

Cats

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photo by Joe Arnone

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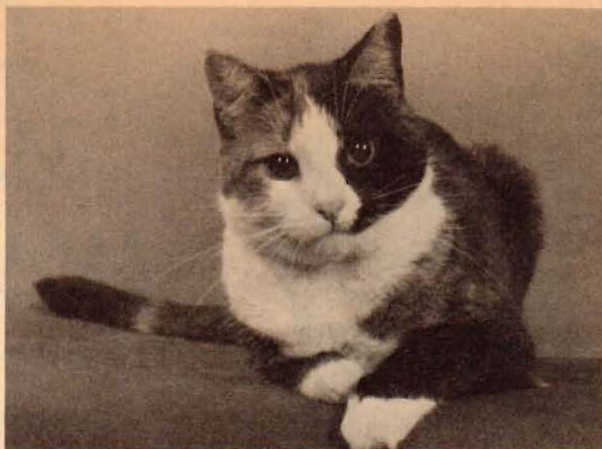
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CATS—WITH 750,000 COPIES PER YEAR—IS BY FAR THE WORLD'S LEADING CAT PUBLICATION

CALICO CATS

by Patricia L. Fry

photo by
Crescentia



AS THE APPALOOSA is sometimes termed "the peacock of horse breeds," the Calico is "the butterfly among cats" in my opinion. I have long admired the colorful patchwork coat of the Calico. I hoped someday to be owned by a cat that wears such finery.

After twenty years of owning and loving various kinds of cats, it finally happened. Mandy was just eight weeks old when we met. As I saw it, she had all the marks that designated her to be the Calico of my dreams.

As always, when I've invited an animal of a different color (or breed) into my home, I began reading what I could find on the subject of the Calico. To my amazement, I found I hadn't really befriended a Calico at all. Mandy was merely a Calico-type cat—her color didn't conform to the accepted fancy standards for Calicos.

Calico is an American term. In British feline circles, a somewhat similar color pattern is known as Tortoiseshell-and-White. A few North American associations also accept the "Tortie-and-White" along with the Calico for certain of their breeds.

Tortoiseshell colorings consists of red, black and cream or light red. There are no Tabby markings, nor brindling, nor the presence of one white hair. In the best examples, there is a "blaze" of cream or red on the nose.

The Tortie-and-White has unbrindled black, light red, and dark red on white with the colors evenly balanced. The color patches should cover the top of the head, back, and tail, and part of the flanks. The blaze should be white.

Calicos are described by most associations as white with unbrindled patches of red and black with the white predominating on the under parts. Eye color should be brilliant gold, and no blaze is specified.

Consequently, unless the kitty has white undersides and sharply defined black and red patches with no stripes, swirls or ticking—and no other colors—it is not a Calico . . . but a Calico-type.

Mandy, having had a tiger-striped mother and a father no one knew, developed faint stripes within her red and black patches along with some ticking on the tips of her coat. She is lovely, but wouldn't make it as a show Calico even if

she had papers. This revelation didn't make me love Mandy any less, but it made me want to find out more about the mysterious Calico.

I had often heard people say that all Calicos were female. The statement is basically true of Calicos and Calico-type cats, I found out. A few males with Calico or related color patterns have been reported from time to time, and some of them have even sired kittens. Most, however, are infertile. Their total number is so small that most cat associations do not even assign breed and color numbers to male Calicos, Torties, Tortie-and-Whites, or their dilute relatives.

Geneticists have found the tri-color pattern to be dependent upon the two X chromosomes carried by the female. The male's single X will allow him to carry the color red or the color black, but not both.


The rumor of the male Calico's being worth a fortune probably goes back to the publicity genius P. T. Barnum. He is said to have offered a thousand dollars or more for one. There is no evidence, however, that he ever completed such a transaction.

Another reason for the belief that these colorful cats are valuable may come from the tales that Tortoiseshell cats were once sold in the Orient for large sums of money because they were thought to be lucky.

Japanese sailors thought the Calico would bring them luck at sea. They were put on board to keep away the evil spirits that brought about storms and shipwrecks.

Calicos were once known as Spanish Cats. Americans and Europeans alike believed that they came from Spain and that they got their beauty from the climate there.

Calico shorthairs are known to be excellent mousers. In the past they were used in abundance on farms everywhere. Many farmers' wives found that Calicos made good companions. They are known for their cleanliness, intelligence and good temperaments. Their coats are shiny and resist matting. The Calico likes to live as naturally as she is allowed to, and is historically an excellent mother.

Calico coloring the pattern is recognized in most cat associations for the Persian, Manx, American Shorthair, American Wirehair,  page 46

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CALICO CATS

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Exotic Shorthair, Maine Coon, Scottish Fold, Rex, and Turkish Angora.

Breeding for the purpose of getting a litter of Calico kittens is far from easy. The female cat is the only four-legged animal that can boast a color combination that a male of her species cannot. Not only are Calicos and Tortoiseshells all female, but so are the Bluecreams and their other dilute sisters.

Careful breeders are discovering that in order to be fairly frequently blessed with Calicos in a litter, one must use a Bicolor male who is predominantly white. The male is then bred to a Tortie female

CLUB/SHOW

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will be judged in two color classes—red and ruddy. Tonkinese were accepted for registration. Application for recognition of the Devon as a separate Rex breed was incomplete and no action was taken. Advancement of the British Shorthair from provisional status was defeated. A request to accept Cream-point Himalayans was referred to the Himalayan Breed Council for recommendations. The color could be approved in February, if favorable. A question on Colopoint Rex was sent to the Rex Breed Council for comments.

Don Williams, Kathryn McGinnis and Dr. Rosemonde S. Peltz were appointed to review the guidelines for acceptance and advancement of new breeds, and to make recommendations for procedure improvements.

Champions placing in a Top Five finals will receive grand points on a percentage basis: Best cat will get a point for 100% of the champions entered in the show, second best will get points for 90% of the champions, third best 80%, fourth best 70%, and fifth best 60%.

Best-of-the-best competition was extended to cover one-day/eight-ring shows (four LH, four SH, with eight judges) and two one-day shows (one LH, one SH), when stated in the show announcement. In a Top Ten show, the allbreed rings may select Top Ten kitten awards.

Best-of-the-best judges will receive \$90, whether the judging is done over one or two days. Household Pet best-of-the-best fee is \$10. Judges were prohibited from selling merchandise from their judging rings.

The alternate catalogue format was established as the only useable format.

Household Pet finals may be increased to Top Ten, at the sponsoring club's option.

In national and regional scoring, points for the Top Ten and Top Five awards will be decreased by only one point instead of by the present ten points. For example, it will now be best cat 99, second 98, third 97—instead of best cat 100, second 90, third 80.

In the CFA judging program, Robert Bryan and Joanne Winslow were advanced

who resulted from controlled breeding for that color.

Some breeders use males of red and white. Others choose black-and-white males. The end result, however, is still the same. There may be one or two Calico kittens in the litter—and then again there may not.

The chances of getting any Calicos, even with this color combination, are less than 50 percent. Some Persian breeders have reported that only one of every seventeen kittens from the same planned mating will result in a Calico.

That's part of the challenge that keeps breeders trying and trying, because there never are enough of these charming cats to fill the demand from us who love them.

to approved SH; Earl Sandefur and George Summerville to approval pending AB; Barbara Yoder to approval pending any specialty; Jess Insall and Clair Lunde to approval pending SH and LH respectively. Advanced to apprentice were Jo Ann (Sandefur) Cummings, Leta Williams, Lois Jensen (all LH), and Margot Mellies (SH). Accepted as trainees were Wain Harding, Marilyn Fuentes (both SH), and Kim Wheelwright (LH). Loretta Baugh and Tinker Wilson were granted one-year leaves.

The board also approved the purchase of a new, larger computer system for the central office.

The annual awards were expanded to cover second best of breed or division, a minimum of 200 points being required to be eligible. A complete review of the national awards program will take place at the February 17-19, 1979, executive board meeting. It's scheduled for the Star-dust Hotel in Las Vegas. —M.W.B.

BULLETIN BITS

THE FORUM (Sept.): The success of the Pittsburgh Rex Society's show prompts the hope that an all-Rex show could be just around the corner!

INTERNATIONAL HIMALAYAN SOCIETY (Sept.): Boris E. Teron's suggestion that judges consider the skeletal structure of the skull as well as the apparent conformation of the head may send everyone to their anatomy books. Any skeletons in the closet?

CAT CHAT (Oct.): This month's cat tip recommends using a rubber curry brush on shorthaired cats when grooming. Works well.

SANGUINE SILVER SOCIETY (Oct.): Send show wins in! An Annual Award Contest is in the making!

AMERICAN MANX CLUB (Oct.): A move to have the standard worded so a "rumpy" and a "riser" will be judged equally.

RECENT DEATHS

Stella Harlos, Hill House Cattery. Breeder of many outstanding Burmese—Hill House Remember, Hill House Greeter, Hill House Daniella of Shawnee, and Hill House Quinella of Bur-Minn. A CFA judge for many years, she was honored for her service by being named a CFA judge emerita by the CFA board. In 1977, she was made an honorary member of the United Burmese Cat Fanciers, of which she had served as president and as board member. Milwaukee/Wisconsin, September 3, 1978.

Charles R. Stroh, Anemone Cattery, Palmyra/Wisconsin. North Central Regional Director of the American Cat Fanciers Association. Chairman ACFA Persian Breed Committee. October 14, 1978.

Lucile Guy, bred Persians under the Lugene Cattery name. Entry clerk for Bayou City Cat Club (ACFA) for many years. September 19, 1978, in Pearland/Texas.

Micki Collins, and her Daughter, Stacia, 8. Mrs. Collins operated *Blue Sands Cattery*, was active in ACFA as president of the Cougar County Cat Club, chair of the Russian Blue Breed Committee, and candidate in the October ACFA election for the chair of the Jurisprudence Committee. Apparent robbery victims, near Belton/Texas, November 2, 1978.

Mary Kean, Mya (Rex) Cattery, director Canadian Cat Association, chair of the CCA Board of Examiners and an allbreed judge. Held various offices in the Forest City Cat Club. July 23, 1978, in London, Ontario, Canada.