REGARDING FANCY CATS

SOME ADVICE FOR JUDGES OF THE 'ANY OTHER VARIETY CLASS'

BY

HARRINGTON EWART HAMILTON

AUTHOR OF

REGARDING DOGS; SOME ADVICE FOR JUDGES OF THE ANY OTHER BREED OR VARIETY CLASS REGARDING RABBITS; SOME ADVICE FOR JUDGES OF THE ANY OTHER VARIETY CLASS IMPROVEMENT OF FANCY ANIMALS USING BAKEWELL'S SCIENTIFIC BREEDING FORMULA



PUBLISHED 1911 LONDON

NODWELL DEAN & SON - 164 FLEET STREET - E.C.

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INTRODUCTION

This modest pamphlet is intended as a guide for judges that may be confronted with one of the lesser known breeds of cat. In the fullness of time, these breeds may become suitably well-established to be assigned their own classes, at least at the larger shows, but as the situation currently stands, they are only to be found in small numbers as "Any Other Variety."

To my father, Ernest Boniface Harrington, I respectfully dedicate this work.



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Copy of Testimonial received from Miss Frances Simpson (Author of "The Book of The Cat.")

"The Book of The Cat.")

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Purley Grange, Purley, 1908.

Parley Grange, Purley, 1908.

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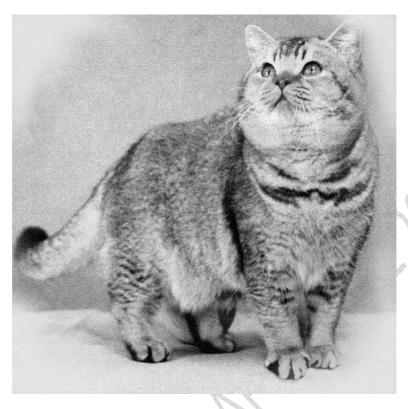
THE most critical stage of a kitten's existence is the weaning period—from five to eight weeks old—when taken from the mother. Until the introduction of Lactol, kittens as a general rule, were weaned on unsuitable foods, most unlike the mother's milk that they have but shortly left, with the result that they often suffered from indigestion, diarrhea, vomitting, distended stomach, etc., and in many cases died.

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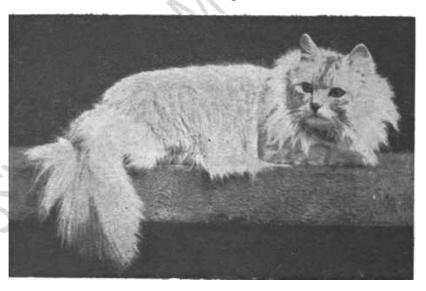
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TICKED SHORTHAIR An excellent specimen



TICKED LONGHAIR An indifferent specimen

BRITISH TICKED SHORT-HAIR AND TICKED PERSIAN

Early cat show judge Louis Wain described the British Ticked, or Bunny Cat, as very big cats, both shorthaired and longhaired, who were born black and later lightened to an ticked coat with barely a trace of markings except on the face. Their conformation is the same as the Brown Tabby. Two British Tickeds of impeccable pedigree sometimes produce a "sport" that has long hair and is, in every respect, a Ticked Persian. However, Ticked Persians, when bred together, always breed true.

I intend to deal with both varieties in this one section as the only difference is in the length of coat.

The head is large and massive, well rounded at sides, fairly long in face, strong in muzzle, and broad across the forehead. The ears must be of medium size, wide at base, narrowing and rounded at tips. The eyes are very full and brilliant, orange yellow in colour, with a glint of green within; very expressive.

The body is large and powerful in build, being long and deep, with broad chest and shoulders. This is supported on strong legs with plenty of bone, set upon round feet. The tail is long rather than short, but very thick at root, with gradual tapering towards the tip.

In the British Ticked (Short-hair), the coat should be moderately long, dense and close, with a glossy appearance to it. The Ticked Persian must have the full, long coat, ruff and brush associated with the other Persian breeds.

Condition should be hard, fine and muscular. Appearance that of an active but powerful animal, with a due sense of dignity about it, and a great deal of style.

Size, a good male may should be twelve to fifteen pounds, and those that exceed this must be large and muscular rather than fat. Females, from eight to eleven pounds.

Colour to be as rich in the brown colouring of the ground as possible and well ticked with black, the ticking is heavier on the back and may form a solid line from the nape of the neck to the end of the tail. There should be as little other markings as possible. Most of this type have a chin paler than the body and this is tolerable as long as the chin is not actually white. A white chin, or white markings elsewhere on the body must be considered serious faults in these Ticked breeds. When judging, I have seem many otherwise excellent cats pulled down by the infamous "white locket" and which would have been better kept at home, thus saving the owner the expense of sending a defective specimen to the show. I cannot say strongly enough that it is better to award no prize at all than to award a First, Second or even a VHC to a Ticked with any vestige of white upon it!

In both breeds, some otherwise excellent specimens still tend towards dark markings on the face, the lower legs and the tail. The judge is advised to prefer cats of excellent conformation and good ticked bodies, but with a few visible black lines, over those that are completely free of dark markings but are of poor type as the latter, if bred, will only bring down the quality of the breed in later generations, while the former, through judicious matings, can produce kittens with fewer tabby markings than the parent.

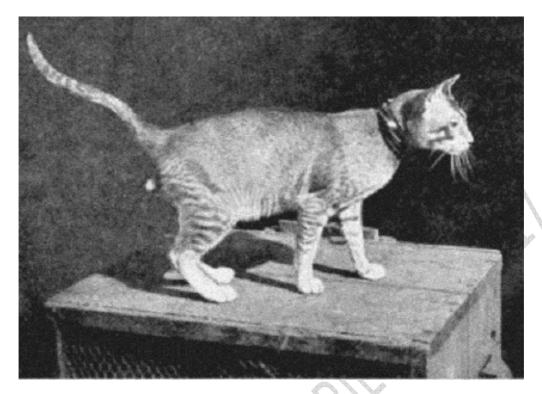
STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE BRITISH TICKED SHORTHAIR

Head ..10 Points
Ears ..5
Eyes 10
Body and shape 10
Legs and feet 5
Tail.. 5
Coat.. 10
Condition and appearance . 10
Size 10
Colour and markings 25

Total 100 Points

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE TICKED PERSIAN

Head ..10 Points
Ears ..5
Eyes 10
Body and shape 10
Legs and feet 5
Tail.. 10
Coat.. 10
Condition and appearance . 10
Size 10
Colour and markings 20



THE INDIAN CAT

This Indian cat is very rarely seen in Europe, but has been described by Brooke, who is well known as a collector of rare and unusual specimens of both the canine and feline tribes. It is his opinion that some of the varieties of the domestic cat occasionally seen in India, are derived from crosses of household cats with some of the smaller wild cats found in that country.

The colour of the upper parts of the body is a pale chestnut red, passing through grades of yellowish shades to almost white on the under parts of the body. The colour on the sides is freely ticked or pencilled, but on the legs and thighs appear slightly-marked stripes, and on the tail are rings of the same colour.

The head is somewhat long, pointed and narrow in shape. The eyes are not particularly large, of rich amber colour, and very brilliant in expression. Its ears are large but thin, and held very erect with rather a forward carriage.

The coat is thick, but quite short; with legs long and fine in bone; and the tail unusually long and tapering, and carried with a curve. In tone of voice it is more like the Siamese than any other cat with which we are familiar.

In pattern, though not in colour or shape, it resembles more like what we know as the Abyssinian, but there is no reason to suppose it is a variety of the same animal, being thought to be a native product of India, and not found in any other country. In type, it is more delicately built than the Abyssinian.

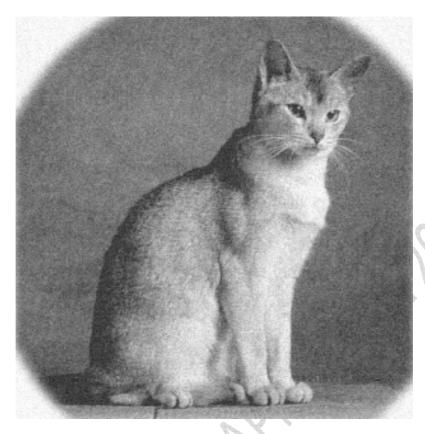
The Indian cat is sometimes called the "Burmese" cat, and indeed, a photograph appeared in that name in Frances Simpson's "Book of the Cat". It is my opinion that the Burmese cat depicted in Miss Simpson's book is a brown sport of the Indian cat described here and resembled, to my judicial eye, a poorly bred Abyssinian cat.

The condition hard, firm and muscular; general appearance of a lithe and active animal.

The size of males, ten to twelve pounds; of females, seven to nine pounds.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE INDIAN CAT

Head . . . 10 Points
Ears5
Eyes10
Legs and feet . . . 5
Body and shape . 10
Coat 15
Condition and general appearance15
Size 5
Colour 20
Tail 5



ALBINISTIC ABYSSINIAN CAT

The blue-eyed "Albinistic Abyssinian" was first bred by Sir William Cooke, of Newbury and were taken up by Lady Mary Barnard of County Durham. Mr Brooke has indicated to me that a lady in Yorkshire also owned a pair of these cats, but she has never exhibited them and, indeed, had considered having the male of the pair made neuter! It came as a surprise to that isolated lady that her pets had become much sought after by fanciers. It has been suggested that the strain derived from a misalliance between an Abyssinian cat and a Siamese, but according to Sir William Cooke, this was not the case, and they arose as "sports" from the Abyssinian breed, perhaps as a result of crossing imported Abyssinians with native British "Bunny Cats" to improve the hardiness of the Abyssinian breed.

The more frequently encountered type of Abyssinian are of the brown ticked variety; somewhat darker on the back than on the sides. The Albinistic Abyssinians have creamy white fur, with rabbit-coloured, i.e. light grey-brown, fur on the ears and a darker "eel-stripe" or dorsal line along their spines. This colour is accentuated by blue eyes and has led a number of our modern fanciers to take to this breed with enthusiasm.

The noted cat fancier Harrison Weir, who first set standards of excellence for fancy cats in the 1880s, wrote, "N.B. The Abyssinian Silver Gray, or Chinchilla, is the same in all points, with the exception of the ground colour being silver instead of brown. This is a new and beautiful variety." meaning, I believe, the albinistic relative of the Abyssinian.

In terms of bodily form, the Standard of Excellence for these albinistic relatives of the Abyssinian is identical to that of the brown variety. It is only in the colour of the fur and eyes that they differ.

The head should be fairly large, round, not very short, but full in face, with a pale nose outlined in black, shortish, strong neck, deep chest, and shoulders rather wide. The ears are moderately small, grey-cream in colour, laced and tipped with black, carried very erect. The eyes are round and full, blue in colour, sometimes with a tint of green, and intelligent in expression.

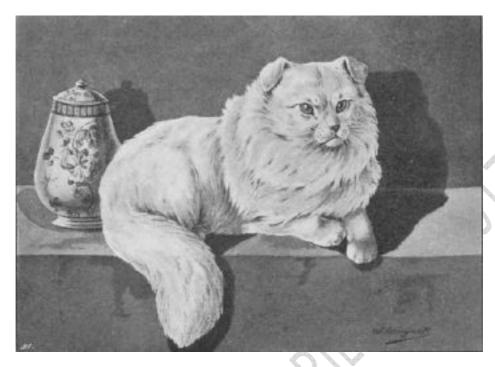
The legs fairly long and well boned, with small round feet. The body, rather compact and cobby, than long; well rounded at sides, not tucked-up looking, and with strong hind quarters. The tail, thick at base, tapering to the tip; the darker dorsal stripe extends onto the tail. The coat should be dense and soft, but not long anywhere.

The condition hard, firm and muscular, giving the general appearance of an active, powerful animal of compact build. The size of males, is eleven to thirteen pounds; of females, eight to ten pounds.

The colour is creamy white, with pale grey tickings all over, with as little other markings as possible, except a darker grey line from nape of neck to the end of tail. As with the more usual brown Abyssinian, some markings are discernable on the legs, the tail and the face.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE ALBINISTIC ABYSSINIAN CAT

Head . . . 10 Points
Ears5
Eyes . . . 10
Legs and feet . . . 5
Body and shape . 10
Coat 15
Condition and general appearance . . . 15
Size 5
Colour 20
Tail 5



THE PE-CHILY or CHINESE LOP-EARED CAT

Cat shows in Paris regularly make provision for the exhibition of this variety, however, and in spite of special prizes for the best Chinese Lop-Ear I have yet to see any entries in the class set aside for it. I am able to say with some certainty that the "Chinese Lop-Ear" is the least frequently seen of any variety of domesticated cat in the cat fancy, which leads me to think this breed was never numerous, or that it did not achieve any degree of popularity, either with fanciers or the public.

I have not heard its title to the name, Chinese Lop-Ear, disputed, and have every reason to believe the first specimens which appeared were imported from that distant land. In fact, no less an authority than Mr. Brooke reports that there is one such cat preserved in a Continental museum and the German naturalist, Herr. Brehm, has given us a very detailed description of the "Chinese Hanging-Ear Cat" in the 1700s.

A diplomat who has spent some considerable time in Shanghai and Peking advises me that the distinguishing trait of this variety appears to be restricted to those that are white in colour, and that the pendulous ears are a trait inherited from lop-eared parents and are not the product of canker or some unfortunate accident. On the other hand, however, that well-travelled cat fancier and judge, Mr Brooke, wrote earlier this year that he had never been able to ascertain anything definite with regard to this variety.

It is asserted by some who profess to have gone deeply into the subject, that this variety was once widely bred by the Chinese in past ages, and was prized for its placid nature, not as a ladies' pet, but for the dinner-table! In this way its place is that of the rabbit in our own country, some being bred for high honours at shows and their lesser cousins being bred for the table rather than the show-bench.

I can only offer an opinion as to a standard of excellence for this variety as none are yet to be found in our shows. I am certain that this omission will soon be remedied and that this humble and little-regarded variety will be a worthy, if not curious, addition to our shows.

Little can be given as regards the head and limbs. Brooke describes the coat as somewhat long-haired, this being discerned from the tail of the stuffed specimen he examined. He remarks that the coat is white, cream or yellowish. In view of the fact that "yellowish" may lead to the breeding of

those sandy-coloured animals that are, in actual fact, poor quality Red or Orange, the standard of excellence requires this variety be presented in only the white or cream colours.

The colour of the eyes should be in accordance with the colour of the coat. For those with white fur, the preference for the eyes would be blue or, at worst, one blue eye and one orange. For those with cream fur, orange eyes are to be preferred. It must be borne in mind that imported Lop-Eared cats might have green, hazel, or yellow eyes, or some novel hue not found in our fancy cats, and prizes must not be withheld on account of an unexpected eye colour if the distinguishing feature, i.e., the pendent ears, are correct.

The ears are the distinguishing feature of this variety. They must be large enough to display the characteristic pendulous conformation. From all accounts, the posture, albeit not the length, of the ears should resemble that of a Spaniel. This characteristic necessarily outweighs all others in judging as it is possible to breed better conformation into the variety through judicious crossing, perhaps to a white Angora. My experiences with rabbits has found that a desirable or distinguishing trait that is lost in the progeny, in this instance the pendent ears, can be recovered by breeding the progeny back to the Lop-Eared parent, and I have no doubt that this "back-crossing" can accomplish the same in fancy cats.

The condition must indicate a cat that is active and in good health. Being derived from a "table animal" it is undoubted that this variety is prone to idleness and overweight when confined. In view of this, I would suggest that the size of males be no more than thirteen pounds; and that of females be no more than to ten pounds.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE CHINESE LOP-EARED CAT

Head ... 10 Points Ears ... 20

Eyes . . . 5

Legs and feet ... 5

Body and shape . . . 10

Coat . . . 15

Condition and general appearance . . . 15

Size . . . 5

Colour . . . 10

- this must be either white or Self cream, no other colours being permitted in this race.

Tail . . . 5



MEXICAN HAIRLESS CAT

But for the efforts of a lowly cattle-man, this unique breed would have been lost to us. It is well known that a pair of hairless cats were brought out of New Mexico with the intention of breeding them. The male, named Dick, was, alas! too bold and was killed by a pack of dogs and the owner could find no hairless mate for the female, whom he had named Nellie. After some years of fruitless effort to obtain a breeding male, and finding there were none to be had, he sold on Nellie to the Honourable Mrs McLaren Morrison who renamed the cat "Jesuit" and exhibited her in England and France for a while, before passing her on to Lady Quire.

Nellie spent some months each year in Sussex at the home of Lady Quire's cattle-man who was well-versed in Robert Bakewell's scientific methods of improving livestock. What worked on sheep and cattle, he decided, would surely work on cats! This self-educated man bred Nellie to one of his own tom cats, apparently a thin-striped tabby of no distinguishing features. The resulting five kittens were all well-furred tabbies with white markings, but he was not discouraged and he bred one of the male offspring to Nellie, in what is known as back-crossing to restore or fix type, and allowed other of the kittens to breed among themselves for a season.

Lo and behold! this man, through his experience of improving his master's herd, achieved what the original discoverer had not - a fine crop of hairless kittens! Nellie produced two litters, each a mixture of furred and hairless kittens, before she expired of a lung complaint. Her daughters also produced a number of hairless kittens. Through adherence to Bakewell's methods, the original type was recovered and a formula for scientific breeding established:

When breeding a hairless cat to an unrelated furred cat of the desired conformation, the offspring will take after the furred parent.

When one of those offspring are bred back to the hairless parent, a proportion of the kittens will be throwbacks to the hairless parent and will inherit the improved type of the furred parent.

Through this method, both numbers and vigour may be improved.

When two hairless cats are bred together, they breed true with no throwbacks to the furred type.

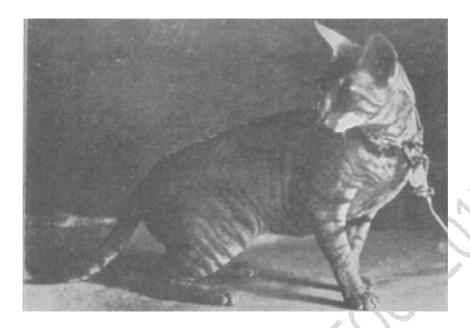
As a result of the sagacity of her cattle-man, Lady Quire now has a well established indoor cattery of hairless cats and continues to use her cattle-man's method for increasing the vigour of the breed, and she sells pairs of furred cross-breeds to other fanciers, these offspring being undistinguished on the showbench, with instructions that they be bred to each other as proportion of hairless kittens will result.

The head should be small in proportion to the body, broad at the forehead and between the eyes, and tapering to the lips below. The ears appear slightly on the larger side and the eyes are set at a slant, somewhat resembling a lemon in shape. When the cat is at repose, either sitting or standing, the skin forms wrinkles under the belly, around the shoulders, chest and on the face. In general conformation, it may be likened to the Siamese or Russian Blue. The normal colours, such as are found in the English Shorthairs, are allowed in this breed.

In the summer, fur is lacking excepting whiskers and a soft stubble resembling the skin of an apricot or peach. In the winter, there is a tendency to grow short fur along the spine, on the head, the lower legs and on the tail. The growth of the winter coat may be inhibited by providing heated housing and this is reflected on the show bench where the cats with least coat take highest honours.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE MEXICAN HAIRLESS CAT

Head ... 10 Points
Ears ... 20
Eyes ... 5
Legs and feet ... 5
Body and shape ... 10
Degree of Hairlessness ... 15
Condition and general appearance ... 15
Size ... 5
Colour ... 10
- the Siamese pattern in not permitted in this race.
Tail ... 5



THE AUSTRALIAN CAT

Some breeders in America make a speciality of the rare Australian cat and they are so universally admired in that country that it cannot be long before they arrive on our shores. They are said to be beautiful creatures. Their fur is very short and glossy, resembling the finest satin. Their heads are small and narrow, with noses that seem pointed when compared with other cats. They are very intelligent and affectionate little creatures and exceedingly active.

However, they are very delicate as kittens and rarely do litters contain more than two kittens, more usually only a single kitten is borne by the happy mother. At no stage in their life can they stand cold weather. There are, of course, no cats indigenous to Australia, so it is believed that they are originally from the Siamese cat imported from Siam to Australia. They possess the marten-shaped head and slender physique of the Siamese, and in voice they also resemble that variety. A great number of Australian cats have a double or even triple kink in their tail.

A common colour in these cats is grey-blue. This may be solid blue or thin-striped grey tabby or even spotted grey, with or without white. American breeders have a preference for the maltese colour in many of their breeds. A few uncommon white specimens have been bred. A colour peculiar to this breed is dark seal-brown.

The cat depicted is named Tricksey and was photographed in 1898.

Should the judge be presented with an Australian cat, it is suggested that he, or perhaps she, bears in mind the standard of excellence as set down for the Siamese breed. The differences lie in the eyes, which are green or orange, and the colour. Points to be given for overall condition, for harmony of eye and coat colour and, in cats with white, for symmetrical markings.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR JUDGING THE AUSTRALIAN CAT

Head . . . 10 Points
Ears . . . 5
Eyes . . . 10
Legs and feet . . . 5
Body and shape . 10
Coat 15
Condition and general appearance . . . 15
Size 5
Colour . . . 20
Tail . . . 5

Total 100 Points

** ** **

THE NOVELTY CLASS

BEING A SHORT NOTE ON THE JUDGING OF WILD AND HYBRID CATS

The judge of the Any Other Variety class, or of the Novelty class, may sometimes be presented with a wild specimen or the progeny of a cross between a wild and domestic cat. A single Standard of Excellence cannot be applied to such diverse entries, and I offer only the most general guidelines. Much must be left to the good sense and discretion of the judge.

A difficulty in the judging of wild or half-wild cats lies in the fact that they are not readily handled, even by the owner. For the safety of all present, these cats must be judged without removing them from the cage. A few may be paraded before the judge on a harness, but in general these animals are queer-tempered and the exhibition hall does not suit their temperament.

Points should be awarded for overall good condition and health, and for a good coat without signs of parasites or loss of fur. In the past, Scottish Wildcats have been exhibited that lacked part of a limb due to the actions of a trap. If the animal is otherwise in good health and condition, such a defect should not be penalised.

Where the exhibit is a cross between a wild cat and domestic cat, points may be awarded for its closeness in appearance to its wild parent. Some very pretty crosses have been exhibited in recent years.

In the past, the following have all been presented at cat shows: the Scottish Wildcat (also crosses thereof) most notably by the Duke of Sutherland, the Bengal Cat (also crosses thereof such as those bred at the Zoological Gardens in London), the Ocelot, the Genet and the Chaus Cat.

As a cautionary tale to the unwary show judge, on one notable occasion a Ringtailed Lemur, a species of primate from Madagascar, was awarded first prize in the Novelty Class of an English cat show!

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io/6, post free.
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and see. It is quite colouriess, is not on, and will not mess the fat. In bottles, 1/3, 2/6, 5/-, 10/6, post free.
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1/6, 2/6, 5/-, post free.

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 Wilson's "Dry Milk" in 1/3, 2/4, 4/6 tins, post free. This is more digestble than cow's milk. Kittens thrive on it and invalids will take it with relish.
 Wilson's Health Cat and Kitten Food, price 17/6 cwt., 9/-½ cwt., 5/-½ cwt. Carriage forward. This contains malt and other ingredients to keep them in perfect health.

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