

Overall BIS

**36th
Championship
Show in 2016**

*IGRPR JOHPAS
COEUR D'OR (SIA d)*

*"A gorgeous male
neuter with excel-
lent overall type
style and balance."*

Mrs Di Brown



Karen Holder

**Do you use Langford
for your genetic**



testing?

Did you know that fully paid up SPSCC Members can get a discount code from the Club Secretary to help reduce your genetic testing costs.



WELCOME to the all new SPSCC

At the beginning of 2014 the SPSCC underwent a complete re-design. The club drafted in the Artist Nicole SJ Rankin to create something a little more 'up-to-date' and creative. This started with an easy to use website full of useful information, all laid out to help our members see what is going on with our club.

The colour scheme was matched with the Wedgewood type blue and silver. A 'ribbon' font was created from scratch to emulate the rosettes and the face of the SPSCC was chosen from numerous cats put forward to be used on banners for the website. It was a difficult choice but in the end it came down to UK GR CH Moonswift Affaire Ducoeur bred by the late Jane Wyatt.

Not only was the banner created but also breed history and welfare pages are adorned with unique illustrations making the whole site both informative and enjoyable to look at. The SPSCC logo was also coloured for the purpose of the internet as colour has more readership than black and white images and are recognised much faster in the brain.



Seal Point
Siamese Cat Club

The general aim of the website is to create a space where the Championship Show can be advertised and promoted as well as allowing the fast download of schedules and entry forms as well as viewing all results.

It is an ideal space to promote Welfare cats and trying to find them new homes as well as updating those that have moved on and found forever homes.

There is a section called 'The Directory' where you can promote your cattery as a breeder or stud owner. This is slowly filling with information, so contact us to see your breeder listing added. The listings are currently free and it will run on an annual basis and be renewed with your subscriptions.

Membership forms can also be downloaded directly from the website and these, potentially, could be given to new owners to promote your club and they too will receive this newsletter updating them on useful information each year.

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Keep pets safe

by Penny Pickering

As winter sets in, we would like to remind pet owners that anti-freeze and screen wash are highly poisonous and MUST be kept away from your treasured pets. Most people are unaware of the hidden dangers to pets of antifreeze poisoning and unfortunately many animals find the taste very attractive. Even ingesting a small amount can lead to kidney failure and death, especially amongst our feline friends.

In a breakthrough the company Bitrex are now working with Halfords and Prestone and are adding their product to Screen wash and antifreeze with immediate effect, thus making it much less palatable to cats and children alike. For companies who's main focus is safety on the road, it is a logical extension to ensure their products contribute to safety in the home.



Halfords and Prestone add Bitrex to anti-freeze and screen wash products. Note the Bitrex circle on the front of the packaging.

Accidental poisoning due to spills and leaks happen every year and result in the death of pets. However, you can help by making regular checks of how you ,yourself ,store these items and taking care there are no leaks/missing lids for the containers.

Signs to look for from Antifreeze poisoning

- Vomiting
- Depressed or sleepy
- Appearing drunk and uncoordinated
- Seizures (Fits)
- Difficulty breathing
- Increased thirst
- Increased urination

Signs of ingestion can show as little as 30 minutes afterwards.

This IS an EMERGENCY, get your cat to a vet ASAP



Simon Pudsey
Veterinary Surgeon

NUTRITION

When thinking of nutrition it is useful to consider the origins of our domestic cats. Our domestic cats are obligate carnivores. They have very specific nutritional needs and commercial foods are formulated to include these.

Cats are rubbish at eating enough fibre. They like a meat rich, low fibre diet and this may explain some of the problems we see in later life such as inflammatory bowel disease. The fibre issue also underlies the problems we see with “furballs”, which are a bowel issue as a result of poor fibre intake.

Our cats are living longer. Some of this is attributable to improvements in the quality of nutrition. We have seen a vast reduction in nutritional diseases. We no longer see rickets due to a lack of calcium or vitamin D, nor do we see scurvy. However I have seen hypervitaminosis A in a cat which had been fed solely on liver. Diet has a direct effect on health. This is well known in human medical science. The quality of a diet is very important and I always recommend feeding the best quality that you can afford for your cat.

Quality does not necessarily equate to cost and it is quite clear that some of the curious attempts to make our pet's food mirror our own diet, are more about marketing to us and not about pet nutrition. I raise my eyebrows at the inclusion of vegetables for cat food.

The fact that we can now influence the course of major diseases such as cystitis, kidney disease, liver disease and diabetes with specialist diets,

tells us that the constitution of diets is highly important. We have even got a diet which can treat thyroid disease in cats without the need for drugs (and it works, yes it really does!).

Diets tend to come in three main groups and at the top are the fixed formula premium brands with the best quality ingredients. The fixed formula refers to the fact that the manufacturer will not fundamentally change the composition of the diet between each batch produced. Companies such as Hills take a great deal of effort to make sure that these diets are produced with top quality ingredients. At the very outside edge of these premium diets are the breed specific diets, a concept which has been a very recent introduction. I have yet to be completely convinced that we need a “Maine Coon specific” or “Ragdoll specific” diet but this may well prove to be a very interesting area to watch.

This is not the case with the next level down, the open formula standard brand foods. Here the manufacturer has no obligation to maintain consistency. There is nothing wrong with the middle brand diets but they do not match the quality of the premium brands.

A lot of these are branded products which are well known. It is my opinion that the supermarket own brands are largely in this category.

At the bottom are the value brands and I would urge pet owners to consider carefully before taking a choice to reduce the



quality of what they feed their pet. At the very worst we see “pet mince”, tripe and those kibble type foods sold by the kilo with no nutritional information and no recourse to help from a manufacturer. The quality of the lowest priced foods suffers due to a lack of quality in the ingredients.

The problem with the value brands is that they substitute fat and sugar for quality carbohydrate sources and may be a reason why obesity in our pets is becoming a bigger issue (quite literally).

I was recently asked: “Do they add things to pet food to make them addictive to pets?” In essence this only occurs in as much as high salt and sugar content are as attractive to our pets as they are to us. We have not seen the advent of “semi-moist” diets in the UK, a phenomenon found in the US and responsible for severe obesity in cats which can lead to very serious liver disease. Google “feline hepatic lipidosis” for a scare. I'm also slightly concerned that feline pancreatitis may have its origin in nutrition and both of these are quite hard to manage successfully.

Is it worth spending money on a high quality diet? Yes. Is it worth spending money on gimmicks? No. I once said that I was not a food salesman and to a great extent I'm still not, but I am very interested in making sure that all aspects of a pet's health are looked after and nutrition is part of that.





Living with tummy tantrums

“Something had to be done,
for him & for our sky
rocketing cat litter bill.”

by

Sandie Aroha

Cat Fact 1:

Cat's fur easily becomes charged with electricity and sparks can be seen if their fur is rubbed in

Cat Fact 2:

The average house cat spends approximately 10,950 hours

Cat Fact 3:

A cat's brain is biologically more similar to a human brain than it is to a dog's. Both humans and cats have identical regions in their brains that are re-

Cat Fact 4:

Cats have over 100 sounds in their vocal repertoire, while dogs only have 10.



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

“When I play with my cat, how do I know that she is not passing time with me rather than I with her?”

Montaigne

Our first cat, he's a fussy eater, we think he possesses just one taste bud! He likes one brand of dry food in one flavour, an easy introduction you might think into the world of feline appetites. He did nothing to prepare us for what was coming next.

His brother, Bokie arrived with us in the summer of 2011; a big boy of 15 weeks, with huge ears and an even bigger appetite!

Relaxing dinners, gone! These days, unless he's locked out, we need to be constantly aware of his presence, blink and your pork chop has vanished!

Washing up must be done immediately, all rubbish removed; every scrap is fair game for Bokie.

Dietary intolerance causes many problems with cats.

Most commonly the effects can be seen in the skin or digestive system; this might be itchy skin, occasional vomiting, diarrhoea, straining, passing blood or mucus and flatulence. Any symptoms that persist despite treatment is cause for concern, Bokie had them all. Something had to be done, for him, for our sky rocketing cat litter bill.

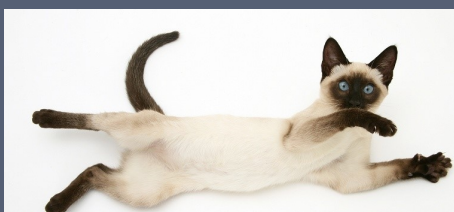
A speed eater, time to invest in a doggie anti-gulp bowl, designed to encourage your greedy mutt to slow down; it worked. A 75g sachet of food placed in a normal bowl was gone in 39 seconds. In the slow down bowl, several minutes!

A feeding elimination trial is the only way. Dietary intolerance is not helped by pet food legislation that allows manufacturers to list groups of

ingredients, such as animal derivatives and cereals rather than listing them individually. No help for a Cat who might have intolerance to wheat, which can often be difficult digest.

A year on and we have settled into a routine of vet prescription diets, based on turkey and potato. These highly digestible ingredients are absorbed by the small intestine prior to reaching the lower gut. This is good for Bokie's digestive system, producing far less waste.

His diet is supplemented with vitamins and a 3 monthly vitamin shot to help maximise nutrient absorption. This treatment can be costly; his weekly food bill is £18, compared to our other boys' dry diet costing £3.50. But, he's worth it!



Most vets will advise that kittens should wait a week after their second vaccination and have the short op. Kittens should also be over a kilo by this point in their growth.

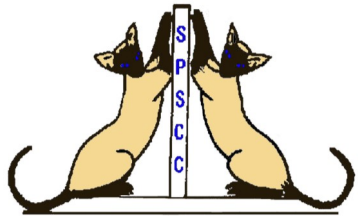
But it's their pleading faces when you have to starve them, but talk to your Vet as changes in anaesthetics means there is not always the need to starve the kittens the night before, saving the crying and upset. Heating the kittens after their op is critical too for fast recovery as well as a small meal. This perks them up by increasing their sugar levels and they are off, racing about, as if nothing has happened at all.

Early Neutering — do you do it?

The GCCF and the Cats Protection have some excellent information on early neutering your kittens before they head off to their new homes. The latter has a comprehensive list of vets around the UK who participate in the scheme.

It has now been proven that this does not harm the kittens or their growth patterns and reduces the risk of unwanted pregnancies and 'back yard breeding'. As breeders, it is our responsibility to face this dilemma and make a decision based on the future of our breed as well. Neutering helps to illuminate undesirable 'faults' as well as keeping the gene pool clean.





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Webmaster & Editor
Mrs Nicole SJ Rankin



After my much-loved Dougal died, I vowed 'Never again, no more cats'. So I am now sitting with a 10 year old Seal Point called Max on my lap, purring happily, and 'helping' me write this.

When Catherine Moulton telephoned me and asked if I was interested in having another cat my first reply was 'No, definitely not', followed a few days later with 'Well perhaps, tell me more about him', then finally, 'Yes, can you give me his owner's contact details'.

I called Caroline, and was told that Max was an adorable cat, but he was bullied by the other cats, was very unhappy and stressed and was spraying, so she had very reluctantly decided that he might be happier in another home.

I arranged to go and see him – he took one look at me and came and sat on my lap, purring away. Caroline and I had a long chat, and we

Meet Mad Max

decided I would go home, and she would decide whether she wanted me to have Max. I had no doubts at all, and when I got her email saying I could have him I was overjoyed.

I collected Max a few days later. Poor Caroline was heartbroken at losing him, but said she knew he would be happier away from the other cats. He yelled, as only a Siamese can yell, all the way home, but once we had arrived, he had a good look around, realized there were no other cats, and decided he liked what he saw. He settled in straight away, eating, drinking, using his litter tray and finding the most comfortable places to relax – my lap won! The first evening I said we were going to bed, looked round and discovered him already comfortably settled on my bed.

Max is an absolute joy, so happy, friendly and talkative, a perfect companion. I am very lucky to have him. He follows me round, willing me to sit down so he can come up onto my lap where he settles, purring away (makes going to the loo a little awkward).

He is very anxious to 'help' me do everything, he is especially skilled at sending emails, so he has been seconded onto the S.P.S.C.C. committee as Assistant Secretary. Of course everything takes twice as

long, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

I am very pleased I decided to have another cat, and so grateful to Catherine for telling me about Max, and to Caroline for entrusting me with such a wonderful fellow.

WRITING A JUDGE'S REPORT

1. Remove Max from desk.

2. Set out judge's book and catalogue on desk.

3. Tell Max book and catalogue do not need rearranging.

4. Switch on computer.

5. Pick book and catalogue up from floor and put back on desk.

6. Write report heading.

7. Remove Max from keyboard.

8. Compose report preamble.

9. Remove Max from book.

10. Type in title of first class.

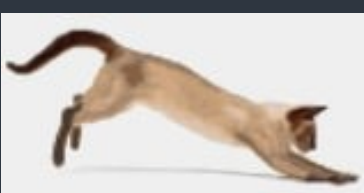
11. Remove Max's paw from mouse.

12. Try to describe first cat.

13. Give up and go and have a coffee and read newspaper.

14. Save coffee from being knocked over by Max.

15. Sit with a happy, purring Max on lap, his mission complete.

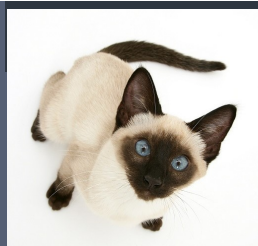


37th

Champion Show

7th October 2017

Melbourn Village College
The Moor, Melbourn,
Nr Royston Herts, SG8 6EF



Going Viral - FECV

Two forms of feline coronavirus are found in nature: enteric (FECV) and FIP (FIPV). Breeders are rightly terrified at the slight mention of Coronavirus, when in fact, no one really knows if they have it or not. We regularly snap test our queens and studs for FeLV and there is a vaccination to cover them for this. But FECV, we close our eyes and hope it's not in our homes. In reality, it probably is.

Here is a scenario that is heard all too often: Kittens go for their first vaccinations at 9 weeks and come down with tummy troubles or runny nose and immediately it is presumed that the

vaccine has upset them. Is it worth a thought that instead of it being the vaccine, is this actually a lowered immune response to FECV?

Without PCR testing your entire household and separating cats to determine their status, there is no real way of knowing if this virus is lurking until it mutates to FIP. It's a sneaky virus that is clever and hard to detect as it can give false readings and cats look sand so well!

So what to do? Testing is expensive but worth it to help eradicate the virus as constant shedders don't allow those cats who can recover from it to shake it off. Take a chance and test!

