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Cats

U. S. AND
CANADA

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Magazine

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A catnip ball 'neath every tree
To fill all kittens' hearts with glee
And start their Yuletide bells to ring
Is the wish of Suan Fa-Hing.

(which also embraces the wishes of
Claire Y. O'Bryon, owner-breeder
of Ch. Suan Fa-Hing and Ch. Suan
Katischa, All Eastern Blue Point 1949)

Suan Fa-Hing

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CAT FANCY

PART 11 — THE RUSSIAN BLUES

BY CHARLES A. KENNY

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The first known-to-be imported Russian Blue short hair cat was obtained by Mrs. Clinton Locke of Chicago just at the turn of the Twentieth Century. This was a male named Blue Royal and was registered in Volume I of the Beresford Stud Book, dated July 1900.

Blue Royal was born in 1899 and was purchased from the breeder, a Mr. G. Towlerton Flanshome of Wakefield, England. He had AMBER EYES!

This article on Russian Blue Cats is published at a time when American breeders are endeavoring to import such cats, following the recognition of the Class, first by the American Cat Association at its annual meeting in Chicago in April of this year (1949), and more recently by the Cat Fanciers' Association at its quarterly meeting held in New York during October.

Both Associations have accepted the standard as written by the Short-Haired Cat Society of Great Britain and adopted officially by the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (England).

The present standard decrees that the color of the eyes of the Russian Blue Cat "should be as vividly green as possible."

Therefore, something has happened to the standard since 1900! The color of the eyes of the Russian Blue has been changed. The standard as drawn up originally by the British Cat Club and published in The Book of the Cat by Frances Simpson (Cassell & Company, Ltd., London 1902) states that the eyes will be "deep orange in colour."

When this changeover from orange to green was effected must be left to some one member of the English cat fancy, who has the data available. This writer does not have the information.

Since the eyes of a cat as far as color is concerned definitely determines its classification, then it seems likely that the Russian Blue of yesterday as compared with the Russian Blue of today, are two distinct and separate classes of foreign shorthair.

It is the writer's opinion that the green-eyed Russian Blue of today is not a Russian Blue in the strict interpretation of the standard of yesterday, or vice-versa. Therefore, why accept the name, Russian Blue, for the modern version?

Harrison Weir who staged the first cat show in England in the 1870s, refers to the Russian cats as a LONG HAIR BREED in his book, Our Cats, slanted at the cat fancy. No reference is made to eye color.

As a result, it is the opinion of this writer that the only SAFE and PLAUSIBLE way of deciding the issue is CHANGE THE NAME OF THE CLASSIFICATION, eliminating the name, Russian. This, of course, must be approved by the American Cat Association and the Cat Fanciers' Associa-

tion, both of whom recognize the class in the past by reason of their acceptance of the cats in their respective stud books.

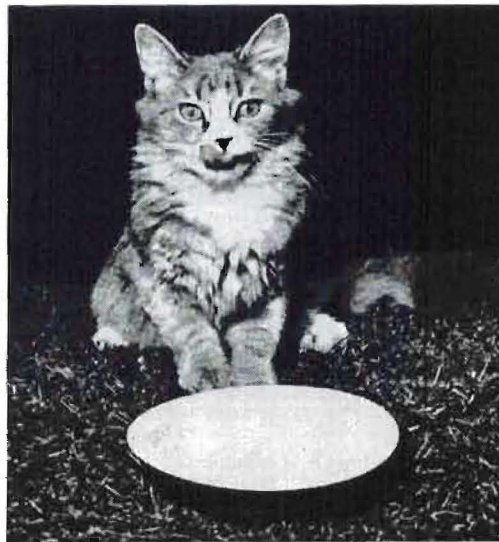
Volume I of the American Cat Association stud book, published in 1907, lists 14 Russian Blue cats—six males and eight females. Wherever indicated, the entries are listed as possessing ORANGE, YELLOW, COPPER OR AMBER EYES.

Volume I of the Cat Fanciers' Association stud book, dated 1909, has a single entry, Peterkin, a male Russian

Blue with YELLOW EYES. The cat was owned by Miss Jane Cathcart of Oradell, N. J. It was purchased from the breeder, Mrs. E. A. Clark of Bath, England. Sire was The Muscovite and the dam, Oka.

Mrs. Carew Cox, who specialized at the turn of the Century in England with Russian cats wrote that many of them were imported from Northern Russia. In her description she writes, "The eyes of a Russian should be golden in colour, or deep orange."

(Continued on page 14)



What
Every
Young Cat
Should
Know . . .

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by Tabitha Katt



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1949 ALL-MIDWESTERN RED TABBY, DOLL DANCE EXPORTED TO ENGLAND

MRS. V. E. PETERSON'S GREAT PERSIAN SENT TO ADD NEW BLOOD TO DEPLETED STOCK

Champion Eastmoor Doll Dance, 1949 All-Midwestern Red Tabby female, long hair Persian has been sent to England to strengthen the line of Red Tabbies. It has, at last been revealed. She was shipped aboard the Queen Mary on May 20, 1949.

Doll Dance, one of the outstanding Red Tabbies to compete in the show ring during the 1948-49 season, was bred and originally owned by Mrs. V. E. Peterson of Niles, Michigan. She completed her championship at 9 months of age taking First and Winners in the Open Class at Boston in January. She gave birth to one male and two females one month after her arrival in England in a Government Quarantine Station, where she was obliged to remain until her release, scheduled November 20.

Her kittens were removed from her and turned over to Mrs. Gertrude and Miss Lelgarde Cambell Fraser of Godalming, Surrey, well known English breeders, who purchased Doll Dance. The kittens will eventually be sold to three outstanding breeders in different sections of the United Kingdom, thus assuring a complete and highly successful mission of supplying England with much needed new Red Tabby bloodlines.

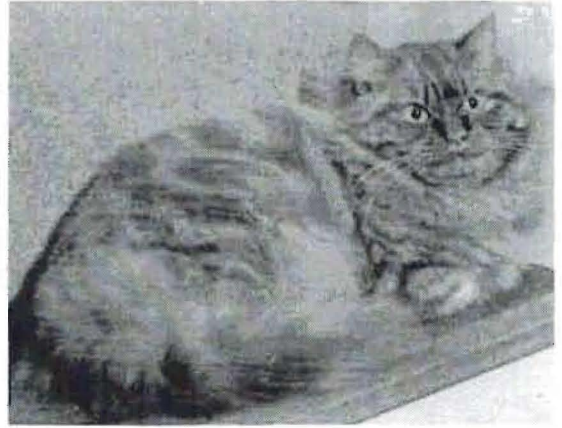
The English press commented at length on the newly acquired American cat stating that "this cat and her kit-

teus came over from U. S. A. to strengthen the British strain."

Final arrangements for the selection of Doll Dance and her ultimate transfer to her new home in Europe was arranged by Miss Elsie Hydon president of the Cat Fanciers' Association.

Prior to her sailing Doll Dance was bred to her grandsire, Ch. Major Maroon, a Red tabby, owned by Mrs. Peterson.

It is interesting to note that Doll Dance carries the name of Grand Champion Imp. Eastbury Trigo on her dam's side of the pedigree. Her dam was Ch. Hedgerow's Garnet of Eastmoor, 1948 All-Midwestern Red Tabby, owned by Mrs. Peterson.



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HISTORY OF RUSSIAN BLUES

(Continued on page 9)

The first pedigree Russian Blues arrived in America in September 1947. They were imported by Mr. C. A. Comhaire of Texas. These were a male and female of the same litter born in February 1947. The male is Dunloe Jan, and the female, Dunloe Blue Silk. The two cats are green-eyed. In a letter to the writer, Mr. Comhaire revealed that he did not intend to breed the pair, maintaining that he was opposed to close breed-breeding. He stated that he was expecting a different bloodline from a breeder in Denmark. No other information has been received from Texas. However, it appears likely that the Danish stock did arrive, and it is from the English-Danish combination that two California breeder-exhibitors obtained their specimens which were expected to make their debut at West Coast shows during the 1949-1950 season.

What the future holds for the Russian Blue in America depends entirely on what decisions are made by the registry associations during the near future. If they are sincere in their plans to "cultivate" the class throughout the United States as a new and interesting animal, now is the time to change the name to give it the popularity it deserves. Certainly, the name Russian is anything but appealing to

(Continued on page 17)

Eastbury Trigo is perhaps the greatest Red Tabby show cat the world has ever known, based of course on show performance and breeding ability. England so regards Trigo in that vein and has freely regretted the exportation of her to America. Miss Hydon imported Trigo to America and later sold him to Arch E. Horne who sold him in turn to Mrs. John H. Hunter.



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CAT SHOWS

(Continued from page 15)

Best Opp.—Chatterbox Skanda, s. p. m., Mrs. Amelia Roberts.
 Best Ch.—Dbl. Ch. Zaruki, b. p. m., Miss E. Wunderlich.
 Best Nov.—Chatterbox's Garuda.
 Best Opp. Nov.—Chu Ma, b. p. f., Miss Lee Wood.
 Best Kit—Hollycat Peleas, s. p. m., Mrs. H. Stackhouse.
 Best Opp. Kit.—Hattie of Penny Green, s. p. l., Mrs. J. McCaffrey.
 —Mrs. Ella Conroy

Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau, a blue male, owned by Anthony De Santis, captured Best Cat in the annual Garden State Cat Club exhibition held at Newark, N. J., November 3-4 with Ch. Wilshire Myfanwy of Allington (Imp.), a blue owned by Mrs. A. G. Ohlin carry-

CAT TAILS

(Continued from page 16)

thing that she coaxes cream right out of the ice box—even though you know she is not hungry—and you also know she is just showing you what can be done—if a queen sets her mind to it.
 Down in Riverdale, New Jersey, live the Zimmermanns, they are owned and possessed by one little colored Persian gal named 'Sultania.' Jack Zimmerman snores—just once in a great while you understand—but 'Tana'—has decided to break him of this habit—and she is aided and abetted by her mistress—now Jack is feeding 'Tana' choice bits of food and demanding a strict account of how she has been treated, while he was at the office—Mrs. Zimmermann says it is beginning to affect 'Tana.'

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ing off best opposite. Mrs. Louise Heron judged the event.

In the Solid Color of the East supporting show, the same two entries carried off the honors. In a Siamese specialty exhibition H. R. H. of Ebon Mask, a seal point male, owned by Mrs. F. T. Clarke, was judged the winner with Chindwin's Charm of Millbrook, a seal point female, owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Roose pulling up with best opposite. Mrs. Frances Herms judged the two specialties.

The results follow:

All Breed

Best, Best Ch.—Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau, blue m., A. De Santis.
 Best Opp., Best Opp. Ch.—Ch. Wilshire Myfanwy of Allington (Imp.), (A. E.-49), blue f., Mrs. A. G. Ohlin.
 Best Nov.—Callavorn Callinda of Loughill, blue f., A. De Santis.
 Best Opp. Nov.—Eiderdown Zacetecas, cr. m., Mrs. J. Nelson.
 Best Kit.—Northledge Acacia, blue f., Mrs. A. North.
 Best Opp. Kit.—Wimauma Legend, blue m., Mrs. A. G. Ohlin.
 Best S. H.—Imperial Petain (Imp.), s. p. siam. m., Mrs. F. J. Wilson.
 Best Dom. S. H.—Lavender Silver Gohlin, silv. thy. m., Miss E. G. Hydon.
Solid Color
 Best, Best Ch.—Ch. Lavender Liberty Beau.
 Best Opp., Best Opp. Ch.—Ch. Wilshire Myfanwy of Allington (AE-49).
 Best Nov.—Callavorn of Loughill.

HISTORY OF RUSSIAN BLUES

(Continued from page 14)

Americans today with the strange carryings on politically and religiously behind the Iron Curtain.

As a suggestion for a name that could be adopted, why not Continental Blue?

Mr. T. B. Mason, noted English judge at the same time wrote in the February 1903 issue of Fur and Feather, "To call them Russians is a mistake, seeing that a very large number are crosses from some other variety . . . and have little Russian blood in them. Then why call them Russian?"

These two authorities—breeder and judge—completely discount the theory of Harrison Weir that the class was Long Haired, however, one of them maintains that the eye color is golden or deep orange. Mrs. Cox should certainly know, if she herself imported them from Russia. Mason, however, is somewhat dubious of the country of origin.

All this leads up to a very complex problem that should be clarified as soon as possible. Several breeders have taken considerable efforts and have gone to heavy expense to obtain these Russian Blue specimens with the object of establishing the breed eventually throughout the United States. It is only right that protection be given them in their investment. Logical reasoning points emphatically to a change in the name and the elimination of the word Russian, entirely from it.

(Continued on page 21)

Best Opp. Nov.—Eiderdown Zacetecas.

Best S. H.—Lavender Silver Gohlin.

Siamese Specialty

Best Cat, Best Nov.—H. R. H. of Ebon Mask, s. p. m., Mrs. F. T. Clarke.
 Best Opp.—Chindwin's Charm of Millbrook, s. p. f., Mrs. W. R. Roose.
 Best Ch.—Ch. Swan Pa Hing, b. p. f., Mrs. Claire Y. O'Bryon.
 Best Kit—Doneraile Dandie of Hollycat (Imp.), s. p. m., Mrs. H. G. Stackhouse.

—Miss Elsie G. Hydon

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 (At left) Holly Hill's Konge Hvid's son, Holly Hill's Hvide Prins.

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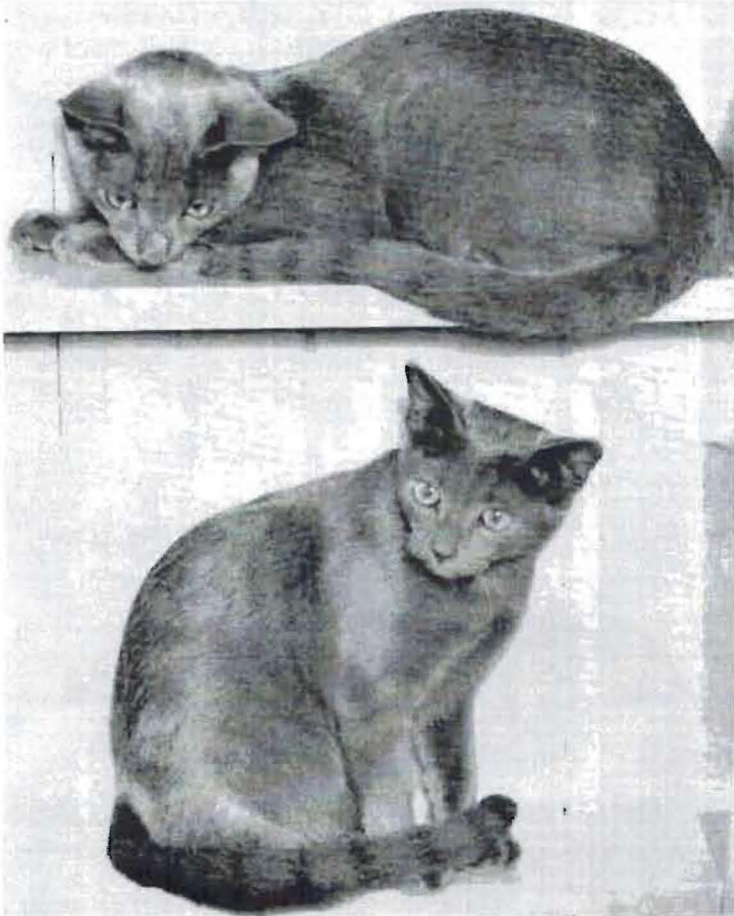
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RUSSIAN BLUES are now making their appearance at shows on the West Coast. Here is a pair owned by Mrs. Polly Jones of Coronado, Calif. They are El Rosario Tovarish Dimitri, a male (top); and El Rosario Olga of Lantar, a female (below). This breed of foreign short hair has been recognized by two of the four registry associations.

HISTORY OF RUSSIAN BLUES
(Continued from page 17)

As with a few other rare classes of cats, the Russian disappeared from the show rings until 1947. In August of that year the annual show was held in conjunction with the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto. Among the entries in the domestic short hair division was Blue Boy, owned by a Canadian exhibitor. Mrs. Norah Andrews, judge of the event, made the discovery, being attracted to the cat with the green eyes. Since there was no class for Russian Blues under the

A. C. A. sanctioned show rules, it was judged as a domestic and lost out in the final awards **BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF THE EYES**. The Blue domestic has orange eyes.

Later this same cat was exhibited at Buffalo, N. Y. in a show staged under C. F. A. sanction, placed in the domestic short hair class and carried off top honors in that division. It won similar awards at other exhibitions.

The story about Blue Boy is that the exhibitor obtained it from a sailor passing through Toronto.



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Show, Aug. 7, 1949

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