

ORIENTAL CAT ASSOCIATION



YEARBOOK 2012

Editorial

Cathy Baxter – Yearbook Editor

This year I am delighted to take over editorial responsibility for the OCA yearbook and would like to start by saying thank you to Carol Ward for her editorship of this publication in previous years. I am fully aware how much this publication is valued by club members and it will indeed be a challenge to live up to members' expectations as well as the standards set in previous editions. The OCA Committee are also pleased to be able to share the exciting news about the formation of the new registered charity, the Oriental Cat Welfare Trust.

This year we have a range of articles including an excellent article by Peter Neville summarising the behavioural impacts of weaning on kittens, a must-read for any breeder or interested owner. As some members do import cats and kittens from abroad as well as travel with their cats, we also have a summary of the new Regulations that came into effect on the 1st January 2012 concerning bringing cats in to the UK following the relaxation of the quarantine rules.

Sincere thanks also go to Sue McParlin for sharing her harrowing experience associated with feline calicivirus vaccination. I'm sure the hearts of every reader of the article will go out to Sue for what she went through. Thanks must also go to Jane North, a founder member of the OCA, for inspiring an article on feline hypertension (high blood pressure). Again this article developed out of adversity, but it is hoped that raising awareness of this issue may help others. Continuing this theme, a big thank you to Clare Whitby for sharing Mitzi's Memory so that others may be more aware of oesophagitis/oesophageal strictures and their causes.

A range of other articles concerning common and topical veterinary issues also feature in this year's edition. Do you ask for a midline spay for your girls or go for a more traditional flank approach? And it is still not too late to participate in the 'Bristol Cats' study if you are over 18, live in the UK and own an eligible kitten aged 8-16 weeks.

I would also like to personally thank all those members who have placed adverts in the yearbook this year as your contributions have gone a long way to offset the printing and distribution costs for the hard copy version of the yearbook, which is preferred by some members. I also enjoyed the sneak preview of your beautiful photographs whilst incorporating your adverts into this edition ☺

The views and opinions expressed in this Yearbook do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee of the Oriental Cat Association nor those of the Editor.

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Amenra Orientals

**Wish all members of the Oriental Cat
Association, their friends & families**

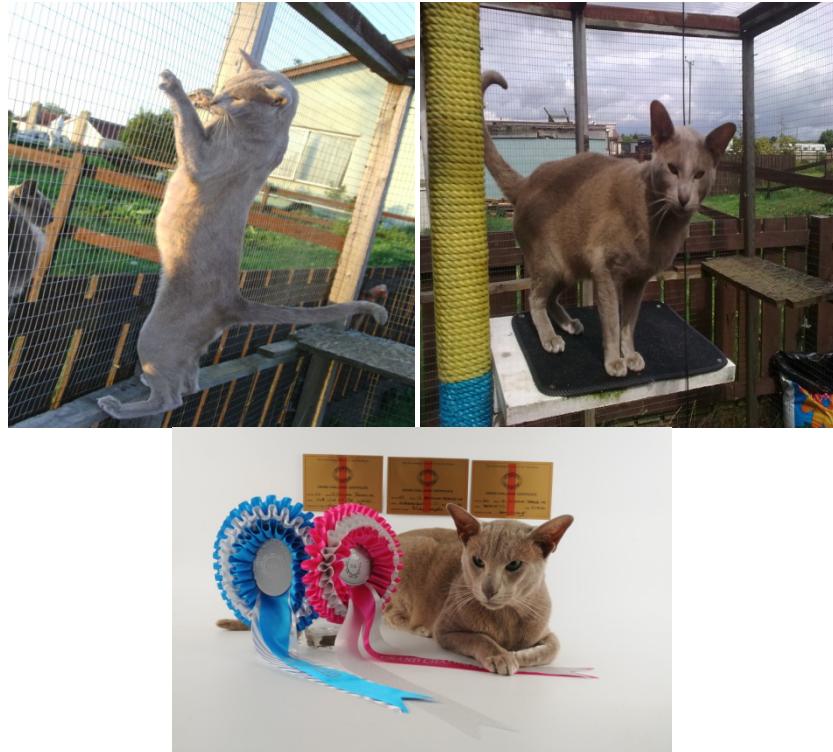
A very happy, healthy & successful 2012



Amenra Zobeida (43hs)

Carol Ward
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AT LIMITED STUD
MONGKUT'S
GRAND CHAMPION
DEANNAN TREASURE-ME



Home of The First Caramel Self
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Proven Stud Excellent Temperament

Kittens sometimes available to permanent loving homes

Contact Anne on 07904909046
Email:annechivers@yahoo.co.uk

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

The OCA Committee and Club's Officers

Carol Ward, John Bunce and Irene Rothwell have continued this year as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary respectively. Kerry Smith was elected as Treasurer and John Bunce as Membership Secretary. Val Walter continues to do a stirring job with Cat Welfare. Other committee members are Senga Gaffey, Cathy Baxter, Clare Whitby, Linda Schofield – and Sharon Crisp has been nominated to join the committee from June 1st. Caroleen Falconer has resigned due to ill health after many years of service – we will miss her but she has promised to keep making the spiders!

The AGM 2012

The AGM will be held on April 22nd 2012 starting at 2.00 pm at **Parish C of E Junior School, Warrington Road CR0 4BH**. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. We still have vacancies for co-optees. Please consider if this is a way you could play an active part in the club – the committee meets 5 times a year.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due on 1st January 2012. Please note subscriptions increased to £7.50 single and £10 joint last year. Family £1.00 extra per child under 16 years of age.

Did you amend your Standing Order or regular PayPal payment? Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer – **Miss Kerry Smith, 24 Martin Hardy Way, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4AE Tel 01732 300036**. If you would like to complete a standing order form to save you the hassle of remembering to send your subscription each year, standing order forms are available on receipt of an SAE from Kerry, or alternatively pick one up from the Club Table. Please let us know if your details change. Alternatively you can now pay using the PayPal facility at www.orientalcatassociation.org.

THE ORIENTAL CAT WELFARE TRUST

The committee realised that the level of donation over the past few years fulfilled the criteria for us to apply for charitable status – specifically for cat welfare – not the club as a whole - and on 7th February 2012 our charitable status was confirmed by the Charities Commission. It will be called the Oriental Cat Welfare Trust and our Registered Charity no is 1145775. The committee would like to thank Ted Jones for agreeing to become a trustee along with John Bunce, Val Walter, Kerry Smith and Cathy Baxter.

The safe houses are now well established with Val Walter and 54 cats have been re-homed by Val in 2011. Contributions of Petplan vouchers, food, cat equipment etc. also help us provide for rescued cats. Carol Ward has again this year been at local boot and craft fairs and raised £640 for the welfare work and Kerry Smith again kindly organised a stall at the Kentish show and raised a £95. This is greatly appreciated. The OCA Welfare

service can be contacted on the following numbers 01424 892618 or local rate number 0845 0529655 or email bookends@btopenworld.com

OCA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Entries were down last year, but financially we still made a small profit. Irene Rothwell and John Bunce will again be Joint Show Managers in 2012 and we look forward to seeing you at the Stantonbury Leisure Complex **on the 16th June 2012**. Even if you are unable to show a cat there are many ways you can support our specialist breed show and make it a successful day. Trophies won at the show will be awarded at the AGM in April 2013. Details of trophy wins will be sent to exhibitors after the show. The schedule will be posted to last years' exhibitors or can be downloaded from the OCA Website. In addition schedules can be requested by post, or email irene.rothwell@ntlworld.com

AMENDED ORIENTAL REGISTRATION POLICY – IN PROGRESS

For some time there has been concern expressed that the Oriental gene pool is decreasing and that long term this would be detrimental to the breed. In January 2011 OJBAC submitted the Oriental Breeding policy as required by GCCF. This stated the following:

Permitted Outcrosses:

It is important that no obstacle be put in the way of attempts to widen the gene pool except where there are cogent reasons not to allow the out-crossing:

Since type is what distinguishes the Oriental from any other breed, out-crossing to breeds not of Siamese type is not permitted. In addition Foreign Whites, being blue eyed, may only be mated to Siamese and not to other colours of Oriental.

In light of this statement it became necessary to review the registration policy. After much discussion over several meetings a vote was taken at OJBAC on 27th November to allow both Bi-colour and Longhair cats in the pedigrees of Oriental Shorthairs and that any offspring could be registered according to phenotype (i.e. according to what they look like).

It was agreed that SH offspring that had OLH in the pedigree would be continue to be registered as Variants unless proven by genetic testing not to carry longhair, and would in any case be over stamped "Longhair in pedigree". Testing would imply microchip evidence as to the identity of the cat concerned.

This proposal has been sent to the GCCF genetics committee for approval who have now submitted it to the March Board meeting – so it is hoped it will be on the June Council agenda for approval – so watch this space!!

VARIANTS POLICY

In October a Variants policy was passed by Council. This laid out the procedure required should any BAC wish to apply for show status for cats registered as variants and therefore currently not allowed to be shown.

So at OJBAC on 27th November OSS&TS proposed that the BAC should apply for variants from OLH breeding to be admitted to the equivalent breed class according to phenotype. This would allow shorthair variants of Oriental colours to go into the relevant breed class, pointed shorthair variants to go into the relevant Siamese class and pointed longhair variants to go into the relevant Balinese class. Variants entered in these classes would be expected to conform to the relevant SOP and their colour must be recognised in that breed, e.g. silver tabby pointed and smoke pointed cats are not permitted in Siamese or Balinese so these would still not be able to be shown.

This proposal was agreed and again was sent to Genetics committee for approval who have now submitted it to the March Board meeting – so it is hoped it will be on the June Council agenda for approval – so again watch this space!!

*Congratulations to
UK & Imperial Grand Premier
Solarus Cathy's Clown*



*on gaining the title of
UK GRAND PREMIER
at the Supreme Show 2011*

*Owner: Cathy Baxter
Breeder: Jane Haggar*

CONGRATULATIONS TO
CHAMPION ALTER
PIPPASTRO CHOCOLATIER



ORIENTAL LONGHAIR (62 36B)
BEST ORIENTAL LONGHAIR KITTEN
WESTERN EUROPE REGIONAL AWARDS
2010-2011

OWNER: CATHY BAXTER
BREEDER: PIPPA BROWNING



The Oriental Cat Welfare Trust (OCWT)

Cathy Baxter – OCWT Secretary

On 7th February 2012 the Oriental Cat Welfare Trust (OCWT) was established. Registered with the Charity Commission, Registered Charity number 1145775, the charity has been created to separate the welfare, rescue and re-homing services of the OCA from the other non-charitable activities of the club, thereby taking advantage of the benefits afforded to charities.

For charitable associations meeting the Charity Commission's criteria, there are several advantages to obtaining charitable status:

- a charitable association has the ability to recover income tax deducted from donations received under Gift Aid, thereby increasing the income of the charity – the charity can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound donated
- a charitable association has the ability to apply (if desired) for money to grant-making charitable trusts which will make grants available only to registered charities
- some companies, e.g. veterinary surgeries and food suppliers, may give discounts or free donations to charities for goods or services provided
- a charitable association will have easier access to charitable appeals and greater credibility for fund-raising activities

The following officers and trustees of the OCWT have been appointed to oversee the smooth running of the charity:

Chairman: John Bunce

Secretary: Cathy Baxter

Treasurer: Kerry Smith

Trustee: Ted Jones

Trustee: Val Walter

Please rest assured that this has no impact on the OCA as the two organisations will co-exist in parallel, the OCWT providing welfare, rescue and re-homing services for Oriental (or related) cats in need and supported by donations and fund-raising activities, and the OCA providing non-charitable cat club activities supported by its membership (see article on the benefits of OCA membership). If you have any questions or comments about the OCWT and how it will operate, please address them to the OCWT secretary at cbaxter@email.com.

If you would like to make a donation to support the welfare, rescue and re-homing activities of the OCWT then a Gift Aid declaration form can be found at the back of the yearbook.

Bringing Cats into the UK

Cathy Baxter – Kyashii Orientals

Do you travel abroad with your cat or are you thinking of importing a cat into the UK? From 1st January 2012 entry requirements for bringing cats (dogs and ferrets) into the UK changed as the UK brought its rules into line with the European Union. As part of these changes quarantine is no longer required for cats from the EU and approved non-EU countries provided they meet certain pre-entry requirements. Quarantine arrangements will remain in place for animals that do not meet the new entry requirements. Therefore if you wish to return to the UK with your cat after a trip abroad, or intend to import a cat into the UK for the first time, you need to be aware of the changes to the UK pet entry rules.

The 27 countries of the EU are as follows:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

The approved non-EU countries are:

- Andorra
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Argentina
- Aruba
- Ascension Island
- Australia
- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Bermuda
- BES Islands (Bonair, Saint Eustatius and Saba)*
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- British Virgin Islands
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Chile
- Croatia
- Curacao*
- Falkland Islands
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Hong Kong
- Iceland
- Jamaica*
- Japan
- Liechtenstein
- Malaysia*
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Monaco
- Montserrat
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Russian Federation*

- Saint Maarten*
- San Marino
- Singapore
- St Helena
- St Kitts & Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Pierre & Miquelon
- St Vincent & The Grenadines
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Arab Emirates*
- USA (mainland)
- Vanuatu
- Vatican
- Wallis & Futuna

*Indicates specific information relating to these countries. Please see the DEFRA website www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/countries/noneu-countries/ for the latest information.

Owners are responsible for ensuring their cat meets all the rules for entering the UK. It is important therefore to make sure you have had the procedures carried out in the correct order and your cat's documentation is correctly completed. If you do not, your cat may not be able to enter the country or may have to be licensed into quarantine on arrival. The steps you need to undertake if you are entering the UK from the EU or a listed non-EU country are as follows:

- **Step 1 – Have your cat microchipped** – before any of the other procedures for travel are carried out, your cat must be fitted with a microchip so it can be properly identified.
- **Step 2 – Have your cat vaccinated** – after the microchip has been fitted your cat must be vaccinated against rabies. There is no exemption to this requirement, even if your cat has a current rabies vaccination. Rabies boosters must be kept up to date. The length of the waiting period before entry to the UK is 21 days after the first vaccination date. A waiting period is not required for subsequent entries into the UK, provided rabies boosters are kept up to date. If the vaccination is in two parts the 21 day wait will be from the date of the second vaccination.
- **Step 3 – Get pet travel documentation** – for animals being prepared in an EU country, you should get an EU pet passport. If you are preparing your animal in a non-EU listed country or territory you will need to obtain an official third country

veterinary certificate (apart from Croatia, Gibraltar, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland who also issue pet passports).

- **Step 4 – Tapeworm treatment** – is required for dogs only and does not apply to cats. The requirement is that before entering the UK, all dogs (including assistance dogs) must be treated for tapeworm. The treatment must be administered by a vet not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before its scheduled arrival time in the UK. There is no mandatory requirement for tick treatment. No treatment is required for dogs entering the UK from Finland, Ireland or Malta.
- **Step 5 – Arrange for your cat to travel with an approved transport company on an authorised route** – your cat must enter the UK from a listed country or territory travelling with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

If you are entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland there are some new considerations. Under the EU pet movement system, all cats (dogs and ferrets) moving between EU Member States must meet the same animal health rules as above. Therefore from 1st January 2012 the requirement is that all cats travelling from the Republic of Ireland to the UK should be microchipped, vaccinated against rabies and accompanied by a pet passport. As both the Republic of Ireland and the UK have had no indigenous rabies for many decades, compliance checks on cats travelling between the two countries will not be applied. Cat owners entering the UK with their cats from the Republic of Ireland should therefore not experience any change in practical terms. There are no requirements for pets travelling directly between the UK and either the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.



If you are entering the UK from unlisted non-EU countries there is an additional step involving a blood test that you must undertake in order for your cat to be allowed entry into the UK:

- **Step 1 – Have your cat microchipped** – before any of the other procedures for pet travel are carried out, your cat must be fitted with a microchip so it can be properly identified.
- **Step 2 – Have your cat vaccinated** – after the microchip has been fitted your cat must be vaccinated against rabies. There is no exemption to this requirement, even if your cat has a current rabies vaccination. Rabies boosters must be kept up to date.
- **Step 3 – Arrange a blood test** – after your cat has been vaccinated, it must be blood tested to make sure the vaccine has given it a satisfactory level of protection against rabies. ***The blood sample must be taken at least 30 days after vaccination.*** The length of the waiting period before entry to the UK is three calendar months from the date your vet took the blood sample which led to a satisfactory test result. The three month waiting period will not apply if your cat was vaccinated and blood tested in the EU and issued with an EU pet passport before it went to an unlisted country.
- **Step 4 – Get pet travel documentation** – you will need to obtain an official third country veterinary certificate.
- **Step 5 – Tapeworm treatment** – is required for dogs only and does not apply to cats. The requirement is that before entering the UK, all dogs (including assistance dogs) must be treated for tapeworm. The treatment must be administered by a vet not less than 24 hours and not more than 120 hours (1-5 days) before its scheduled arrival time in the UK. There is no mandatory requirement for tick treatment.
- **Step 6 – Arrange for your cat to travel with an approved transport company on an authorised route** – your cat must enter the UK with an approved transport company on an authorised route.

The number of cats that can be moved between EU Member States, including into and out of the UK, is limited to five per person unless you are taking part in a competition, show or sporting event. If so, these animals will require a new type of health certificate issued by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. Applications for the certificate should be made at least 10 working days prior to the date of travel. Each cat you are taking to Europe will still need a completed and valid pet passport. The health certificate issued by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is **not** evidence your cat meets the Pet Travel Scheme rules, which will still apply.

Further information about the Pet Travel Scheme can be obtained from DEFRA or found on the DEFRA website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/pets/>

SHERMESE CATS



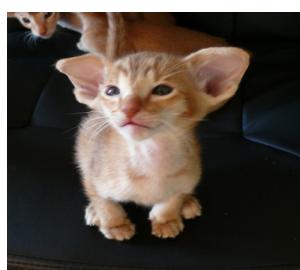
We have enjoyed another year breeding interesting Oriental babies from Dutchy (Gr Ch Kattilan Voltaire) with the help of his Cinnamon son Gr Ch Shermese Kudos. A big Thank You to all the owners who have been showing their babies so beautifully. Here are some.....



Shermese Charlie



Shermese Just the Ticket



Shermese
In the picture



Shermese
Ticked Off



Shermese
Oxymandias

GRAHAM AND CYNTHIA CULLIN

are pleased to welcome

SHERMESE IN THE PICTURE, (45k)

to their cat family

**JEMIMA IS A CINNAMON TICKED TABBY ORIENTAL
GR CH KATTILAN VOLTAIRE, (45b) x GR CH SUNJADE
TICKLED MY FANCY, (45k) born 1 SEPTEMBER 2011**



A SISTER FOR ELIJAH

**WE CONGRATULATE QGCA SHERMESE ELIJAH, (32 2) ON
GAINING THE TITLE OF IMPERIAL GRAND MASTER IN
JULY 2011**

**Grateful thanks to Celia Simpson of Shermese Cats for entrusting us with
these lovely babies**



congratulates
Imperial Grand Premier
Pippastro Magik Flute (62 43fn) MN



on gaining the title of
Imperial Grand Premier
at the Essex Cat Club Show 2011



www.mimazali.co.uk

Oesophagitis and Oesophageal Strictures

Clare Whitby – Mimazali Orientals

Oesophagitis is a relatively common disease in cats and is characterised by inflammation of the oesophagus. However, it can sometimes be difficult to diagnose and similarly difficult to treat, dependent upon the underlying cause. Early recognition of the condition and prompt intervention to address the underlying cause is often the key to a successful outcome.

In 2009, we lost our much loved Balinese to this condition. Although it is too late for Mitzi, after spending many hours researching this condition, I wanted to share my findings in the hope that sharing this knowledge could save other cats.

What is Oesophagitis

Oesophagitis is often caused by ingestion of chemical irritants, burns caused by overheated food, gastro-oesophageal reflux secondary to anaesthetic, persistent vomiting and retention of highly acidic medications such as doxycycline within the oesophagus.

Clinical signs of oesophagitis are similar to other oesophageal diseases and include dysphagia (difficulty eating), regurgitation, odynophagia (painful swallowing), repeated swallowing and excessive salivation. With mild oesophagitis, signs may be absent. Vomiting and regurgitation can be observed concurrently when oesophagitis is associated with a hiatus hernia or secondary to persistent vomiting. When oesophagitis occurs secondary to anaesthesia, signs usually begin two to 14 days post-anaesthesia. Concomitant stomatitis and oral ulcerations may suggest ingestion of a caustic chemical as the cause.

Endoscopy (passing a fine telescope into the oesophagus to directly visualise the affected area) is the most sensitive method for detecting oesophagitis. Findings include mucosal erythema, haemorrhage, increased friability, erosions or ulcers.

Mild oesophagitis may resolve on its own without therapy. However, an oesophageal stricture may result when severe oesophagitis involving the underlying layers of the oesophageal wall heals by fibrosis and scarring. Strictures can be single or multiple. Although an oesophageal stricture can occur after any severe mucosal injury, it is most commonly a complication of reflux oesophagitis after anaesthesia and oesophageal foreign bodies. Strictures may also occur after oesophageal surgery, ingestion of caustic substances (including medications such as doxycycline), vomiting of large hairballs and secondary reflux oesophagitis associated with a hiatus hernia. Clinical signs of oesophageal stricture usually include progressive difficulty eating solid foods, regurgitation immediately after eating and weight loss in spite of a ravenous appetite. Clinical signs of a stricture usually occur within five to 14 days after onset of oesophageal injury.

Oesophageal stricture can be diagnosed by either barium swallow and x-ray or endoscopy and may therefore require a specialist veterinary referral.

Conservative management of oesophageal strictures by endoscopically-guided balloon dilation is effective in most cases. Mechanical dilation of the stricture is performed under general anaesthesia with endoscopic visualisation. Balloon catheters with a balloon size (when inflated) of 10 or 15 mm in diameter and 6 to 8 cm in length are used. The procedure is repeated at 3 - 5 day intervals for a minimum of three treatments. Serious complications (e.g. perforation and haemorrhage) are rare in experienced hands. In some cases this management fails and the strictures re-occur.

Causes of Oesophagitis:

1. Surgery

Prior to anaesthetic the stomach is starved of food, this results in a build up of acid. If during the actual anaesthetic the cat brings up some of this acid it can burn the oesophagus causing possible damage. Some strictures can take up to 14 days to form so any sickness post operatively should be reported to your vet as soon as possible.

2. Drugs including the Tetracycline group

Also known as doxycycline, Ronaxan and others of the same family. Unlike some other tablets, these are often not coated with a gastro-protective outer layer and unless washed down immediately may be retained in the oesophagus where they can cause severe inflammation and scarring. It is essential, therefore, that these drugs are always administered with food. Always ask your vet for any side effects or precautions you should take when administering any medicine to your cat.

Further information about Oesophagitis in cats can be found at
<http://www.felipedia.org/~felipedi/wiki/index.php?title=Oesophagitis>

Further information about Ronaxan can be found at
http://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/Merial_Animal_Health_Ltd/Ronaxan_20mg_100mg_Tablet/-31744.html





**Congratulations to
Champion Pippastro Tigermoth
on the arrival of her first litter**



www.mimazali.co.uk



**Mimazali Magnificat
(Chocolate Ticked Tabby)**

**Mimazali Maid in Essex
(Chocolate Tortie)**

The Behavioural Impacts of Weaning on Kittens

by Peter Neville

Clinical Professor, Dept of Veterinary Medicine, University of Miyazaki, Japan
Adjunct Professor, Dept of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University, USA

www.pnevile.com

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Studies of weaning in mammals have often concentrated on feeding behaviour and the energetics of changes in nutrition, from feeding on milk to more energy dense solid food provided by the mother. The critical behavioural changes that occur around the time of weaning are often glossed over as the acquisition of 'independence' for the young, implying an increasing drive for initiation in social encounters and greater self-determination along with competence in the discovery of food. However, the acquisition of survival skills and social abilities is governed by the mother, notably manipulating the withdrawal of milk and directing access to solid foods in teaching her offspring new forms of behaviour. Cats, while sometimes social, are nonetheless destined to be solitary and non-cooperative when hunting and so kittens must develop prey handling and hunting skills quickly in order to become nutritionally self sufficient by about 14 weeks of age, and certainly by the end of the juvenile phase at 18 - 20 weeks of age when they usually leave their mother or are driven out from her home range so they then don't compete with her for its resources.

Maternal Manipulation Of Feeding Behaviour: The Effects of Frustration

The behavioural and emotional effects of frustration in terms of reinforcement of behaviour patterns have been summarised into stages. Stage 1 considers the continuous reinforcement of the approach behaviour of kittens towards their mother during the first 3 weeks or so of life. Motivated to seek their mother's teats through instinctive rooting reflexes, the kittens' or puppies' approach behaviours towards her are always rewarded by the provision of milk at the teat or warmth and comfort in her fur. Later, behavioural responses become reinforced through the process of classical conditioning in that many unconditioned signals of sound, scent, vibration, and temperature etc of

the arrival or presence of the mother become paired with approach behaviours and reinforced by the same rewards. The mother simply makes herself available to her young in the nest usually leaving them only to feed and eliminate.

At the onset of weaning, Stage 2 of a reinforcement sequence of new behaviour occurs. At 3-4 weeks of age, the kittens and puppies have now become capable of more varied and coordinated behaviour in their efforts to obtain food from their mother. With their increasing size and complexity, their energy demands increase rapidly and she cannot produce milk in sufficient volumes to sustain their growth, body temperature and increasing levels of activity. The young are forced to become active rather than passive in their efforts to derive food from their mother. Their approaches become increasingly vigorous, which is uncomfortable for her as their milk teeth become painful to endure for long periods at the teat.

The mother now needs to leave the nest more to feed in order to produce the greater volume of milk required to sustain a rapidly growing litter and her return is increasingly marked by greater activity as the young demand to be fed. On presentation of the same stimuli associated with the mother's arrival at, or presence in, the nest, the young repeat their earlier approach behaviours but find that access to the teats is now no longer always guaranteed. For the first time, the young start to experience rejection by their mother, finding that she moves away from them after short periods of feeding and, in the process of standing up to do so, may even cause them to drop painfully to the ground, or she may drag them a short distance out of the nest, as they desperately try to maintain their hold. Persistent young may even be firmly nosed away from the teats and all such rejection has the immediate effect of causing frustration, this is likely to cause a kitten or puppy to increase its vigour in attempting to gain the desired reward of food, of which there is insufficient now to sustain the whole litter.



Motivation for change in their feeding and social approach behaviour is now at its peak and the mother will use their hunger to shape their responses into new forms, the desirable elements of which will be reinforced by the provision of food and social contact. Their approach behaviour meets increasingly with 'non-reward', as their mother may not always allow them access to her teats, or curtails their sucking before rolling away or moving off satiates them. This causes frustration and an invigorated repetition of their previous approach behaviours. But their frustration at failing to gain access soon causes them to experiment with different approaches in their effort to derive food. At the same time, the mother cat starts to introduce new signals of a particular call and visual presentation and movement of stunned rodent targets, indicating their availability as a different, solid and more energy-dense food source. She will also bat dead rodents with her forepaws to move them in front of her litter in order to stimulate their instinctive interest in small moving targets (Stage 3 of the sequence). In ethological terms, their investigative instinctive interest in the new food sources can be viewed as improved behaviours that become conditioned to the new signals given by the mother. In this transitional stage, the young still approach the teats but only receive sporadic milk feeds and only for as long as an adequate daily intake of food must be assured for them by their mother. In times of short supply of prey, this process will be delayed and she will continue to allow them to suck until more solid food can be provided. (Breeding seasons have usually evolved to coincide with seasonal highs in prey availability). The greater rewards of more energy-dense food for the new bigger, better, faster responses to the signals of the mother's arrival at the nest ensure that the kittens' new approach behaviours are rapidly reinforced.

The development of these new behaviours thus represents a crucial stage of behavioural shaping at weaning, but the process is clearly not without risk. Having become firmly conditioned in a Pavlovian manner to expecting food for approaching the teat as a neonate and in the transitional stage of development, and then exposed to the frustration effects of non-reward engineered by the mother for the same approach behaviour at the onset of the socialisation stage, the young may now begin to anticipate the prospect of non-reward. They may avoid rather than approach their mother when she signals her arrival. At the same time, they retain a strong motivation to approach her as a result of previously reinforced success at gaining food and so they could be left in a state of approach/avoidance conflict as a direct result of having been rewarded and denied reward for the same behaviour. It is at this stage, defined as Stage 4, that the mother must relieve the state of conflict in her kittens by clarifying the signals of reward and non-reward, and so encourage them to persist with the new behaviours that lead to the rewards of more energy-dense food that their growing bodies demand. To achieve this, she must rapidly decrease the frequency of reward for approaching to feed at the teat and consistently offer signals of non-reward such as standing up, rolling over and walking away, in response to such approaches. At the same time she must ensure that

signals of the prospect of the provision of prey occur at sufficient frequency to become consistently associated with her arrival or demonstration of those signals.

The resolution of conflict at Stage 4 of the weaning process through clear signalling decreases the intensity of the approach/avoidance conflict of the kittens' view of their mother. The new desired approach behaviour is reinforced by the primary reward of internal emotional relief resulting from the prospect of new but predictable feeding rewards, and secondarily, by the feeling of success at the acquisition of those rewards. This is, therefore, a two reward learning process, such processes being particularly resistant to extinction and therefore facilitating the firm establishment of social and food acquisition skills as the young approach a more independent phase of life. The behaviour changes engineered by the mother during the process of nutritional weaning reinforce the responses of the growing kitten to its emerging innate motor patterns of behaviour of prey chasing, handling and killing that will ensure its survival as a self-catering solitary hunter.

Signals of non-reward in response to instinctive rooting and sucking behaviours are given by mothers of both cats and dogs at Stage 2 of the weaning process, but mothers of wild canids start to provide food by regurgitating semi-digested stomach contents. Thus they reinforce following and socially interactive, food-soliciting behaviour in their puppies, and so help them develop social communication skills. Queens on the other hand, direct their kittens towards dead or stunned prey that they drop nearby, usually accompanied by a specific call. The queen is clearly changing the signal of food availability by directing her kittens towards new solid food and away from her body, even though the other signals of her presence that used to announce the prospect of sucking are still in evidence. If the prey is still alive but the kittens show little or no interest in it, she may then kill the prey and represent it to them for eating, or then offer her teats for sucking to ensure that they continue to be fed. But with repeated offerings of prey, the kittens soon begin to show more interest, practise their instinctive prey chasing and handling behaviours and then quickly go on to consume their prey once it is dead. This occurs as the kittens learn to recognise the dead prey as a source of food. Ultimately, they do not have to communicate with their mother to gain this potential food source, and respond with other instinctive behaviours to the movement of stunned prey or in starting to ingest dead prey. The mother cat may encourage physical investigation of the stunned or dead prey by moving it with her paws, but the kitten's responses are nonetheless instinctive rather than coordinated learned behaviours and are not mediated through new forms of direct social contact with her.

Whether wild, feral or domestic, from the end of the weaning period at about 6-8 weeks of age, kittens are increasingly refining their independent prey detection and stalking behaviour through individual excursions away from their mother. They practise on moving inanimate objects such as wind-driven leaves and then on live, moving but

largely inedible insects and worms and, finally move on to pursuing rodents and birds. The reinforcement of their hunting behaviour occurs not through the rewards of satiation of appetite in consuming their prey but in successful capture of the moving targets that initiate their predatory behaviour sequences. Hence the mother has no role in reinforcing or ensuring the success of their hunting behaviour once her kittens start to practise away from the nest. It is a process fraught with risk, and most kittens born to feral or wildcat mothers do not survive to reproductive age, despite the precision of their evolution as hunters and development of predatory skills from a very early age. Most kittens born to pet cat mothers in our homes however, are destined to live a nutritionally subsidised and protected life and will not have to hunt to survive. Hence the majority do indeed survive into adulthood and become pets themselves, even if in the western world the price is to be sterilised for ease of management for their owners and to help prevent what would otherwise be a massive population explosion under such nurtured conditions!

*This article is a revised version of scientific papers by the author to focus on kitten development and has been produced especially for the society free of charge. Input is also taken from course notes from the renowned National Award Level Diploma offered by COAPE in '**Practical and Theoretical Aspects of Companion Animal behaviour and Training**'. Details of this and COAPE's many other courses in both feline and canine behaviour and behaviour therapy, such as **Think Cat (1 and 2)** and **You and Your Cat** can be found at www.coape.org/courses.html*

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Mayfushang

Siamese & Orientals

Wish all club members a successful Year for 2012



Premier Mayfushang Okipa (45b)

**Mayfushang Nootka (32 8)
Mayfushang Chukchi (38k)
Amenra Zarafa (43s)**

Not forgetting
Astramist Firepearl (Sophie)

**Arthur Pickering & John Bunce
01273 589827**

email: johnw.bunce@btinternet.com

A day in the life of the OCA Show

Photographs courtesy of Liz Fremont – Lunatora Orientals and Bicolours

Each year the OCA organises a Championship Show for the club breeds. This is a small, friendly show and in 2011 was once again held back-to-back with the Siamese Cat Association (SCA) Show at the Stantonbury Campus Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes (Household Pets can enter both shows).



The venue is bright and airy



With a comfortable amount of space between the rows



And the lighting is good for eye colour



New breeds are made to feel very welcome



And have also been known to do quite well



There are a selection of stalls for you to stock up on all those essentials (or to catch-up with friends)



Refreshments are available



And the OCA table is manned all day
if there is anything you need or would like to discuss



You may even get a cuddle ☺



Or make a new friend ☺



The Best of Variety A/K/N male and female winners get a trip across the table
before taking up their positions on winners row



And a prize for overall Best Exhibit is awarded to either
Best Adult, Best Kitten or Best Neuter
(congratulations to the 2011 winner ImpGrPr Mylynn Magnifique)

***Members may like to make a diary note of:
Saturday 16th June 2012 for this year's OCA Show,
which will again be back-to-back with the SCA Show
at the Stantonbury Campus Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes***

**SARNAU SIAMESE
&
ORIENTALS**

Home of:

The Boys:

Gr Ch Mafdet Blue Moon 24n

Gr Ch Jomese Just-Delicious 24b

Ch Laziza Teppanyaki 32fn

The Girls:

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Flank vs. Midline Approach to Neutering Female Cats

Cathy Baxter – Kyashii Orientals

This decision is a typical dilemma faced by those wishing to exhibit female neuters. Naturally owners want what is in the best interest of the welfare of their cat, but the potential for changes to fur colour and/or the development of white hairs at the site of the surgery are also important considerations for the owners of show neuters that may need to be taken into account. However, while a flank spay is by far the most frequently undertaken female neutering procedure in the UK (up to 96% of all cat spays performed in the UK), in most other parts of the world cat spays are traditionally undertaken through a midline approach.

Historically, a flank spay has been preferred to ensure better (and more rapid) wound healing and thus a reduced risk of wound breakdown and complications such as infection and hernias at the incision site. However, the advent of modern suture materials would now appear to negate that perceived risk. In addition to this, from published data, a flank approach may give a slightly shorter total surgical time and therefore anaesthetic risk, but the difference is not great and averages out (in experienced hands) at approximately 1.5 minutes.

With better access to the abdomen, the midline approach may actually be associated with fewer complications, e.g. inadvertent tying and/or cutting of a ureter (the tube conveying urine from the kidney to the bladder). Ovarian remnant syndrome, where a fragment of ovarian tissue remains after the spay procedure and continues to produce hormones causing a cat to call and/or develop mammary hyperplasia, is a relatively uncommon complication following cat spays. However, there is no data on whether there may be a greater risk of this with flank spays, i.e. whether flank spays have an increased risk of leaving some residual ovarian tissue.

A midline spay can be useful for cats that are in season and may have a uterus that is more prone to bleeding and for pregnant cats or cats being spayed to treat a pyometra. When dealing with a cat that is difficult to handle, a flank spay may permit somewhat easier postoperative monitoring of the surgical site when checking for potential complications.

Although studies are limited, current evidence clearly indicates that a midline spay may be associated with less postoperative pain than a flank spay and this may be an important consideration. This could be as a result of fewer pain receptors in the midline body wall and skin and/or movement of the flank muscles at the incision site causing pain. While the choice of technique itself (flank vs. midline) may influence the degree of postoperative pain, the skill of the veterinary surgeon is likely to be an even more important factor. However, further research is needed, particularly into the issue of postoperative pain because if

further studies consistently show reduced pain associated with the midline procedure, this may affect UK recommendations in the future.

Regardless of the approach (flank vs. midline), subjectively young cats appear to suffer less pain when spayed compared with older cats, and appear to return to normal behaviour more rapidly. Specific studies evaluating this are lacking at present, but this would be a valuable area of future research as perhaps pain perception is different in young animals. Nevertheless, good pain relief is still required for a cat spay, whatever the age of the cat. For most routine neutering a single injection of pain killers during the procedure would provide sufficient pain relief, but each case should be assessed and treated individually.

From a behavioural aspect, when neutering young kittens (early neutering), there is value in allowing the kittens from a litter to share the same cage and to recover together in the same cage.

Conclusion

Despite neutering being one of the most common veterinary procedures, questions still remain about what constitutes best practice. Although there is some evidence that a midline spay may be less painful than a flank spay the success of the procedure is likely to be highly dependent on the skill and experience of the veterinary surgeon, who in the UK will almost inevitably be more experienced in undertaking flank spays than using a midline approach.



A midline spay



A flank spay

JoyJewel Orientals

Ticked, Classic and Spotted Tabbies

Wish all club members a successful Year for 2012

HOME OF:-

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Ch. JoyJewel Scarlett Arwen - 45n (Stella)

JoyJewel Phoebe Tan – 45b (Chakka)

Gr. Pr. JoyJewel Diamond Cut - 45b (Koolio)

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With her 2011 litter



Raena's granddaughter Rocheros Fenella. I'm very excited to have this little lady as she will carry on Raena's line.



June Clarey
01225 426854
June.clarey@btinternet.com
www.fabiola-cats.co.uk

High Blood Pressure (Hypertension) in Cats

Article inspired by Jane North

Inclusion of this article in the yearbook was inspired by **Jane North**, one of the founder members of the OCA, who sadly lost her cat Freddie (ImpGrPr Mojique Nabu) to hypertension last year. High blood pressure is no more common in Orientals and Siamese than in other breeds, but as in all breeds, it can develop silently and may present with serious complications such as bleeding and blindness. Although it usually occurs in older cats, and is usually associated with another illness, e.g. kidney disease or overactive thyroid, younger cats may also be affected as was the case with Freddie.

Jane hopes that by highlighting information about this condition, owners may become more aware of the symptoms and the need for regular blood pressure checks in cats over 7 years old in order to try and detect hypertension early.

Article reproduced with permission from the Feline Advisory Bureau.

Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure, which is a common problem in people. It is recognised as a common condition in older cats.

Feline hypertension is commonly found as a complication of other underlying medical conditions (so-called 'secondary hypertension'), although primary hypertension (hypertension without any underlying disease) may also be seen in cats. In contrast to people, where primary hypertension (also called essential hypertension) is most common, secondary hypertension is more common in cats. The most common causes of secondary hypertension in cats are chronic kidney failure and hyperthyroidism (an overactive thyroid gland). Diabetic cats and obese cats may be at a higher risk of hypertension although this has not been proven. Another cause that is being more frequently recognised is hyperaldosteronism (a tumour of the adrenal gland).

Effects of hypertension

Hypertension is damaging to the body. The effects are most serious in certain vulnerable organs:

Eyes

Bleeding into the eyes and retinal changes such as swelling and detachment can occur and this may result in damage to the cat's vision which is often permanent. In some cases,

bleeding into the front chamber of the eye can be seen without the use of special veterinary equipment (see picture below).



Eye showing bleeding into the anterior chamber
(in front of the lens) caused by hypertension

Brain and nervous system

Bleeding in this area of the body can cause neurological signs such as odd behaviour, a wobbly or drunken gait, seizures, dementia and coma.

Heart

Over time, the muscle of one of the heart chambers (the left ventricle) becomes thickened, as the heart has to work harder to pump the blood when there is high blood pressure. In very severe cases, this can lead to the development of congestive heart failure. Affected cats may show signs of breathlessness and lethargy.

Kidneys

Over time, high blood pressure damages the kidneys and may increase the risk of kidney failure developing. In cats with existing renal failure, the hypertension is likely to make the renal failure significantly worse over time.

Clinical findings

As hypertension is often seen as an effect of other diseases, cats with hypertension may be showing signs attributable to their underlying problem. For example, in the case of hyperthyroid cats with high blood pressure, weight loss (in spite of a voracious appetite) and

hyperactivity may be the major clinical signs. In many patients, no specific clinical signs of hypertension will be seen until the condition advances to the point where there is spontaneous bleeding into the eye or retinal detachment - these cats are often taken to a veterinary surgeon as they develop sudden onset blindness. Early recognition of hypertension is therefore important in order to minimise the severe and often permanently damaging effects of persistently high blood pressure on the eyes and other organs. Some cats with hypertension do appear depressed, lethargic and withdrawn, and many owners notice an improvement in their cats' behaviour once hypertension has been successfully managed even if signs of damage to other organs are not present.

Diagnosis



Cat having its blood pressure measured

In order to try and detect hypertension early, regular blood pressure checks in cats from 7 years old are recommended. Hypertension should be suspected as a possibility in any cat with chronic renal failure, hyperthyroidism or heart disease. Hypertension is a cause of sudden-onset blindness or other ocular signs. Older cats are more likely to develop hypertension and there is good rationale therefore for including blood pressure assessment in the routine clinical examination of these cats.

Diagnosis of hypertension is ideally made following measurement of blood pressure. Various techniques and equipment are available and many veterinary clinics now have these facilities. The equipment used is often similar to that used routinely in people, with an inflatable cuff placed around one of the front legs or the tail. Measuring blood pressure only takes a few minutes, is completely pain-free and is extremely well tolerated by most cats.

A detailed eye examination is also essential since ocular disease is common in hypertensive cats. In mildly affected cats, subtle changes to the appearance of the blood vessels at the back of the eye (retina) and to the retina itself may be seen. In more severely affected cats, the changes can be dramatic and include retinal detachment and bleeding into the eye. Abnormalities are usually detected in both eyes although they may be more severe in one. In the absence of blood pressure measurement devices, a thorough ocular (eye) examination may enable a diagnosis of hypertension to be made and can be used to monitor progress once treatment has been started. However, proper blood pressure measurements are much preferred both for the diagnosis and monitoring of response to therapy.

Management of hypertensive cats

In any diagnosed hypertensive, management has two broad aims:

- To reduce the blood pressure using anti-hypertensive drugs. A number of agents are available for treatment of hypertension although many of these are not specifically licensed for this use in cats. Examples of drugs commonly used are amlodipine (Istin; Pfizer) and the veterinary licensed agent benazepril (Fortekor; Novartis).
- To search for an underlying disease, such as kidney disease, which has caused the hypertension. In some cases, for example hyperthyroidism, treatment of the underlying disease may also resolve the high blood pressure.

It is also important to assess what complications of hypertension are present in any patient (such as ocular disease) so that these can be appropriately monitored following therapy. There is a great degree of individual variation in response to anti-hypertensive therapy and in some cats it can take some time to stabilise the blood pressure. This may involve trying several drugs and /or using more than one drug simultaneously. Response to therapy should ideally be monitored closely by measuring blood pressure and monitoring ocular abnormalities.

In patients with kidney failure, it is important to monitor renal function when using anti-hypertensive drugs. Hypertension can cause damage to the kidneys, which may worsen the kidney disease. Use of anti-hypertensive agents may therefore be of potential value in slowing the progression of renal disease, although this has not yet been proved. Amlodipine and, more recently, benazepril are agents which have been used with success in renal failure patients without causing adverse effects.

Feeding a low salt diet may also be of value although it is unlikely to be sufficient as a sole treatment of hypertension. Feeding of cat treats should be discouraged since most of these are quite high in salt. Most hypertensive cats can be fed a normal commercial cat food. Prescription diets may be recommended in some cases, such as cats with chronic renal failure, where a protein and phosphate restricted diet is often helpful.

Prognosis

In primary hypertensive cases (where there is no underlying disease that has caused the high blood pressure) it is usually possible to manage the hypertension and prevent future complications such as damage to the eyes. In cases of secondary hypertension, the long-term outlook is very dependent on the nature and severity of the disease that has caused the high blood pressure. Cats with chronic renal failure that have developed hypertension have a worse prognosis than those where the cause of the high blood pressure is treatable, such as hyperthyroidism. It is important in all cases that the hypertension is monitored as accurately as possible on a regular basis in order to pre-empt any problems such as blindness. In cats where blindness has occurred as an effect of their hypertension, control of the blood pressure can still be beneficial and affected cats may live for several years with a good quality of life.

Updated November 2008

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PATCHESTY

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Right - Paige with all 7 of her kittens snuggling up to nanny Kinder and great great nanny Suki.

Left - Patchesty Patience (Paige) with her 1st litter in 2011 with doting nanny Patchesty Kinder Surprise.



Left - My newest baby Patchesty Serendipity.

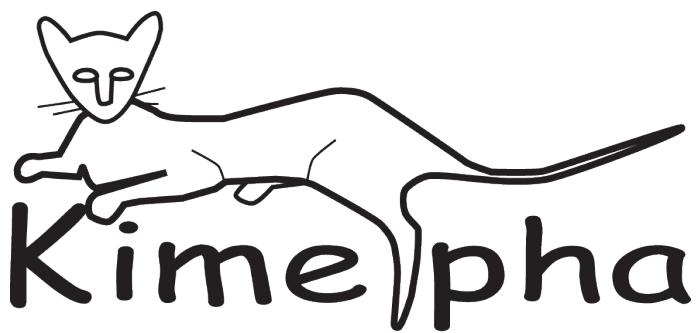
Below - Patchesty Pumpkin with her fab four babies.



Left -
And not
forgetting
my
beautiful
Princess
MC
Speedy.



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Feline Calicivirus Vaccination and “Limping Syndrome” in Kittens

Sue McParlin – Starappeal Oriental Longhairs

I bred my first litter of Oriental Longhairs in 2008. Five boys they were a joy from day one. All of them weighed over 100g at birth. They were healthy and happy always, they weaned and litter trained with no problems, they were a dream, then came the time for their first vaccination.

At 9 weeks old I took them to my Vet. All of the kittens were given a first injection a live attenuated, freeze-dried vaccine containing the 3 core viruses - feline panleucopaenia virus, feline herpesvirus, and feline calicivirus (FCV). Three days after initial vaccination I noticed 3 of the kittens had intermittent lameness. I spoke to my Vet who advised it was a condition called Limping Syndrome often seen in kittens after first vaccination, he advised that the FCV component was known to affect the limb joints but it would pass. On the fourth day after vaccination the kittens refused to eat and they were taken to the Vet, their temperature was 104 and I had noticed that the joints in their fore limbs were beginning to swell. After consultation with the vaccine manufacturer my vet was advised not to give the kittens any anti-inflammatory as this would compromise the vaccination and that this ‘side effect’ would pass. On the fifth day my kittens were extremely poorly, I insisted the Vet give them something to bring down their temperatures I did not care about the vaccine status I just wanted my boys to be well. My Vet again contacted the manufacturer who again reassured him that this was ‘normal’ reaction.

I photographed the kitten’s limbs and e-mailed to the manufacturer, their Chief Veterinary Officer was at my own Vet Practice two hours later. He advised he had never seen such a bad reaction; the kittens were admitted to hospital and started on intensive steroid and antibiotic treatment, unfortunately it was too late for one of the boys and he died, due to pneumonia caused by the FCV.



Vaccine reaction in 9 week kitten



Vaccine reactions in 9 week kittens

The other two boys did respond slowly, but due to the huge swellings they developed abscesses on their limbs, one of the boys lost some bones in his foot as they literally “fell out” of the open wounds. I spent many weeks nursing them back to full health, changing dressings several times daily.



Foot abscess



Foot recovering

Both boys have grown into wonderful handsome cats, and Theo who lost his toe bones lives with me and suffers no problems. BoBo lives with a friend and enjoys Cat Shows where he has done very well.



Theo relaxing at home



BoBo enjoying his day out at a Show

I hate vaccination times for my kittens; I tell myself that “lightning surely does not strike twice”. The vaccination that was intended to protect did in fact make them seriously ill. I still vaccinate, but I try to avoid live vaccines if possible thus reducing the possibility of any “wild” virus causing problems.

Below is an excerpt from FAB website:

"A curious feature of the association between FCV infection and the limping syndrome' is that the lameness is most frequently observed in kittens, and often following their first vaccination (which is typically a combination vaccine for feline calicivirus, herpesvirus and parvovirus). Workers at the University of Liverpool investigated the association between the syndrome and FCV vaccination in detail (Dawson and others 1993). They found that of 123 vaccine reactions reported to them, 80 per cent involved lameness (either alone or in combination with other signs such as pyrexia, oral ulceration or respiratory signs. Furthermore, of the cats developing lameness after vaccination, 96 per cent occurred in cats less than six months of age, and 88 per cent occurred after the first vaccination. All of the cats investigated had received one of five different commercial vaccines, and it emerged that one of these vaccines was responsible for over 60 per cent of the transient lameness cases reported (this vaccine has since been changed by the manufacturer). Signs of lameness were reported to develop typically six to seven days after vaccination in these cats. FCV was isolated from oropharangeal swabs of 71 per cent of cats that developed post-vaccination lameness. Investigation of the strains of virus isolated suggested that in many cases there was infection with 'wild' virus (i.e. natural infection with FCV not associated with vaccination), but in some cases the virus isolated was very closely related, or identical to the vaccine virus. In the same study, these investigators also evaluated 19 cats that developed transient lameness not associated with vaccination. FCV was isolated from 89 per cent of these cats, 63 per cent were less than six months of age, and 79 per cent had accompanying clinical signs (pyrexia, oral ulceration)."

Further information on Limping Syndrome and feline calicivirus can be found at

http://www.fabcats.org/owners/cat_flu/limping_syndrome.html

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send congratulations to



GrPr Kristophe Littlewillow (29c) MN
for BOV Oriental Neuter at
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**HARTRIDGE BALINESE
AND ORIENTAL LONGHAIRS**



***IMPERIAL PREMIER
APRIKAT SWEETCHARITY***

*Oriental and Balinese kittens sometimes available
Also variants of both types.*

HOME OF OUR NEW CHAMPION LORICHA ORGANZA

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Kirkstall, 25 Graig Road, Newbridge, Gwent NP11 5FS

The Bristol Cats Study

Cathy Baxter – Kyashii Orientals



Bristol Cats

What's it all about?

The 'Bristol Cats' study is a *first of its kind* study conducted by the University of Bristol, investigating the health, welfare and behaviour of kittens and cats living in the UK. The study is taking place to help find the causes of common behaviour problems and diseases of cats, e.g. obesity and hyperthyroidism, as the causes of these conditions are poorly understood. Recruitment for the study has been excellent so far, but more participants are still needed and information from pedigree breeds such as Orientals would be particularly welcome by the team of investigators.

How is information collected?

Information is collected via four questionnaires when kittens are aged 8-16 weeks, 6 months, 12 months and 18 months of age. The data will be analysed to see what extent certain characteristics, e.g. obesity are associated with management such as diet, lifestyle and other factors such as breed.

What are the benefits?

The researchers aim to provide guidance to vets, owners and the cat community at large, to improve the health and welfare of cats. In order to do this, they need the help of kitten owners to enrol more kittens (approx 900 are needed to ensure robust statistical results).

Study progress to date...

Between March and September 2011, 588 kittens registered on the study – a fantastic response, but enrolment is not yet complete. Not surprisingly, the most commonly registered cat breed was found to be the 'moggy'/mixed breed/domestic short hair.

Eligibility Criteria:

In order to enroll a kitten in the study, participants must be aged 18 years or above, live in the UK and own a kitten aged between 8 and 16 weeks (inclusive).

What it involves:

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire when your cat is aged approximately:

- 8-16 weeks
- 6-7 months
- 12-13 months
- 18-19 months

If you give your permission, you will also be asked to provide your veterinary practice's details, so that additional information on your kitten can be collected from veterinary

practice records (e.g. details of any vaccinations received). You might also be asked to send in samples from your cat (e.g. hair that can be collected when grooming).

If, for example, you are happy to complete questionnaires but do not want to provide any samples and/or provide details of your cat's veterinary practice, that is fine and your preferences can be stated at the end of the first questionnaire. Participation in this study is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time.

How to get involved:

You can help by spreading the word to kitten owners, cat breeders or anyone with a kitten. If you do wish to get involved, please contact the 'Bristol Cat' study team at the University of Bristol, using the contact details below. Alternatively, if you have a kitten between 8-16 weeks of age, please go to the study website and complete a questionnaire. The researchers are also keen to hear from owners of more than one kitten. Full details about the study can be found at www.vetschool.bris.ac.uk/cats, together with a link to the first questionnaire. Please also contact the team if you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the questionnaire in the post rather than submit questionnaires online.

Contact Details:

Bristol Cats, Dr Jane Murray
FREEPOST RSHR-AGRJ-UABZ
University of Bristol
Langford House
Langford
BRISTOL BS40 5DU

Tel: 07827 981412

Email: cat-study@bristol.ac.uk

Interesting findings so far...

- The two most popular kitten names are currently Bella and Oscar
- 23% of the kittens are tabbies, 20% are black, 17% are tortoiseshell, 17% are black and white
- 52% of the kittens are male and 48% are female
- 70% of the kittens are domestic shorthairs and 12% domestic longhairs
- 46% of kitten owners got their kittens from friends, neighbours or non-pedigree breeders and 20% from rescue centres and charities
- 92% of kittens are from litters of three or more

PIPPASTRO

Oriental Longhair, Balinese and Siamese Cats

welcomes

Sehnsational Hershey
(at limited stud)



**Based in the beautiful Welsh Hills and breeding kittens
for type, health and temperament.**

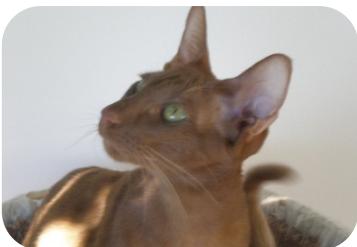
www.pippastro.co.uk



Bardsong Oriental Cats

Based in East Kent and concentrating mainly on the cinnamon series.

We currently have 4 breeding queens



Bardsong
Amber Rose



Fearhail's
Claudia



Bardsong La
Principessa



Raya Van
Scalindjo

Our girls have a maximum of one litter each a year and our babies are born in our bedroom and when they reach 3 weeks of age they migrate to our lounge, where they live until they leave us at between 13 & 14 weeks of age. We pride ourselves on producing well socialised and affectionate little hooligans.



This is a photo of some previous babies from Claudia. They are solid cinnamon and cinnamon spotted tabby Orientals.

Although we concentrate on the cinnamon colour we do also breed other colours and the occasional Siamese.

For more information about our cats, kittens and breeding plans please have a look on our website at:

<http://www.bardsongorientals.com>

Or contact us by email at bardsong4@aol.com or by telephone on 01843832784

What is a modern pet cat? A 13 point brief!

By Peter Neville

- a) A top of the food chain predator, evolved over 13 million years.
- b) A mammal, therefore raised initially on milk from the mother. Crucially this is the only time when the cat is totally physically and emotionally dependent on living with a member of its own species.
- c) Extremely athletic adult body design, highly specialized to catch, consume and digest meat prey.
- d) Senses extraordinarily well developed: supersensory in detectable range of hearing and smell compared with humans, eyes compromised to predominantly monochromatic vision but function at very low light levels (reflective tapetum layer makes the eyes reflect light back through retina for a 2nd absorption of the image and give that bright appearance at night). Sense of taste predominantly responsive to fat and protein in food.
- e) Designed to detect, catch and kill chiefly rodents as primary food source.
- f) Also capable of adapting to feed partially or fully on birds, reptiles, amphibians and even 'top up' with insects, and also scavenge on fresh carcasses.
- g) Only very recently found living with man, about 4,000 years (c/w 10-14,000 years for dogs and cattle).
- h) One of only two predator species to be 'domesticated' (3 if you count ferrets), and this always begs the question 'why' when the cat was so highly specialized and evolved as a solitary hunter of small rodents, and only found living in persistent, inter-dependent social groups when mothers produce kittens.
- i) Cat therefore originally designed to be self-employed, surviving on 300 calories day (10 mice at 30 calories each) and not hunt 'corporately' or co-operatively like wolves and many other wild canines, who pursue much bigger prey than mice which then gets shared out among the group. [Dogs are evolved to be primarily scavengers in the human village, with a bit of hunting, rather than carnivorous omnivores like wolves.]
- j) Cats have moved into the human home via the farms of ancient Egypt, then into the bordering villages and towns where they switched to a more scavenging and subsidized lifestyle of human derived (fed/scavenged) food, less based on hunting. Kittens in the towns that are handled when young maintain a view of their humans as mother substitutes and food providers past the age of weaning and through their entire adult life.
- k) Hence cats view all human family members as 'mother's', and when cuddled, regress to kitten behaviours of purring, treading and dribbling in conditioned anticipation of a milk feed.
- l) Cats therefore learn to interpret their owner's behaviour and the associations that precede the possibility of likelihood of being fed or (i.e. cats are present, attentive and affectionate when owner approaches fridge... or cupboard and opens door where cat – or even sometimes human food is kept).
- m) Selective advantage with cats and life quality advantages for those pet cats who can learn to interpret, predict and manipulate human behaviour to get food, or favourite foods... human foods (roast dinners) or milk/dairy products such as butter, cream, cheese and ice cream!

Inazuma Orientals

send good wishes to everyone in the OCA but particularly to the
Oriental Caramels from
Inazuma Mysteryos Stranger and Inazuma Nightcrawler.



Also in memory of Champion Onapromise Pyanfar and her daughter Inazuma Xolocolat, our beautiful queens, both recently lost to cancer.





Bookends Diamond Geezer 24b

At stud siring beautiful strong kittens with lovely dispositions, Litters produced in his first year have had lovely havanas and chocolate points.



Oriental Shorthair and Pure Siamese kittens sometimes available

Val Walter
Yew Tree Cottage
Compass Lane, Ashburnham
East Sussex. TN33 9NG
01424 892618
bookends@btopenworld.com
www.bookendscats.com

WHIZKITZ ORIENTAL AND SIAMESE

*01271 372961
whizkitz@yahoo.co.uk*

*Breeding for health and temperament since 1985 we
occasionally have kittens available to pet homes.*

All our kittens are well-socialised, outgoing individuals.

*For further details please visit
www.whizkitzsiameseandorientals.co.uk*

*Kittens expected in February 2012 from
KIMELPHA TINGCOMBECAT our outstandingly beautiful
Chocolate Silver Classic Tabby.*

The Benefits of OCA Membership

Cathy Baxter – OCA Committee Member

Like all of the OCA Committee, I sometimes help to man the club table at shows – I’m sure that some of you will have seen various committee members on the OCA table from time to time. This is a great opportunity to meet and talk to members of the club (and potential new members) and receive your feedback. However, the main purpose of the table is of course to raise funds for the Oriental Cat Welfare Trust (OCWT) the newly formed charity that provides the much needed welfare, rescue and re-homing work that the OCA are associated with – and a big thank you to all those who have donated items for sale on the table.

As well as selling items to raise funds, whilst on the table we also take the opportunity to accept applications for membership from potential new members and collect annual subscriptions for renewal of membership from our existing members. As you all know, the annual membership fees are currently £7.50 for single membership and £10.00 for joint membership. However, we are sometimes asked by both new and existing members what the fees are used for and what the benefits of membership are. So I thought I would take this opportunity to outline the key benefits of OCA membership so that everyone can ensure that they are aware and therefore able to take full advantage of all the benefits of belonging to the club. The main benefits of membership are:

- Access to the members area of the OCA website, including use of the kitten list (other resources available to all via the homepage)
- Access to the OCA facebook page for discussion/chat and pictures
- Quarterly Newsletter from the club secretary
- Ability to vote on club matters and discuss relevant issues at the club’s Annual General Meeting, which is usually held in April
- Annual Yearbook provided free to all members (available for sale to non-members)
- Annual OCA Cat Show, where club trophies are awarded to members’ eligible winning cats – the OCA show is also famous for its beautiful rosettes
- Ability to enter OCA Club Classes at various other shows
- Beautiful OCA pennant awarded to all class winners at the Supreme Cat Show
- Ability to place adverts in OCA publications, e.g. yearbook and show catalogues
- 20% discount on genetic testing at Langford laboratory – use the promotional code TOCA when submitting samples and paying for tests

http://www.langfordvets.co.uk/laboratory_owners.htm

So next time you were wondering what are the benefits of belonging to the OCA and whether you wish to renew your membership, please remember that the benefits are multiple and without its members the OCA would simply not exist. If you know anyone who

may be interested in joining the OCA, a membership form can be found on page 63 of the yearbook or, for those of you reading the pdf version, from [membership application form](#).

*Members may like to make a diary note of:
Saturday 16th June 2012 for this year's OCA Show,
which will again be back-to-back with the SCA Show
at the Stantonbury Campus Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes*



ORIENTAL CAT ASSOCIATION



Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Children's Names and D.O.B. for family membership

Prefix (if any) and date registered

E-mail Address

Address and Postal Code

Telephone Number

Name and variety of Oriental cats kept (inc. studs):

"I undertake to sell only kittens which are fit and at least 13 weeks of age. They will be fully inoculated against feline enteritis at least one week before going to their new home, and if inoculated against 'cat flu' kittens will receive the complete course before I will allow them to leave home, or alternatively I will inform the new owner in writing that the course will need completing"

Signature of Applicant

Date

Name of Sponsor

(must be a paid up member of the O. C. A. or the applicant's Vet)

Signature of Sponsor

(Should have knowledge of the applicant and of his/her household. Sponsorship indicates approval of the manner in which the applicant houses and cares for his/her cats)

This form, when completed, should be returned with the first annual subscription to:

John Bunce
28 Piddinhoe Ave
Peacehaven
E Sussex
BN10 8RJ

Subscription Rates

SINGLE	£7.50
JOINT	£10.00
FAMILY	£1.00 (per child under 16)
Please note annual renewal	is £7.50 & £10.00 respectively

Sponsor/donation for	Amount given
Welfare safe houses	£
Cheques made payable to OCA and sent to John Bunce	
or pay using Paypal at www.orientalcatassociation.org	

Information leaflets available from our website www.orientalcatassociation.org

Reds, Torties & Tabbies

Why the O C A?

Introducing the Orientals

The Oriental Cinnamon

The Silver Series Cats

Please note – Member's details will be kept on computer record for use by the club officers in the general running of the club including stud and kitten enquiries. These details will not be released to any third party except the GCCF, and only where the club is required to do so by the rules and regulations of the GCCF.



giftaid it

**GIFT AID
DECLARATION FORM**



Are you a UK taxpayer?

If so, you can use Gift Aid to make your donations go further by completing this declaration. If you Gift Aid your donation, the charity can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give.

Complete the form below and send it to **The Treasurer, Oriental Cat Welfare Trust, 24 Martin Hardie Way, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 4AE**. Please make cheques payable to **OCWT**.

Amount

£

Date

Tick all that apply.

- I would like to Gift Aid this donation
- I would like to Gift Aid all future donations until further notice
- I would like to Gift Aid all previous donations for the charity's current financial period and the previous four (if applicable)

Full Name:

Postal Address:

.....

Postcode: Email:

To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year*. Tax year is 6 April one year to 5 April the next.

Notes:

- You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the Treasurer at the above address.
- If your circumstances change and you no longer pay enough income or capital gains tax to cover the amount claimed by the charity, please notify the Treasurer at the above address.
- If you change your name or address, please notify the Treasurer at the above address.
- If you pay tax at the higher/additional rate, you can claim further tax relief via your Self Assessment tax return (currently 25p for each pound you give).**

* Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax. Basic rate tax is currently 20%, which allows charities to reclaim 25 pence on the pound.

** Higher/additional rate taxpayers can claim back the difference between basic rate and higher/additional rate tax.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE AT

THE OCA WEBSITE

www.orientalcatassociation.org



OCA YEARBOOK 2013

Each year the OCA produces a YEARBOOK for its members. Would you like to suggest or contribute an original article for the next OCA YEARBOOK?

Articles of interest may typically include:

- Health and Nutrition
- Cat Behaviour and Ownership
- Aspects of Breeding
- Showing and Exhibiting
- Any Other Topic

Please send all articles or suggestions to Cathy Baxter at:
cbaxter@email.com

Copies of the OCA YEARBOOK are sent free to all members or are available for purchase from the OCA. If you would like to join the OCA (or you know someone who might) please visit www.orientalcatassociation.org to download a membership application form.





www.orientalcatassociation.org