



Rosemonde S. Peltz, M.D.

#### Introduction

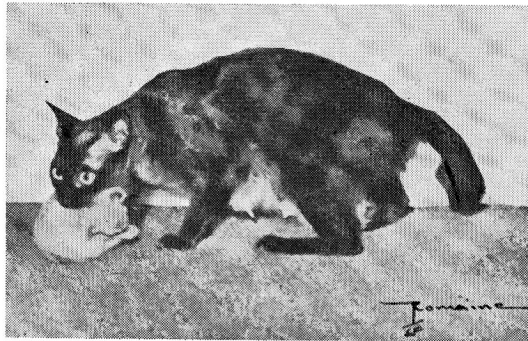
When Dr. Joseph Thompson presented the first Burmese import at a San Francisco cat show, he was ridiculed for showing "a poor Siamese". The cat fancy could not accept the walnut colored cat as a new breed and indicated that the cat he possessed was neither Burmese nor representative of a new breed. Dr. Thompson left the hall determined to prove to all that his impossible cat was indeed possible.

In New Orleans, at a somewhat tender age, I saw a dark brown cat with copper eyes and have remembered to this day the magnificence of the animal. Many years passed before I saw another such cat. The eyes were no longer copper, but there was no mistaking that the breed was the same. The first cat had belonged to the late Winifred Porter and the second was Christine Streetman's cat. Without realizing it, I had seen one of the first Burmese in the United States and had witnessed a part of cat history.

What follows is more of that history and the cats and people who took part in it. It would not have been possible without the gracious help of Christine Streetman, and Doris Springer who both collected and supplied most of the pictures, Grace Forrest, Mary Kate Carroll, Erolyn Snelling, Edna Mozeley, drawings, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Broaddus Estes. Like all other Burmese breeders I am grateful to Dr. Joseph Thompson, for his righteous indignation and to that impossible cat, Wong Mau.

## THE ELEGANT BREED THE BURMESE CAT

The Burmese breed has never lacked for interest or fascination since Wong Mau, the first cat of this type, was brought to the United States from Burma by Dr. Joseph C. Thompson of San Francisco, California in 1930. At first, the cat fancy did not recognize this walnut brown female as being a new variety of Malayan cat, rather she was suspected of being a poor Siamese. Intrigued with a cat unlike any other in the United States or Europe, Dr. Thompson was also faced with the quandary of finding a mate to perpetuate her type. Since the most available breed of the Malayan cat in the United States was the Sealpoint Siamese, Wong Mau was bred to one, and the cat fancy in general was even less impressed when Wong Mau presented typical Siamese in her first litter of kittens.



Wong Mau and Kitten

Dr. Clyde Keeler and Mrs. Virginia Cobb felt that this new brown cat would breed true and represented a variety quite distinct from the Siamese. Perhaps for the first time in cat fancy history specific breeding experiments were designed to define the genetics of a potential new breed. And that is how it began—an interested group of scientists and experienced breeders and a single cat—Wong Mau.

In numerous crosses between Wong Mau and Sealpoint Siamese cats two types of kittens were produced in that two definite coat colors were observed in kittens produced by such matings. The darker kittens all developed into cats similar to their dam, while the light coated kittens were typical Siamese when they matured. There did not appear to be any sex linkage involved since approximately equal numbers of Siamese and Burmese kittens of both sexes were counted in the litters.

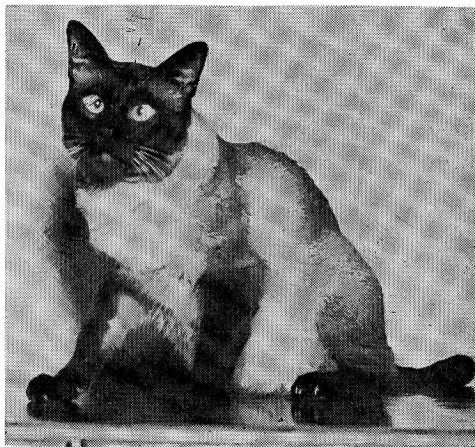
Because the Burmese kittens had darker points which seemed to blend with the entire coat with age, it was suspected that this new variety of Malayan cat probably represented a genetic intermediate between silver and Siamese.

There are a certain group of genes which control the intensity of pigmentation in cats. If the cat has a pair of genes responsible for the greatest depth of pigmentation, then the cat will have the most intense level of that particular coat pigment. There are, how-

ever, other genes which are alternate forms to full color; and these various alternative forms are the albino alleles. The silver, shaded and smoked coat colors are produced when these particular alleles are present in the cat. In 1930 the albino alleles were as follows:

C+ = full color  
C<sup>ch</sup> = silver  
C<sup>s</sup> = Siamese  
C = albino

All of these alleles have a common physiologic denominator which is the fact that they are affected by temperature as well as age. It has been noted that Burmese kittens had points similar to Siamese when they were young. With age, however, the Burmese points blended in, and an even coat color of darker brown became evident. Thompson et. al. proposed the following hypothesis:



Pak Kwai Mu 1938-1940

—that the Burmese coat was determined by an albino allele which was intermediate to silver and Siamese. They determined that if this hypothesis was true, they could expect the following:

1. Burmese bred to full colored cats would produce kittens with full intensity coats.
2. Pure Burmese bred to pure Siamese should produce only Burmese kittens.
3. Those Siamese kittens produced from crosses between Siamese and Burmese should breed as true Siamese.
4. Pure bred Burmese or Burmese-Siamese hybrids when mated to silver, shaded or smoke should produce only silver, shaded or smoke kittens.

Through a series of breeding experiments each of these predictions proved to be true.

Eventually a cross occurred between two Siamese-Burmese hybrids, which resulted in kittens with three types of coat colors. These actually were three levels or grades of pigmentation. First, there were the lightest colored kittens which were pure Siamese. The intermediate coat color was that similar to Wong Mau and represented Burmese-Siamese hybrid coat pigmentation: and third, there were the darkest coats which represented the pure Burmese. The typical 3:1 ratio occurred whenever two Burmese-Siamese hybrids bred. From all of these breedings, it was concluded that the Burmese gene represented a previously unidentified allele in the albino series. It ranked between silver and Siamese in order of dominance. These findings were first presented by Dr. Joseph C. Thompson, Virginia C. Cobb, Clyde E. Keeler and Madeleine Dmytryk in the *Journal of*

**Heredity**, Volume XXXIV, April, 1943. It is important to point out that in the 1930's Siamese and Burmese were quite similar in conformation. It is the Siamese, through years of breeding, that has changed most in body type. The naturally occurring differences between Siamese and Burmese were genetic and two in number. These differences persist today together with the man-made conformation of the Siamese. First, Siamese are recessive to Burmese as has been pointed out earlier and second have as a part of their genetic makeup a defective enzyme system which is altered by temperature and age. The enzyme system occurs also in silvers, shaded cats and smokes. What distinguishes each of these varieties or breeds is the degree of defect present.



Early Burmese Male, 1942

### THE BURMESE MIGRATION

Burmese cats became established on the West coast through the efforts of Dr. Thompson of San Francisco and Mrs. Billie Gerst. Previously, Dr. Thompson's main interest had been Siamese when his cattery had been established about 1926. Mrs. Mildred Alexander of Los Angeles obtained two of the early Burmese and established another line on the West coast. The cattery names of these three early breeders — Mau, Gerstdale and Mrs. Alexander appear on all pedigrees if they are traced back far enough.

Upon reviewing early pedigrees, one finds certain cattery names reappearing, and the geographic spread from one area to another becomes apparent with knowledge of the cattery locations.

Mau Tien	Dr. Joseph Thompson	California
Gerstdale	Mrs. Billie Gerst	California
Mrs. Alexander	Mrs. Mildred Alexander	California
Newton	Mrs. Virginia Cobb	Massachusetts
The Farm	Miss Winifred Porter	Louisiana
Chindwin	Mr. & Mrs. E. Battey	Massachusetts
Laos	Mr. Donald Came	Massachusetts
Yana	Mrs. Donald Came	Massachusetts
Tang Wong	Mrs. M. G. Stevens	Washington
Forbidden City	Mr. Guy Fisher	Georgia
Pagoda	Mr. A. B. Estes	Georgia
Chun Chou	Mrs. W. H. Hubsch	California
Casa Gatos	Mr. & Mrs. Howard	California
	Warren	

The earliest breeders passed the fruits of their labor into able hands that continued the work. Bograe, Beavers, Borens, Chirn Sa-Hai, Darshan, Far Cry, Hassayampa, H. R. H. Marin; Jadawh; Kon Ke Ke, Lan Yen, Ling Ford, Lion, Re-Ru, Ruboe; Su-Ryan; Talasman and Yindling are only a few of the catteries to become well known for their fine Burmese.

## CATTERIES AND CATS

There are certain remarkable events which divide the thirty-eight year history of Burmese into specific periods. The first year begins in 1930 and ends in 1947. The second lasts for ten years until 1957, and the final eleven year period extends to the present.

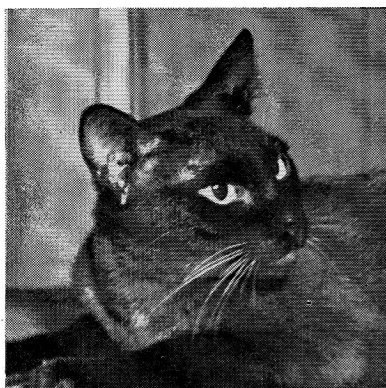
1930-1947:

In 1930 Wong Mau entered the United States; and during that year Mrs. C. C. Strange registered the cattery name **Valhalla**, one later associated with very fine Burmese. In 1936 two Burmese, Wong Mau and Yen Yen Mau were registered in the Foundation Record. Brownie Mau was registered in 1937. Mrs. Billie Gerst appears in 1939 with the recording of Yen Yen, Jr. Next Mrs. G. C. Tillman and Miss Winifred Porter are noted as breeder and owner, respectively of Till and Tilly of the Farm in 1941. In the same year Mrs. Alexander's Te-Ata-Ling was registered in the Foundation Record.



Early Burmese with good type

In December, 1941 Mr. Harry Birkin imported for Mr. Guy Fisher a female Burmese Tangyi. This kitten and her brother and sister were boarded on the S. S. Chart and arrived in New York five months later. They survived bombings of the Japanese to add new blood to the Burmese breeding program in the United States. Much activity is recorded in 1945. In that year Mr. and Mrs. Everett M. Battey registered **Chindwin** Cattery; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Came registered **Yana** and Mrs. Mildred Alexander registered her cattery name, **Mrs. Alexander's**. In addition, two of Mrs. Alexander's cats Co Co and Son of Burma are recorded. In 1946 Mrs.



Early Burmese  
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Estes

Blanche Warren registered the cattery name, **Casa Gatos**. Shortly before the end of the first Burmese period Mrs. Gerst registered the name **Gerstdale** in CFA and Mrs. Lillian Pedulla registered **Cymri**.

From 1930 to 1947 the following  
cats  
were registered in CFA:

1936	F.R. Wong Mau b 2/1930	J. C. Thompson
	F.R. Yen Mau b 8/ 1932	J. C. Thompson
<b>Vol. 19</b>		
1937	F.R. Brownie Mau b 2/1935	J. C. Thompson
<b>Vol. 21</b>		
1939	F.R. Yen Yen II b 2/1935	J. C. Thompson
	F.R. Yen Yen, Jr. b 5/1937	Mrs. Billie Gerst
<b>Vol. 22</b>		
1940	F.R. Run Ti Mau b 10/1934	J. C. Thompson
	F.R. Pip Sque Ak Mau b 10/1936	J. C. Thompson
<b>Vol. 23</b>		
1941	Wong Me Mau b 10/1936	
	F.R. Till of the Farm	Mrs. G. C. Tillman
	F.R. Tilly of the Farm	Mrs. G. C. Tillman (owner — Miss W. Porter)
<b>Vol. 25</b>		
1944	F.R. Faith of the Farm b 3/1942	C. R. Byrd
	F.R. Hope of the Farm	(Owner: Miss W. Porter)
	Mrs. Alexander's Te-Ata-Ling b 10/1941	Mrs. Alexander
<b>Vol. 26</b>		
1945	F.R. Mrs. Alexander's Co Co b 2/1943	M. Alexander
	F.R. Mrs. Alexander's Son of Burma	M. Alexander (owner Ruth Larson)
	F.R. Ananda of Forbidden City	G. Fisher
	F.R. Tangyi of Forbidden City	G. Fisher
	F.R. Gawdapalin of For- bidden City	B. Gerst (owner—Guy Fisher)

The first Burmese era had come to an end. During the period from 1930 to 1947 the first Burmese, Wong Mau had been imported. The genetics of the breed had been clarified and the breed had been accepted for registration in 1936. Three more Burmese, two females and one male, had been imported by Guy Fisher from Rangoon in 1941. These cats eventually arrived in the United States in 1942. Two cats belonging to Mrs. Blanche Warren achieved recognition as All-Western Award Winners. These were Yana Tansen Wat, a female Burmese, and Vani Wat of Yana, a male. Their pictures graced the cover of *Cats Magazine*, July 1947, two months after suspension of Burmese recognition by CFA.



Gr. and Quad Ch. Julie's Nuba  
of Jadawh-Boren  
Breeder-Owner Mrs. Carlon Boren

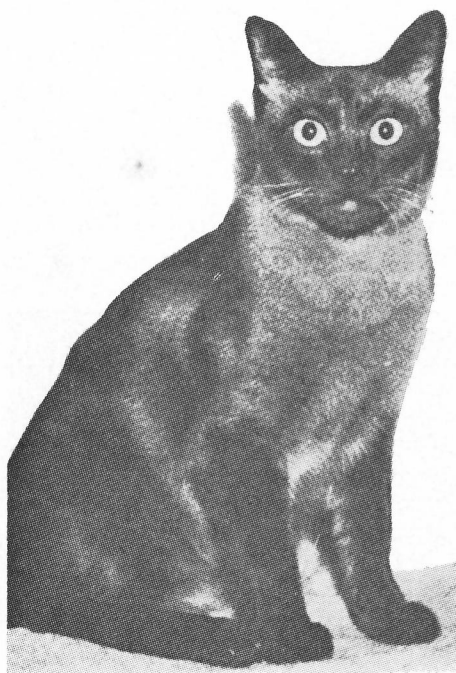
The Executive Board of the Cat Fanciers Association passed the following motion on May 8, 1947:

"The recognition by the CFA of the so-called Burmese breed of cats as a pure breed is indefinitely suspended; during the pendency of the suspension, no Burmese class will be judged in any show sanctioned by CFA, no Burmese cat will be registered by CFA either in Foundation Record or the Stud Book, and all existing Burmese registrations are suspended; registration fees for such present registrations to be refunded upon request of the owner or without such request, when deemed plausible by the Recorder."<sup>(1)</sup>

Serious Burmese breeders suffered a tremendous blow when their cats were no longer recognized by the Cat Fanciers Association. They had struggled against all odds to preserve this new breed. With only a limited number of cats their problems were greater than any other group of breeders. A number of misconceptions were thought to be responsible for discontinuance of recognition. Apparently some felt that Siamese had to be interbred to maintain the Burmese. Only the most ill informed would countenance such a theory. It was a matter of practical sense. There were simply not enough pure Burmese to maintain breeding stock. For recognition to continue, three generations of pure Burmese had to be in the pedigree, and these conditions in the majority of instances could not be met. In the heat of emotional response to their disappointment and frustration, one breeder secretly blamed another for their common down fall. But the most striking aspect of the whole disheartening situation is that they continued to breed. Working with the few cats they had the breeders were determined to maintain their Burmese. The greatest tribute to Burmese breeders was not that they were simply trying to regain recognition but that they wished to present an excellent Burmese of the best type possible. Considerable disagreement in the early stages

existed. Fisher and Estes fought hard to maintain type; and although they were not in favor of lockets or kinks, they considered these minor faults in a cat of excellent conformation. Unfortunately, other breeders at the time spent more time looking at trees rather than the forest. There were those whose eyes focused on lockets or tail deformities. Fisher said he thought it less offensive to see a small locket than a scattering of white hairs throughout the coat. Opinions differed. Light coated kittens continued to appear as a result of the necessary breeding of Siamese. These were weeded out of the breeding program since they were recognized for what they were, reversion to the Siamese type. During the interim some breeders sought stock that would produce kittens eligible immediately for stud book status when and if such recognition became available. Mrs. Warren of California, Mr. Estes and Mr. Fisher worked hard during this period to maintain and better their stock.

Evidence of continuing work in the breed is indicated by the births of the following kittens. These are only a few of the many fine kittens born between 1947 and 1957.



Topaz Mau Hybrid  
Sire: Tai (Siamese)  
Dam: Wong Mau (Burmese-Siamese)  
Showing Cobby Type Natural to Burmese

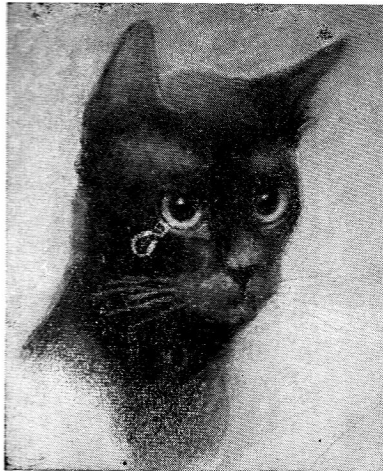
Sin-Gu of Forbidden City—  
Fisher  
Laos Alompra—Came  
Bu-Ti of Forbidden City—  
Fisher  
Chun Chou Cha Foo—Hubsch  
Casa Gatos Mae Hoo—Warren  
So-Wat of Forbidden City —  
Fisher  
Hassayampa Pasha of Re-Ru  
—Pyle  
Chocolate Monday Lion of  
Re-Ru—Pyle  
Dobyns Boki Tyf—Dobyns  
Pagoda Suda—Estes  
Oolong Sabrina of Pagoda —  
Roark

From 1947 to 1957 new catteries were registered. In 1949 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forrest registered **Bograe**. In the same year **Ramayana** belonging to D. Kerbow and Mrs. J. D. Elliott was established in Austin, Texas. **Hassayampa** was registered by Natalie Pyle of Alendale, Arizona as was **Sherwood** of Mrs. Frances Kanoffe of Guilford, Connecticut.

In 1951 Van Estes with a foundation stock of Casa Gatos established **Jacaranda** in New York City. Mrs. Donald Warner of Dayton, Ohio began **Lan Yen** cattery. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Otten of Jonesboro, Georgia established **Morningside** cattery in 1953 and later be-



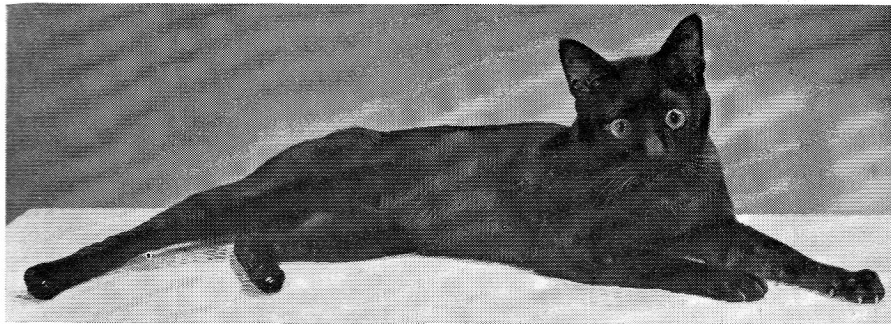
came interested in Burmese using some of Beth O'Donovan's Chirn Sa-Hai cats. During the same year Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Beaver of Downey, California registered **Beaver's** using Gerstdale stock. Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Boren with some Casa Gatos cats began **Boren's**. The first All American Burmese belonged to Mrs. John W. Hoag who established **Bridle Trail** cattery in 1954. The honored cat was Sherwood's Tria bred by Frances Kanoffe. In 1954 Mrs. Virginia Daly of Berkley, Michigan founded **Dalai** cattery. Mrs. Wilbur G.



Sherwood's Tria of Bridle Trail  
Owner Mrs. John W. Hoag

Ball of Oakland, California registered **Regal**. Charlotte Smiley of San Francisco, California, registered **HRH Marin**, using Casa Gatos and Regal cats at the beginning of her line. Russell Middleton of Dallas, Texas, founded **Re-Ru** while **Jadawh** was established by Mrs. Jewell Crowell of Oakland, California.

In 1954, Gerstdale's The Princess of Re-Ru and Hassayampa Spi-Dar of Regal were entered in the Foundation Record of CFA. Joining this company were five Casa Gatos cats, two Gerstdales, five Bograes, eighteen Re-Rus and four Su-Ryans. Also in 1954 Su-Ryan Burma Prince found a new home at Alberten Slauter's **Kon KeKe** cattery.



Gr. Ch. KoKoMo of Elyria  
Breeder-Owners Mr. and Mrs. Alberten Slauter

**Mizzana** cattery was registered in 1955, and in the same year Regal Kuh Hub-Bah was entered in the Foundation Record. This cat was sired by Count Bruga one of the most famous Burmese sires.

**Kalyan** cattery was registered this same year. Lan Yen's Ket Kay bred by Mrs. Donald Warner was registered in the Foundation Record. Ket Kay was to sire a famous off spring Ko Ko Mo of Elyria.

**Yindling** cattery was registered by Doris Springer.

In 1956 Mrs. G. M. German transferred the cattery name **Pagoda** to Mr. Andrew Broaddus Estes, III and Mr. Estes registered seven



Joey Singh, bred by Ruth Gramley shows excellent type continuing through the "moratorium"

Burmese. Joey Singh bred and owned by Miss Ruth Gramley was registered. Miss Gramley never registered a cattery name, she merely continued to breed fine Burmese. Three significant events occurred in 1956. The first Burmese eligible for stud book registration was Gerstdale's Rani of Regal, Mrs. Alexander's Fi-Ying of Far Cry. Two Casa Gatos cats were sent to England and J. C. Thompson's cattery name Mau Tien was transferred to H. E. Casassa and Ruth Fisher.



HRH Marin Reine D'Or of Cerel. Breeder Charlotte Smiley. Owner Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bucquoy

Mrs. Paul W. Levy's cattery **Darshan** and **Niello's** of Mrs. Mildred Foster were registered in 1957. Mrs. Dorothy Roark established **Oolong** cattery using **Pagoda** Burmese for her foundation stock. Stella Harlos registered **Hill House** cattery the same year and Ruth Larson registered **Ruboe** in California. With the following brief statement "Burmese to be registered under the same rules as other breeds,"<sup>(2.)</sup> which appeared in CFA minutes December 14, 1957, the second era of Burmese ended. Now came the time for true recognition. 1957-1968:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chartier registered **Mizpah** cattery in 1958. Mizpah produced some of the finest Burmese in this country. Prince Pogo of Regal was bred by Donovan Friese and went to Mrs. Peggy Ball. Mrs. James Brodie of Houston, Texas established **USAF** cattery. **Su-Ryan** cattery was transferred to Mrs. Alyce Rosenberg. In 1959, Bill and Jean Quiner of Haywood, California registered **Cher-Lan** cattery. In



Prince Pogo of Regal (deceased)  
was owned by Doris Springer

Houston Christine Streetman established **Chi-Sai** cattery using Casa Gatos, Gerstdale and Mizpah stock. Chi-Sai cats were sired by Prince Pogo, Ko Ko Mo and Mizpah's Clancy. Eberhardt Le Schin and Dr. John W. Wieler registered **LeShin-Wieler** cattery. Mrs. T. J. McNaughton of Pennsylvania was an outstanding breeder who established **Sheramain** cattery. **Ty-Ru** begun by Mrs. A. P. Tyler of Houston is the home of many fine Burmese. Mrs. Doris Wilcox of Florida began **Yasmin** cattery. During 1959 many exceptional Burmese were registered: Casa Gatos Zoto (owner Brodie), Count Bruga bred by Jewell Crowell, Ko Ko Mo of Elyria, Dobyns Man Oh Man, Ling-Ford Devas. Devas was bred by Miss Elinor Dennis.

In 1960, one of Beaver's Burmese went to Mrs. Ray Gardner for establishment of her line. Burmese registered in 1960 were Casa Gatos Wafu of Sherwood, Casa Gatos Zenda O'Jacaranda, HRH Marin Bronze Angel (owner Jolie Ott), Chirn Sa-Hai Soo Wat, Dobyns Burma of Sheramain, Ghiradelli Alla Mizpah sired by Bograe's Sabur, was bred by Mrs. Chester Noren. The dam was Dark Moon of Yindling. This famous cat went to Mr. and Mrs. Chartier of Reno, Nevada. The first Burmese registered by Mrs. Marge Pallady was **Seven Cee of Pat Pat (of Pallady)**. **Yindling Dark Dancer** and **Yindling Dark Shadow** were the foundation stock of Evelyn King's line. In 1960 **Rogers Hts.** cattery was registered by Mrs. Willa Rogers.

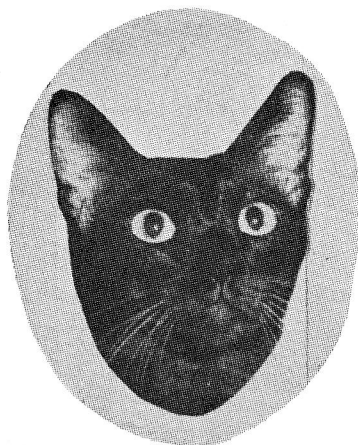
Seventy-four Burmese were registered in 1961, among them **Chuck's Burma Road of Rogers Hts.** This cat was found and recognized as a fine Burmese and registered in the Primary Record. Other cats in this group to become outstanding were **Chi-Sai Ko Ket**, **Mizpah's Clancy** and **Oriental Bamboo**. During 1961 **Felinest**, **Bur-Ami** and **Jo-Pau** catteries were registered. **Puss-in-Dale** was established by Richard Bateman, using Chi-Sai stock.

In Volume 89 of the Stud Book, 41 cats were registered. **Yindling's Dark Don of Pomona** went to Mrs. R. M. Berry of Arizona while

**Yindling's Tomas** went to the **Ling-Ford** cattery of Miss Elinor Dennis.

In Volume 90, 1962 **Beaver's Clan Singh Tu** was registered. **Cher-Lan's Tonii** belonging to the Quiners was also registered, and **Yindling's Polaro** went to **Rogers Hts.** cattery. **Brierwood** cattery was registered by Mr. John Baker. **Mizpah's Fernand of Brierwood** and **Mizpah's Claudia of Yasmin** appeared on the scene as outstanding cats. In the same year **Heatherwood** cattery was registered, with **Chi-Sai Cyween** as foundation stock.

The following year new catteries were registered: **Alpatra** belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robie began with **Heatherwood's Winsome of Alpatra**. Mrs. Raymond Erhart registered **Mai Hai**. At two extremes geographically, Jeanne Jeffrey registered **Rio Vista** in Canada and Mary Jayne Eaton and Dorothy Hopkins established **Jando** in Alabama.



**Chi-Sai Ko Ket**, daughter of  
Gr. Ch. **KoKoMo** x **Valhalla Salween**  
of **Chi Sai**. Breeder Owner **Chris**  
**Streetman**

by Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Erhart; **Hill House Daniella of Shawnee** continued to win honors. **Burma Road's Detour of Senshu** bred by Bev Stevens and owned by the Vern Maddoxes, appeared. Evidence of **Beaver** stock is seen in "De". Nikki Shuttleworth produced one of the best in **Shawnee Casey Jones of Phi Line** owned by Roger W. Sanftner. And thus we have reached the present with a long history of some hardship, from which have come extraordinary cats. In reviewing these years, certain fine catteries and cats may have not been mentioned. This was not intentional, be assured. Space would not permit inclusion of all the fine Burmese. However, from point of view of their historical significance or because of the fine



**Yindling's Dark Moon**, 1956

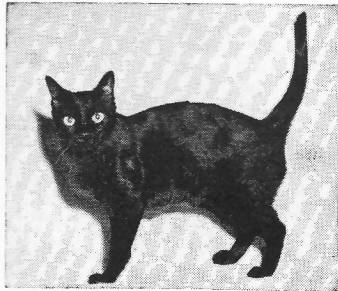
1964, **Cher-Lan's Tonii** and **Mizpah's Fing Fung of Samdur**, owned by the Darrell Samples, made names for themselves. Janice Key registered **Key-Kat** cattery in Florida.

The outstanding cats in 1965-66 were **Hill House Daniella of Shawnee**, bred by Stella Harlos and owned by Nikki Shuttleworth; **G(LEN)N'S Geronimo of Rogers Hts.**, **Beaver's Clan Singh Tu** and **Puss-N-Dale Kihara of Pageant** (Kihara belonging to Susie Page was an outstanding cat.) **Jo-Don** cattery was registered by the Thompsons of Dallas.

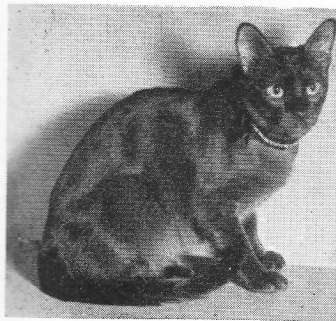
In 1966-67, the outstanding Burmese were: **Brierwood's Fernandel** owned by LeShin-Wieler cattery; **Mai-Hai Demitasse** bred



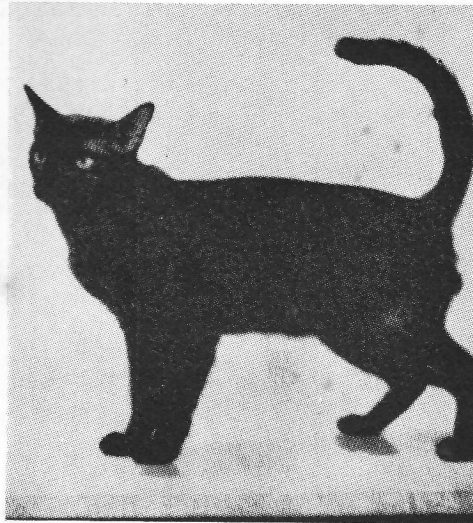
**Briarwood's Fernandel**  
Fernand's Son. owned by Le Shin-Wieler



**Pongui**, bred and owned by Don Thompson, did poorly in the shows in the late 50's, was not "typey" (Siamese) enough. When shown in the 60's in her old age, was considered excellent type; the original Burmese conformation had come into its own.



**Vainalla Sarween of Chi-Sai**  
Bred by Blanche Strange from Casa Gatos stock. Owned by Chris Streetman



**Mizpah Fernand of Briarwood**  
Bred by Vivian Chartier. Owned by John Baker

cats they sired or simply from the point of their magnificent quality I should like to cite the following Burmese:

1. Wong Mau
2. Mrs. Alexander's My Ling
3. Faith of the Farm
4. Tangi of Forbidden City
5. Sin-Gu of Forbidden City
6. Gerstdale's Rani of Regal
7. Lao's Santee Wat of Casa Gatos
8. Cymri Pad-Ma
9. Regal Mocha of HRH Marin
10. Count Bruga
11. Prince Pogo of Regal
12. Ko Ko Mo (of Elyria)
13. Ghiradelli Alla Mizpah
14. Antonica Pamphula
15. Valhalla Salween of Chi-Sai
16. Mizpah's Clancy
17. Chi-Sai Ko Ket
18. Ty-Ru Barbi Babi
19. Mizpah's Fernand of Brierwood
20. Hill House Daniella of Shawnee
21. Shawnee Casey Jones of Phi Line

## BURMESE PROBLEMS

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Burmese breed is that the majority of the cats are such good ones. This may be due, in part, to the fact that they are being bred to a single standard. However in such a short span of time an outstanding job has been done. No breeder of Burmese is yet satisfied. As a group they still want the round head round in the sense that a Persian breeder means round; copper eyes in the sense that a Persian breeder means copper. Much has yet to be achieved. From the beginning, the Burmese breeder has had to guard against dwarfism, as the result of excessive inbreeding, and subluxation of the pectoral and pelvic girdles. Skeletal defects inherited as recessive traits have constituted the major enemies of the breed. White spotting and tail abnormalities are, in comparison, minor. The major problems were recognized very early in



Chi-Sai Kowan  
Grandson of Pogo

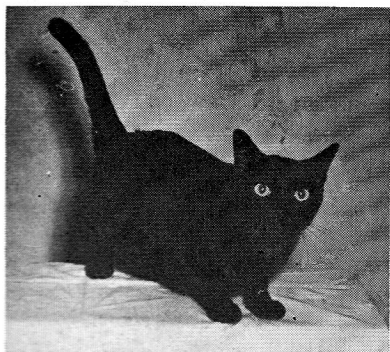
the period. Many years ago Mr. Guy Fisher wrote, "We are alarmed at the emphasis put on smallness in the C.F.A. standard . . . Some breeders informed the public that the little three or four pounders are the height of perfection and much to be desired. Actually they are weaklings and the result of dwarfism induced by excessive inbreeding."<sup>(3.)</sup> And again Fisher said, "Allowance of the kink tail is an unwarranted concession to breeders who haven't the courage to eliminate this outstanding fault from their stock<sup>(4.)</sup>" Burmese, today, in most instances are of good type. There has been some criticism that the males have deformed pelvic girdles; and in some lines, this is true; however

more often the male looks somewhat out of proportion simply because he is a male and has a slimmer pelvic region than the female. A more disturbing and disastrous finding has become apparent within the past two years. There are a few Burmese with very nice round heads, but the heads are small and simply out of keeping with the rest of the body. The sense of balance to the entire cat is lost.

The copper eye color has not been seen in years. Green eyes are most disconcerting, particularly in a Grand Champion Burmese. But eye color counts for only a few points in the standard, so most breeders can get by with that. The professional breeder need not worry about it. The green eye color is again "an unwarranted concession to breeders who haven't the courage to eliminate this outstanding fault from their stock."

What are breeders working for? What should a good Burmese cat look like and feel like? First of all, the cat should be sturdy

with a look of roundness, a sense of well muscled stockiness. It should be heavy and convey that feeling. The surprising thing to a novice is that the Burmese feels heavier than it appears. The head



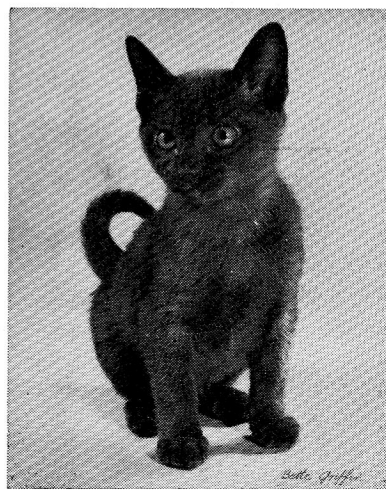
Yindling's Whirling Dervish  
Breeder-Owner Doris E. Springer

should be round with the dome like crown, the eyes large and round without bulging. The muzzle should be well developed, the chin firm and the jaws should meet evenly. The profile is short without being peke-like. The ears are short and well rounded. The shoulders are broad, well developed and in balance with the pelvic girdle. The tail is short and blunt at its tip. The coat should be sleek, close lying and sable brown to its roots. The eyes should be deep gold in color. There is a

tendency for Burmese today to be too small. They should be of good size, and I, personally, do not object to a large cat provided it is in good balance.

### THE PERSONALITY OF THE BURMESE

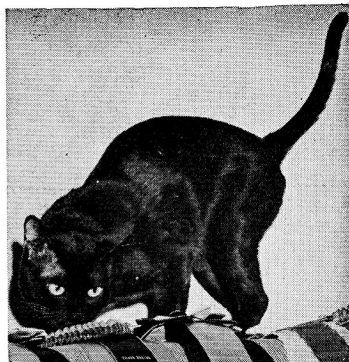
American short hairs will take you or leave you. Siamese will wheedle, coerce, snuggle or demand what they want in a most vociferous way. On the other hand Burmese will turn on the most soulful eyes in catdom and "con" you out of everything you own. The female has the soulful eyes and "silent miaow" routine down pat. She gets any and everything she wants with the least effort. However, she is extremely jealous and will waste no time in letting you know that she is displeased. She is the queen of the household, ruler of all other cats in the kingdom; and there may be one or two hair raising episodes until this fact is established. When she is displeased with you, she will flick her tail, turn on her heels and disappear for hours. On the other hand, the male is even tempered, loving and devoted to his owner, that is until he is confronted with another male. Then the law of the jungle returns, and they will fight with a fury not seen in other breeds.



Ch. Bridle Trail's Poppy  
Owner: Mrs. John W. Hoag

Burmese cats form a family unit if many are housed together. Interestingly enough the female heads the group. When the matriarch speaks, all Burmese listen. She emits a low guttural sound that stops the rest in their tracks and that includes any outsider of another breed. The female bluffs them all, and she is capable of the fury of the male only when her young are threatened. When this occurs, the male will also come to the rescue and protect the entire group from any intruder foolish enough to threaten. Burmese males are sloppy with their affection, they roll, toss and purr in response to attention.

The males are fond of kittens; like Siamese males they will mind the kitten box while mother is out. This attention to kittens includes washing, loving and even diapering.



Gr. Ch. Tzaana's Rangoon  
Breeders Drs. Val and Mary Jaros

Are they easy to live with? Very definitely so! They are not "all over you" like Siamese; much more dignified in their demeanor and from my experience seem eminently more intelligent than any other breed. They cooperate to achieve their goals. As an example I brought home one of those boxes that contain a catnip mouse in it, the cat

reaches in, grabs the mouse which is attached to a heavy cord on a spring. If the cat lets go, the mouse rapidly is wound back into the house. The Siamese tried it first. The best they could do was to hold the mouse firmly and drag the attached box behind them. The Burmese had a go at the mouse next. Within three minutes one of them had the mouse out while two others gnawed on the cord to free it. They work together opening drawers, one on each end until there is a wide enough opening for both to hop in. They are the original undercover cats, much preferring to be under the bed covers at the foot of the bed than any place else in the world.



Gr. Ch. Mizpah's Audio-Chat  
of Rio Vista  
Owned by Jeanne Jeffrey

They are not opposed to joining you in the bath tub, but showers are out. On the other hand, they despise the baths you give them, yet adore the grooming that follows. The Burmese then is that unbeatable combination of looks, intelligence and warm affection. The Burmese is the cat connoisseur's breed, beautiful to see and to touch, elegant and exciting in every respect.



### BURMESE ASSOCIATIONS

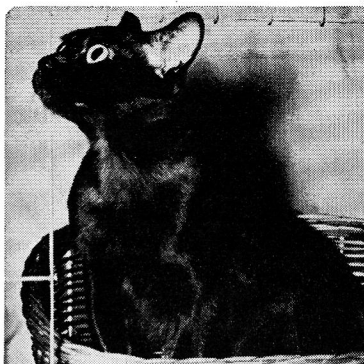
Prior to 1958, there were two clubs devoted to Burmese breeders; each of these was unaffiliated, that is, neither was aligned to any major cat fancy association. The Burmese Cat Society of the East and the Burmese Breeders of America, composed largely of western breeders, merged in 1958 under the new and presently continuing name of the United Burmese Cat Fanciers. The first officers were: President Ruth Larson, Vice Presidents, Doris Springer and Mildred Alexander, Treasurer, Mrs. Grace Forrest. Mrs. Forrest is still Treasurer of this organization.

This international group of Burmese Breeders has accomplished the notable achievement of having a single standard virtually unchanged by all major cat fancy associations. There are many other Burmese clubs in existence, but each of the others is affiliated with one of the cat fancy associations. The first U.B.C.F. annual meetings were held in California. However, since few could attend, a new system of regional meetings was instigated by the then Regional Chairman of #4, Mrs. Christine Streetman, who held the first Regional Meeting in Dallas in 1960.

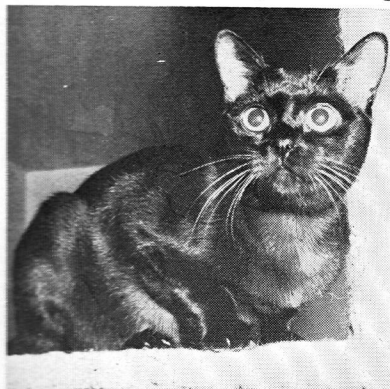
### SELECTING A BURMESE CAT

Now that you have decided that you want a Burmese, other decisions must be made, some of which may be beyond your control. What kind do you want—male, female, kitten or adult, pet type, show type or breeder and what will the budget permit? Most of us have to consider the pocketbook first and let all other wishes be subservient to it. For a pet Burmese you will pay a minimum of \$50; you will not receive pedigree papers or registration slip unless proof of castration

or spaying of the pet is presented to the breeder within a year of the date of purchase. A more likely fee for a pet Burmese is \$75. Breeding stock with pedigree and registration can be bought for a minimum of \$100. Prospective show stock will cost at least \$150. How does one distinguish between pet, breeding and show type animals? The pet Burmese will have some characteristics that will disqualify it from showing, that is, a white spot or a minor tail defect or excessive barring. Breeding stock may have some minor defect, but the small defect may be so overwhelmingly negated by other



Mirador's Playmate Pepita  
Lovely Spay  
Owned by: Mildred Dobson



Gr. Ch. Ling-Ford Ludovic (of Paragón)  
Bred by Elinor Dennis  
Owned by Mildred Dobson

outstanding qualities that the cat is of significant potential as a breeder. As an example, a cat may have a magnificent head and brilliant eye color, but a small white spot may mar an otherwise excellent coat. Since white spotting is apparently recessive in Burmese such a cat would add many fine qualities to a breeding program. The show cat looks good from birth. It is free of any disqualifying defects has good eye color a sound coat and good conformation. One cannot expect the breeder to guarantee a grand champion cat and the breeder who does is foolish indeed. But with experience the buyer can appreciate what a kitten has to offer at an early age.

You have now decided what you want; the next question is, will the breeder let you have it? Most Burmese breeders will just about check on your pedigree as to whether or not you deserve one of their cats. The most ethical breeders who are genuinely fond of their cats will not sell a cat unless they are reasonably sure of the care the buyer will provide. You will not find ads in local papers except upon extremely rare occasions offering Burmese for sale. Therefore, you must know a breeder or become acquainted with one either at a show or through ads in ethical cat fancy magazines. Once you have made the decision as to the type of Burmese you want and have located a breeder who is willing to sell, some time may elapse before the right cat is found for you. During this interim you will be interested in finding material and information about Burmese.



Gr. Ch. Mizpah's Dippi-Chat of Sim Sam  
Breeder, Vivian Chartier; Owner, Edna  
Mozley

There are a number of good publications on the market indicating the general care of kittens. In addition, the breeder will provide specific instructions about feeding and grooming the cat. Most people who go to the trouble of seeking out and buying a Burmese have probably had some experience with cats before. In nearly all instances, the breeder from whom you bought the Burmese will provide thorough answers to your questions.

#### GROOMING THE BURMESE

The Burmese breeder is fortunate, indeed, when it comes to grooming. The coat is sleek and close lying and not prone to matting. Some few Burmese, however, have inherited bad coats, bad in the sense that they are of the "fly away type" that no amount of grooming improves. The hair is semingly always "on end" and stands away from the body.

Strange as it may seem, there are other factors involved in grooming than mere cleaning and brushing. Nutrition and temperature are

two vital elements. First of all, the Burmese that has received a proper diet will require very little care as far as grooming is concerned. A good bath once a week and daily brushing are all that need be done. Temperature is important because of its effect on coat color and coat thickness. Excessive cold can darken the Burmese coat as well as cause it to be thicker. Excessive heat will cause the coat to lighten, but it will also dry the hair and cause it to fall out prematurely. In this writer's experience the ideal temperature is 75 to 78 degrees for a sleek coat. Bathing Burmese need not be a chore, but it does require some preparation. If you have a household of Burmese that run free, the best thing to do is line up the candidates and place them in an enclosed, escape proof area. The bathing area should be warm and free of drafts. It is rarely necessary to totally immerse the cat. Full strength Listerine saturated on a face cloth or any other soft cloth provides an adequate bathing solution. Put the cat on a slick surfaced table, let the palm of your left hand press down on the shoulder girdle and proceed to rub the Listerine over all parts of the body. After thorough saturation, the cat is wrapped in a warm towel and rubbed dry. The next step involves a gentle combing to remove dead hair. Inspection of ears and claws should be done with proper



Ch. Alpatra's Bermuda. Pr. Alpatra's Bruna. Sire: Chi-Sai Kowan. Dam: Heatherwoods Winsome. Owner, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robie



Chi Sai Cyween  
Owner: Dr. Peltz

cleaning and trimming accomplished if necessary. Ears may be cleaned with Q-tips dipped in Listerine, using a new tip for each ear.

The best method of keeping the cat clean is to brush the coat each day. A natural bristle brush is preferable to a nylon one. Brushing and combing is no problem with Burmese. They all love it, and the sight of a comb or brush evokes much purring and a stampede into your arms.

## BREEDING BURMESE

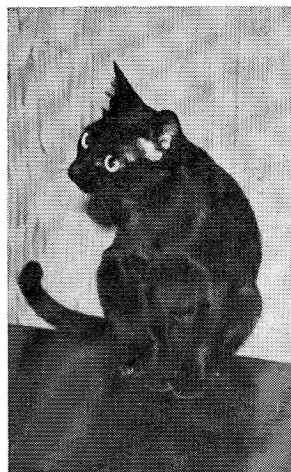
Perhaps you are taken with the idea of breeding Burmese for a hobby. If you have the mistaken notion that breeding cats is a profitable business, think again. You already have a cat, and at the age of about one year wish to select a suitable mate. Most breeders usually choose a female for their own and then can make a selection of a suitable stud from a variety of cats. The female is easier to keep and sprays only occasionally when in season. The Burmese queen is somewhat less vocal during her period of calling, but her interest is no less than the sexiest Siamese. However, she is usually more choosy and may reject the ardor of the most handsome Burmese male you have ever seen. If you are frustrated by her attitude, consider the poor tom cat. Burmese males will frequently dislike a particular female and ignore her also.

The choice of a suitable mate will depend actually upon availability. However, ideally one should select a mate that compliments your male or female. The breeder must be coldly analytical, and if necessary, write down the worst faults of his own cat. Upon such a basis, the proper decision can be made. If one cat is too long of body, the mate should be as short and as compact as possible. If one's cat's ears are too large, select a mate with short round ears and so on down the line. Even though the breeder has evaluated the situation as carefully as possible, he still may be disappointed in his kittens. Cats are cats; and theory and probability are only that. If I had a good Burmese, regardless of her faults or outstanding qualities I would select a mate upon the basis of the following points. The qualities high on the list would be the most important.

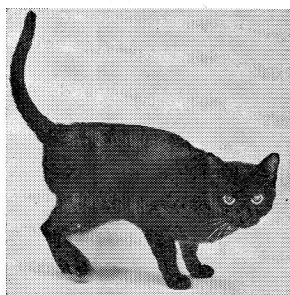
1. Good, heavy bone structure—you have to start with the foundation on which to build.

2. Even coat preferably a warm brown but given the choice of an uneven or barred coat of the best color I would choose a darker coat, brown to the roots with no barring.

3. Round head, the roundest, most apple headed cat I could find.



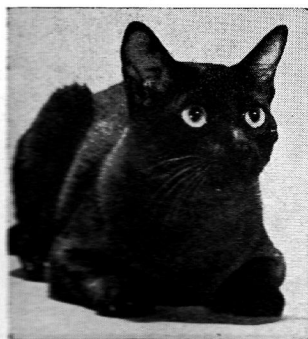
Gr. Ch. Sim-Sam's  
Dash-O-Ginger  
Owner: Edna Mozley



Gr. Ch. Puss 'N Dale  
Kihara (Chi-Sai and Mizpah in  
background)

4. Short body.
5. Good ear set.
6. Eye color—the deepest yellow possible.
7. Short tail.

Certain stud cats come in vogue because they are grand champions or because they have won this or that award. Breeders scurry in all directions paying fantastic stud fees hoping to get excellent kittens. Obviously, such a winning cat is something special; but also bear in mind that he is the exception and not the rule. What were his litter

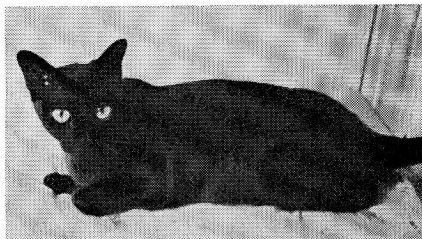


Ch. Rogers Heights  
Matador of Pallady

mates like? What did they win? The top show cat can frequently throw rather sorry kittens. With some mates, the winning cat will produce excellent kittens and vice versa. Perhaps the most sensible way of breeding is to select a good mate and have one litter of kittens. Then, ideally, mate brother to sister. Very quickly, the bad points in your stock become apparent as well as many fine qualities which are hidden recessives. It seems logical that you can breed intelligently only when you know as much about your own stock as possible. Only then can you decide what is needed to enhance the quality of your kittens.

### THE PREGNANT BURMESE

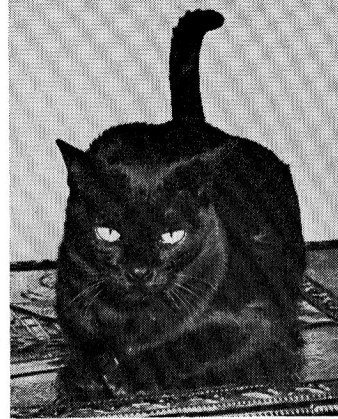
The diet of the pregnant Burmese is discussed in another section. Let's consider some of the practical points in delivering and caring for kittens in a normal situation. The pregnant Burmese should be well fed, but should not be allowed to become overly fat. Since you know the approximate date of confinement (based on charts found in most general cat books) you should alert the veterinarian well before hand. Since he knows you and your cats, he may wish to give you special advice regarding the Burmese during her period of gestation. Alerting the veterinarian well in advance is common courtesy to one you trust. You will find him more willing to be available at the time of delivery in case an abnormal situation develops.



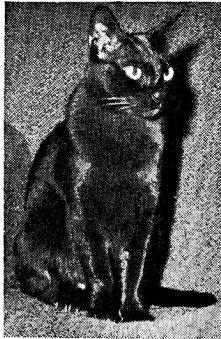
Rogers Hts. Fatima of Gold Scarab  
Bred by Willa Rogers. Owned by Evelynne  
Krauskopf

Several days before the anticipated arrival prepare a large, deep box and place it in a dark, quiet area of the house which is convenient to you. The box and its immediate location should be off-limits to all other cats and children. The bottom of the box should be filled with several layers of newspaper on top of which flannels are arranged. The pregnant cat will

inspect this and rearrange the box many times prior to delivery. At the time of her labor an escape of blood tinged fluid will be noticed. Her contractions will increase until the kitten appears. If these contractions last for an hour without the appearance of a kitten or if one part of the kitten is delivered and the kitten can not be fully delivered, call the veterinarian. In most instances, there will be no trouble; the kitten will come wrapped for the most part in a semitransparent membrane. Mother cat will free the kitten, but if she is exhausted you may have to do it for her. Wipe the kitten's nose and mouth very gently with a soft clean cloth. If she does not cry, very gently press on the chest in the area of the breast bone and spontaneous crying and breathing will usually occur. Most of this activity will take place before the delivery of the placenta or after birth. The mother cat will usually chew the umbilical cord to free the kitten before the after birth is delivered. If she does not, take your time and tie a clean thread around the cord about 1 inch away from the kitten's belly. With sterilized scissors, cut the cord a short distance away from the thread, on the side away from the kitten. Be certain of what you are doing before you do it. In many cases the mother cat will wait for the delivery of the placenta, consume it and thereby sever the cord. After delivery, the mother cat will nurse the kittens and sleep. When she has regained some of her strength, she will look for water and food. Regular nursing periods will continue for several weeks. When the kittens are four weeks of age, they should be encouraged to lap milk. Nursing will continue for about four more weeks during which time the kittens are gradually encouraged to eat a wider variety of foods. Weaning should be completed at eight weeks. When weaning has occurred, the kitten should be given one-half a dose of feline enteritis vaccine. For other details of kitten feedings, consult the section on feeding Burmese.



Yindling's Dark Diane  
Owner: Doris E. Springer



Sandoway's Samantha  
Owner: Mrs. Alexander  
M. Cochran

### FEEDING BURMESE

In order to grow, kittens require approximately 250 calories per kilogram of body weight per day while the young cat needs 130 to 160 calories. The mature adult cat in order to maintain adequate nu-

trition should consume 60 to 90 calories. The calorie needs are per kilogram of body weight per day. These calories come from the diet which should consist of thirty to forty per cent protein and twenty-five to thirty per cent fat. Fat provides a more palatable diet and allows for better absorption of vitamin A. At the present time carbohydrate requirements are not known. In addition the cat needs calcium, phosphorus, iron, copper, cobalt and iodine. The vitamins necessary for health are as follows:

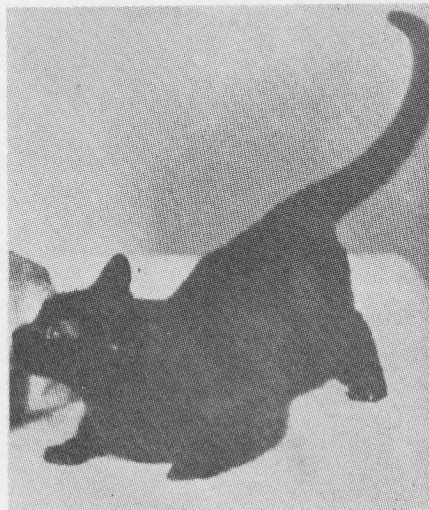


Shy Ann's Babu  
Breeder: Ray Henke  
Owner: Judy Kennedy

calcium, phosphorus, iron, copper, cobalt and iodine. The vitamins necessary for health are as follows:

- Vitamin A
- Niacin
- Folic acid
- Chlorine
- Thiamine
- Riboflavin
- Pyridoxine
- Vitamin D
- Vitamin E
- Pantothenic acid

How are all of these requirements translated into everyday feedings? How much food should be fed, when should it be fed, and should it be raw or cooked? First of all, the feeding of kittens begins with their conception. The female in season is an ornery character at best; and while interested in sex, her mind is not on food. If she does not eat her regular diet, she can always be tempted with strained baby meat which will provide protein but no fat. Once interested, however, the breeder can mix evaporated milk and water (1/2:1/2), vitamins, pulverized rice cereal with the strained meat. The mixture is fairly soupy, and if some of the meat is allowed to remain in small lumps, the female will consume a fair amount of the necessary mixture in order to get the desired meat. Once she has conceived, the pregnant lady makes up for lost time in her eating habits. A necessary item for the pregnant queen is whole ground ocean fish which provides calcium and iodine in good amounts. These supplements are vital to avoid osteogenesis

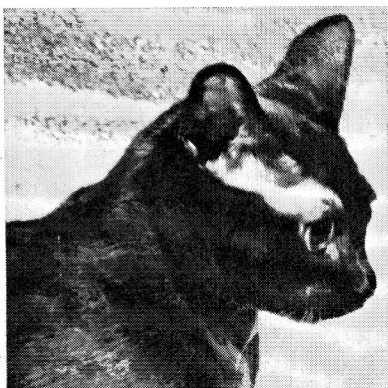


Gr. Ch. Mizpah's Claudia of Brierwood  
Owner: Doris Wilcox

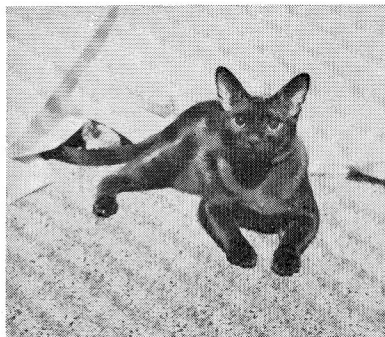
imperfecta in the kittens. This affliction is nutritional in origin in cats and is not an inherited disorder.

Variety is the spice of life, and it is certainly true with cats. All of our adult cats eat the same diet. They are fed two times a day and with the exception of young kittens all eat from the same plate. We have a pride of Burmese that live together without benefit of cages, and we have the scars to prove it. For I have found that the best stimulus to lagging appetites in the **healthy adult cat** is competition. Obviously, the sick cat is isolated; obviously, the runts are observed carefully so that they are well fed. But those of you with fancy catteries and separately caged cats have missed an interesting facet of colony cat life. The ladies eat first, the oldest attaches herself to the plate, and the younger females sit in a circle and watch. The males stand at a distance and wait. Each eats her fill from the community plate and leaves. Burmese do not stuff themselves as Siamese do, nor do they hover or dawdle over their food. If they seem hungry after one plate is consumed, another is provided; and then dry food is left for nibbling.

The adult diet is basically as follows.



Gr. Ch. Yindling's Temple Dancer  
of LeShin-Wieler



Gr. Ch. Rogers Hts. Geronimo  
Breeder-Owner: Willa Rogers

Dry Purina Cat Chow or Dry Purina Dairy Dinner or Purina Sea Nip. Regardless of the type, one ounce of Bakers powdered infant formula is sprinkled over the ration. To this is added one or more cans of Calo or Tabby canned food (chicken parts and kidneys, etc.).

The above diet is fed once a day. For the other meal a selection is made from the following:

1. Raw ground meat mixed with powdered Bakers infant formula.
2. Raw or cooked ground meat with large curd cottage cheese.
3. Raw stew beef (at least once a week).
4. Cooked chicken gizzards.
5. Beef heart.
6. Cooked beef kidney—chopped.
7. Raw horse meat.
8. Cooked chicken (deboned).
9. Kal Kan chicken or beef.
10. Mackerel.

Tuna fish about once a week. Sardines once a week helps avoid hair balls. I do not use "gravy" products for this seems to me to be getting "shortchanged" in the already expensive cat food products. Unipet vitamins are readily accepted by most



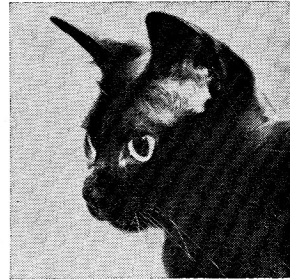
cats, and these should be used daily for adult Burmese. Most novice breeders are interested in kitten feeding schedules. What they fail to realize is that any schedule must be individualized according to a specific kitten, its size and the size of the litter. Small litters get more milk and mature faster. Therefore, such kittens may skip entirely certain aspects of a generalized schedule.

Age	Diet
4 weeks	1/2 evaporated milk: 1/2 water, vitamins.
5 weeks	Above. Add infant rice cereal.
6 weeks	High protein strained infant dinner. Add Baker's infant formula.
7 weeks	High protein strained infant dinner. Cottage cheese. Finely minced ground meat with Baker's infant formula.
8 weeks	Cottage cheese Ground meat Horse meat Finely chopped stew beef.

In each stage beginning at the 6th week I add 1/2 to 1 ounce of dry Baker's formula to the infant dinner or ground meat. This is well mixed and eaten readily. I use ABDEC vitamins, but the type used is a personal matter. Vary the diet according to the kittens' needs; if stools become loose increase the amount of boiled meat and decrease cereal and milk. If weight is lagging increase protein and milk as well as cereal.

#### FEEDING THE SICK CAT

Perhaps the first indication of illness in a Burmese is its refusal to eat. This first refusal of food causes me to examine the cat carefully for fever, signs of a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection or abscess. Most cats, when sick, prefer to go off in a corner and die; so force feeding becomes mandatory. Regardless of the illness, it has become apparent to me that veterinarians do not have time to force feed cats. The most serious illnesses of feline enteritis, pneumonitis and rhinotracheitis require constant supervision and care which, again in my experience, veterinarians cannot give. While appropriate medication is given, the cat is fed with an eye dropper—first cool water is offered and repeated every other hour during normal waking hours of the animal. Once the cat retains water, a mixture of strained baby meat and water is made into a broth mixture and offered every hour until the cat will accept strained meat from your finger tip. I have found strained infant ham the best choice with which to begin. Its



Gr. Ch. Mai Tai Demitasse  
Breeder-Owner:  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Erhart

stronger odor attracts the cat, and the saltiness of ham helps make the cat thirsty and more water is accepted and retained.

#### **Feline Enteritis**

A special discussion of this dread disease may not be in the realm of this paper, but there is no other situation in the cat's life in which feeding is of greater importance. Antibiotic therapy is not specific in this illness and any and everything that is done is directed towards sustaining the cat's life until his own body resistance can overcome the disease. Therefore nutrition and maintenance of hydration become of paramount importance. An electrolyte\* solution of water, table salt and sugar can be boiled, cooled and fed by dropper to the cat. Diarrhea can be controlled by one of the anticholinergic preparations such as Valpin elixir; and life is sustained by the use of repository steroids such as Depo Medrol in appropriate doses. If this disease is **suspected** early enough and **treated** early enough the cat will be eating on her own in 8 to 12 hours. Extra protein and fluids must be given for the cat to regain its former nutritional state.

#### **Salmonella Infections and Debilitating Diarrheas**

Another illness almost as debilitating as feline enteritis is salmonella infection which can produce profound diarrhea and subsequent dehydration. This bacteria has been found as a contaminant in some pet and human foods. Laws which have helped with confiscation of contaminated human food products are now being directed to help similar situations in contaminated pet foods. Special diet is the best treatment. This consists solely of cottage cheese, high protein infant dinners (infant product in jars, **not** dry mixture), whole boiled eggs, chopped and boiled ground meat. Symptomatic measures such as Valpin elixir in appropriate doses will control the diarrhea.



Gr. Ch. Lochinvar's Donagal  
Breeder-Owner: Nancy Bunge

#### **NUTRITION AND THE SHOW CAT**

You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but you can embellish that sow considerably with proper feeding. Burmese breeders are fortunate because if the cat has been well fed it can be put in a show cage on literally a moment's notice. Usually one does not feed evaporated milk to an adult cat, but if weight is off near show time our adult cats are fed a mixture of evaporated milk, water, rice cereal and egg yolk and ham. They get more horse meat as show time approaches.

Some cats need a little more help with their coats. If this is the case, the cheapest and best schedule to follow is to add Linatone to the diet and alternate daily with a mixture of cod liver

\*Electrolyte solution—Add 1 teaspoon of salt and 8 teaspoons of sugar or white Karo syrup to 1 quart of boiled water.

oil, wheat germ oil and corn oil. With additional oil, one must watch for diarrhea and decrease or eliminate this mixture.

The diets worked out for my cats, no doubt, vary considerably from yours. As in anything else one does not argue with success. What works for you is best. The most important point is to raise healthy cats and kittens whether they win blue ribbons or not.

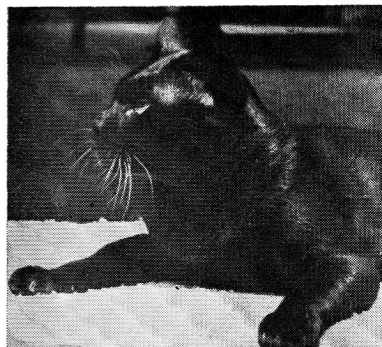
(Bakers Infant Formula manufactured by J. B. Roerig and Company.)

### SHOWING BURMESE

You think you have a pretty good cat, and you want other people to see what a fine Burmese you've raised. If you've never shown a cat, the mechanics of even entering your proud beauty can be overwhelming. Most people will attend several cat shows before deciding to exhibit. Perhaps you will join a local club and try to first learn more about your Burmese breed and shows in general. You may join the United Burmese Cat Fanciers and then decide to enter. Once, however, a club knows of your interest you will receive news and entry blanks

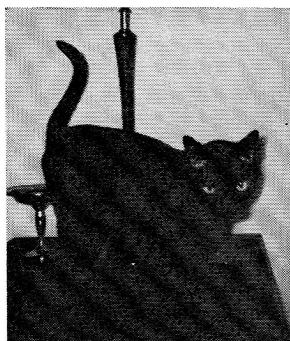
for the local show. The only way to learn about showing is to jump in and learn to swim. You will probably find the water pretty cold on the initial plunge. In spite of all of the help you will receive from experienced exhibitors, it will be a confusing time. But if you plan to have a cattery and sell Burmese, showing the cats is the best way to gain a reputation. Your reputation will depend not only on the quality of your Burmese and the condition in which you show them but also on your graciousness and honesty. Put your best foot forward and present clean, well groomed Burmese in an attractive cage in the show. Cage curtains of aqua or gold, brown or shades thereof provide an enhancing background for your cat. Keep the cage clean and odor free. There are several products for reducing odor, Nilodor being one that does not seem to affect cats. Lysol can produce disastrous effects on Burmese. If the cat comes near Lysol fumes, the eyes will water; and weeping can become profuse enough to wet the facial fur. There may be times when a disinfectant used in the show room will affect your cat; simply cover the cage with some transparent plastic and protect him.

In spite of the fact that as an exhibitor you have read and digested the show rules, you may still be confused on certain points. If your Burmese has passed its eighth month birthday and has never been shown and has not been altered or spayed, it will be entered in the novice championship class. For clarification, let us take your Burmese cat, sex it as a male and proceed. You have entered him in the novice class. In the show he will compete against all other novice Burmese males to start with. Suppose he is one of a class of four



Quad. Ch. Morningside Svengali  
of Gold Scarab. Bred by D. Otten.  
Owner: E. Krauskopf

Burmese male novices. The judge decides that he is the best of the four male novices, so a blue ribbon (first) is hung on his cage. Opposing your cat will be a Burmese male in the Open Class. If the judge thinks that the "open" male is better than yours, then the red, white and blue (winners) ribbons will be awarded to the "open" male. This means that your cat must remain in the novice class and will



**Braunschwarz K (Fine Neuter)**  
Owner: Frederick Kraushaar

remain in that class until he has won at least one winner's ribbon. In the next ring of this same show the judge might think otherwise and award your cat the winners as well as the blue ribbon. For the next show (at a later calendar date, not the next ring of this same show) your cat will be entered in the Open Class. On the other hand, if he receives four winner's ribbons at this particular show he will be advanced to champion which you must confirm with the national office; and at the next calendar show he will be a champion. If by chance, your cat received a second place ribbon in all four rings of the show, sit back and enjoy yourself and try again.

But suppose the moon is in the right orbit and it is your day, let us take your male Burmese up the ladder and see what is possible in his first show. He wins first place and winners in the novice class; thus defeating the novice and Open males. He is considered Best of Color and Best Burmese, thus defeating all other Burmese in the Novice, Open, Champion and Grand Championship classes, both males and females. Thus it is possible for this cat now to be eligible for Best Novice, Best Foreign Short Hair, Best Short Hair and conceivably Best Cat. In the specialty rings of the show your cat will compete against all other short hairs. In the all breed rings competition will be against all short hairs and all long haired cats as well. These top wins are important in gaining grand championship status; however, your cat must gain four winner's ribbons in order to be a champion Burmese.

Showing your Burmese can be fun; and you will enjoy the company of other breeders and the excitement of the show. But most importantly you will learn more about Burmese.

Throughout the years certain Burmese have won honors in various associations. A.C.F.A. presents top Burmese winners in their Annual Parade of Royalty. C.F.A. show wins for many years were included in All American Scoring featured in one of the cats magazines. Cats in C.F.A. competition are now scored within that association and become eligible for C.F.A. Regional and National awards. Burmese have their own special competition conducted by the United Burmese Cat Fanciers. Very lovely sable brown ribbons are awarded (in all shows requesting them) to the winning Burmese. The only stipulations are that the show committee request the ribbons and that they are awarded to members of U.B.C.F. only. The wins are accorded by the Ribbon Chairman; and annual awards to top winners are made.

According to U.B.C.F. records, the latest winners are:

**1965-1966**

Best Female  
Best Male  
Best Neuter  
Best Spay

Puss-N Dale Kihara of Pageant  
Mai Hai Khuda  
Jasha Khame  
Rogers Hts. Spice

**1966-1967**

Best Female  
Best Male  
  
Best Neuter  
(Tie)  
Best Spay

Mai-Hai Demitasse  
Brierwood Fernandel of Le Shin-  
Wieler  
Lil' Satchmo  
Sir Reggie of Arcadia  
Mizpah's Claudia of Yasmin

**1967-1968**

Best Male: (Tie)  
  
Best Female:  
Best Spay: (Tie)  
  
Best Neuter:

Burma Road's Detour of Senshu  
Shawnee Casey Jones of Phi Line  
Beaver's Clan Etta Wu  
Tajan Baby of Kona Kai  
Hill House Imogene  
Brunschwartz K

One can trace the popularity and increasing quality of the Burmese breed by reviewing the list of C.F.A. Grand Champions year by year.

**1959-1960**

Ko-Ko-Mo of Elyria  
Reeba Ka

**1960-1961**

Mizpah's Clancy  
Mizpah's Anitra

**1961-1962**

Mizpah's Claudia of Yasmin  
Mizpah's Ferdnand of Brierwood

**1962-1963**

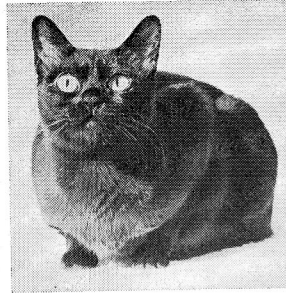
Mizpah's Angus Charkha  
Mizpah's Cee-Celia of Brierwood  
Mizpah's Chili Bean  
Mizpah's Trotsky of G(len)n  
Ping's Coffee Royale of Card  
ell (Premier)



Gr. Ch. Burma Road's Detour  
of Senshu

1963-1964

Brierwood's L. Giarraputo  
Cher- Lan's Tonii  
Mizpah's Fing Fung of Samdur  
Shawnee Cassius Clay



Gr. Ch. Hill House Daniella  
of Shawnee. Breeder: Stella  
Harlos. Owner: Nikki  
Shuttleworth

1964-1965

Hill House Daniella of Shawnee  
Morningside Attsi  
Yasmin's Claudia of Ting-Hi

1965-1966

Beaver's Clan Singh Tu  
Brierwood's Babe  
G(len)n's Geronimo of Rogers Hts.  
Ling-Ford Ludovic  
Puss-N-Dale Kihara of Pageant  
Sandoway's Samantha  
Shawnee Cassia  
Shawnee Little Brown Jug  
Yindling's Temple Dancer



Gr. Ch. Shawnee Casey Jones  
of Phi Line. Breeder: Nikki  
Shuttleworth. Owner: Mr.  
& Mrs. Roger Sanftner

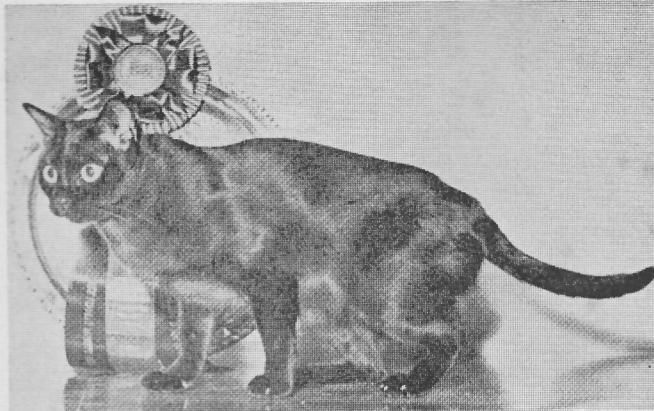
1966-1967

Brierwood's Fernandel  
Burma Road's Detour of Senshu  
Kittrik's Gung Ho  
Mai-Hai Demitasse  
Shawnee Casey Jones of Phi Line  
Shawnee Sexee of Sul-Lee  
Yasmin's Rose Brown of Kalmia  
Mirador's Playmate Pepita  
(Premier)

## BURMESE STANDARDS

Even in current literature, it is not uncommon to read about the strong resemblance of Siamese and Burmese. Once an idea is established in the lay press, it will be quoted ad infinitum; and only the experienced will be capable of distinguishing fact from fancy. In the 1930s and early 40s Siamese and Burmese did closely resemble each other in conformation. One has only to review old magazines to see apple headed Siamese that were then of show quality. The Burmese has changed to some extent but the changes have not been as radical as in the Siamese. Photographs of early Burmese could easily be displayed today without arousing significant comment. Such a thing

**SOME GOOD BURMESE, EARLY AND RECENT**



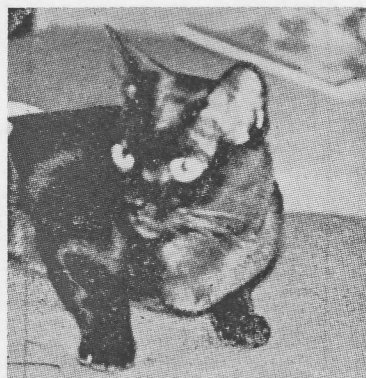
**Gr. Ch. Mizpah's Anitra (deceased)**



**Gr. Ch. (ACFA) Show Boat  
Br. Owner Gereine  
Nitschman**



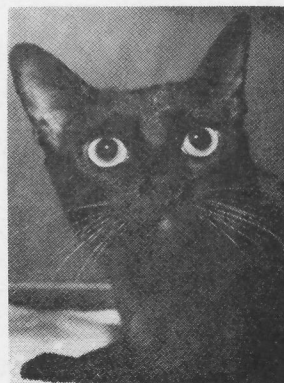
**Gr. Ch. Kittrik's Gung Ho of Silkwood  
Owner: Sally Bray**



**Gr. Ch. Mizpah's Fing Fung  
of Samdur  
Owner: Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Sample**



**Briarwood's L. Giarraputo  
Owned by Doris Springer**



**Ch. & Pr. Ty-Ru's  
Barbi Babi  
Owner  
Ruth Tyler**

could not be done with Siamese or several other breeds. Early standards, out of deference to necessary hybridization called for long, dainty bodies and almond shaped eyes. Kinks were tolerated. A comparison of early Burmese and Siamese standards show very little difference in regard to conformation.

In 1958, the newly formed United Burmese Fanciers set as one of its objectives the recognition of a single standard for Burmese. This was accomplished, and it has been accepted by the major cat fancier associations. The standard for Burmese is as follows:

The overall impression of the ideal Burmese would be a cat of medium size and rich solid color, with substantial bone structure, good muscular development, and a surprising weight for its size. This, together with its expressive eyes and sweet face, presents a totally distinctive cat which is comparable to no other breed.

#### Points

#### COLOR ..... 25 pts.

The mature specimen should be a rich, warm, sable brown, shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter hue on the underparts but otherwise without shadings or markings of any kind.

#### HEAD AND EARS ..... 25 pts.

The head should be pleasingly rounded, without flat planes, whether viewed from front or side. Face should be full, with considerable breadth between the eyes, tapering slightly to a short, well-developed muzzle. In profile there should be a visible nose break. Ears should be medium in size and set well apart on a rounded skull, alert, tilting slightly forward, broad at the base, and with slightly rounded tips. (Roundness of head—7, full face with proper profile—8, breadth between eyes—4, ear set and placement—6 points).

#### EYES ..... 10 pts.

Set far apart, with rounded aperture; color ranging from yellow to gold, the greater the depth and brilliance the better. Green eyes a fault. Blue eyes to disqualify. (Placement and shape —5, Color 5 points).

#### BODY AND TAIL ..... 25 pts.

Body medium in size, muscular in development, and presenting a somewhat compact appearance. Allowance is to be made for larger size in males. An ample, rounded chest. Back level from shoulder to tail. Legs well proportioned to body with rounded feet. Tail to be straight, medium in length, and free from visible vertebral defects. (Body—15, Legs and feet—5, Tail—5 points).

#### COAT ..... 10 pts.

Fine, glossy, satin-like in texture; and very closely lying. (Shortness—4, Texture—4, Close-lying—2 points).



**CONDITION** ..... **5 pts.**

Perfect physical condition, with excellent muscle tone. There should be no evidence of obesity, paunchiness, weakness, apathy.

This standard has been accepted by most national associations. (ACFA's standard is identical; CFA adds: "Withhold winners for kinked or abnormal tail, locket or button; incorrect number of toes, and adds also that nose leather and paw pads should be brown.")

**BURMESE OTHER THAN SABLE**

For the past nine or ten years, light coated Burmese kittens have appeared in litters from sable parents. Some breeders have prized these animals because of their beauty; some breeders have exploited these cats and have asked large sums of money for a supposedly "rare mutation". Those interested in the cat called "champagne" have said that the kittens are the result of a recessive mutation and that they breed true. The same explanation has been forthcoming for the blue coated cats. Factual as those statements may be and satisfying as they may be to the unformed, specific genetic delineation has yet to be presented. With the exception of black, red, and black and red, and dominant white, other colors of all breeds are recessive and will breed true under the proper circumstances. Indeed, the sable Burmese is itself a recessive mutation.

Personal observation has caused me to feel that there are at least four types of light coated Burmese, each of which has been called "champagne". Two of these can be dismissed rather promptly; one is the Burmese-Siamese hybrid which has a muddy brown coat, and the other is the light sable. The latter kitten is lighter than its littermates but darkens to sable within the first six to eight months; the darkening thus is delayed over the normal situation. The other two types are of different conformation and are quite different in color. One is platinum colored and slightly elongated in conformation. Since conformation is manmade for the most part, one cannot argue too much in regard to the length of the cat. These platinum colored cats have only faint points. These cats represent a recessive dilution which probably has the same relationship as the Chocolate Point Siamese has to the Seal Point Siamese. In other words, the platinum Burmese is probably a chocolate dilute. The question remains is the dilution the same one which occurs in Siamese? In all likelihood, it is.

There is another cat, born of sable parents, which is compact in conformation and golden in color. There is a distinct warm overtone to the coat. The points are more distinct and are light reddish brown in color. This cat is totally different from the platinum colored cats. It may be that this cat represents an allele intermediate between Burmese and Siamese. The fact that all these light colored Burmese have varying degrees of points is disputed by some; but the fact remains that the enzyme defect responsible for point color in Siamese exists also in Burmese. To deny the presence of points would seemingly deny a physiologic characteristic of the Burmese breed.

The "champagne" Burmese have been present for about nine

years. This would seem to be ample time for interested breeders to have established a standard in all associations and have a majority of these cats conform. Since my experience is limited to associations which have not recognized these cats, I cannot state the degree of conformity which has been achieved elsewhere. However, I contend that it will be impossible to arrive at a standard which will include two of these types of light colored cats simply because they seem to represent physiologic different entities.

Again a similar situation exists with the so-called Blue Burmese. In one area of the country a breeder presents a dark slate colored cat with a plush coat and silver tipping; and in this part of the country this cat is a Blue Burmese. In another area of the country a lavender cat, absolutely perfect in color with a magnificent sleek coat, is presented as a Blue Burmese. No one doubts the integrity of these breeders, one only feels that they should see what the other is calling blue.

### Hybridization

Burmese breeders worked thirty years to preserve a sable coat, distinctive to the Burmese. Some breeders have purposely crossed Siamese and Burmese to produce hybrids known as Golden Siamese or Tonkanese. One is a Seal Point-Burmese cross while the other is a Chocolate Point Siamese-Burmese cross. Another type of hybrid is the Bombay which results from a Burmese-black ASH cross.

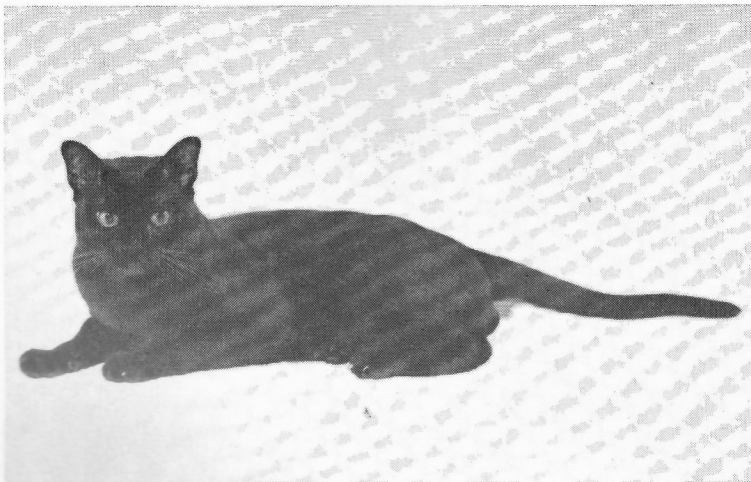
### THE PRESENT DAY CRISIS

After recognition was restored and excellent pure bred Burmese continued to be bred, it was thought that there could be no question about the status of the breed. As it turned out, within the past two years, the term Established Hybrid was designated for Burmese. This had been done in an effort to classify the Various breeds into specific categories. Apparently the decision was made on the basis that the original cat was a hybrid and therefore, it followed that all Burmese were hybrid, even those later imported.

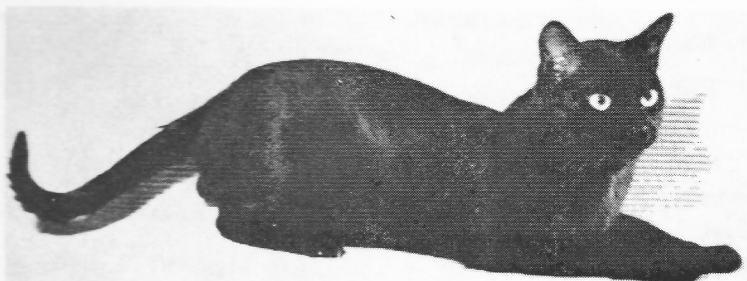
Unfortunately, Burmese breeders had not been consulted in what seemed to be an arbitrary decision. Novice breeders were incensed. Older breeders merely considered it another whim of the cat fancy which would be endured until intelligence overcame expediency. Neither was impressed that the term hybrid was supposedly one to be borne with pride. The waters were calmed temporarily not with the substitution of the term Established Breed but by the fact that Burmese breeders were to be consulted. It is hoped that the Burmese will be restored to their true genetic status of a pure breeding variety of Malayan cat.



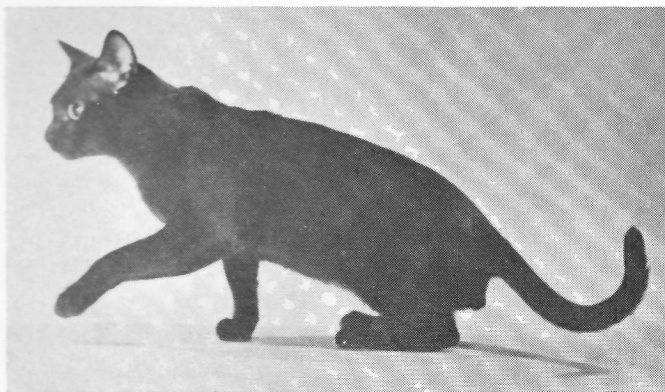
**SOME TOP BURMESE MALES FROM MIZPAH**



**Gr. Ch. Mizpah Clancy — Still Siring**



**Quad Ch. Ghirardelli Alla Mizpah ("Charlie")  
(deceased)**



**Gr. Ch. Mizpah Trotsky of G(Len)n**

#### Footnotes

1. CATS Magazine, July 1947, Vol. 11 No. 11, page 10, 22.
2. C.F.A. Year Book, 1958, Page 79.
3. Personal correspondence between Mr. Guy Fisher and Mr. A. B. Estes, courtesy Mr. Estes.
4. Ibid.

#### Biographical Notes

Dr. Rosemonde Stevens Peltz was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, which immediately places her in the company of artists and gourmandes, a heritage she keeps as scientist and practicing physician, in Georgia. Her first love was art which she studied at Sophie H. Newcomb College, graduating in 1948 with honors in Art. Later at Louisiana State University School of Medicine she received her degree in Medicine. From 1948 to 1950 Dr. Peltz worked in medical art and medical photography, illustrating medical textbooks and scientific articles. After receiving her M.D. in 1954 she moved to Atlanta to intern in the Crawford Long Hospital, until 1958, when she entered private practice in Decatur, Ga., where she now lives; her practice is limited to Internal Medicine and Cardiology. She is also college physician at Agnes Scott College, and Associate in Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine. Finally, rounding out her busy schedule with teaching, she is senior tutor in Cardiology at the Grady Memorial Hospital, Cardiac Clinic.

Dr. Peltz has been busy otherwise, in the field of writing, and in her favorite hobby cat-watching. The Year Book has had the pleasure of publishing two most interesting articles by her, and **THE BURMESE CAT**, in this Edition, makes the third. We list the articles written by Dr. Peltz below:

**Domestic Cat in Art**, C.F.A. Year Book 1963. Reprinted in **International Catfancy Magazine** Charter Issue, 1965.

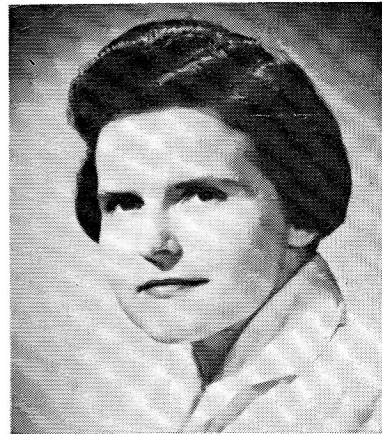
**Inheritance of Coat Color**, C.F.A. Year Book, 1965

**White Cats Odd-Eyed and Otherwise**, **International Catfancy Magazine**, Vol. 1, No. 1.

**That Lovely Brown Cat**, **International Catfancy Magazine**, Charter issue continuing through Vol. 8.

The Heatherwood Cattery was established By Dr. Peltz in 1961, where she apparently keeps every cat fortunate enough to be born on the premises. At the last reading she admits to 13 Burmese, 1 Silver Tabby ASH, 9 Siamese, and some piebald cats numbering 5. Because of her experimentation, Dr. Peltz has more cats than she might have had otherwise, but each is equally loved and cared for.

Dr. Peltz is at present President of the Cotton States Cat Club, Member Burmese Breeders SH Club, Member Astrocats Club, Newsletter Editor and Board member of the United Burmese Cat Fanciers, a non-affiliated Burmese Breed club.



Dr. Peltz