

Presseartikel; Boston Post, Di. 22.01.1878

## BOSTON POST.

TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 22, 1878.

### POOR PUSS.

**The National Cat Show in Music Hall—  
Description of Some of the Curious  
and Interesting Sightings to be Seen  
There—The Awards Already  
Made—The Attendance,  
Etc., Etc.,**

For the first time in its history Boston has a cat show, and a show of which any city might well be proud. In England the idea is by no means a new one, but in this land its conception and performance has all the charm of novelty. This show was opened last evening at 5 o'clock, and its existence is due to the enterprise of Mr A. P. Peck, manager of the Music Hall, who, encouraged, doubtless, by the success of the dog show held in September last, decided to give another exhibition of kindred character, but which would appeal more directly to the ladies. The announcement made by Mr Peck that such a show would be held, and his offer of prizes amounting in value to upwards of \$1000, met with a generous response. Some three hundred and fifty cats were entered for competition, and when the show was opened yesterday nearly every one of them was caged on the floor of the hall, where they will remain during the remainder of this week. They include almost every known variety, and as they are selected specimens, animals which have attracted attention from those who have seen them elsewhere, they make as a whole a very interesting spectacle.

For the reception of these unusual guests the hall has been conveniently arranged and handsomely decorated. The front of the lower balcony is draped with flags and bunting, which are divided into panels by decorated shields. Over the rear section of this front is thrown lace, which shows to great advantage against a background of bright colors. The decorations of the upper balcony are confined to its central and rear section, which is draped in a style similar to that on the sides of the lower balcony. The appearance of the upper part of the hall is very bright and cheerful. Upon the floor are all the cages. They extend in five long double rows from the front of the platform well back under the rear gallery. There is plenty of room between them, and each cage, which is two feet high, two feet wide and two feet in length, looks comfortable, although it must be rather limited in room for a creature that has had the free range of almost unlimited territory. Over the front of each cage is drawn a coarse wire netting through which its occupant can be plainly seen. Access to it is had through a trap in the top, and its pussy can burrow and revel at will. But the interior of many of these cages are neither so limited nor so sparsely furnished. In some few instances, pussy has a double compartment and in many she has a rug or a cushion, or a softly lined basket for her couch. Many of these are very handsome, and the pet who has one of them seems to appreciate the distinction thus conferred upon it, and to avoid littering it up. The occupants of these cages are quiet, in the main, if they are not happy. Now and then one of them raises a discontented wail, as if feebly protesting against being shut up so closely, but the long drawn caterwaul is hushed, evidently from a feeling that such a demonstration would be out of place in such an assembly. On many of the cages are directions for feeding, left by some careful owner, and they are very diverse, showing that pets of different people have the most opposite tastes. One cat eats fish only, and is very fond of fried smelts; another eats steak or cooked meat and drinks water; another is fond of raw beef and water; another likes cooked beef and milk; another is fond of raw eggs and milk; another delights in bread and milk; and still another takes milk only. Some of the cats drink milk only, others won't touch it, but will have water or nothing to slake their thirst. In fact they are as hard to please as so many persons would be. But even if their owners have not thought it necessary to give any directions for their treatment they are all fed with regularity, and day and night there will be men in attendance to care for them.

in attendance to care for them.

The number of animals who have a history or which are curious or noticeable in appearance is large, perhaps the most noticeable, and certainly the most conspicuous, as they are at the head of the hall, are two hairless cats, "Scud," a male, and "Mystery," a female. They are owned and entered by William P. Marshall, 114 Sudbury street, and they were raised by Addison S. Cressy in Bradford, N. H. Their mother is a common Maltese cat, and by her these prodigies were disowned and neglected from birth. One can scarcely wonder at her conduct for they look more like dogs than cats, and it is asserted that they have many habits that do not commonly manifest themselves in the members of the feline family. They move very nimbly around the large cage in which they are, and are the cause of many curious surmises as to their origin. On the top of their cage is one containing a very curiously marked tiger cat, the property of Mr Gilman on Bedford street. As she is the very picture of good nature her fierce name seems to be a misnomer. A stroll among the cages will be found to be full of interest, for in 218 is "Pat," who possesses 24 distinct toes, as he can prove when he chooses to show his feet. He weighs 11½ pounds. In the adjoining cage, No. 217, is "Tommy Haven," who for three days was buried under the ruins caused by the explosion in the building on the corner of Washington and Lagrange streets. In No. 210 is a very large and very handsome Maltese and white pussy; in 207 is a mother with four kittens, the latter twelve months old. "Tim," owned by Engine No. 1, occupies 225. He is twelve years old, and was found by the company over eleven years ago when it was returning from a fire. Since that event he has remained with it, and is one of the regular institutions of the engine-house. No. 271 is occupied by a very beautiful cat, pure white in color; No. 263 is the habitat of a very interesting family of kittens, some six weeks old, while No. 189 contains a mother with kittens whose eyes are just open. The whole family is coal black, and it is a very pretty sight. A very beautiful and at the same time a very uneasy tiger cat is in 174, and a cross-eyed pet, a female, two years old and weighing 12½ pounds is accommodated at 153. A Manx cat and a puppy are happy together in 137, and a beautiful dark Maltese seems to be content in 135. "Ben Butler, Jr.," a champion ratler, may be found in No. 106, and "Old Tom," a survivor of the great fire and the pet of Engine No. 3, is in cage 63. In 52 a litter of pure Skye terriers, with their mother and two cats, live in the greatest content. No. 47 is occupied by a large white Angora cat, the property of Miss Kittie Horton. She has a pair of bright blue eyes, and long hair, which has the softness of fur. No. 44 is the home of a white mother with black and white offspring, but color does not offend her, for she quietly purrs away the time, the centre of a group of interested observers. The happy family of the show consists of a raccoon, a black, a white, a Maltese and a tortoise-shell cat. In the upper story of its cage is a black cat with wonderfully long hair and a bushy tail, and in an adjoining compartment a tame crow. In No. 18 is a large black cat, which came from Calcutta. A remarkable feature is its great length. The Queechy, Vt., cats are remarkably fine creatures, with large legs and feet, shaggy hair, of an extraordinary length and color, large, luminous eyes, and noble heads that are set in a fringe of fur that suggests the fox. There are four of them exhibited. Among the other early arrivals was a curious specimen, all white, suggesting the Spitz dog quite as strongly as a cat, and yet unmistakably feline. It is in cage No. 54. A very handsome red-haired cat, with a bushy tail of magnificent dimensions, will be seen in No. 40. A decidedly fine feline, all white as to color, is shown in No. 61. Among heavy cats of the tiger breed, there is Jenny, in No. 223, weighing 12 pounds; another similar in appearance in No. 213; and in No. 236 is a very handsome male cat, the property of N. A. Moses, and very well known by visitors to his Washington street shoe store. Two pretty little red and white haired kittens are in cage No. 246. A large and noble looking cat is in No. 195, one-quarter raccoon.

Upon the platform is an exhibition that is supplementary to that on the floor, yet is full of interest. Immediately in front of the organ is a row of cages, in which are rabbits of the following varieties: Angora, Lop-eared Patagonian, Himalayan, Dutch, Belgian-hare and European-white. In the same locality there are Guinea pigs of the Abyssinian and common varieties. These animals are exhibited by a fancier who takes great pride in the purity of the blood of his pets. On the front of the platform Mr Arthur J. Colburn of 31 Boylston street has a number of pets which attract a great deal of attention. First of these, perhaps, is a large yellow and white Angora cat, with hair like silk and eyes like fire, a fine specimen. In the next cage is a black chipping squirrel, and his neighbor is a prairie dog, remarkably tame and very lively. In another cage is an Albino gray squirrel, if such a contradiction of terms be admissible. It is a true Albino, its eyes and skin being pink and its hair pure white. In every other respect in shape and in manners, it is a gray squirrel. There are two beautiful gray squirrels, one of which is very large. This collection does not compete for prizes, but it is a pleasing adjunct to the show.

Of course considerable interest attaches to the prizes. They range from \$20 to \$3, and they are to be given to the owners of short-haired cats, long-haired cats, curiosities of any variety, weight and size, Maltese, Manx, Tortoise-shells, tabbies, brindle, Tigers and cats of unusual colors. These nine classes are so sub-divided that the prizes number 72. There are also five special premiums, four of which are valued at \$20 each and one at \$25. The judges are Messrs A. F. Stevens of Natick and Arthur J. Colburn of Boston, and their decisions will be made public as soon as they are reached. There was a good attendance at the show last evening in spite of the unpleasant weather. It will be open daily from 10 A. M. until 10 P. M., and the tickets of admission are only twenty-five cents each.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL financial account shows:

Haarlose  
Katzen