

The Fad For Cats.

Ever since the cat show last spring the long-neglected felines have been a cult of the day. Many people do not know that a Cat Blue Book or Pedigree Book has been established here in New York, so that persons may enter their cats and classify their darlings of fur and whiskers.

The class of entry gives eight divisions, divided again into long-haired and short-haired cats, these being again separated according to color. The long haired cats—Angora, Russian, Persian, Indian and Chinese—are judged by their coats, and the "Lord Mayor's Chain," a most important point, is the name given to the fur trill on the neck. The most valuable is the dark blue or slate-colored cat with orange eyes. The black Persian with orange eyes and deep frill is greatly valued by the connoisseur. The comparative points for judging cat flesh are the length and quantity of the fur, size and carriage of the tail, richness of color and purity of the coat, and its markings, size and shapes of head and ears, color of the eyes, and general conditions applying to all kinds. The long-haired cats are also judged by the "Lord Mayor's Chain."

The white cat of pedigree, the black cat, and the black and the white cat all have their special points. For instance, the first must carry her tail low, have no gray in her coat, and turquoise blue eyes. Tabby cats are named for a street in Bagdad, where watered silks were sold, and though tabbies are very common, the pedigree tabby is hard to find. These varieties are silver-blue tabby, the red tabby, the brown tabby and the spotted tabby. All of these must have orange eyes, and even the pads on the feet are subject to rule. The "Dutch rabbit markings" of the tortoise-shell or Spanish cats are its chief points—certain spots of white, which must occur on the feet, breast and face. From this description of the "Stud Book Cats" it will be seen that New Yorkers are determined to follow the English fashion with the annual cat show, and to encourage perfecting the breeds.—N. Y. Cor. of the Washington Post.

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