



Mymystic Maiway

13th November 2008 - 19th September 2011

Farewell our glorious girl, Linda & Mike Vousden

EDITOR'S NOTES - Linda Vousden

What Do You Want From Tonkinfo?
See article inside

Deadline for Spring Issue: 1st April 2011.

E-mail items to tbc.uk@ntlworld.com

Neither the Editor, Committee nor Club is accountable for opinions expressed by individuals in this issue

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Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee Contact: Linda Vousden
(details as above)

TONKINESE BREED CLUB WEB SITE - There is much available to members via our web site and a wealth of information on the breed and the successes of our fellow members and their cats: -

- ☐ Kitten List
- ☐ Stud List
- ☐ Many downloadable forms and useful documents, Club publications etc.
- ☐ Breeders' cats re-homing page
- ☐ The rescue & welfare page for lost and found Tonkinese.
- ☐ Members 'For Sale' page, for any cat-related items you wish to sell (equipment, furniture, artworks, books, magazines, craftwork, cat houses etc.)
- ☐ The Tonkinese BAC page

**If you link to the TBC site please check the address,
there are several members who still have the the wrong address.
The TBC web site is www.tonkinese.info**

Our 9th CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

29th October 2011

at the Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 9SE

Closing Date for Entries - 4th October 2011



**THE THEME IS
HALLOWEEN !**

with pedigree classes, household pet classes
and cats on exhibition this promises to be a
colourful show!

Show Manager: Mrs Kathy Wilkinson
5 Beltana Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4BT
Tel: 01474 352 711

Schedules & Entry Forms - have been e-mailed to all TBC Members who have provided a current e-mail address, and may be downloaded from the TBC web site's show page. Some hard copies are available from the Show Manager - send an A5 SAE.

Exhibition Pens - all have free entry into the Best Dressed Halloween Pen competition ☺

Volunteers Needed – let the show manager know if you can help in any way.

- ◆ Help setting up on the Friday evening (usually any time between 3pm and 6pm)
- ◆ Help on the Club, Tombola and Cup Tables.
- ◆ Help selling tickets & catalogues on the door.

For more information visit the Show Page on the TBC web site

Special Prize Draw For Early Entries

One of the first 10 exhibitors to send in their entries will win a copy of

“Tonkinese Cats – A History”

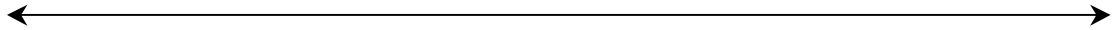
The winner's name will be drawn on the day of the show



Tonkinese Breed Club Committee

Your Help Needed - Following the continuing success of the Club stand at several shows this year we may be taking a stand at the 115th National Cat Club Show in Bracknell, 10th December – but we *need* members help to run the stand.

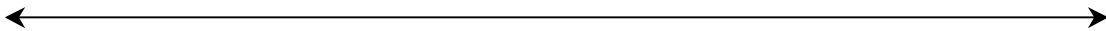
Please contact Catherine Bernard (see Committee list) with your offer of help.



Tonkinese Breed Advisory Committee Report

1. Tonkinese AOV Progress, still no feedback from the GCCF. The TBAC continues to request information - I will let you know what is happening as soon as we hear anything more.
2. Current Tonkinese Probationer Judges – Sue Amor, Michele Codd, Julia Craig-McFeely, Steve Parkin, Dorothy Stone.
3. Current trainee Stewards (working toward the Judge Appointment Scheme) – Jo Hudson and Linda Vousden.
4. Progress regarding changes to the GCCF Stewarding and Judge Appointment schemes – It is hoped that enough progress will be made to put some changes to the October Council meeting. However, the Board of Directors (formerly known as the Executive Committee) have informed us that it is not their intention to change the whole scheme in one go, but rather to roll it out in 'manageable stages'. There is no information yet on what stages may be advance first.

L.Vousden, TBAC Hon.Secretary



TONKINFO IS Your Magazine – But What Do You Want From It?

[Editor, Linda Vousden]

Before I continue please be assured that this is not a gripe – I really need your help to work on the future of Tonkinfo.

You clearly aren't interested in competitions (several have now been cancelled due to lack of entries), or seeing your own cats on the front cover, or promoting your studs, or giving us news of your kittens, or sharing your experiences etc – *the problem is I don't know what you do want.*

I no longer have the time I once had to search for interesting items to fill the magazine – but if everyone sent just one item there would be enough to fill Tonkinfo for the next couple of years!

If you have something interesting to share don't wait, send it straight to me and I'll store it for the next issue – otherwise you are in for some very scanty issues in future.

So send me your feedback, your photos, your contributions ☺

FELINE ASTHMA – Dangerous And On The Increase

In my first litter of Tonkinese, born in 1991, we had a lovely blue tortie called Speckle. By the time she was six months old Speckle had been diagnosed with feline asthma.

At that time the only treatment available was a monthly depo-medrone injection, a 'long' lasting cortico-steroid. If she was lucky she could go for as long as six whole weeks between injections. Speckle passed away at the age of nine, her normal life span considerably shortened by the steroids – but without them we 'd have lost her within a year. At that time I'd no idea that cats suffered from asthma. Today more than 1% of cats suffer and it is notably on the increase. It is suggested that increased exposure to industrial pollutants is the main cause. This year my 15 year old Tonk, Pagan, started coughing and was diagnosed as asthmatic.

What is Feline Asthma?

Cat asthma is a chronic progressive disease. There seems to be no cure, but with the right medication and treatment your cat can enjoy a healthy and comfortable life. With asthma the small passageways of the lungs (bronchioles) become inflamed, they thicken and collapse when the cat inhales, making it difficult to catch a breath. All degrees of asthma exist in cats. In severe cases, coughing, wheezing and exercise intolerance occur. In these cases, large numbers of bronchioles plug up with mucus and the smooth muscle that surrounds these tubes go into spasm, restricting breathing. Other cats have only a mild cough or high-pitched wheeze that comes and goes. The incidence of asthma is highest in Siamese cats and related breeds.

The chronic bronchitis of feline asthma usually first occurs between the ages of two and six. It starts as a slight cough and mild respiratory distress interspersed with long periods during which your pet appears normal. These early signs are often overlooked or are mistaken for hair-balls or choking on food. Cats in an acute asthmatic attack have very hard time breathing. These breaths are deep, laboured and abdominal. Sometimes they vomit. Examples of asthmatic cats can be seen on YouTube. *A severe asthma attack can be life threatening.*

What Might Trigger An Attack?

Asthma is triggered by allergens in the air, or by stress. Some common allergens are grass and tree pollens, smoke, fumes, cigarettes, dust, litter tray dust and aerosols of various sorts such as perfumes, deodorants, flea spray or powders. When these cats contract any respiratory disease the problem becomes much worse. Heat, cold and exertion can also trigger an attack.

How is Asthma Diagnosed In Your Cat?

Mild cases, in which a dry hacking cough occurs, are often brushed aside the first few times. But during severe attacks, the amount of effort the cat expends in trying to breath can't be ignored. These cats must often breathe with their mouth open. Only heart disease, pneumonia or a diaphragmatic hernia mimic an asthma attack. X-rays and blood tests may be required for correct diagnosis. Some of the signs of heartworms in cats mimic feline asthma. So in some cases a heartworm blood test is appropriate.

Treatment For Your Cat:

Asthma in cats can be treated successfully but not cured. We rely on two different drugs during an acute asthma attack.

Bronchodilators to give fast relief by relaxing the muscles that surround the airways, dilating the bronchioles and easing respiration.

Corticosteroid anti-inflammatory drugs are used to decrease the inflammatory symptoms of feline asthma. The traditional method of treatment utilizes the oral corticosteroids, prednisone or prednisolone a day for 10-14 days and then slowly reduces the amount of medication given over a period of three to four months. Some

vets use an injectable form of the drug, methylprednisolone acetate every two to four weeks when the cat will not accept pills. However, administering the inhaled steroid works quite well in cats, with the advantage of avoiding the side effects of oral corticosteroids.

Today the preference is to administer as much medication as possible by inhalation, rather than orally or by injection. A product called Aerokat is a mask and spacer system especially designed to adapt human inhalers and puffers for use in cats and it is FAB approved (examples of its use can be seen on YouTube). I am successfully using this with Pagan, although she doesn't like the smell of the Flixotide. Some pets only need medicines intermittently when the condition flares up but some do better on low doses of medicine continuously.



Cats tend to have less serious side effects from long-term corticosteroid administration than people do but care must be taken to prevent them from becoming obese.

What Can I Do To Prevent Attacks?

Try to remove as many triggers as possible from your cat's environment. Remember - it is unusual for one single item to be responsible for all of the cat's symptoms. Try to remove suspected items one at a time.

- ◆ If you suspect that a certain brand of cat litter is one of the causes, replace it for two or three weeks with shredded newspaper or dust-free sand. If the cat's condition improves you can try new brands of cat litter later; don't use a hooded litter box.
- ◆ Change your air-conditioning, heating and vacuum cleaner filters frequently.
- ◆ Avoid exposing the cat to cigarette or fireplace smoke; if they insist on sitting on top of a gas boiler or heater have it regularly tested for emissions!
- ◆ Minimize the use of aerosols, sprays, perfumes and powders around the house.
- ◆ Play with your cat – gentle exercise has beneficial effects. Take time to play with your cat but also be aware that over-exertion in exercise might cause an asthmatic attack.
- ◆ Any activity that you associate with asthma attacks should be avoided. Sometimes it is cold temperatures that trigger an attack. If this is so keep your cat indoors in the winter.
- ◆ An organism called Bartonella has been implicated in chronic respiratory infections in cats; where cats are tested positive for this organism it can be successfully treated.

Signs of an Asthma Attack:

- ◆ cat is wheezing
- ◆ cat's head is stretched forward and close to the ground, or sometimes raised backwards
- ◆ cat appears to be coughing something out and exhaling air forcefully
- ◆ cat looks as if it is in respiratory distress, and breathing through open mouth

Don't panic, just take immediate action and follow these instructions:

1. Don't agitate your cat while it is having the attack
2. Don't try CPR on cat during an asthma attack
3. Calm your cat down after the wheezing subsides
4. Book an appointment with your vet as soon as possible

A full-blown cat asthma attack is a medical emergency; take your cat to the nearest animal hospital IMMEDIATELY. Here are the signs:

- ◆ Cat gasping for air
- ◆ Cat collapses
- ◆ Cat's gums and tongue turn blue

Fore-warned is Fore-armed

MEET THE SOCK TONKS

By Catherine Bernard

Some of you may have noticed a "new breed" appearing at odd locations and some cat shows recently.....**the Sock Tonks.**

The original Sock Tonk is Oscar the Cat, who was born from "Old Lady's" sewing box on 27 January 2011. But he got lonely, so a short time later, Lola was born. Lola was a bit of a party girl and didn't spend much time with Oscar, so Old Lady decided to make more friends for Oscar, including Pinky and Alfie. The SockTonks were gaining popularity by now – Oscar made his own Facebook page, and soon made lots of friends who all wanted to have their very own Sock Tonk. Poor Old Lady was now starting to get a bit worn out with all that sewing, but she kept working hard and soon a whole new litter of Sock Tonks was born.

This "Spring" litter made their debut at the Suffolk and Norfolk Cat Show in May this year where, for the first time, the Breed Club ran a very successful table with point and solid coat pattern cats on exhibition. We had an amazing day – there was great interest in the Tonkinese breed from both public and judges alike, and the 2 cats on exhibition – Mimaperks Perkins Saturnus – aka Perkins, and Tallica Quantum of Sollace – aka Peach did us proud in demonstrating that the points and solids are indeed worthy of being on the show bench.



Perkins, Peach and Oscar – the original Sock Tonk

The Sock Tonks were really popular at the Suffolk and Norfolk Show - all but one were snapped up by new families and went off to their new homes that day. So a few months later at the Eastern Counties, the second "Summer" litter came out to help the Breed Club – again we ran a club table with the exhibition cats showing themselves off again. This second litter again all found new families to adopt them – all except poor Mabel. So Mabel went back home to Old Lady and now lives happily with Oscar the Cat.

On a serious note, we have to say a huge thank you to Sandra O'Shea – aka "Old Lady" who has given up so much of her time and efforts to create the Sock Tonks, and also to Louise O'Shea who has helped to rear them! They are all individually made with love and care and are unique. Each is named and has a birth certificate. Several have gone on lots of travels, and we now have a Facebook page – "Sock Tonk Cat Club" where you can see pictures of them, and if you are lucky enough to adopt one, then please do add pictures of your Sock Tonk to the page as he/she grows up. You might even get a mention in the Cat Planet magazine – they have already made a couple of appearances in that too so far this year! We

also have to thank Hazel Hunter and her wonderful daughters – Chloe, Saskia and Lilly, without whom the tables would not have been so much fun and definitely not such a success – I think we can safely say that the future of the Tonkinese are in good hands with these girls. Additional thanks to Lynda and Bill Scott for their work at both the Suffolk & Norfolk and the Eastern Counties shows.



By the time this has gone to press we will have hopefully had another successful day out at the Wyvern Show on September 10th where Perkins will be exhibited on the Club Table and a 3rd litter of Sock Tonks will be helping to raise awareness and funds. As you know our Annual Breed Club Show is coming up at the

end of October – please do enter your lovely Tonks if you can, even in the Pedigree Pet Section. We already have some Grand Master titled Tonks and hopefully at least a couple that should be on their way to gaining their Imperial Title, although as we all know these are hard to achieve ! So if you have a pointed or solid coat patterned Tonk – the Pedigree Pet section is the place to show them off and also gives our judges more exposure to how wonderful the points and solids are! You will also be able to meet the Sock Tonks at the Breed Club Show and hopefully a new 4th “Halloween special” litter - and if you are lucky will have an opportunity to adopt one. See you all there !

The TBC at The Wyvern Cat Show *By Saskia Hunter (age 10)*

The Tonkinese Breed Club stall was a huge success at The Wyvern Show. Every sock tonk was sold and almost every name was chosen in the “guess the Sock Tonk name” competition.

Perkins – (Mimaperks Perkins Saturnus) a beautiful brown solid boy was on exhibition at the show and he showed off by walking all over the bred club table whilst on his harness.

The Tonkinese Breed Club table was superbly run by Catherine Bernard, and her assistant, Saskia Hunter. The stall was very popular and the show was a very busy one. Just when we thought the day couldn't get any better we heard the wonderful news that Mimaperks Champagne Charlie – a stunning red solid Tonkinese – won Best In Show Pedigree Pet. Huge congratulations to Catherine on the success of her beautiful boy.

The sales of sock tonks have been hugely popular and with that in mind we have to sadly let you know that the sock tonks will be making their final appearance from Old Lady's sewing box. On the 29th October 2011 the last litter of sock tonks will be available for their new homes so make sure you reserve one before they all go!!! Look forward to seeing you all at the breed club show soon ☺

More Tonkinese History Snippets

Linda Vousden

I may have finished my book, but I don't think I'll ever stop searching out those hints, clues and gems of information that all fit into the history

of Tonkinese. I recently obtained some copies of Cats & Kittens monthly magazine, all from the 1950s. This was the beginning of the Burmese's popularity in the UK and they were a grand mixture of Burmese and Tonks. I found a few more items to share with you, I'm sure you can draw your own conclusions ☺

◆ Breeder's Card, October 1955.

BURMESE. -Mrs. Macaulay, West Kington, Chippenham, Wilts. Tel. Castlecombe 260. Prize winning Kittens and Pets for sale. Occasionally a few Siamese kittens as pets.

◆ Mrs Lilian France (breeder of the notable 'Chinki' Siamese and Burmese) wrote a regular column for Cats & Kittens magazine. This extract was taken from the September 1955 issue

The Kensington Kitten and Neuter Cat Club held their annual show at the Royal Horticultural Old Hall, Westminster, on July 28th. This year, the show managers were Mrs. Janet Newton and Mrs. Effie Aitken. There was a wonderful entry and gate and the weather was perfect - almost too perfect, as the hall has a glass roof and it became extremely hot when all the public were admitted.

I was judging Abyssinians and Burmese kittens. There was a very nice entry of nine Burmese kittens. These have improved in type, length of tails and head shape, and only one showed a few white hairs. Eye colour is not so good, some showing too much green and some a cold neutral colour. As most of the kittens were very young, eye colour may improve as they mature.

◆ This extract from Mrs France's column, October 1954, gives us small taste of the hullabaloo caused by the appearance of Siamese kittens in Burmese litters.

In reply to Miss King's letter about her kittens, which I published some time ago in my notes, Mrs. Smith says:

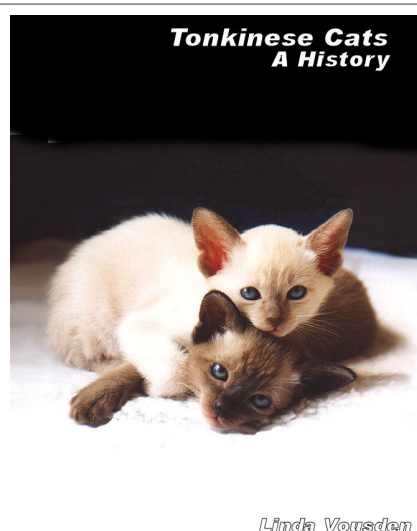
"I was very interested in Miss King's letter. and there are two points I would like to raise. How did her Burmese queen come to have a Siamese kitten? If she is a pure Burmese it would be impossible! And how would she know that it was a Siamese? It might have been a white kitten mongrel!"

Tonkinese Cats – A History

**Already sold internationally
£18 plus p&p**

**A fascinating look at the
international history of this lovely
breed, spanning three hundred
years**

Only available from Linda Vousden,
To order visit: www.tonkinese.me
or www.mymystic.com





Isn't This A Lovely Picture?

A brown mink Tonk with her litter of pointed kittens – or at least that's what I'd thought when I first saw this cover photo for *Cats & Kittens* September 1955!

But it's actually the famous Burmese sire, Sablesilk Bimbo (27), baby-sitting a Siamese litter from Milori Linko (24) ex Chinki Sapphire (24).

However, Bimbo did have a wonderfully mixed pedigree of Burmese, Tonks (light-phase Burmese) and Siamese – and just look at that type!

THE NEW TONKINESE BREEDING POLICY, *Issue 2011*

Having spoken with a number of breeders at random it seems that very few have actually read the new Tonkinese Breeding Policy. Please remember that a breeder who registers

Tonkinese with the GCCF is obliged to adhere to the Tonkinese Registration and Breeding Policies. They are available to download from the Useful Publications & TBAC pages of www.tonkinese.info.

The breeding policy largely includes the TBC's own recommendations for Breeders, which have been printed on the back of every Tonkinfo for the last several years. If you can't download a copy of the Tonkinese Breeding Policy send me an A4 SAE with £1.50 in loose stamps, and I'll be happy to send you a copy –
Linda Vousden.

NOTES FOR BREEDERS

Warning – Unfortunately I have once again been made aware that a Tonkinese owner is looking to breed with cats that are on the NON-Active Register. So please remember to check owners' pink registration documents before accepting a queen to stud. We should support each other and be vigilant about such problems, and protect our breed.

KITTENS - Don't forget to advertise them on the Tonkinese Breed Club web site.

Breeders sell more kittens through Club kitten lists than any other medium, and **it's free**. Just complete the form that you can download from the kitten list page and e-mail it to tbc.uk@ntlworld.com