

CHAMPION KOMBO

**Blue-eyed White Shorthair owned by Miss Jane Cathcart
Best Short-haired Cat in Show, Hartford, 1909.**

Celebrating ICONS of the CAT FANCY Jane R. Cathcart



BY
KAREN LAWRENCE

JANE R. CATHCART AND THE BLACK SHORT HAired CATTERY

This article is a compilation of text and data taken from the research files of Valerie Edwards, Crown E American Shorthairs, with additional research and addition of photos by Karen Lawrence. The assistance of Carmen Marie Johnson-Lawrence with both ancestry.com and newspapers.com research is much appreciated.

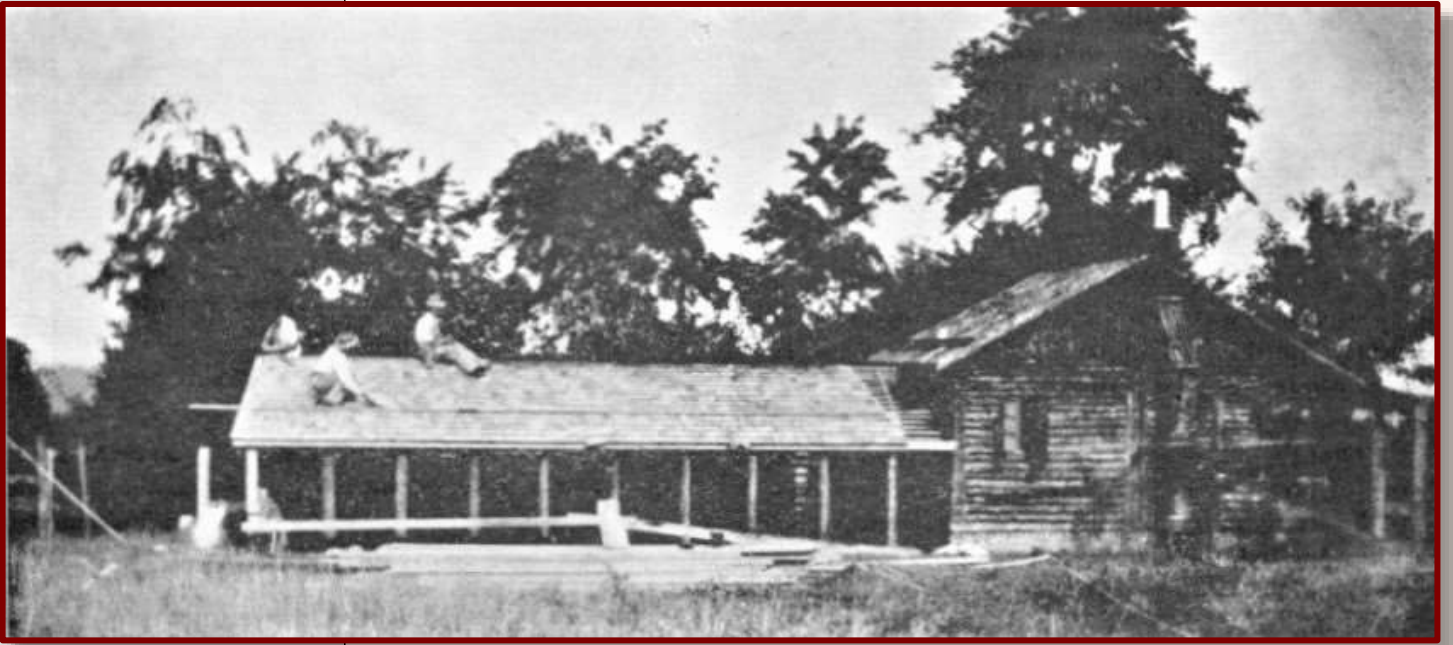
To simply call Miss Jane Cathcart an 'Icon of the Cat Fancy' is probably a gross understatement. This woman was responsible for the encouragement of the breeding of shorthairs in the early 1900s in North America, importing numerous cats from abroad, and basically giving shorthair breeds an extremely sound footing in America.

According to Valerie Edwards' research: -

"Miss Cathcart's cattery was started in France in honor of her French Poodle, 'Black', who brought home a shorthair kitten, named Tiger, one day as his special friend. Later, Miss Cathcart secured pedigreed cats, moved to America, and named her cattery "Black's Shorthair Cattery", later known as "The Black Short Haired Cattery."

This information is confirmed in a 1908 article in the Democrat and Chronicle, which reported on one of Miss Cathcart's visits to Mrs. Elizabeth Brace in Rochester, NY and included: -

"Miss Cathcart spends much of her time in France, where she has another home and cattery in the suburbs of Paris."



WINTER COTTAGE and covered run under construction, the Black Short Haired Cattery, Oradell, N.J.
June 1904 edition of *'The Cat Journal'* – Image: The CFA Foundation, Inc.

In a 1905 interview with Miss Cathcart published in *The Washington Post*, she explains about Black and his pet cat: -

"When, in spite of Black's tender care, Tiger longed for cat companions, Miss Cathcart bought one and then several shorthairs, and they all frolicked about under Black's delighted and careful eye."

Although Miss Cathcart's obituary tells us that she made her primary home in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, the Black Short Haired Cattery she founded in April, 1905 was located on Oradell Stock Farm in Oradell, New Jersey, just 9 miles from her home.

In the 1905 interview, she told the story of her cattery beginnings: -

"This is the first summer my cattery has been running. And it is the only one of its kind in the country."

In the article, the cattery is described as: -

"sits on a little knoll and consists of a half a dozen small rustic buildings assembled about a long shed-like affair which opens on one side into a great turf-paved, wire woven cage. Cats are purring and frolicking in the fifty or more neat pens arranged in a single tier. These are six feet long by three wide. Clapboarding and wire netting separate them."

Miss Cathcart specialized in what was then called the 'Shorthair' breed, importing many colors (top stock only). She carefully blended her imported Shorthairs with 'select' local farm bloodlines to firmly establish a bloodline that significantly contributed to what is now known as the American Shorthair breed.

The 1905 interview again brings us Miss Cathcart's own words about her cats: -



THE BLACK SHORT HAired CATTERY

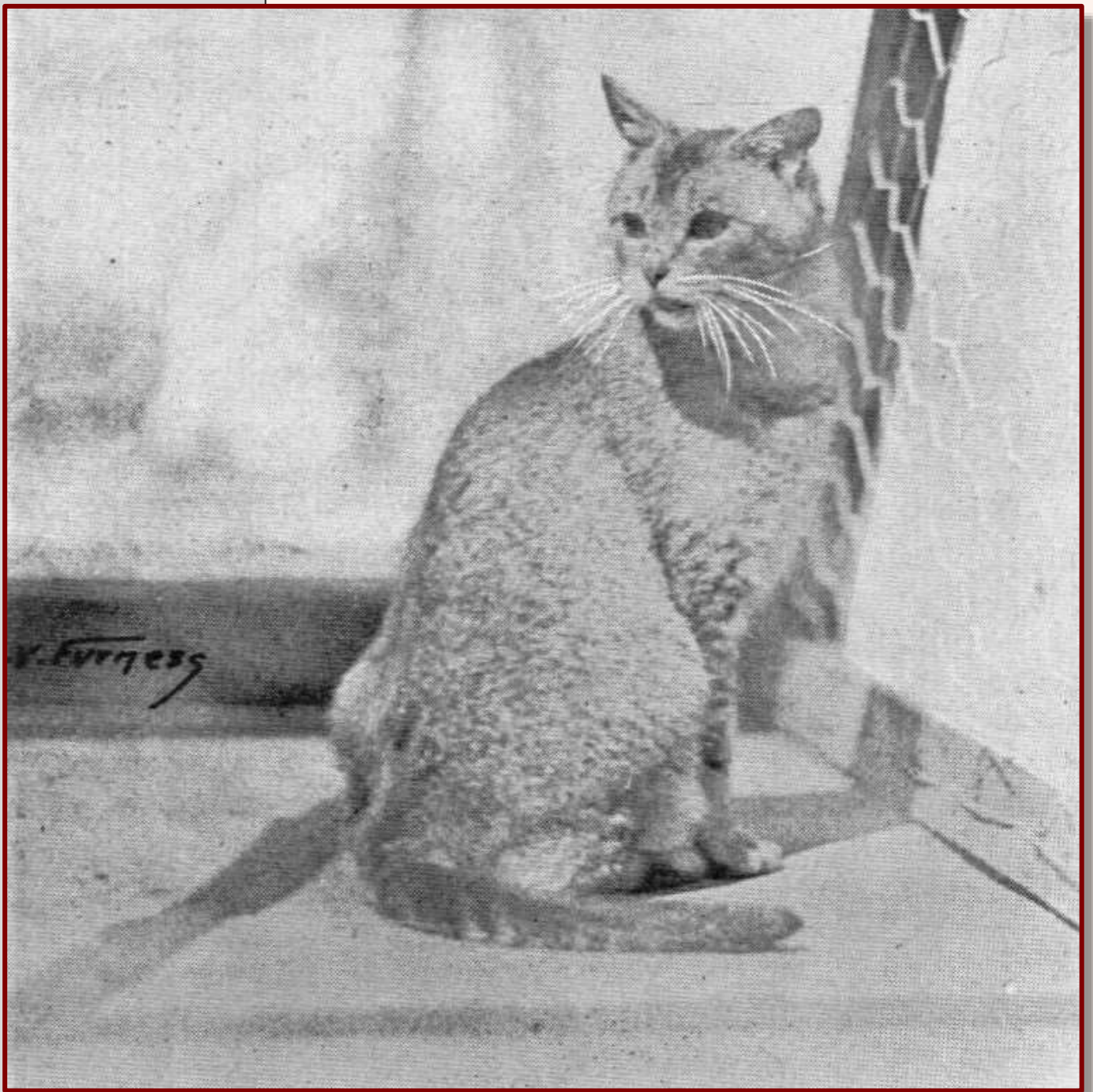
From an undated booklet published by the Black Short Haired Cattery. Image: The CFA Foundation, Inc.

"All of my breeders are prized cats, some of them Champions. I imported them all from France and England in April. I go abroad this winter and will bring back several Manx and Abyssinians in the spring to complete the stud."

In addition to her work with Shorthairs, Miss Cathcart was indeed the importer of the earliest Abyssinians in America ... namely, ALUMINUM II, a male born September 3, 1907; his littermate BRUNETTE, a female; PEPPER, a male born October 23, 1907; and his littermate SALT, a female.

These were all bred by Mrs. Carew-Cox in England, imported and registered with the American Cat Association (ACA) in the United States, and shown rarely. A newspaper show report exists for Aluminum II and Salt at the Madison Square Garden show in 1909. It is unknown if Miss Cathcart planned an Abyssinian breeding program, or not, but there are no recorded offspring from any of the imported Abyssinians.

While there are numerous records of kittens coming from the Black Short Haired Cattery, notably English (British) Shorthair, Manx, Maltese (Russian Blue) and Siamese, it was in the breed commonly known at the time only as 'Shorthair' that she excelled. Advertisements from the era show that she specialized in Black Shorthairs. Not surprising, given her choice of cattery name.



CHAMPION SALT – Abyssinian female, as photographed by Mrs. H. V. Furness

From 'The Cat Review' October 1911. The CFA Foundation, Inc.

Taking note that while the Black Short Haired Cattery was a successful boarding facility, not only of cats but for dogs and birds, they also took in a number of female cats for breeding to their numerous Shorthair studs, as well as to "*other good studs, never exhibited*" at a cheaper fee. As well, the cattery was a source for associated pet novelties such as collars, bells, leads and harnesses, leading us to believe that Miss Cathcart was very dedicated to all aspects of the operation of her business.

The Cattery was indeed run like a well-oiled business, with numerous advertisements appearing in magazines of the day, several versions of a multi-page booklet titled '*The Black Short Haired Cattery*' being published and distributed, plus Miss Cathcart advertised for "*Agents*

FANCIERS FORM A NEW SOCIETY

TO RAISE STANDARD OF THE
SHORT-HAIRED CAT.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION PLANNED

Persons in All Parts of the
United States Express Interest,
To Promote Anti-Stray-Cat Pro-
ject — Miss Cathcart President

**Miss Cathcart was named President and
Mrs. Brace was named Secretary-Treasurer
of the new Short-Haired Cat Society,
formed in Rochester, N.Y.**

From the *'Democratic and Chronicle,'*
August 26, 1906.

wanted to sell on commission." Her intention being to set up others whose sole goal would be to breed Shorthairs.

She was an expert at publicity, noting that: -

"Another novelty of the Cattery is its illustrated price list. The lists are printed upon the best quality of highly glazed paper and are embellished with beautiful cats, any one of which would be suitable for framing. Frequent editions and revisions will be issued and cheerfully sent to you on request."

The grounds surrounding the Cattery were considered "a garden spot" with a "beautiful setting" that was "rapidly becoming one of the 'sights' of New Jersey, drawing visitors from all parts of the country."

It was published that the Cattery was most hospitable to visitors, even being "always prepared to serve Luncheon or Afternoon Tea at reasonable rates."

So busy was Miss Cathcart that she herself did not participate in the showing of her cats. She also was away from the cattery when she travelled to Europe each winter for several months, seeking additional quality cats to take back to America.

Mrs. Elizabeth Brace of Rochester, New York, had the task of actually exhibiting the cats for Miss Cathcart. A report in the November 2, 1908 *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper, reads: -

"For several years, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Brace, secretary of Lockehaven Cat Club, has had charge of the showing of Miss Jane R. Cathcart's cats"

In fact, Mrs. Brace operated the Rochester branch of the Black Short Haired Cattery. Mrs. Brace was, herself, heavily involved in other areas of the cat fancy, being the person who started *The Cat Courier* magazine which kept fanciers informed of the 'goings-on' in the fancy across the country.

In 1906, Miss Cathcart was also the President of the newly formed national Short-haired Cat Society which, according to the Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle*, had the goal of "elevating the short-haired cat's standard and preventing the existence of strays." The new club was affiliated with both the American Cat Association and the Cat Fanciers' Association. During a July 25, 1907 visit to Rochester, NY Miss Cathcart addressed the meeting, giving a talk on "raising the standard of short-haired cats by care in their breeding."

The Black Short Haired Cattery



ORADELL, NEW JERSEY

AGENTS WANTED TO SELL ON COMMISSION

One of the issues of the
Black Short Haired Cattery
Advertising booklets.

Its 14 pages contain
visitor information,
boarding requirements re health,
a price list and information on the
breeding facilities, and numerous
photos by H.V. Furness

Visits at the Black Short Haired Cattery.

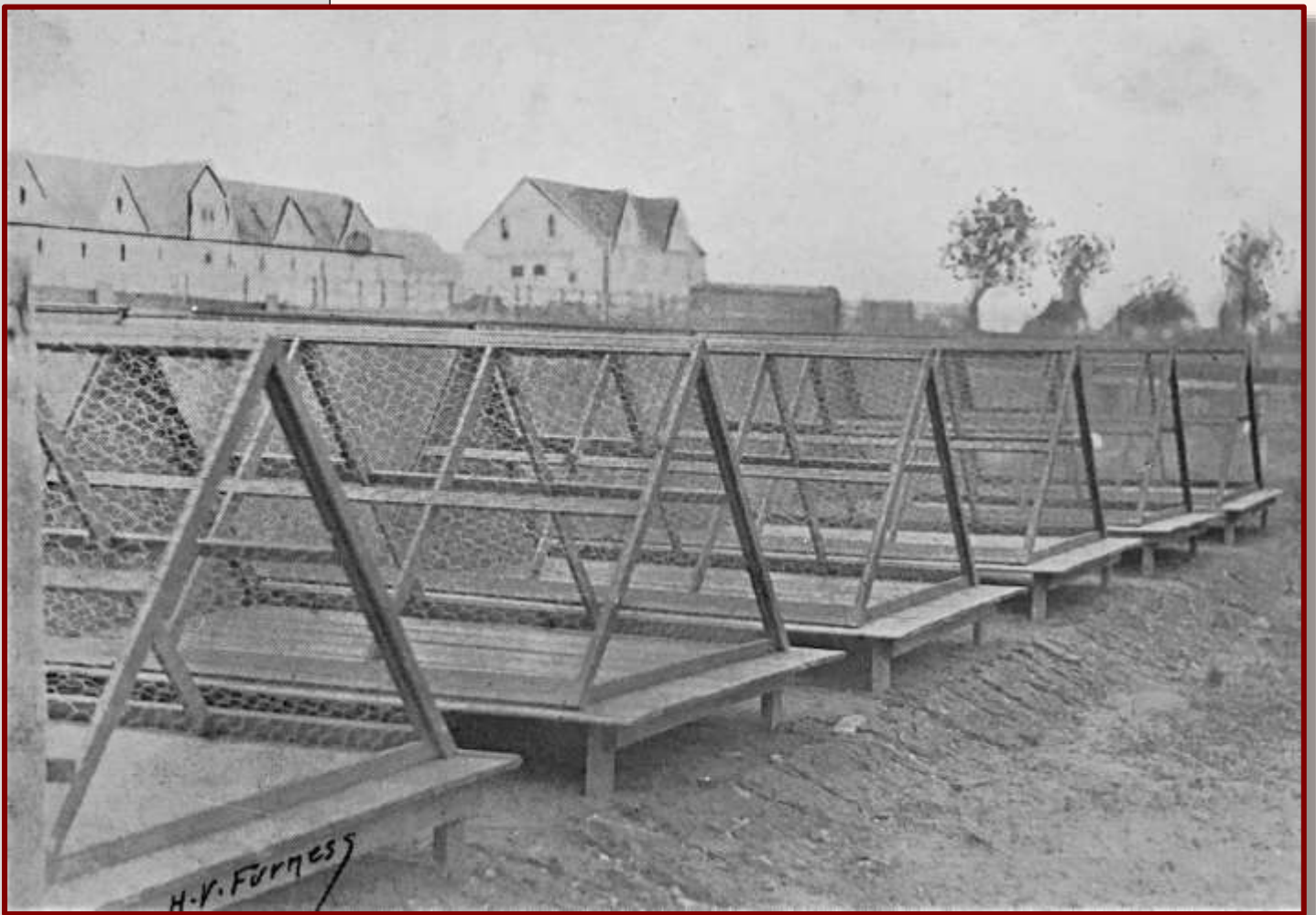
Miss H. Clark's "Kew Woggles" to the
Cattery's "Gold Coin."

Cattery's "Smoke Imp" to the Cattery's
"Ch. Silver Stripes."

Cattery's Siamese "The Lady of the
Sapphires" to Mrs. Lewis' "Rama-ma-
dua."

Cattery's "Priestess of Siam" to Mme.
de Pezet's "Michin."

A list of 'VISITS' to the studs at the Black Short Haired Cattery
From 'The Cat Review,' September 1911



Summer cat houses, an extension to the boarding facilities

As time went on, the management of the Cattery itself became so involved that Miss Cathcart hired a secretary - the well-known photographer, artist and breeder of Persians, Mrs. Harriett V. Furness. The September, 1911 issue of *The Cat Review* noted:

"Owing to the rapid growth of the Cattery with its increased work in all branches, the proprietress has found it necessary to secure the services of a secretary and Mrs. H.V. Furness has been selected to fit that post."

Miss Cathcart's stated primary purpose in establishing the Cattery was two-fold: one was *"to provide a Boarding Place for Pet Cats where they could have as far as possible the 'comforts of home', including spacious quarters and ample opportunity for exercise."* The other was *"the Breeding of High Class Short Haired Cats."*

The boarding section was a busy area of the Cattery, with reports in *The Cat Review* in 1911 revealing success in both cat and dog boarding plus the acceptance of cats for stud service.

"The number of cats continues at the high water mark of 110 - the constant ebb and flow of boarders keeping to about stationary."

"There has been a steady advance in the number of dog boarders, and the local trade is continually on the increase."



CHAMPION BELLE OF BRADFORD (Imp.UK)
a red tabby owned by Miss Cathcart.
From *'The Cat Journal,'* October, 1905.

While Miss Cathcart proclaimed a goal of *"the elimination of the stray Tom"* in her 1905 interview, it was in the booklets that she expounded on her goal of breeding purebred cats:

"It is generally supposed that the common cat is treacherous, stupid, and attached to places rather than to people. In England, however, where the Short Haired branch of the Cat Fancy was first developed, it was quickly discovered that on the contrary this cat needed only the ordinary amount of care and kind treatment to become affectionate, intelligent and surpassingly beautiful. So we purchased our foundation stock there, including Champion Belle of Bradford (Orange Tabby Male), Champion Prissy, and Champion Lady Ann (Black Females), at the not inconsiderable sum of £16.16.0 each, with the result that our cats now compete favorably with the proudest Persians on the Bench."

From pedigree research, it appears that Miss Cathcart used her best imports in her breeding program, although carefully blending them with selected local farm bloodlines.

THE EARLY REGISTERED SHORTHAIRES

The first Shorthair registered in the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) was Ch. BELLE OF BRADFORD (IMP), CFA registration number 17 in Vol I, an orange (red) tabby male born June 1, 1900. Belle, named "Bell of Bradford" in the English studbook, was sired by **Ch. Bradford Perfection** out of **Ballochmyle No Fool**. He was bred by Mr. R.R. Kuhnel in England, imported and owned by Miss Jane Cathcart of New Jersey. Miss Cathcart described him as: -

"I suppose Belle of Bradford, who has never been beaten, is our finest animal. He is that red tabby over there with the beautifully striped markings. He was pronounced almost unbeatable in his class at the Toronto Exhibition a few weeks ago."

During his nine-year show career in the United States, it appears that Belle was defeated only once by another orange tabby. This event was considered so momentous that a photograph of Mrs. J. C. Mitchelson's triumphant nine-month-old male, Connie, was placed in the April 1906 *Cat Journal* along with an article detailing his background and win.



CHAMPION BUZZING SILVER – owned by Mrs. J.C. Mitchelson.

Photo: CFA Studbook, Volume 1, 1909.

The first Shorthair CFA Champion was also Ch. Belle of Bradford (IMP), despite later claims that Mrs. Mitchelson's silver tabby, CH. THE BUZZING SILVER, CFA #312 Vol-I, was first for the breed.

Exhaustive research by Valerie Edwards verified Belle's FIRST CHAMPION status by comparing dates when Winners ribbons were earned for all Shorthairs on the "CFA List of Championships Awarded" for CFA's Studbook, Volume I. The Buzzing Silver was, however, the FIRST SILVER TABBY CHAMPION, beating out Jane Cathcart's CH. PRETTY CORRECT (IMP), CFA #18 Vol I.

Irene Powell wrote about Miss Cathcart in her July 1911 article in *The Cat Journal*: -

"There were Shorthairs in those days but nearly all were, as they were termed 'native' Shorthairs, Miss J.R. Cathcart, called the Fairy Godmother of the Shorthairs, was the greatest promoter of this breed and had some great winners. Ch. Buster Brown, Smoke, and Ch. Imp. Bell of Bradford, Red Tabby, were two of the prominent ones. Miss Cathcart brought other shorthairs from Europe: Moumouette, a Blue Cream, and two Blue Russians from France. However, in 1904 Mrs. Champion wrote that the Blue Shorthair has caused a great deal of discussion in England where it was first exhibited under the title Blue Russian. It was eventually decided to classify all blues as Blue Shorthairs and discard the name Russian, as



Above: ENG. CHAMPION LADY ANN, a black female imported by Miss Cathcart.

Below: CHAMPION PRISSY, a black female imported by Miss Cathcart, and the FIRST BLACK SHORTHAIR CHAMPION in CFA

Photos: 'The Cat Courier,' Dec. 13, 1913 – Jan. 3, 1914

these latter became too scarce to have a class to themselves. The two female 'Blue Russians' were sent to England to be bred to Peter the Great and Prince of Bath. Miss Cathcart later brought those two females to America where they became mates to Peterkin, a Blue Russian already abiding here and owned by Mrs. Sage."

Mrs. Powell's article also refers to Abyssinian, Manx, Siamese and even Chocolates (Burmese) being imported and concludes: -

"Such was the extent of the recognized breeds of Shorthairs in the early part of the century. Fanciers have caused an evolution of the purebred cat that would cause the old time breeder to look on in amazement, and I am sure the end is not in sight yet."

Miss Cathcart talked more about several of her cats in the 1905 interview: -

"Lady Ann, this roly-poly English black, is one of my best. She has taken many firsts in England, but I have never shown her here."

"Prissy, this small English black, is one of my best cats and a great prize winner. She will soon have a litter of kitten by Belle of Bradford, and with such parents they should be very good, indeed."

Miss Cathcart's white male, CH. KOMBO, won Best Shorthair at the Hartford show in 1909. According to an advertisement in the February 1906 issue of *The Cat Journal*, Kombo's sire, Jumbo was undefeated in the blue color class during his two-year show career. The death of Kombo was noted in the September, 1911 issue of *The Cat Review*.

The ACA CH. SILVER STRIPES, one of Miss Cathcart's imported silver tabbies, won Best Shorthaired Male in London England in 1909, and was Best Male in Show and Best Shorthaired Cat at the Lockhaven Cat Club show in Rochester, NY in 1909. He also won Best Shorthaired cat several other times. The award of "Best Shorthair" was in essence "Best of Breed", while the award "Best Shorthaired Cat" was earned by defeating all of the Siamese, Manx, Australian, Abyssinian, and Russian Blue entries in addition to all the other Shorthairs.

Black Short-Haired Cattery, Oradell, N. J.



Short-Haired Neuter Cats and Kittens For Sale Any Color



An exceptionally fine collection of Siamese kittens, robust and healthy—out of the finest prize-winning stock.

AT STUD

Champion Silver Stripes—Sires all the best Silver Tabby Short-Haired Kittens on the bench. **Fee \$15** at time of service.

Rama-Ma-Dua-Siamese—Property of Mrs. C. Lewis, and winner at A. C. C. Show 1910-11 over the celebrated **Ch. Siam de Paris**. **Fee \$10** at time of service.

Michim—Splendid Siamese Male, proven sire of fine kittens, property of Madame Carolina de Pezet, Panama. **Fee \$10** at time of service.

The Great God Buddha—The cattery's recent purchase from Dr. Hindley's fine collection. "One of the Best." **Fee \$10** at time of service.

Ramsey—Brown tabby Manx, imported from the Isle of Man. A. C. A. 1313. C. F. A. Prize winner of wonderful type. **Fee \$10** at time of service.

Gold Coin—Fully pedigreed orange tabby Persian. Well marked, brilliant orange, fine coat and type. **Fee \$8.00** at time of service.

King Eddy—Fully pedigreed white Persian. A. C. A. 1369. **Fee \$5.00** at time of service.

ALSO

Billy II—Orange Tabby proven sire of fine Orange Tabby kittens, and **Teddy**, his son. **Fees \$5** each at time of service.

White Knight—Yellow-eyed White.

Tabrum—Imported Brown Tabby.

Silver Flasher—Silver Tabby, green-eyed, well marked, and other good studs. **Fees \$5** each at time of service.

Reduced to \$3 each during January, February, and March. No second mating except to cats paying maximum fees. Send for the Beautifully Illustrated Sales List and Catalogue.

Miss Cathcart's best-known queen, CH. DAME FORTUNE II, a silver tabby, was also an import, out of the well-known English male, James II.

She won Best Shorthaired Cat in Pittsburgh in 1909, Best Shorthaired Cat in New York in 1909, Best Shorthaired Cat in Columbus in 1910, and Best Shorthaired Cat at the Beresford Cat Club show in Chicago in 1910.

In addition to the above, Miss Cathcart imported the first blue cream Shorthair (of which there is any record), a beauty from France named Moumouette, whose dam was the French blue-cream, Bebe Bleu.

Moumouette won prizes in many shows in the "Any Other Color" class, since blue-cream Shorthairs were not accepted for championship competition.

Moumouette was sired by Eng. Ch. Ballochmyle Brother Bump. When bred to the imported Ch. Belle of Bradford, Moumouette produced CFA #19, a blue tortoiseshell (known now as blue cream), named Missy and CFA #23, a tortoiseshell, named Mixte.

Advertisement for the
Black Short-Haired Cattery
in the October 1911 issue of
The Cat Review, showing the various
shorthaired cats at stud.

The English appreciated solid blue Shorthairs much more than Americans did, since "Maltese" hunting cats, the name assigned to blue Shorthairs by USA farmers, were much more common in America than in England.

Whether these "Maltese" actually originated in Malta, we do not know, but that name stuck until the fifties outside the cat fancy, where they were always simply called blue Shorthairs. Mrs. C. Carew-Cox's Mousmee was a daughter of Miss Jane R. Cathcart's Mouse, the first CFA champion solid blue Shorthair.

The following is a list of the early Shorthairs bred/owned by Miss Cathcart as listed in the *Cat Fanciers' Association Studbook & Register*.

17. **Ch. BELLE OF BRADFORD** (IMP), Orange Tabby male born June 1, 1900. Eng. Ch. Bradford Perfection X Eng. Ch. Ballochmyle No Fool. Bred by Mr. Kuhnel. Owned by Miss Jane R. Cathcart.

18. **Ch. PRETTY CORRECT** (IMP), Silver Tabby male born Oct. 28, 1908. Eng. Ch. James II X Bunnie. Bred by Mrs. Collingwood. Owned by Miss Jane R. Cathcart.

Black Short-Haired Cat- tery, Inc. Oradell, N. J.



Any Color Short-Haired Neuter
Cats For Sale



AT STUD

Champion Buster Brown---Best short-haired smoke male in the U. S.
Champion Kombo---Blue-eyed, white American bred prize winner.
Peterkin---Only thoroughbred Russian in the States, now making a great record on the Show Bench.
Silver Stripes---Son of Mrs. Collingwood's celebrated silver tabby, James II., and sire of celebrated Genesee Valley Jane.
Champion Black Florio---Orange-eyed, black, imported from England.
Champion Siam de Paris---Siamese winner of First at Toronto, Springfield, Buffalo, New York.

Fees for each, \$15.00 at time of service.

Paul---American bred Blue. Winner of many firsts and specials.
Pretty Cat---American bred Silver Tabby. Winner of many firsts and specials.

Fee, \$10.00 each at time of service.

Other good Studs never exhibited. Fee \$3.00 each at time of service.

In order to advance the cause of the short-haired cat, studs on exhibition can receive visitors for a fee of \$1.00. All studs at Cattery will receive visitors during January, February and March, 1909, at a reduced fee of \$3.00. No second mating, however, will be allowed except to cats paying maximum fee.

Cats, Dogs, and Birds Boarded

Best Accommodations.

Latest Novelties in Cat Collars, Bells, Leads, Harness, Etc.

Wells-Fargo Express.

Telegraphic Address—Cat, Oradell.

Telephone—9M Oradell.

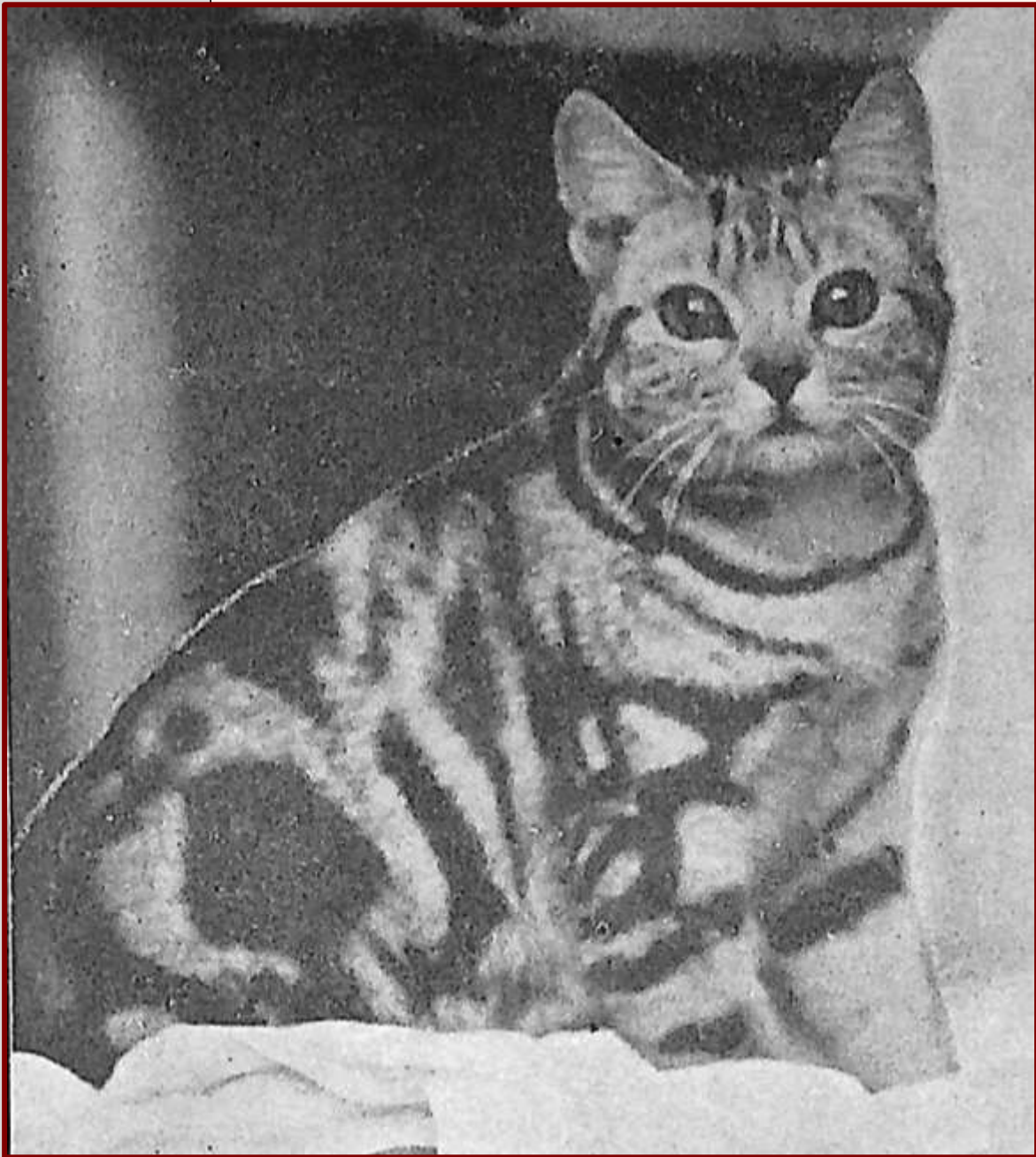
Advertisement for the
Black Short-Haired Cattery
in the October 1911 issue of *The Cat
Review*, showing the various shorthaired
cats at stud.



CHAMPION KOMBO (Blue-eyed White)

- # 19. **MISSY**, Blue Tortoiseshell female born April 19, 1906. (Kitten Register)
Ch. Belle of Bradford (IMP) X Moumouette (IMP).
Bred & Owned by Miss J. Cathcart.
- # 20. **Ch. BUSTER BROWN**, Smoke male born January 15, 1904. Owned by Miss Jane R. Cathcart.
- # 21. **JUDY BEE**, Smoke female.
Ch. Buster Brown X Ch. Prissy II (IMP). Bred & Owned by Miss Jane Cathcart.
- # 22. **Ch. LADY ANN** (IMP), Black female born 1902. CH. Ballochmyle Black Bum X Eng. CH. Ebony of Wigan.
Bred by Mr. Hamlyn. Owned by Miss Jane Cathcart .
- # 23. **MIXTE**, Tortoiseshell female born April 19, 1906. (Kitten Register)
Ch. Belle of Bradford (IMP) X Moumouette (IMP). Bred and Owned by Jane Cathcart
- # 39. **Ch. PRISSY II** (IMP), Black female born March 25, 1904. Tommy II X Orange Eyed Prissy. Bred by Mr. M. H. Maxwell. Owned by Miss Jane Cathcart.

- #197. **Ch. KOMBO**, Blue-eyed White male born April 1904. Jumbo X Pearl. Owned by Miss J. Cathcart.
- #313. **Ch. DAME FORTUNE II** (IMP), Silver Tabby female born April 19, 1905. Sweet William X Eng. Ch. Dame Fortune. Bred by Mrs. Mellor Bonny. Owned by Miss Jane Cathcart.
- #379. **Ch. SIAM DE PARIS** (IMP), Siamese male. Eyes blue. Date of birth and breeder not given. Owner & Importer, Miss. J. Cathcart.
- #585. **Ch. GENESEE VALLEY JANE**, Silver Tabby female born April 14, 1908. ACA Ch. Silver Stripes (IMP) X Ch. Dame Fortune II (IMP). Bred by Miss Jane Cathcart. Owned by Mrs. E. L. Brace.
- #960. **Ch. TABRUM** (IMP, Brown born April 1909. Golden Dawn X Tabby Queen. Owned by Jane Cathcart



CHAMPION GENESEE VALLEY JANE

A silver tabby bred by Miss J. Cathcart and owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Brace of Genesee Valley Cattery.

From The Western Cat Fancier Newsletter, September 1910.

CH Genesee Valley Jane, bred by Miss Cathcart and owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Brace of Rochester, NY, may have been the most recognizable of Miss Cathcart's cats. She left her mark on the history of this breed. Upon her death at the tender age of two years, the September 1910 issue of the *Western Cat Fanciers newsletter* reported: -

"Champion Genesee Valley Jane was one of the most remarkable cats ever on the show bench in England or America, having won in her short career of five months more prizes than any other cat can record.

"Jane was first shown at Hartford, Conn., in 1908 at the age of five months. She started by winning first in her class and best kitten at the show. The entire record of wins is as follows: 12 first prizes, 143 specials, 42 medals, 8 challenge cups; an A.C.A. championship at nine months of age with nine points toward another.

20c per Copy

\$2.00 per Year



THE CAT COURIER



Vol. XXXIX, No. 4

April, 1938

The photo of Genesee Valley Jane graced the header of *The Cat Courier*, started by her owner, Mrs. Brace of Rochester, N.Y.

"The little lady was best S.H. kitten seven times, best kitten five times, best S.H. cat seven times and best cat in show twice.

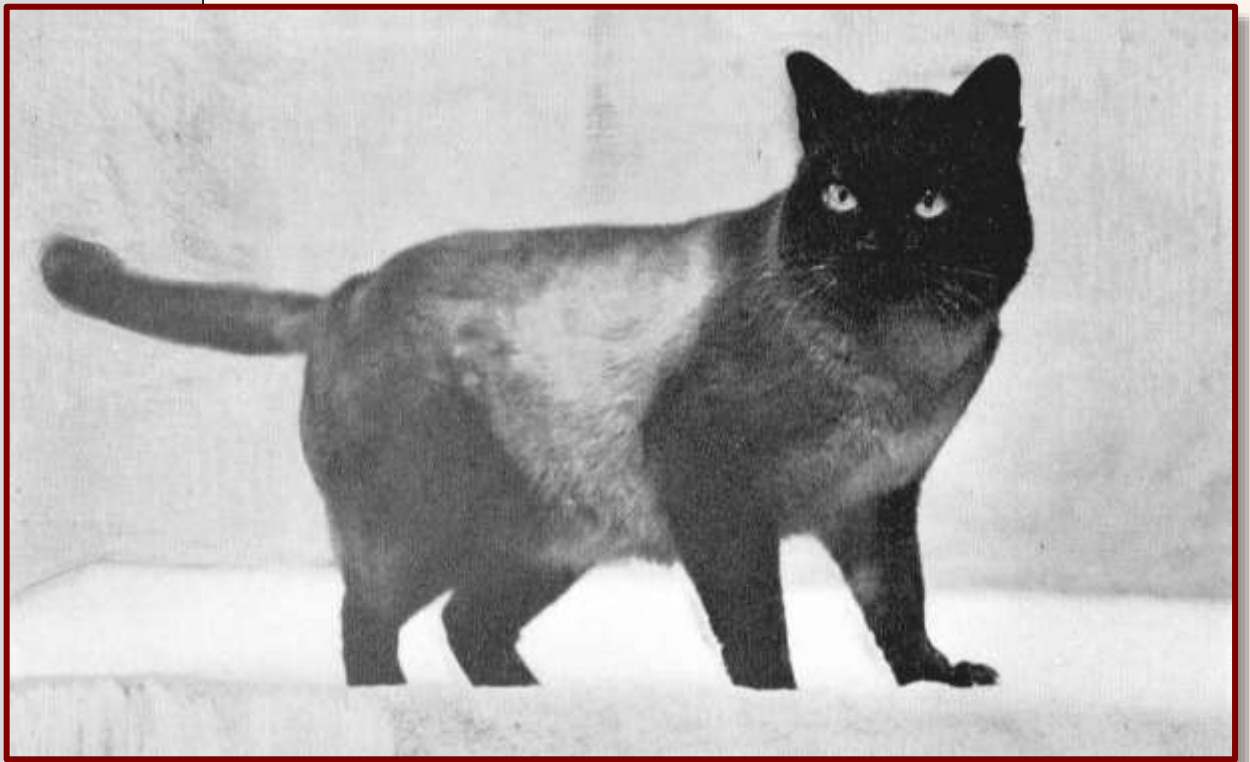
"Jane was bred by the Black Short-Haired Cattery. Her dam is 'Ch. Dame Fortune III' imported by Miss Cathcart. The sire is 'Ch. Silver Stripes,' bred by Mrs. Collingswood. Since Miss Cathcart purchased 'Stripes' Mrs. Collingswood has offered to buy him back, but Miss Cathcart refuses to allow him to leave America."

For years, Genesee Valley Jane was in the public eye as one of the photos on the masthead of *The Cat Courier* magazine, established in 1912 by Mrs. Elizabeth L. Brace. Even after the publication was taken over by Gertrude Taylor, the masthead remained the same through the late 1930s.

A consistent full-page advertiser in *The Cat Review* magazine, it should be noted that all advertisements for the Black Short Haired Cattery ceased sometime during 1912. At that time, all advertising was moved over to the *Cat Courier*, which had been started by her close friend, Mrs. Brace. By 1916, all advertisements for the Black Short Haired Cattery had ceased to exist - and newspaper reports indicated Miss Cathcart had moved on the horses on her home property in Hasbrouck Heights.

A life-long lover of music, who studied in Paris and New York, Miss Cathcart's 1947 obituary headlined her as just that - "Widely Known Musician Gave Town Land". The obituary mentions her involvement in the Washington Heights Musical Club, and she must have moved on to horses as it is also noted that "handsome stables and fine horses" were reasons to visit her property. Surprisingly, and sadly, there is absolutely no mention in the obituary of her involvement in cats.

But we know and fully appreciate the truth of her activities in the cat fancy. Miss Cathcart was an extremely busy and successful breeder of Shorthairs, which would later become known as Domestic Shorthairs before that name was changed to American Shorthair in CFA in 1966. Her legacy lives on in the beautiful American Shorthair breed that is so popular in North America today.



Above: CHAMPION SIAM DE PARIS – imported by Miss J. Cathcart from France.

Below: A litter of brown tabby kittens from the Black Short Haired Cattery.

Images: *CFA Studbook*, Vol.1 (1909) and *The Cat Review*, October 1911.

A NOTE ABOUT DUTY ON CATS

"Miss Cathcart was speaking yesterday of the fact that registration of cats in England is now recognized by the United States government to such an extent that a cat that has been registered according to the rules of the National Cat Club of England is not liable to duty when it arrives at the Custom House on this side. The time was not long ago, when an English pussy's grandparents had to be recorded back to the fifth generation before she could be passed by the officials without her owners paying duty. About a year ago a change in the registrations was made, so that when the proper papers are shown, registration there entitles the cats to be registered here. **This is because Uncle Sam takes precautions that duty shall be levied on cats not calculated to improve the breeds in this country.**"

Democrat and Chronicle, July 25, 1907

NOTE: The information contained in this article will become part of a new, as yet unnamed, book being put together about the American Shorthair breed history. The overall basis for the book is multiple articles and a great deal of research, over decades, by Valerie Edwards. Her material is being edited, reviewed, and enhanced by Karen Lawrence who also has plans to add a multitude of early Shorthair photos to the finished book. Publication date is not yet known, but we will be pleased to start a listing of people interested in a copy when it is published.