

Lavender

Blue

Shorthairs --

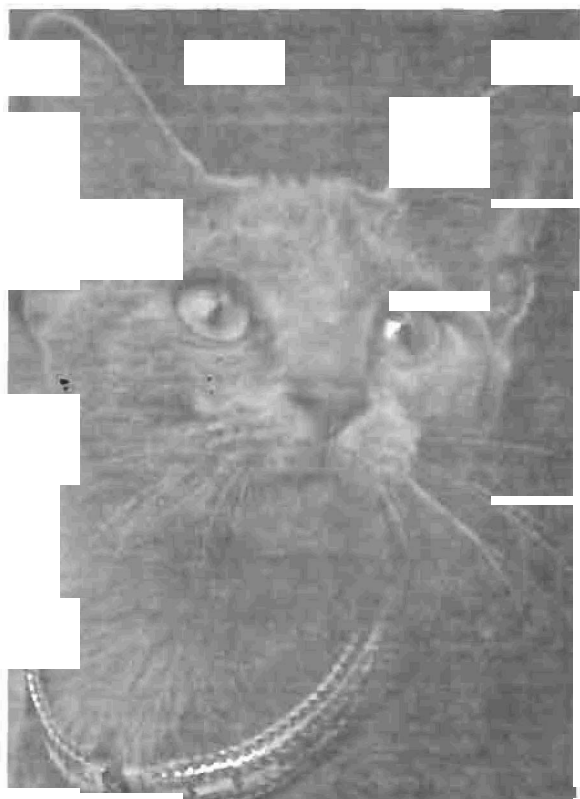
Foreign Type

BY

MME. J. GETHMANN

JUDGE (LH & SH)

INDEPENDANT CAT CLUBS OF EUROPE



Lavender Blue sounds like a song, does it not? Well, the Lavender Blue shorthair PT is a cat like a song. Of elegant type, uniformly clad with fine fur of an exquisite pinkish grey colour, which you need to see with your own eyes to believe it, an elongated head crowned with large pricked ears, looking at you with vivid green eyes of oriental form, standing on slender, long legs with hindlegs slightly higher than the front ones, and having, last but not least, a long whiptail .. thus we could describe the Lavender PT.

The first Lavenders appeared in England as a by-product of the Chestnut Brown Foreign, recently re-baptized 'Havana', after the introduction into this breed of the Blue-diluter of the Russian Blue in the fifties. Originally these cats were dismissed as 'bad Self-Blues' and it took some time for breeders to realize that the Lavender-Self, as we are allowed to call them, is a rightful member of the series of Self-Siamese and is produced, as to colour genes, in the same way as the Lilac Pointed Siamese which means that you will only get Lavenders if both parents carry the factors for Chocolate and for Blue.

Unlike the Havana, another member of the series of Self-Siamese, in that it is the uniform counterpart of the Chocolate Point Siamese, the Lavender met with endless difficulties once its recognition was at stake. Whereas the Havana (Chestnut Brown Foreign) had received recognition with Championship status in 1958, the Lavender only received a standard as late as 1971, and only when breeders in England have been able to prove the Lavender to breed true for three generations, as required by an old rule of the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, England, will the Lavender Blue Shorthair PT receive Championship status.

According to information recently received, it looks now (1973) that British breeders of the Lavender have taken the trouble to meet this requirement and we will soon see these lovely cats competing in shows in Great Britain in an open class of their own instead of in 'Any Other Variety' (26) which has been the case in the past.

In the meantime, Havanas carrying the Maltese (Blue) dilution have been exported to other countries. When these cats were mated, sometimes a Lavender popped up to the great delight of their breeders. In Europe, along with the popularity of the Lilac Pointed Siamese, the Self-variety of this type of cat, i.e. the Lavender, was highly appreciated and it has received recognition with Championship status on genetic argumentation in several Clubs on the Continent.

Just like the Lilac Point Siamese, the Lavender will breed true for colour when two cats of the breed are allowed to mate. The Lavender, as long as it is bred from true Foreign Type parentage, will also breed true for type and coat length provided no 'faux pas' has been allowed with some Balinese or other longhaired cat with Lilac points colour restriction in the past.

There is a possibility that, in a newborn litter of Lavenders, a kitten with Lilac Pointed Siamese coat pattern will appear, standing out white amongst the uniformly coloured Lavender littermates. This 'mishap' not only occurs in Lavender matings but also with the Havana as long as the



DANDYCAT IVANHOE, Lavender male bred by Mrs. Wilding, born Feb. 11, 1968.

cat has not completely lost, in its genetic make-up, the 'c' factor responsible for this provided it is inherited from both sides.

We should not be too exacting. It is already a very nice event that, in the breeding of Self-Siamese, the factor for full coat colour dominates the factor for points restricted colour and, after all, these occasional Lilac Points can be altered. One only needs to think of the battle that has been waged by the Colour Point people when establishing their lovely breed to realize what a blessing this dominating effect of full colour intensity is in the Self-Siamese.

However, if this lovely combination of full lavender coat colour, elegant body and longish head with green eyes is to be maintained, the breed needs a dip into the Lilac Point Siamese every three or four generations. Breeders have found the body colour tends to darken and the eye colour to fade into a pale lime green after breeding full colour to full colour for too long a time. The advantages of this 'out-cross' once one has seen them speak for themselves and are really worth trying, especially when the three or four true-breeding generations have been produced to obtain recognition.

It is possible that, at this stage, it is difficult to import a good specimen from the land of origin. To those who will not wait and have no possibility of crossing their Lavender PT with a Lilac Point Siamese, I would suggest the do-it-yourself method, as has been done in the past by the pioneers of the breed.

This is the method of mating a very good Siamese---in the case of the Lavender, a Lilac Point, or, if not available, a Chocolate Point known to carry the Blue dilution---to a Black Shorthair PT. If this Black PT also carries the Chocolate and Blue dilution it would be ideal as this means that it has inherited these from one of its parents and Lavenders can be expected from the very first cross, as well, of course, as other colours.

If the Black PT sought out to be the partner of your Lilac Point Siamese does not carry the necessary dilutions, the first litter would probably be all Black but every kitten would have inherited the genes for Chocolate and Blue. When mated back to the Lilac Point Siamese of our original combination, this would give Lavender Blue kittens in the second generation.

So it is not so difficult after all. Now that the Lilac Point Siamese, known as Frost Point by some American associations, is a very popular cat, our attempts to get the Lavender are enormously simplified. This was not the case when the first crosses took place between Self-Siamese (Havanas) and Blacks who were not even carrying the dilution for Chocolate.

MALLORCA LI-MING, bred by Mrs. Lidyard, owned by Mrs. Sayer. "Ming", born Sept. 21, 1968, was the foundation queen for the SOLIFABLE Lavenders which are now (1973) in the fourth generation of like-to-like matings. Photo by Anne Cumbers

LAVENDER BLUE SHORTHAIRES (CONTD.)

To avoid too much inbreeding, it would be necessary for several new strains to be set up. With the loyal cooperation of enthusiastic breeders, the lovely new Lavender Shorthair F² will soon become popular in Europe and America.

With the very best of wishes for their recognition with Championship status in the near future, this article, written especially for the cat that sounds like 3 song, viz. the Lavender, is concluded.

Illustration: The Lavender F² Shorthair is recognized for Championship competition in the U.S.A. by American Cat Association and American Cat fanciers Association.

JUDGING STANDARD FOR THE LAVENDER FOREIGN SH
(AMERICAN CAT ASSOCIATION)

Point Allotment (only cats scoring 90 or more points are eligible for winners)

HEAD & EARS	20
BODY, NECK, LEGS, FEET & TAIL	20
EYES	15
COAT	10
COLOR	25
CONDITION	10

HEAD & EARS - Moderately wedge-shaped, medium long and well proportioned, tapering to a fine muzzle. In profile, a straight line without a break from the center of the forehead to the tip of the nose, and from the tip of the nose to the chin. Allowance to be made for jowls in stud cats.

Objections: Round or broad head, short or broad muzzle, bulging forehead, receding chin, Roman nose.

Ears should be erect, large, wide at the base and pricked forward as though listening.

Objections: Small or short ears, too much space between ears or ears improperly set.

BODY, NECK, LEGS, FEET & TAIL - Medium in size, a little heavier than the Siamese with a sturdier feel. Firm, lithe, swiftness and graceful in proportion, firmly muscled. Should give the overall appearance of robust power and elegance. Females should be less robust in appearance.

Neck to be proportioned to the size of the body.

Legs and feet to be proportioned to the size of the body. Hocks slightly higher than the front jaw level.

Tail should be long and gracefully tapered but by no means whip-like. Proportioned to the body.

Objections: Short, thin tail. Withhold winners for visible kink of any kind.

EYES - Eyes should be almond shaped. Eye color to range from medium to deep green.

Objections: Round eyes. Withhold winners for crossed eyes.

COAT - The coat should be very short and fine in texture, glossy and close-lying.

COLOR - Should be an even mauve or lavender on body, gradually lightening to a silvery lavender cast at roots, insides of legs and hocks. Ring of silver around feet and muzzle. Color should be rich looking. Nose leather, paw pads, and insides of ears should be a rosy tone.

Objections: Tabby markings on body and legs.

Withhold winners for blue or black on nose leather and pads.

CONDITION - Hard and muscular with very little inclination to fat. Amenable to being handled, otherwise to be disqualified in that ring.

Allowance to be made for slight tabby markings and changing eye color in kittens and young adults.