

AUGUST

1952

Vol. 7 No. 11

Cats

U. S. AND

CANADA

25¢

MAGAZINE

TITLE REGISTERED U. S. PATENT OFFICE—



All
Southern
Awards

•
Asa
Wilgus

•
The
Russian
Blue

•
Pittsburgh
Animal
Friends

•
Angel
Kitten

"Blues
by the
Bowfull"
3 Russian
Blue Kits
Bred by
The Author



THE RUSSIAN BLUE

By Blanche Warren

The Russian Blue cat is one of the rarest of the show breeds in the world. England is our only source of supply at the present time although there are Russian Blue cats in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. But so far England is the only country that is as particular as we are about registering, pure breeding and having long pedigrees. The G. C. C. F. registrations are the only ones the C.F.A. recognizes today. In the last few years the Paris shows have had some good Russian Blue entries. Some judges think they are better than the English.

It is said that the first Russian Blue cat in England was sent over by one of the Tsars to a member of the Royal Family. After that a few were imported but none have come from Russia lately.

The first recorded Russian Blue importation into the United States was in 1947, when Mr. G. A. Combaire of Armstrong, Texas, secured a pair of kittens from England. Then in 1949 I imported a Queen and three kittens (one male and two females). After that three more pairs were imported from England. So you see, there are few Russian Blue cats in the United States that are recognized as real Russian Blues.

The Russian Blue is the only known feline wearing a blue seal skin coat. It differs from any other cat in that its coat is like seal skin. The preferred coat is a silver blue which in the sunshine has a lavender sheen, and it is so thick that in winter it is almost impossible to part the fur and find the skin which is the same shade of blue as the fur. The coat may be of various shades of bright blue but not the dull or dark shade of the domestic or Maltese cat. Each hair is a solid blue with a very tiny silver tip which gives that gorgeous silver sheen. The fur is so thick and short that it stands up like plush and will not lie flat to the body as will the fur of other short haired cats. It is the gorgeous blue seal skin coat the cat wears with a tiny silver tip on each hair that proves the real Russian Blue.

There are many green-eyed Maltese cats that are mistaken for Russian Blues. These are usually a hybrid Maltese, being a cross between two domestic breeds of cats or a cross between a Maltese and

a Long Hair Blue cat which gives the thick fur. However, the fur will be longer than the Russian Blue. The show Maltese or Domestic Blue should have yellow or amber eyes.

Now the eyes are *not* the mark of distinction of the Russian Blue cat. Some real Russian Blue cats have amber eyes with green around the pupils. Some of the old English books on cats report that the Russian Blue also had yellow or amber eyes, but the G. C. C. F. decided on green eyes for the show Russian Blue cats. But, the eye color cannot be the deciding factor of the Russian Blue since the eyes only count for fifteen points in the standard. It is the gorgeous blue seal skin coat the cat wears that proves the real Russian Blue cat, for it counts for fifty points in the standard.

The nose is pointed but not as long as the Siamese though longer than the Persian. It is broad across the eyes coming down to a pointed nose, giving almost a foxy look to the face. The neck seems short and thick because of the heavy fur.

Blue kittens are adorable balls of blue seal skin. Their fur stands out all over them, much longer and thicker than other short haired kittens but not as long as the Persians. Their noses are longer the ears larger than Long Hair kittens. Yes, the Russian Blues are different even as baby kittens from any other kittens. They are so winsome you cannot resist loving and cuddling them, especially when the little face looks at you and the mouth opens to mew but no sound comes out!

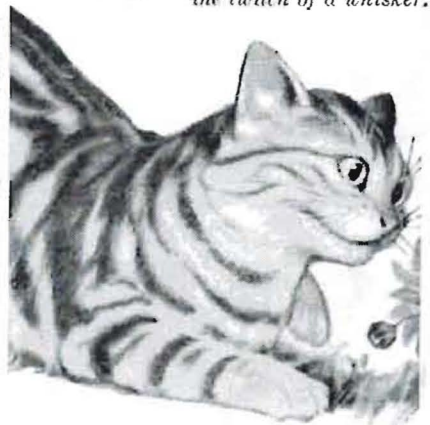
Sometimes in certain lights the kitten may seem to have tabby shadings or rings on the tail, as some Blue Point Siamese when young, but they will all disappear as they mature.

The Russian Blue appears to be a heavy boned cat at first sight, especially in winter, when its heavy fur coat makes it appear large and heavy. But, like the Persian, it looks much larger than it is. The judges have to judge a Russian Blue not only by appearance but by feeling under the fine bones under the heavy fur coat. In the summer when they shed their thick fur for their softer, lighter coats, they look much smaller and finer-boned.

At the shows we sometimes hear



* Such spirit!
Puss 'n Boots
"regulars", these
gay kittens are
ready to romp or
lead a merry chase at
the twitch of a whisker.



* Mother relishes
Puss 'n Boots... enjoys seeing her
little ones lick the platter clean.
This wholesome diet helps keep her
and her kittens strong and healthy.

See what it means
... to be a
Puss 'n Boots Cat?

Puss 'n Boots is carefully prepared of fresh-caught whole fish and selected cereals. It furnishes the proteins, carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins found in liver, beef, salmon, milk and food from the table—including vital Vitamin D.



adds the
PLUS!

QUALITY MAKES IT
AMERICA'S
LARGEST SELLING
CAT FOOD

(Continued on page 23)