

**STOP PRESS:**

At its meeting today (7 May 2013) the Board approved the revised Tonkinese registration policy and the BAC's request for separate assessment classes for the Tonkinese variants, (Colourpoint Pattern and Burmese Colour Restriction). This will go forward to Council's June agenda with Board approval noted.

If approved by Council then the classes can appear in schedules as soon as printing allows. The classes will also be offered at the Supreme (subject to Council approval).



Three lovely blue kittens, one of each coat pattern  
Photo copyright Mrs C Bernard

**Editors Notes:**

Hi, I'm back doing Tonkinfo for you for a while. I enjoy doing it and hope you will enjoy the contents.

As usual, I would like to remind you that it is YOUR magazine, so please feel very welcome to send in anything you would like other club members to see. Anything in colour may be difficult to provide in the hard copy for members who prefer to receive their *Tonkinfo* that way, but I will do my best.

*Kathy Wilkinson*

*(Neither the Editor, Committee nor Club is accountable for opinions expressed by individuals in this or any other issue)*

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# TONKINESE BREED CLUB COMMITTEE & CONTACTS 2013

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## TONKINESE BREED CLUB WEB SITE

- Kitten List & Stud List
- 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
- Etc.

**If you link to the TBC site please check the address, there are still members who have the wrong address. The TBC web site is [www.tonkinese.info](http://www.tonkinese.info)**



## Hon.Sec's Report - *Linda Vousden*

Once again the old refrain – “*I’m back in the hot seat*”, however I’m happy to handover ‘editorship’ of Tonkinfo and I’m sure you’ll all enjoy Kathy’s fresh approach.

**Committee Changes** – We sincerely thank Liz Edge, Sue Amor, Catherine Bernard, Rebecca Hitchings, Lynda Scott and Julie Singleton who have now retired from the Committee - together they have put in many years of service and hard work for the Club and it is been much appreciated. I extend an extra vote of thanks to Catherine who has worked above and beyond the usual

these past few years to raise the profile of the Tonkinese, particularly our solid and pointed coat-patterns, with the exhibition stands that she has organised and run on our behalf at many shows up and down the country. There is no doubt that she will be missed but we are grateful for her offer to help on Club tables in the future. It is very pleasing that we had so many keen volunteers to fill the vacancies - Kathy Wilkinson (Kent), Anne Hazelden (Sussex), Julia Craig-McFeely (Oxford), Karen Durden (Bucks), Rebecca Sara (Shropshire) and Rachel Millward (Devon) – Anne, Kathy and Karen have served on the Committee in the past. We made a very good start at our first meeting together and it will be interesting to see what new skills and ideas will be added.

**2012 Show** - Unfortunately neither of the Clubs with whom we shared the hall at Bracknell was running a show in 2012, so we had to find an affordable new venue – and fast. Kathy did us proud and found an excellent community centre with ideal facilities just 20 minutes from our usual Bracknell venue - the New Haw Community Centre, New Haw near Addlestone, Surrey. However, given that this would be our Club’s 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, and our 10<sup>th</sup> Championship show it was ideal for our celebrations and proved to be a very enjoyable day. I’m sure there will be more about the show to read later – all of the photographs were posted on the new Club web site after the show, they are still there if you’ve not yet seen them. By the way, I hope you all enjoyed the special 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary edition of Tonkinfo – were there any surprises, did you recognise any faces or names from the past? If you have any stories to tell I’m sure Kathy would be happy to have them for Tonkinfo.

**No Club Show In 2013** - We are applying to change our show date to Spring 2014, and also to go back-to-back with the Tonkinese Cat Club show at our new venue. This will give the Club accounts a bit of breathing space, our members the joy of travelling in daylight and good weather - and exhibitors will be able to enter both Tonkinese shows on the same date. We will keep you up to date with the 2014 show progress.

**Club Web Site** – did you notice that we put up a completely new web site in October – its getting 2,000 to 3,000 hits every month so do make full use of it! It would be nice to see more pictures for the gallery and stud owners can send in a picture of their boys for the stud list.

**Tonkinese BAC News** - After our June 2012 application to the GCCF, for recognition of our solid and pointed Tonks, the BAC received full and constructive feedback from the Board. As a result the Tonkinese Breed Seminar was combined with an open meeting to discuss the Board’s recommendation regarding the Registration Policy and mandatory DNA testing for coat-pattern.

The names of our coat-patterns have been getting more confusing over the last few years but we have now applied for changes below. These names should be helpful in show schedules and are in line with the new breed number system that the Board are proposing (the Easy Mind System). More of which is on the Club web site for your information: -

- Solid to be - Tonkinese, Burmese Colour Restriction (BCR)
- Mink to be - Tonkinese, Tonkinese Colour Restriction (TCR)
- Pointed to be - Tonkinese, Colourpoint Pattern (CPP)

From the open meeting it was clear that we all want to see the solid and pointed Tonks go forward and in separate Assessment classes. However the Board has concerns over the range of coat-pattern quality on the bench and recommended that the Registration Policy include mandatory DNA coat-pattern testing for all Tonkinese that are registered as active. The BAC considered the response at the open meeting, and whether it was necessary to fully adopt the suggestion of the Board.

It was agreed that the first consideration had to be the progress of the breed as a whole, which means

that all three coat-patterns must be progressed. Therefore the TBAC is applying for an amendment to the registration policy that will require: -

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, all second, and subsequent, generation **male** Tonkinese, that are to be registered as active, to be micro-chipped and DNA tested for the colourpoint restriction (i.e. both the Burmese and the Siamese coat-patterns); **with the exception** of the second, and subsequent, generation progeny of the following matings: –

1. Tonkinese BCR x Tonkinese BCR (*all progeny to be registered as Tonkinese BCR*)
2. Tonkinese CPP x Tonkinese CPP (*all progeny to be registered as Tonkinese CPP*)
3. Tonkinese BCR x Tonkinese CPP (*all progeny to be registered as Tonkinese TCR*)

The same is also strongly recommended for female Tonkinese that are to be registered as active.

A cat with the wrong coat-pattern will only be able to re-register with a different coat-pattern once (you can't have a cat switching back & forth between Assessment and Championship classes), and must be micro-chipped and DNA tested to do so. The application for the Preliminary recognition of Tonkinese BCR and CPP has been revised where necessary, and re-submitted in time for the May Board meeting, along with the enhanced Tonkinese Breeding Policy, which will be published once approved by the Genetics Committee.

We don't yet know whether Tonks (BCR) and Tonks (CPP), who have been shown as household pets, will be able to be shown in Preliminary Assessment classes – I'll let you know once we have an answer and when we have any more information on our application. If you have any queries about all this please contact me.

*Cheers, Linda*

PS: I have had numerous queries in the past couple of years about whether a cat may be shown, or mated with a particular Siamese etc. Please, before contacting me **do** read the registration policy – it really does answer most of your questions.

(Out of the normal order, but Linda had so much to report on – Ed.)

## **Chairperson's Report – Christine Tamlin**

Dear Members

I am pleased to say I am the new Chairperson for 2013.

The news received in the last few days means that, hopefully, it is going to be another special year for our beautiful Tonkinese cats.

I especially love the Pointeds, or, as we should now say, the Colourpoint pattern, as my first Tonkinese kitten ever born to my beautiful Lilly is one.

Therefore, all very best wishes for a good show year.

## CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS FOR RESULTS IN 2012

(Not to be confused with the Club Show awards) – Congratulations and thank you to all Club members who have shown their Tonks in the past year, keeping them in the public & Cat Fancy eye. The Club has 23 annual awards available, but many are often unclaimed (visit the Club web site for more information) - the following were awarded at the 2013 AGM:

AWARD	WON BY
Most successful adult male	GrCh Tallica Mickey Blue Eyes (H Hunter)
Most successful adult female	ImpGrCh Yokota Lucie Lockett (R Millward)
Most successful neuter	ImpGrPr Tonkaholics Serendipity (K Wilkinson)
Most successful kitten	Fecheldee Wilona (C & V Macey)
Most successful Brown, Blue, Chocolate or Lilac	GrMC Mimaperks Perkins Saturnus (J Bernard)
Most successful Brown.	GrMC Mimaperks Perkins Saturnus (J Bernard)
Most successful Blue	Ch Amorcatz Jane Eyre (A & C Bernard)
Most successful Chocolate (series)	GrCh&Pr Fecheldee Georgiegirl (C & V Macey)
Most successful Lilac	ImpGrCh Yokota Lucie Lockett (R Millward)
Most successful Red adult, kitten or neuter	ImpGrMC Mimaperks Champagne Charlie (J Bernard)
Most successful Tortie	ImpGrPr Tonkaholics Serendipity (K Wilkinson)
Most successful Caramel or Apricot (series)	GrCh Fecheldee Daisy May (C & V Macey)
Member who has shown most Tonks in the year	Coral & Vince Macey

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### KITTENS

**Advertise yours on our club web site, it's free!**

With 2,000 to 3,000 hits per month more Tonk kittens are sold via the web site than any other medium.

*NOTE: All listing requests must now be submitted on the form that you'll find on the kitten list page.*

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<p>If you want to know more about the history of the Tonkinese, or the Tonkinese Breed Club, you need</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>“Tonkinese Cats – A History”</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">only available from <a href="http://www.tonkinese.me">www.tonkinese.me</a></p>	
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## OPAL REUNITED

Over the past 10 years or maybe more I have re-homed many Tonks, some with sadness because circumstances would not allow their owner to keep them. Some I have been happy to re-home because I could see that their owners were making them unhappy - it may have been a new baby or a dog, or sometimes another cat that that was causing a problem. I have found homes for dozens of beautiful Tonks over the years.

The story that follows is to me the most satisfying and heart-warming:

In 2010 I met a lady called Mary - she came to cat shows to find me. Mary has a friend called Kate with a Tonkinese cat called Opal. Kate is over 80 years of age, not in good health and lives alone on the outskirts of London. She has a PA and a gardener, and owns her house which has a small garden at the back.

Opal went out every day crossing a busy road with parked cars on both sides. She has been hit four times - the last time nearly dying, it was touch and go.

Mary arranged that when it was decided that Kate could no longer look after Opal she would call me and I would collect Opal asap to be re-homed.



The day came when Mary called me to collect Opal as the time had come. The following day Chris and I drove to Kate's house where Opal's bags were packed and ready. Kate had her PA with her who helped her do the paperwork. As we left, Kate said to me "you do know that you are taking my life away" - by this time tears were running down her face.

We left and got into the car I had to sit a while because I could not see to drive. Eventually we arrived home.

I spent the evening having a good think and the next morning I rang Kate. I told her she had two options to choose between if she wanted to keep her cat - either move house to keep her safe or

have an outdoor run built. Kate said we are already looking at houses but I feel the upheaval would be too great. The next morning Kate rang to say that her builder had been to measure up and would build a run for Opal when he got back from his holiday.

While Opal was with me it was her birthday and Kate and her PA came down for a birthday party in Opal's run in my garden. After which Kate and her PA stayed for lunch with Chris and I.

So instead of re-homing Opal she stayed with me for six weeks until the run was finished. Chris and I delivered her back and to this day she is keeping Kate company. I hear from Kate on a regular basis, and Opal and I message on Face book!

Kate and I have an arrangement that Opal will come to me one day - a day that I hope is a long way off.

I love my job working for TBC Welfare.

Valerie Chapple

## 2012 Show Report

I would like to thank everyone who supported the 2012 show and to those who worked to help make it a success.

In early 2012 it became apparent that we had to find a new venue - because the other clubs we had been sharing with for several years had either moved their date to go in with another club, or had decided not to have a show. We could not afford to hire the 3M Hall at Bracknell for just ourselves, and therefore, on behalf of the committee and club, I started the search for another venue. This was not an easy task as it turned out, but, thankfully, New Haw Community Centre was discovered, approved and booked, and I hope all those who attended agree that it is a very nice venue.

To some members last year's show may have brought back memories of our club's first shows which were held at Downend in Bristol. This was also community hall with limited facilities as compared to Bracknell Leisure Centre, and meant that everyone had to muck in to get the show on the road. I think we had become rather blasé about some facilities needed whilst being at Bracknell, and so last year we had to 'find our feet' with regards to everything.

The weather was very cold and there was actually sleet as I drove from the hotel to the venue on show morning. I must admit to feeling rather apprehensive but it turned out to be a super day - lots of lovely cats, friendly exhibitors, good judges, delicious food, interesting stalls and a wonderful raffle.

My heartfelt thanks go especially to Helen Hewitt and June Gillies for providing the delicious judges's meals and other lovely goodies – and do hope everyone had a piece of the beautiful cake that Helen gave us to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Championship show; to Val Chapple for lining up the most wonderful raffle – but I didn't get a chance to get a ticket! Janine Davies brought 2 lovely tray bake cakes (I didn't get to taste these either!). Thanks to the Committee – and others – for helping in every way that was asked of them. You were all 'stars'!

I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did – but I hope they weren't quite as exhausted as I felt by the time I got home on the Saturday evening - nervous tension about the new venue and hard work take their toll!

Kathy Wilkinson

## 2013/2014 Show

Watch out for news of the next show – changes are afoot! Linda V has mentioned about the proposed changes in her report and we now have to wait to see if these are approved.

But even MORE exciting is that – provided our application for assessment classes goes ahead at the June Council Meeting – we hope to have Assessment classes at the next show. When I started showing Bruno (Mymystic Goldenshadow) we were still at Assessment and it was a lovely time. Such camaraderie! So I personally am really looking forward to having the Assessment classes. Even better though – cats at Assessment are now eligible for Best of Breed and therefore Best in Show – more of a headache for me with the running of the show side, but so exciting for exhibitors.

So check the website at the end of June for the Council decision (meeting date 26 June 2013) and also look on the website for further updates.

Kathy

## Keeping your cat safe indoors

When your cat stays indoors you would think he or she would be safe, wouldn't you? The main danger you want to protect him or her from is outside, the main danger being getting run over, but there are many dangers lurking indoors. The following illustrates just a few, the list is not exhaustive.

Put yourself down to cat level and look at your home again.

### Office/work areas

Kittens are fascinated by electrical flexes and may try to chew them as well as playing with them. It is possible to buy protective covers for flexes that pass across walked on areas, not very smart but definitely better than risking electrocution from worn cables. Coat flexes with vinegar or Tabasco sauce to make them unpalatable. If a cat or kitten plays and becomes entangled in flexes it may bring down a heavy piece of equipment.

Older cats may even spray electrical appliances such as a computer or printer, which could cause it to explode or parts to corrode. Try to keep appliances away from floor level if possible.

When kittens are in the home, be careful how you tread as they can easily be trampled and injured. Shutting doors is something else to be careful of too - tails can be easily trapped and damaged.

Paper clips, staples, plastic fixings of all kinds are attractive to cats and kittens, so keep them in containers. Pick everything up. Cats swallow unsuitable objects probably because they have picked them up in an experimental way.

Elastic bands are fascinating to cats: they can be pulled and let go so that they 'ping' away and can be chased to where they land. It looks like a harmless game, but they are dangerous. So are paperclips, safety pins, plastic ties from plastic bags and other office accessories.

The **kitchen** is one of the most dangerous places for a cat or kitten:

The most obvious danger would seem to be the cooker, as the gas or electric rings take a good while to cool down after use. Frying pans and hot saucepans are dangerous to cats both on the hob or when being carried around the kitchen. So try to keep your cats off worktops and hob - easier said than done, I know! Knives and utensils should be put away as soon as possible.

A washing machine and/or tumble dryer should be left shut as they make a tempting hidey-hole for nosy cats and kittens. You would think it would not be difficult to miss a sleeping cat in the machine, but if it has snuggled down into the laundry than it could be missed - this occurrence is frequently reported so don't dismiss it as being the fault of a careless owner. Shut the door!

I think it is well known that antifreeze is toxic to cats. But did you know that liquid detergents are also toxic? The following information is copied from the International Cat Care Journal, Issue 1, 2013 (this was formerly the Feline Advisory Bureau).

### 'Liquid detergents

Direct contact with liquid detergents used for washing clothes can prove fatal for cats. FAB was recently contacted by an owner whose four cats were accidentally splashed when a bottle of Persil liquid spilled. The liquid caused caustic burns and fur loss on contact with their paws and legs, and one of the cats subsequently died despite veterinary intervention. Should you cat come into contact with spilt liquid detergent, quickly wash paws or fur thoroughly with warm water. Seek veterinary advice immediately if the cat starts to appear ill or develops signs of skin injury.'

For more information on poisoning go to [www.fabcats.org/owners/poisons](http://www.fabcats.org/owners/poisons) or [www.icatcare.org/advice/cat-care/safe](http://www.icatcare.org/advice/cat-care/safe).

A cat buried down asleep in a laundry basket of dirty washing could possibly be dumped into the machine and the cycle started. Always check - it's handy to do this anyway because how many times do you find you've left a dark colour in a white wash and the colour runs!

Opened cans of food, not just cat food. If a can has been opened with a tin opener a sharp edge will be left and your cat may cut himself badly trying to get at the food in the tin.



Cleaning materials - these often contain chemicals harmful to cats.

I think we all know about not using any disinfectant that turns water milky white, but remember that phenols are also present in some soaps and shampoos. Take care before using any disinfectant or antiseptic on your pet - you'd be careful with a baby, so be careful with your cat too! Make sure anything you wipe over/wash with cleaning materials is thoroughly rinsed and dried before allowing cats access to that area - they absorb so much through their pads and fur.

Then there is the **bathroom**:

Cleaning materials - see above.

The medicines which may be kept in the bathroom cabinet. Painkillers such as aspirin and paracetamol are lethal to a cat, even in small doses and paracetamol is apparently one of the most causes of cat poisoning. Do not even consider administering painkillers to your cat except on veterinary advice.

Keep the toilet lid down, especially if you have put bleach or disinfectant around the bowl. Cats and kittens seem fascinated by toilets and it has always been my nightmare that one of my Mob will fall down and get stuck when I am not at home.

Don't leave a bath unattended whilst running water into it. Your cat could drown or be scalded.

## **HOBBIES**

If your hobby is sewing of any kind, be sure that your needles and thread are kept away from your cat. They are a common cause of emergency surgery as once the cat or kitten starts to play and chew the thread, it cannot bite it off and has to swallow the whole length and often the needle at the end as well. The needle could pierce vulnerable organs such as lungs, whilst the thread could get caught around the base of the tongue, pull tight and get extremely painful. It can also cause very nasty tangles with internal organs so that vets have to operate at a number of different places to remove all the length of thread - making such an operation long and recovery painful. Buttons and thimbles are also easily swallowed.

Knitting yarn can cause similar problems as sewing thread. Remember that if you see some yarn sticking out of the cat's rear end, don't try to pull it out however tempted you might feel to do so. The cat will possibly be upset by the piece of yarn protruding from his or her bottom but don't even consider it. You have no way of knowing how long that piece of yarn is, and by pulling it you could cause problems.

Elastic bands are totally indigestible and cause serious and painful blockages in the stomach, requiring delicate surgery to remove them.

## **House plants**

All cats need grass to help their digestion. If you do not provide one of the little tubs that can be bought at a pet store and grown at home, then your cat may improvise with one of your houseplants.

Some of these are poisonous (to humans as well as animals):

Azaleas, Castor oil plant, Chrysanthemums, Crotons, Cyclamen, Dumb Cane or Diffenbachia, Mistletoe, Poinsettia, Polka Dot

**Lilies** have been in the news many times over the last couple of years as being responsible for many cats losing their lives. Again, look at the International Cat Care (FAB) website for a comprehensive list of plants to be avoided.

## **DIY**

It is quite obvious that cats should be kept away from paint of all kinds, but wallpaper paste, adhesives and wood preservatives can also harm cats. So consider the consequences of such actions as sanding down of old woodwork such as floors which may have been treated. The dust will contain these chemicals so can easily be ingested and/or breathed in. So although you, the operator, may be wearing a dust-mask if you are sensible, your cats cannot do the same. Keep them out of the way until the dust in the area has settled and the wood has been resealed. Also, if you have lifted any floorboards, check carefully before you replace them - a cat could be hiding underneath. The same goes for the roof space - make sure no-one is left up there.

## SUMMARY

So be careful. Things that you don't give a second thought to could be a health risk to your cat.

Pick everything up. Cats swallow unsuitable objects probably because they have picked them up in an experimental way. It isn't easy for them to spit things out (except tablets of course!)

Bored cats indoors may take up plant eating for entertainment or because they need something to substitute for not having grass available – so grow a container of grass, it isn't difficult.

Remember that what goes on the outside of the cat usually ends up on the inside! So think 'external' if you suspect your cat has been poisoned. Clean up spills and lock away chemicals of every kind - cleaners, disinfectants, paints, insecticides etc.

Cats playing have no more sense than a 2 year old child. When you see a cat playing with something, go and find out what it is, just as you would with a child.

## Tail End:

Stroking for pleasure – we all know that cats enjoy being stroked. Scientists in America, using mice as their subject, have shown that hairy skin contains special sensory nerve endings that are sensitive to gentle stroking but unresponsive to pain stimuli (eg pinpricks). Activating these nerve endings sends pleasure pulses to the brain. Scientists are suggesting that this may explain why cats and other mammals take great pleasure in grooming one another. It is thought that these sensory nerves may have evolved out of the need to keep fur and hair parasite-free and are particularly important in areas that the cat cannot reach itself.

Residents of Wellington, Kansas, USA, are now limited to owning up to 4 cats per house. This piece of local legislation was introduced in 2013 because of a burgeoning stray cat problem in this settlement of just 8000 people.

Guards at Arapiraca medium security prison, Eastern Brazil, caught a white cat walking through the main gates with a mobile phone, charger, batteries, drill bits and memory cards taped to its body. It is thought that the cat was raised by inmates with smuggling in mind.

Despite the opportunity to flee, a cat from Brixington, Devon, chose instead to stay in the house to wake her 72 year old owner who had slept through the smoke alarm and thus save her life.

The iron token from the Monopoly board game is to be replaced with a cat following a Facebook vote-off. The new cat token will join the racing car, Scottie dog, thimble, top hat and battleship.  
(Editor's note - Facebook isn't so bad then!!)