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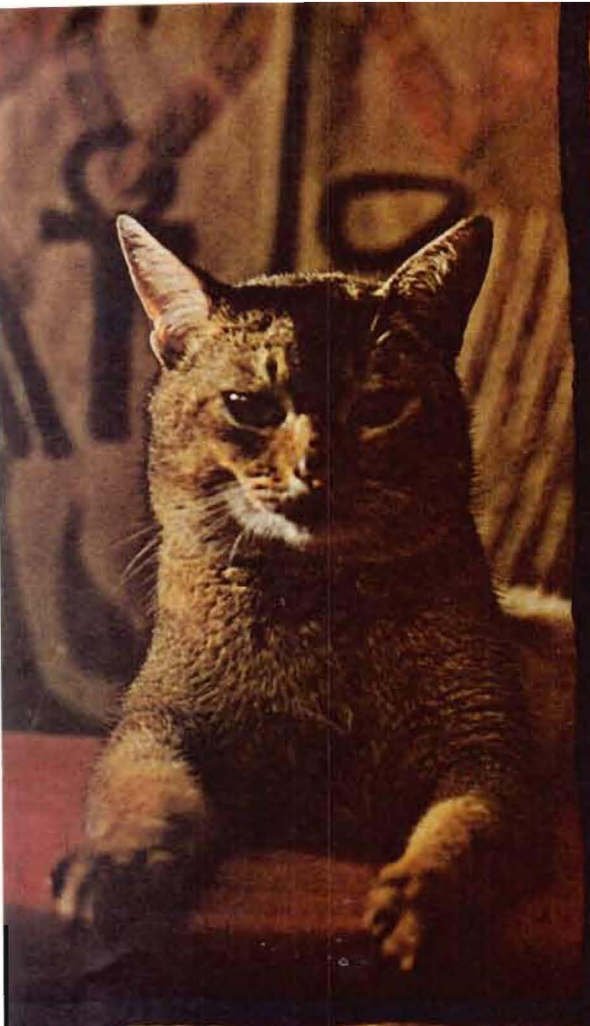
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**Special: The Amazing
Abyssinian... Pet of
the Pharaohs**



Pet of the Pharaohs

by Jack Kemmerer



Just look at an Abyssinian. Note how judiciously it maintains its royal carriage, regal manner and aristocratic attitudes. It moves with a pride which is, in all likelihood, its instinctive awareness that the "Aby" is believed to be a direct descendent of the sacred cats of Egypt. In fact, this lithe, graceful feline is looked on by many zoologists, geneticists and breeders as possibly being the oldest breed of the cat family.

Just when and where the domestic cat originated, no one knows; it is conceivable, how-

ever, that he has enjoyed status as a household pet for more than 3,000 years. There are indications that the first wild cats appeared about 35 million years ago, as descendents from civet-like ancestors of the Upper Eocene Age. These earliest cats seemed to be highly specialized, branching into two distinct primary groups.

The "feline" group was the only one to survive, and today there are many kinds of felines throughout the world; but in spite of their differences in size and colorations, they are all essentially similar. These *(continued on next page)*

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cats, in turn, are divided into two groups, and it was from the small Old World cats of the Felis group, that we got our present-day domestic cat.

Besides the known facts, there are, of course, legends concerning how the cat made its arrival. According to the Arabs, the patriarch, Noah, became annoyed when mice and rats began to increase greatly in numbers while still on the Ark. When his efforts to trap the animals failed, he became very angry. Whereupon, at his command, the lioness sneezed violently and produced the first cat!

If you think the domestic cat's origin is veiled in mystery, take a look at the origin of the Abyssinian. The stories concerning the Aby run from ridiculous to extreme. Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald in his book, "Cats," says that the Abyssinian does not exist at all except as a breeder's creation developed from the common British domestic tabby. Others have concocted an elaborate legend to explain this beautiful creature's existence, a legend that names it the "sacred cat of Abyssinia," and tells of how, in darkest Africa, wealth was reckoned in Abyssinian cats, which even formed an important part of a girl's dowry.

There is not much doubt that cats were counted among the royalty in ancient Egypt. It is recorded that the goddess of both war and love, Bast, was believed to appear on earth as a cat, and because the people never knew just which cat might be Bast, they treated all cats royally. In her day of glory, the cat was an ennobled and exalted creature held in such reverence and awe that to kill one, even accidentally, meant almost instant death for the "murderer."

Like their two-legged masters, Egypt's sacred cats held positions of high rank, and when a cat died, great care was taken by the devout Egyptians in preparing it for burial. The cat's body, after embalming, was wrapped with beautiful multi-colored linen in intricate geometric patterns. It was then buried in special cat cemeteries or the inner rooms of a Pharaoh's tomb.

An Egyptian peasant, in 1888, at Beni-Hassan, accidentally came

across one of the largest cat cemeteries ever discovered. Completely surrounding him, were cat mummies by the thousand, reposing on shelves, undisturbed, as they had been for centuries — the sacred cats of Egypt, ancestors of the Abyssinian!

In order to connect the relationships of these two ancient countries, it is necessary to know that about 3,000 years ago, the Queen of Sheba, one of the most celebrated of all women, sat on the throne of Abyssinia, and that it is from Menelik, son of Sheba and King Solomon, of Biblical fame, and all emperors of Abyssinia have descended. It was only natural, therefore, that the patterns and traits of one country influenced the other.

According to connoisseurs of the Aby, it was England that served as the bridge between the Abyssinian of ancient times and the cat we know today.

They believe that this breed arrived in England in 1877, with British soldiers returning from Ethiopia (as Abyssinia is known today). They cite the following facts to support their reasoning: In 1876, a British army under Sir Robert Napier, invaded Ethiopia, to effect the release of some 60 Englishmen, Germans, and Frenchmen. Theodore, the Emperor of Ethiopia, had arrested the Europeans because he felt he had been insulted by Queen Victoria, who had apparently refused his offer of marriage. When the Europeans were released, the army returned to England, bringing several "ticked" kittens with them.

The first listing of the Abyssinian as a separate breed in England appeared in 1882 and English breeders began to respect this new and attractively marked cat.

Mrs. Jane Cathcart of Oradell, New Jersey, exhibited what is believed to be the first Abyssinian cats in the United States in Boston in 1909, though the true beginning of the Abyssinian Fancy, in this country, was in 1937, when Champion Ras Seyum was imported from England by Mrs. Martin Metcalf and Miss Mary Hantzmon of Washington, D.C. In the 30 years that have passed since the first import, the Abyssinian dynasty in the U.S. has grown continually, and today there are Aby breeders everywhere, in every state.

The Aby's modified, rounded-wedge head, large, almond-shaped eyes of green, gold or hazel, tile-red nose, large cupped ears and svelte smooth-muscled body, gives him an exotic appearance which is most attractive.

He is born a ball of red fur and matures slowly into an adult cat with a ruddy brown coat, each hair being "ticked" with several bands of red, brown or black, with one band only on the leg hairs. This unique, characteristic banding gives the coat a sparkling, rippling effect of constant motion, even when the cat it-

A MANY-SPLENDORED CAT

by Nancy Jean Soule

*Hiding, rolling, peeking, leaping,
Crawling, washing, stalking,
creeping;
Scratching a pink satin chair
with her claws,
Opening doors with dainty
white paws,
Curling up snugly in baskets of
clothes,
Poking around with her sensitive
nose,
Tangling herself up in yarn
and thread,
Exploring in drawers and under
the bed,
Playing a tune on piano keys,
Batting at flies and climbing
our trees;
Squeezing through fences and
roaming around,
Pittering, pattering with never
a sound,
Leaving footprints upon our
new car,
Gazing and wondering at sky
and at star,
Her endearing young charms go
on without end —
But greatest of all, she can be
my best friend.*

self is at rest. Though the Abyssinian is unusually quiet and rarely uses his soft voice, he is an active, coiled-spring type of cat, not neurotic or jittery, but tense, and volatile. Rarely are they found in a relaxed pose. Instead, they are pacers in their cages, with lightning-fast reflexes, and enjoying nothing more than a good game of rough-and-tumble.

Added to this is a balance of sweetness, a companionable, loving temperament that makes him an ideal family pet. In fact, the Abyssinian is a very difficult cat to reprimand, for he does not understand why anyone might be angry with him, or refuses to understand, preferring to interpret the corrections as a new form of play. Cleanliness is almost a fetish with the Abyssinian; he spends a great deal of time washing, and even takes an uncatlike pleasure in water. They quickly learn the sound of running water and will play endlessly with a dripping faucet. They like to dip their paws into a bath or pool, and try to catch a reflection in a shimmering surface. At the same time, they aren't easy to know. They don't accept just anyone, and you may have to wait a while for the Aby to choose you as a friend.

Litters of Abys usually run about 75 percent male, so the female has become more valuable. The excess males, and those males and females that do not meet show standards, are neutered or spayed and sold as pets. (They make exceptionally good house and apartment pets.) This helps keep the strain pure and also provides a good pet at a lower price for those people who are not interested in showing or breeding. An Aby in this classification sells for about \$50. The average price of a show standard kitten — a kitten is under the age of eight months — is \$100 to \$200, though \$300 is not uncommon. A full-grown Abyssinian of show standard quality has no set price and can bring just about any amount. Most champions are not for sale. An Aby has a life span of approximately 10 years.

There are two Aby clubs in the United States: The United Aby Club on the east coast, and the Abyssinian Club of America, with about 100 active members, of which Joseph Mansfield is president.

There are approximately 750 registered Abyssinians in the United States today, and the 1966 Cat of the Year (all breeds included) is Grand Champion Pharaoh Ramses, an Aby owned by Mrs. Kim Everett of Portland, Oregon.

It is not surprising that this Aby is named Pharaoh, for since ancient Egypt on, haven't cats always commanded the affection of people? 🐾

by Bob Bartos

Shocking!

The things puppies find delectable, not to say irresistible, are legion. Of the long list, the most dangerous are electric cords and plugs. When Master Fido chomps into one of these, the result may be not merely indigestion but unconsciousness — and a blown fuse.

If you find your pup lying on the living room floor with a dazed look in his eyes, *do not touch him* until you've unplugged the wire or unless you are wearing rubber gloves. Keep the kids away. If the dog is small enough, you may be able to push him away from the wire with a heavy stick. Keep him warm and give him warm liquids if he is able to swallow. Never force stimulants down a dog's throat. If he can't swallow, the liquid will go into his lungs and may harm him.

If it is a real teeth-rattling shock, he may be completely knocked out or partially paralyzed. He may have to be given a few whiffs of ammonia or even artificial respiration.

Artificial respiration for a dog is not unlike that for a human being. The best method is to apply mouth-to-mouth breathing. Cup your hands to form a cone and breathe directly into the dog's mouth and nostrils until the dog starts to breathe.

The other way is to place the dog on his right side with his head and neck extended and his tongue drawn forward. Place your hand over the dog's ribs behind the shoulder blade. With a sudden but gentle movement, press downward, compressing the chest and expelling the air. After this sudden movement, relax immediately to allow the air to go back into the lungs. Wait about five seconds and start again. Keep up the pressing and release at 20 to 30 times per minute until the dog starts to breathe. Once the dog is breathing, cover him with blankets and a hot water bottle, and give him something warm to drink.

Most important, of course, is to ACT FAST. And take him to a veterinarian immediately. Only he can determine precisely the degree of injury and the best treatment.



Bob Bartos, manager of the Friskies Research Kennels, with "Bingo", the Best-in-Show at Westminster.

BINGO!

Friskies®-fed Scotty wins at Westminster

Ch. Bardene Bingo trotted off with top honors at the nation's most renowned dog competition — the Westminster Kennel Club Show at Madison Square Garden. He was chosen Best-in-Show from over 2,500 outstanding dogs of all breeds. The Westminster trophy is Bingo's 25th Best-in-Show award in less than three years.

The champion Scottish Terrier lives at the Friskies Research Kennels where Carnation develops and tests its Friskies brand pet food products.

The Best-in-Show gets the best there is. Friskies, of course.