toys, decent climbing towers, scratching posts, chasing-games and a companion cat. Many homes have the space for a secure garden pen. Statistics show that of 'owned' cats turned in to cat rescues, only three percent are eventually relocated with their owners. Then there are the 'people' who sell cats to laboratories for animal experimentation/research or as bait for fighting dogs, *their prime source of cats is the wandering but friendly pet— and we all know how friendly a Tonk can be!*

Did You Know

The cat's ridged nose-pad pattern is unique, like the human fingerprint.

The Giraffe, Camel and Cat are the only animals that walk by moving **both** their left feet, then **both** their right feet, when walking. This method of walking ensures speed, agility and silence.

Cats wag their tails when in a stage of ambivalence. The cat wants to do two things at once, but each impulse blocks the other.

E.G: Your cat is in the doorway wanting to go outside, you open the door but it's raining, the cat's tail will wag because of internal conflict. It wants to go out, but not into the rain. Once the cat makes a decision and either returns to the house or leaves into the rain, the tail will immediately stop wagging.

Cats avoid citrus smells. Try hanging an orange or lemon scented air freshener in the inner branches of your Christmas tree, if your cat is a seasonal "climber."

A single pair of cats *and their kittens* can produce as many as 420,000 kittens in just 7 years.

Cats **can** see in colour. They have the equivalent of human red/green colour blindness. (Reds appear green and greens appear red; or shades thereof.) Cats need 1/6th the amount of light that humans do to see. They can see up to 120 feet away and their peripheral vision is about 285 degrees.

The *oddest* cat on record was Mincho who went up a tree in Argentina and didn't come down again until she died six years later. While treed, she managed to have three litters with equally *ambitious* toms.

The oldest cat on record was Puss, from England, who died in 1939 just one day after her 36th birthday.

The domestic cat is the only cat species able to hold its tail vertically while walking. All wild cats hold their tails horizontally or tucked between their legs while walking.
[see front cover]

Towser, a tortie-tabby in charge of rodent control in Scotland, killed a record 28,899 mice in her 21 years. This is about four mice per day, every day, for 21 years. Towser died in 1987.

A cat's ear pivots 180 degrees. They have 30 muscles in each ear, and use twelve or more muscles to control their ear movement—so what are the others for?

Cats have 290 bones in their bodies & 517 muscles. Its normal body temperature is 101.5 degrees, this is slightly warmer than a human's.

Is Your Cat a Joker?

The results of a recent online poll, conducted by Prof. R Wiseman of Hertfordshire University, show that cat owners believe their cats have a sense of humour. The survey was designed to find out which character traits owners share with their pets based on how they rated themselves and their pets on categories such as sociability and intelligence.

1,000 pet owners completed the survey: 91% of dogs were described a 'happy' compared with just 62% of fish. *[No, this is not a spoof report, Ed]*

The survey also showed up some interesting results about the type of people likely to keep certain pets. Prof Wiseman said "There is reason to be wary of people with lizards and snakes—only 2% of reptile owners described themselves as dependable versus 43% of dog owners." He is keen for more pet owners to take part in the survey, which can be found at www.petpersonality.co.uk.

Sue's handy tip!

Are you, like me always searching for something to use as a sae postcard to send with your show entries? In these days of recycling I have come up with a solution. I use the place cards that are put on my pens (hopefully) at shows. They are blank on the back for you to put your name address and stamp and are easy to spot in the post as they are so brightly coloured!



Along with Pagan and Zaffy, may I wish you all a
Very Happy Christmas — Linda

TBC Recommendations For Breeders*Updated 2005*

In addition to the GCCF Code of Ethics the TBC strongly recommends that the following points are noted by owners of queens and studs.

- 1 If breeding from a Tonkinese on the REFERENCE register, ensure that it complies with the current Tonkinese Registration Policy - some cats are on the REFERENCE register because they have ancestors that are not permitted in the Tonkinese breed programme (eg. Orientals or cats of unregistered or unknown parentage).
- 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.
- 14 The breeder **must supply** each kitten owner with a copy of the GCCF code of ethics; a valid vaccination certificate showing that the full course has been completed for Enteritis and cat 'flu; a properly completed pedigree certificate that includes at least three generations with full registration numbers and the pink registration certificate duly signed by the breeder for transfer of ownership

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ALL MEMBERS

- ◆ BE RESPONSIBLE, SUPPORT THE BREED & ATTEND THE BREED SEMINAR
- ◆ KEEP LINDA INFORMED OF YOUR KITTENS FOR SALE, & WHEN THEY HAVE GONE
- ◆ KEEP LINDA INFORMED OF YOUR WORKING STUDS—ADVERTISE THEM, FREE !
- ◆ SEND IN YOUR ITEMS FOR TONKINFO
- ◆ VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE—**www.tonkinese.info**