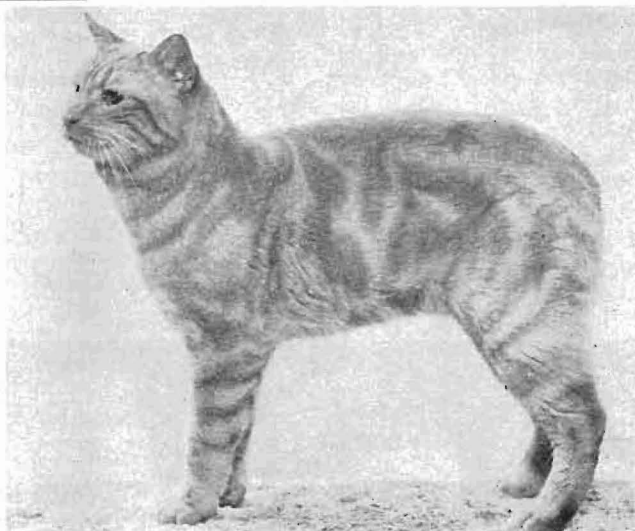




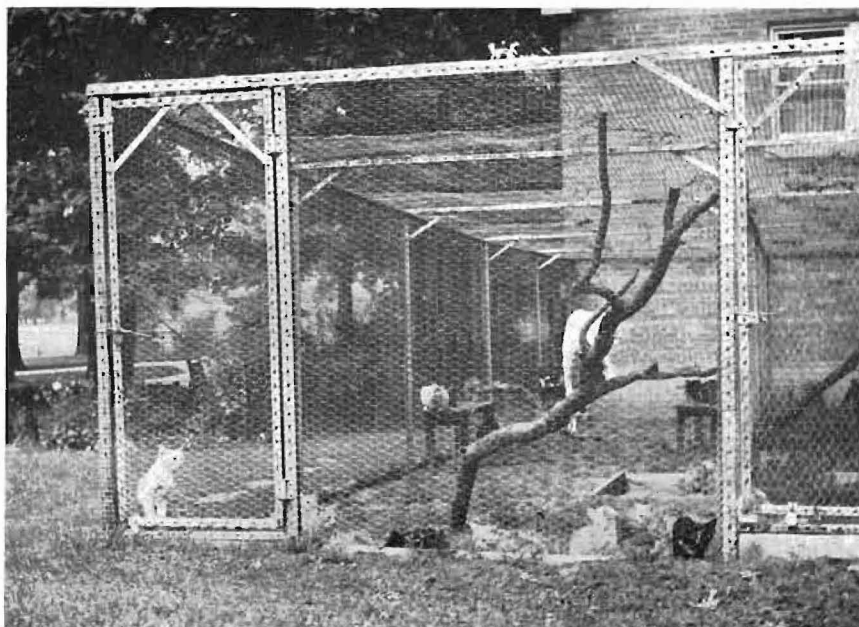
breeding Manx

a challenge, but a just reward....
by Ruth & Ellen Carlson

Some years ago in Chicago at a special Fur, Fin & Feather Exhibition sponsored by O. C. Lightner, Publisher of All-Pets Magazine at the time, a certain passing spectator paused long and thoughtfully before the display cage of the imported international champion red tabby Manx cat, Ginger of Manx of Glen Orry, whom we had imported and who was attracting considerable attention generally. The visitor returned later to again appraise this superior representative of the rare and unique tailless breed of cat whom it was our good fortune and our privilege to own. Not that the gentleman had any special interest in Manx cats, we learned when we talked with him, but because, as a geneticist and a member of a family with a long background of scientific leadership and experience with pure-bred cattle, horses and dogs, he had been drawn to Ginger.



Photographs above show two Manx cats. Note the complete absence of a tail in the photograph on the right. Picture below shows an outdoor run which provides ample exercise room.



Said he, "That cat froze when I saw him. In my years of contact with animals and of attending livestock, horse and dog shows, I have set aside in my mind five perfect animals. When I saw this cat, I was forced to add a sixth to my collection."

Ginger became the focal point of our breeding program in our pioneer Manx cattery, and is still the prototype of our cattery stock. At Glen Orry we had already been developing a Manx strain built upon brother-sister matings, followed by son to dam and daughter to sire breedings and achieving encouraging success. This strain was crossed with Ginger and we sought to fix or stabilize his qualities for posterity by following a program of intensive and consistent in-breeding with Ginger as sire, grandsire, great-grandsire, great-great-grandsire and on. The most purely inbred progeny was a lovely red tabby female Manx who was 15/16ths Ginger.

It is not our intention here to trace in detail our breeding program over the years, but rather to make some generalizations drawn from

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our experience. Breeding Manx cats is, beyond a doubt, a most challenging activity, for there are several obstacles that claim one's best judgment and patience. Good results are excitingly rewarding when one considers just the physical features of type and taillessness, coat and conformation; and when the fascinating Manx personality traits of companionability, intelligence and affection are also taken into account, the results become sensational.

A Manx breeder must not be easily discouraged. Disappointments are to be expected, as we have learned through heart-rending experiences. 100 percent tailless litters do not always occur. At times, problems of defects turn up in newborn kittens, mainly, deformed or twisted hind legs or feet, a blister-like opening at the spine-ending, often accompanying the hind-leg deformity; or just an unexplained lethal congenital condition which causes kittens to be still-born, or sturdy looking newborn kittens to droop in a few days, cease to nurse, and die. The blister-blemished kitten is usually a most perfectly tailless one. Sometimes the blister is the only problem, in which case the blister can heal completely, if given medicated treatment and the mother not allowed to wash the area with her rough tongue.

Tabulations and tallies drawn from our carefully kept and detailed records of the extensive breeding program at Glen Orry Cattery over the past twenty-six years, yield the following information pertinent to breeding the Manx cat:

1. Average size of litters has been between two and three kittens, the litters varying in size from one to six kittens.
2. 30 percent of all litters were 100 percent tailless. About 2/3 of these litters were single-kitten births.
3. 51 percent of all kittens were tailless.
4. 36 percent of all kittens were long-tailed.
5. 13 percent of all kittens were stumpsies, (those with 1/2 inch to one inch of tail).
6. 17 percent of all kittens (in items nos. 3, 4, and 5 above) were a loss due to the various defects recorded above in the preceding paragraph.

In order to fairly interpret the foregoing statistics, it should be clearly understood that they relate to matings within nine different

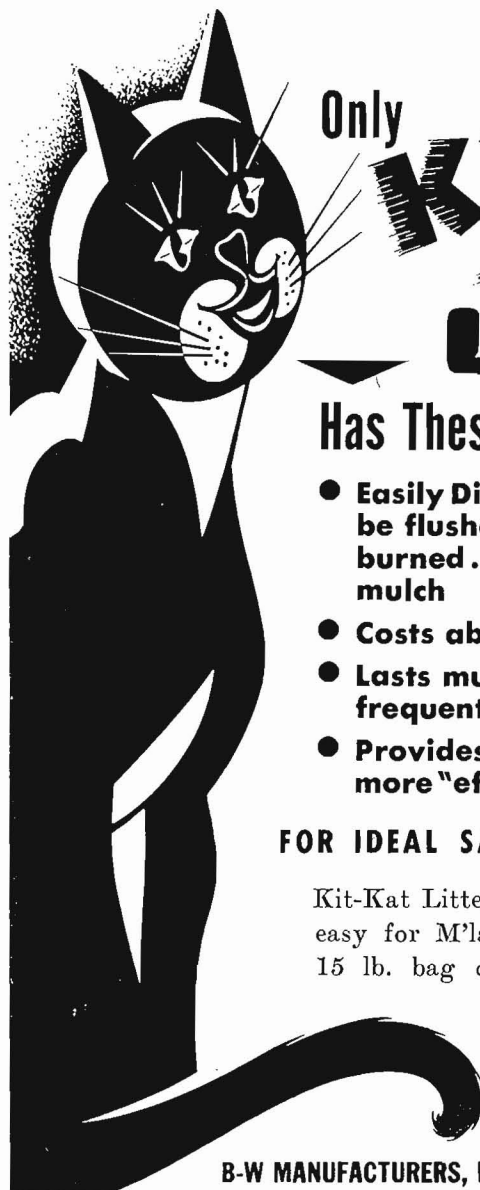
(Please see MANX, page 75.)

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page 73 . . .

Manx

Manx bloodlines, introduced from time to time and with results varying according to individuals and also families of Manx, some of which, as results proved, had to be eliminated. However, the records of all of these are included in our percentages. Usually the early generations of an outcross have been damaging to the better percentages from the best results of the close in-breeding within the Ginger strain. We might say we lost some ground for a while with each outcross in order to gain some advantages.

Manx kittens, that is the ones not afflicted with the above mentioned defective conditions, are strong and sturdy and no different as to vitality and longevity from any other cats; and if all facts were known about other breeds, the Manx might prove greater survival than many others. An eighteen-year-old gorgeous red tabby spayed daughter of Ginger's is as kittenish and beautiful today as ever.

The care of Manx cats is comparable to that of any cat, but being a short haired breed, grooming is easily cared for. Their housing should allow for ample exercise, for

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they love to run and climb, especially out of doors in wired enclosures.

To conclude the subject of this article — there are now an increasing number of Manx breeders in America. This bodes well we hope, for the future of the Manx cat which by virtue of its unique appearance, and its appealing qualities as a companionable pet, makes it a favorite among pet lovers who are intrigued by the rare and the unusual. We trust that all will be faithful to the best qualities of the true Manx. ★



Cats

When a fat, healthy cat suddenly loses his appetite and becomes a shadow, it is a sign of serious illness. It might be hairballs, or anyone of a dozen digestive troubles, but it cannot be diagnosed without examination. Take him to a veterinarian, who can determine the cause of the trouble.

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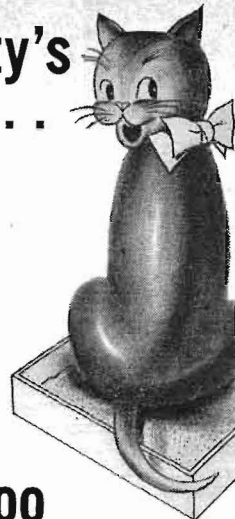
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