

The Tabby Pointed Siamese Cat Society

TABBY POINT SIAMESE IN THE 'SIXTIES'

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THE TABBY POINT CAT is exotic, exquisite, ethereal, in its aesthetic beauty. In the days of its infancy there were those who did their utmost to preclude these 'striped cats', from joining the ranks of Siamese. This seems hard to believe now with our celebrated Tabby Points winning Supreme honours. However, the Lynx Point, (as it was most popularly known then) had its staunch supporters and several well known personages made well founded predictions. One such person was the much admired judge, the late Kit Wilson, who said in 1962 'I predict a great future for this new colour'.

How right she was to be. Many names have been applied to this breed over the years, prior to official recognition such as, Shadow-point, Silver points and Atarby, but to my mind no name exemplifies its characteristics like The Lynx Point.

History has it that these beautiful cats date back to the early 1900's the first in our records being the Kutjing Lynx Points in 1952. The Kutjing prefix belonged to a Miss Hood who brought a Seal Point female to England, which shortly after arrival mis-mated with a farm tabby. The offspring from this alliance was a spectacular mackerel foreign-type kitten. This kitten grew to maturity and was in time mated to several different Seal Point studs. From these unions several Siamese with striped points were bred.

Unfortunately Miss Hood died but a Mr. Vernon Green took over the cats and continued to breed them. From these Mrs. Kirstie Buckland was able to acquire a female, Teenyweenyone, and a male known as Tambu of Gwent. These cats were both bred from successfully.

Various other lines of early Lynx Points came and went over the intervening years but, for one reason or another, never got themselves really established.

Our real story begins in 1960 when the two main lines of Tabby Points, as we know them today, were established in England. These are the lines from which our unique cats of today are directly descended.

Miss Alexander, late vice-president of the Tabby Point Siamese Cat Society, had a Seal Point queen called Lady Me. When Lady Me came of age she decided to thwart her owners wishes and slipped out to find her own mate. Miss Alexander was aghast! On her flighty queen's return she rushed her over to Mrs. Buttery's Seal Point stud, Druid, hoping that she had not already been deflowered!

Five lovely kittens were born nine weeks later one of which had stripey points! Lady Me had been dual mated. Miss Alexander kept this lovely little stripey sprite and called her Patti. She proved to be the founder of one of the lines of future Tabby Points.

When Patti became mature she was mated to Mrs. Buttery's Seal Point, Samsara Saracen. This alliance produced several more of the stripey pointed kittens. They were of good type, and caught the imagination of several prominent breeders. Herein lies the origin of our first line of Tabby Points.

Another source

Around about this time another line of Tabby Points was in the making. Mrs. Muriel Bennett of Reigate, had a queen that was constantly being put in kitten by her neighbours cat. The resulting kittens were like their father, who was a fawn-grey coloured cat with mackerel markings and of Abyssinian type.

After finding homes for numerous of the offspring Mrs. Bennett finally kept one herself called Tiggie. When Tiggie was older she rendezvoused with a Seal Point called Chancasta. The result was more of those spellbinding kittens with striped points. The male was given away, and the female was given to Mr. and Mrs. Pears, of Surrey. This little female was registered as Miss Tee Kat but was fondly known as Misstee. She was the first Tabby Point of this line and was the most remarkable cat.

Her chosen spouse when she came of age was Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warner's Seal Point Ch. Spotlight Troubadour, Phyllida Warner was entranced with Misstee from the first moment she saw her and lyrically wrote in the first magazine of the TPSCS (then known as 'Lynx-Links'): 'Misstee was beautiful! She has simply enormous sapphire eyes, outlined by dark brown lines, which ran halfway down the side of her nose, the nose itself was silver with gold shading near the tip, several dark whisker



spots on the white muzzle, and the most exciting curved lines, like those of a Lynx along the cheeks, also a beautiful fancy 'M', almost like a tiara on her brow. The background of her mask had an overall silvery look, white fur settling off the dark lines, pale to dark brown stripes on the legs, silver tail with black bars and tip, and the body short coated, sleek and pale with the suggestion of silver dapple on her flanks.'

This described this lovely cat to a 'tee' and Mrs. Warner realised that she was something really unique. The whole Warner family decided that they must have one of her kittens when they were born if there was one like Misstee.

Exquisite creatures

Nine weeks later in January 1962 a most wonderful litter was born from this alliance. Phyllida Warner bought an exquisite female which she called Praline. With Praline she founded the world famous Spotlight Tabby Points. Miss Alexander bought a lovely male out of the litter which she called Mister Buttons and Mrs. M. Hudson bought the other female, to be known as Lady Links.

The first time that Lynx Points (as they were still known) were actually on exhibition was at the Croydon Cat show in 1961. Miss Alexander showed a litter out of her Patti sired by Samsara Saracen (SP). It was there that the late Mrs. Greta Hindley of Prestwick fame, fell under their spell. She purchased a female called Tansy. Simultaneously Mrs. Marjorie Hudson, of the Supra prefix, saw and fell in love with them. She bought a male called Faux Pas who was really lovely with a very pale coat and deeply striped points. After the show she wrote 'I could not take my eyes off them, such exquisite little creatures with cobweb-brushed faces, upstanding striped tails and the most glorious sapphire eyes.'

Mrs. Hudson carried Faux Pas off home with her and decided to keep him a secret as he was so special until he was ready for stud. Therefore, it was a considerable surprise when visiting her friend Mrs. Warner in hospital for Mrs. Hudson to hear her raving about this fantastic stripey queen that she had in to Troubadour and how she could not wait to go and choose her kitten.

Well, it's not hard to imagine Mrs. Hudson's utter surprise to hear of some more of these intriguing cats, and from a completely different lineage, impossible, thought she. She asked her friend to let her know if there was another female to be had after she had chosen hers and Mrs. Warner agreed.

When Mrs. Warner chose her Praline, she phoned Marjorie Hudson to tell her there was one female kitten left. Of course Mrs. Hudson literally flew over to Oxted and bought it. It was just like Faux Pas, only daintier. The two different lines seemed to differ as one line seemed to produce a heavier cat with thick barring and the other a far more finely boned type with fine stripes.

Poor Lady Links had only a short sweet life being killed by a passing car. She was irreplaceable with her coveted white coat and fine delicate stripes so desired by breeders.

Later news was announced of Faux Pas and he became the first registered Tabby Point to be at public stud.

Enthusiastic judge

The next show exhibiting Tabby Points was the Kentish Cat Club show in 1962. Miss Kit Wilson was judging the AOV class in which the Tabby Points had to compete. First, was Alexander's Mister Buttons (Troubadour's and Misstee's son) and Miss Wilson greatly enthused about the breed saying that she had fallen completely under their spell and that they were utterly enchanting. Mister Buttons, she said 'was all this and heaven too'.

What more can I say? This sums up the feeling these cats inspire in one and bring back memories to me, of my first spellbound moments when I could not drag my eyes away from the statuesque beauty of the first Tabby Point I saw and eventually bought 15 years ago.

Praline joined the Warner family in January 1962 and from this moment ruled their hearts. She resembled a Margay with her huge eyes and wonderful profile but she was certainly Siamese plus — in all aspects. The cat world was soon at her black-backed feet. When the Lynx Point Cat Club was founded in 1962 Praline played hostess, walking into the room with a rose in her mouth and presenting it to her breeder Mrs. Pears.

Most of Praline's kittens were by the Seal Point Whiteoaks Malahide and many excellent kittens were produced. They included: Spotlight Ricky Dicky, a super Tabby Point bought by Mr. and Mrs. Holt of Pitapat fame; Int. Ch. Spotlight Frankinsence, another lovely Tabby Point; and the illustrious Spotlight Petit Burlinks who himself in time sired some excellent offspring. Probably the best known of all was the wonderful Spotlight Pennylynx, who eventually became the first Tabby Point champion.

Praline died in 1969, leaving an irreplaceable gap in the Warner's lives, and also in her daughters, her beloved Penny.

New name

In 1962 there was much haggling over a correct name for the breed. Mrs. P. Warner pointed out in *Fur & Feather* that in the case of Lynx Point, the usage of the word point, was to give one an idea of where the colour should be found. Also that these cats were seven-eighth Siamese. Why Lynx? Because they bore a striking resemblance to the Asian Lynx, the markings being very similar. The mask with silver-brown stripes, trimmed with white, gave the cat an exotic mountain top look, with its large black tipped ears.

Many in the cat fancy felt that these cats should be classified as a new breed and should not be known as Siamese. An eminent geneticist (R. Silson) soon put them right on this point, explaining that the Lynx Point differed only in one gene from the original Siamese, and that crossing to pure Siamese rapidly gave more pure Siamese.

Other people felt that the name Lynx implied that these cats were related to the real wild Lynx which was of course ridiculous!

In 1966 the GCCF eventually granted these cats recognition and the name given to them was Tabby Pointed Siamese, Breed 32.

The first champion in the breed after this was Ch. Spotlight Pennylynx who was like a great hovering hawk-moth, her silver-grey ears overbalancing her they were so large. Penny was like something out of fairyland and letters soon flooded in from all over the world, with requests for Tabby Point kittens out of her.

The first show at which Tabby Points had championship status was the Siamese Cat Society of the British Empire, at Reading, Berkshire. There Penny was best exhibit in show, and won her first CC, the first in the breed. Her other two followed in quick succession at the SCC show and the Wessex. Penny then retired to motherhood with the knowledge that she was the first champion in the breed in Europe and possibly, in the world!

Pennylinks was not a great breeder but the few she did have were outstanding and included the unforgettable Ch. Spotlight Rouble and Kopeika his unbelievably typy sister. Kopeika had everything and surpassed one's wildest dreams for the perfect Tabby Point. She took one's breath away with her great beauty and it was not surprising that at only five months she was best exhibit at the SCA show in Hastings.

Penny, her loving mother, died in 1974 and Kopeika and the rest of the Warners were brokenhearted at their loss.

Total perfection

Kopeika was born in 1969 and truly, 'A star was born'. Anyone that never saw Kopeika, cannot even imagine her total perfection. She was born by caesarian operation and kept alive by oxygen. She just had to be something really special.

As Kopeika developed it was obvious that she far surpassed all that had gone before. She had the perfect glacial coat of her illustrious sire Ch. Macedon Marquis, and the beautiful symmetrical lines of her mother Penny. When she became best exhibit at the SCA show she scored over many adult champions.

May Eustace, the well known judge, wrote of her, 'Spotlight Kopeika, to my mind the Tabby Point of the year, is an exquisite fine boned kitten with the best whipped tail I have ever seen. She has gorgeous eye colour and a very long head, ending in a fine muzzle, tail beautifully ringed. In fact simply oozing type . . .'

Kopeika was a champion by the time she was a year and Mr. and Mrs. Warner, never ones to overshadow their cats for personal prestige, retired her from the show bench. She had several really lovely offspring including Ch. Spotlight Koronett and Ch. Spotlight Kimono, two really lovely examples of the breed.

There were many other lovely and winning cats during these years and I have only mentioned those which had the greatest influence on our breed today. Many famous cats with prefixes such as: Casmen, Lymekilns, Whiterose, Sukianga, Greenleaf and Reoky, to mention just a few, made their contribution along with many others to help form the Tabby Points of the future.

The next Tabby Point to really steal the limelight was Seremban Liger, bred by Mrs. A. Aslin, Liger was a son of the famous Ch. Spotlight Siegfried and later became England's very first Grand Champion Siamese cat, this was perhaps the greatest achievement for the Tabby Points since their birth — but this is yet another "Tail" — sorry tale!!

