

# Cats

magazine

NOVEMBER

1961

35c

## FEATURES

Cover .....	2
Editorial .....	2
Readers Write .....	4
Fewlines .....	6
Picture of Month .....	10
Question Box .....	11
Cats Bookshelf .....	12
Christmas Shopping Section .....	14

## ARTICLES

Puka - The Cat .....	5
Blue Tabbies .....	7
Early Persians .....	8

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Duke .....	9
------------	---

## THE FANCY

New Color .....	7
Tips	
Show	
Show	

ALICE M. CLARK  
98 LAKEWOOD AVE.  
SAN FRANCISCO 27, CALIF. 8

4-57  
C-405







Photos:  
Dr. J. R. Spies

Tom  
and  
Jane  
Martinke

## ONCE IN A BLUE TABBY MOON

Only once in a blue moon do we get to experience the thrill of that rarest of events in the Cat Fancy, the recognition of a new color for championship competition. Up until the very recent past there have been several new breeds of cats recognized and new colors in the Siamese breed, but only one new color in Persians has been adopted, the old-fashioned and well-beloved Calico. Yet during this century we have lost three colors. At one time there were separate classes for Oranges and Reds and Orange Tabbies and Red Tabbies, but as more and more people showed their preference for the deeper color these colors were merged into one class. One color was lost entirely, the Masked Silver which, in a perfect specimen, was possibly the most strikingly beautiful color of the Silver division. Recently several of the national associations have recognized the man-made Cameo colors under one name or another, but only now has a great national association pioneered by accepting nature's own wonderful creation, the Blue Tabby, in both Longhairs and Shorthairs.

The Blue Tabby is a true Tabby, wholly distinct, and not to be confused with any other color. It will never be necessary for any judge to hesitate when judging one, wondering in which class it really belongs, as we have seen so often with the Reds and Red Tabbies or the Chinchillas and the Shaded Silvers. While the Silver Tabbies and the Brown Tabbies are like a full symphony with their rich strong backgrounds and bold black striping, the Blue Tabbies might be likened to a Chopin nocturne in their delicacy and delight. The standard adopted for them describes them literally and clearly, but cannot possibly convey the sense of their charm, their shimmering ashes of roses patina over the basic colors or the wonderful harmony of their color pattern. The standard is as follows: "Ground color including lips and

chin pale bluish ivory with warm fawn overtones, fawn more noticeable on upper part of face. Markings very deep blue affording good contrast with ground color. Pattern of markings as described for brown tabbies. Lips and chin slightly lighter in kittens and young adults. Nose leather rose. Eyes copper or deep orange, copper preferred."

This is not a new color. One of the writers had a perfectly marked Blue Tabby Domestic Shorthair in early childhood and at that time remembers her mother's remark that she especially liked that particular color, then unknown to her by name, because those cats always seemed to have rounder, shorter and more beautiful faces and their bodies were short and thick, a rather remarkable observation from someone who at that time had never heard of a standard for cats. Throughout the years most breeders doing intensive work with Brown Tabbies have experienced the phenomenon of the appearance of Blue Tabbies in the Brown Tabby litters when the pedigrees seemed to offer no reason for this. Such kittens have always been notable for having a much more intensive copper eye color than their Brown Tabby siblings.

It is now almost a certainty that the Blue Tabbies which appear in this way are true spontaneous dilutions of the basic Brown Tabby and bear the same relationship to it that Blue Point Siamese does to Seal Point. Thus they are a true color which can in time be established as strongly in their own right as the Blue Point Siamese have already been. It will, unfortunately, take longer to accomplish this since there are so comparatively few breeders working with the Brown Tabbies from which they come, while the Siamese breeders are legion. Certain bloodlines seem to carry a stronger gene for this dilution than others, so that when these lines are combined or there is inbreeding or linebreeding in them, a much greater propor-

tion of Blue Tabbies will result. Minqua's Shackamaxon pictured here is an interesting case in point. Both his parents are Brown Tabbies, the sire a strong show winner and the dam a full sister of two grand champion Brown Tabbies. Three of the grandparents are Brown Tabby, the fourth Black. Of the first thirty cats on the pedigree 17 are Brown Tabbies, 8 Blacks and 5 Blues. Only Brown Tabbies were anticipated in the litter from this mating, the first of this particular combination, yet in the litter there were one spectacularly marked Brown Tabby and four equally wellmarked Blue Tabbies.

Now that it is established that Blue Tabby is a true color created by nature, let us turn to another interesting facet of it. It may also be created artificially by man by crossing Brown Tabby and Blue. It has always been known that the introduction of black into Brown Tabby bloodlines for one generation will help to clarify and deepen the markings which may have been showing a tendency to become muddy, indistinct and ticked. In recent years many of the best Brown Tabby breeders have been crossing their Brown Tabbies very carefully with Blues to improve the type of the Brownies with as little loss of intensity of markings as possible. There has been one great hindrance to their doing this as much as would be desirable to serve the best interests of the Brown Tabbies. All ethical breeders hesitate to allow their cats to produce kittens for whom it may be difficult to find homes, and these crosses resulted in a great many Blue Tabbies, not always very well marked in the first generation of the cross. Of course a true scientific researcher would be ruthless and, in pursuit of the ultimate end of producing a perfect Brown Tabby, destroy the unwanted colors in the litters but, thanks, be, cat breeders have never become so enthusiastic in their scientific zeal as to forget that they are, first and foremost, cat lovers, and this solution is unthinkable to them. The writers have solved their own particular problem by selling these kittens without pedigree or registration to homes where they will be altered for well-loved housepets. Even this has not made it possible to experiment as freely as we would have liked, since there is a saturation point in any area for good homes for pet kittens, however beautiful, who are not suitable for breeding or showing.

(Continued on page 20)





# STOP

ITCHING  
DRY COAT  
SHEDDING  
HOT SPOTS  
ECZEMA

DUE TO NUTRITIONAL CAUSES

## REX WHEAT GERM OIL WILL DO IT!

Rex Oil contains 50% ESSENTIAL fat (linoleic fat). This is truly a "skin vitamin". Without Rex Oil, the cat's skin and coat become dry, lifeless, scaly and sore.

DON'T WAIT TILL YOUR CAT  
SCRATCHES AND BITES HIMSELF RAW.

Breeders and exhibitors have  
used REX OIL for 25 years.

PRICES: Pint \$3.50; Quart \$6.00;  
Gallon \$19.00. At all pet counters  
or direct from us.

Write for FREE folder Rex Oil for cats'.  
Folder No. 10 'VioBin Oil for humans'.

UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED

**REX OIL** MONTICELLO  
ILLINOIS

We have the Sensational  
**BURMESE!**

The Fiesty

**MANX**

The Democratic

**Domestic S. H. Smokes**

**HASSAYAMPA CATTERY**

Nan-Low Pyle  
Tel. GRande 4-2278

P.O. Box 63  
Payson, Ariz.

**One-Spot Flea Killer**

**Kills** Lice  
Ants  
Fleas  
Aphids  
Bedbugs

**SUITABLE**  
Even for  
KITTENS

**FOR FLEAS 60¢**

**DUST ON ONE SPOT** Guaranteed by Manufacturer  
For LICE, dust all over, but for Fleas one-spot  
dusting is enough. No harm if licked. Comb  
free with each can. One-Spot Co., Jessup, Md.

## NOVICE

(starts  
page 8)

the genes to produce quality cats occasionally if enough kittens are produced. Is it possible to hope that the day will come when we will get only show stock from our queens and when pet and breeding stock will no longer be a problem?

That can and should be our hope—but to accomplish it, we must continue to keep alive in the Fancy the same courageous, unselfish attitude that has always marked the true improver of the breed. We must continually bring the better cats from all over the country into our own bloodlines. We must neuter and spay those kittens which do not measure up, and we must even take a second look at the policy of selling non-show stock of good pedigree as "breeders." Only by a strict policy of breeding best to best can we hope to continue to improve the Longhairs to the same extent that our predecessors did.

It will require work, study, and clear thinking, but it will be done. Just compare the 1903 and 1906 pictures here with those in any recent issue of CATS, and you'll clearly see the tremendous improvements which have been made by previous generations of breeders. Then resolve to do all you can as a responsible cat fancier to carry the Longhair breed yet another great step forward.

## BLUE TABS

(starts  
page 7)

Undoubtedly this problem has held back the improvement of Brown Tabbies for many years. Few cats other than Blues have ever had a specific role to play in the improvement of another color, but Blue Tabbies are the exception. A few hardy souls among the Brownie breeders have kept some of the better Blue Tabbies, even though they were AOC (any other color), because they well knew that some of the best and most perfectly marked Brown Tabbies are produced from these Blue Tabbies. Even this, though, has presented its own problems, for less knowledgeable breeders have not wanted to buy cats for showing and breeding who carried AOC's on their pedigrees. In some instances, fortunately rare, breeders have resorted to the expedient of registering such cats as Brown Tabbies to avoid this criticism, as they have been known to do with mackerel striped Brownies also, but we are happy to say we know of no Brown Tabby breeders who are doing this now and the recognition of the new color will forever remove the temptation. The second problem has been one of space since no breeder, however, dedicated to his quest for improvement of his chosen color, can keep unlimited quantities of cats and he will naturally prefer to work with ones which he can have the pleasure of showing.

So here over the years we have had a color which is one of our most exquisite, one of nature's own darlings since she insists on sending them to us even against the well-laid plans of the breeders them-

selves, and one which can be created by careful interbreeding of colors, yet it has been completely ignored and the great proportion of cat fanciers have never even seen one. Now, thanks to the farsightedness and progressive spirit of a great national organization, they are to have a place in the sun where they will not only give joy in themselves, but also serve as the most effective means for improving a color we already have which has been sadly neglected for many years. If the reactions of the people who have seen specimens of this color for the first time recently are typical, we would not hesitate



to predict that eventually blue tabbies will be one of our most popular colors.

One word of caution must be added. Blue Tabbies are not a blue cat with darker blue markings, tickings or shadings. Such cats as these are simply flawed Blues which should never be mistaken for Blue Tabbies whose basic ground color is a blued old ivory. This is particularly evident on the underside where the ground color may be seen in larger areas. The true Blue Tabby must have the face markings that lend such piquancy to all Tabby faces. The rings around their eyes and the chin and lip area are a very pale cool ivory. Any cat whose face or underside is blue may automatically be eliminated as a show cat, for it cannot possibly be a Blue Tabby. But the old Chinese philosopher has said that one picture is worth a thousand words, so let Shackamaxon's pictures point the way to what he and his breeders hope will eventually prove to be among the largest classes in the shows.

The writers cannot possibly hope to express adequately their gratitude to Dr. Joseph R. Spies for his patience and good humor while photographing this boy or to his lovely wife who stood by so patiently and loyally.

## BACK FENCE

(starts  
page 26)

SPCA sponsored a contest to find the oldest living cat in the state. An award was planned and just as soon as we find out the results of this search, we'll give names and details. One of the releases we received last-lined . . . **DO NOT SEND CAT.** You don't really suppose that anyone . . . ?

On the other hand . . . people aren't always very bright. The Salt Lake City *Deseret News* printed a sort of tongue in the cheek item. A group of picnickers in the Storm Mountain area reported that they