

## Blue Point Siamese

The Blue Pointed Siamese was the next variety of the Siamese breed after the Seal Point to gain recognition in the UK from the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

### The First Examples

Like all new varieties, there had been examples in existence well before the date of recognition, the earliest known being attributed to Mr. Spearman, a young Englishman recently returned to England from Siam.

At the Holland House Show held in 1896, Mr. Spearman exhibited his Blue Point Siamese. Apparently Mr. Louis Wain, one of the officials, refused to judge the cat let alone recognise it as a Siamese. An argument ensued, whereupon Mr. Spearman informed him that there were several other cats in Siam like the one he had brought home with him. It is not clear if this cat was Lady Blue Blue of Pegu, who was registered as being owned by Mrs. Spearman.

Apparently this cat was blue instead of biscuit-coloured. It is not known whether the coat was all blue or whether the colour was restricted to its points. Some sources indicate that this cat may have been a Korat – which, if correct, was the first to be seen outside Siam.

One of the earliest references of all to the existence of the Blue Point Siamese was made by Frances Simpson who in 1902, in her book “The Cat”, stated she had heard of Blue Siamese but fanciers did not appear to like them. Apart from the theory that a few Seal Point Siamese carried the gene with them when they were imported into Britain, it was also suggested that the blue colour was introduced by an accidental mating with a Russian Blue at the turn of the century.

However, a perusal of the first volume of the Siamese Cat Register reveals nine Blue Pointed Siamese being recorded, the oldest known cat registered being

531 Rhoda. f., s. Jacob I., d. Zoe, br. Owner, b. June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1894. Owner, Mr. W. J. Evelyn. Col., blue points.

This Mr. W. J. Evelyn may have been the Mr. W. T. Evelyn later mentioned as owning other Blue Pointed Siamese.

Some of the others recorded in this volume were

108 Caruso. m., particulars unknown, br. R. M. Clark. Owner, Miss Ruby Clark. Col., blue points.

166 Donatina of Cornwall. f., s. Billson, d. Susan, br. Mrs. Scott Russell, b. May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1923. Owner, Miss C. Fisher. Col., blue points.

This young cat was eventually exported to the USA with another Blue Point Siamese by the name of Eve of Woodrooffe.

167 Donato. m., 501 G.C.C. II, s. Errol, d. Siki, br. Mrs. Mott, b. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1921. Owner, Mr. A. Percival. Col., blue points. (In the copy referred to, Mrs. Mary Dunnill had written in, over the dam's name, Si-Hi.)

320 Lady Blue Blue of Pegu. f., particulars unknown, imported. Owner, Mrs. Spearman. Colour blue points.

367 Menam. f., 201 C.C. i., s. Jacob II, d. Rhoda, br. Mr. C. J. Evelyn, b. July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1898. Owner, Mrs. Johnson. Prizes: 3<sup>rd</sup> Westminster 1900. Col. Blue points.

Rhoda was mated to her half brother, Jacob II (whose mother is recorded as Rose) to produce more Blue Pointed Siamese. They shared the same father, Jacob I, whose details in the Siamese Cat Register are recorded as unknown. He was also owned by Mr. W. J. Evelyn.

Further Blue Pointed Siamese appeared in this country and Volume Two of the Siamese Cat Register recorded another seven Blue Pointed Siamese. The stated parentage of these cats evolved from pedigree lines out of Seal Pointed Siamese different from those mentioned in Volume One of the Siamese Cat Register.

## Champions and Opponents

Phyl Wade had very little to report on Blue Pointed Siamese in her book “The Siamese Cat” 1934. She did admit that they could be regarded as lovely, with one of the best being Chinky Blue, who became one of the two Blue Point Siamese stud boys of the breeder Grace Cox-Ife. However, it was obvious that her real love was for the Seal Point Siamese variety and she felt that it would not be worthwhile trying to breed the Blue Point variety. At least she acknowledged that the variety appeared unsolicited from certain known Siamese lines, with nothing in their pedigree to indicate that there would be a change in colour. In June 1936 “Cats and Kittens” magazine published an article by Grace Cox-Ife, who was one of the “champions of the cause” of Blue Pointed Siamese. She described the colour points of the Blue Pointed Siamese as being “silvery blue” with the body colour being of the palest possible cream. Others described the points as stone grey or even a lavender blue colour; perhaps the latter category could have been some of the early Lilac Point Siamese.

Grace Cox-Ife mentioned that it should be the aim of breeders to obtain this type of coat without any form of shading at all. Shading was recognised as being part of the aging process, although some lines had a natural tendency to a paler body. She felt that selective breeding would sort out any tendency to shading. In all other respects the Blue Pointed Siamese would resemble the Seal Pointed Siamese in type.

She also pointed out that breeding experiments had revealed that Blue Pointed Siamese mated together bred true to colour. It had been previously suggested that the Seal Point Siamese who had produced Blue Pointed Siamese were badly pigmented Seal Pointed Siamese.

She therefore advised breeders to aim to develop this variety independently of the Seal Point Siamese variety, although she stated that the early stage of development would probably involve using selected Seal Pointed Siamese to improve on type. She referred to keeping a register that would confirm her advice and breeding policy, especially as she was determined to seek official recognition for them.

As to the origin of these “freaks” or “sports”, as they were known – and continued to be known for some time, especially after Phyl Wade’s book had been published – it was conjectured that they had been born blue as a result of matings that would have occurred originally in Siam between the Siamese and Korat breeds. Some Siamese would therefore have carried the gene for blue, and Grace Cox-Ife was certain that Blue Pointed Siamese had existed in Siam for some time, with some of the original Seal Pointed Siamese imports carrying the gene for blue.

Grace Cox-Ife also referred to the possibilities of a chance mating with a Russian Blue in her article but such a cross mating had only resulted in the birth of Seal Pointed Siamese, Blacks or self-blue hybrids. There had been no published information on any possible F2 matings between F1 progeny. Apparently the first Blue Point Siamese kittens were exhibited at the Siamese Cat Club Show in 1926 and interest slowly developed, so that by the 1930’s the variety had quite a following of interested breeders. Some cat shows allowed Blue Point Siamese entries into the hall but they were limited in the classes which they could enter.

## Achieving Recognition

The variety was recognised by the GCCF on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1936 and given the separate breed number of 24a and championship status. From this date onwards, official recognition meant that Blue Point Siamese could compete for awards at cat shows in their own classes.

One of the very first shows that Phyllis Lauder visited in the late 1930’s had a Blue Point Siamese entry. She remembered standing enraptured looking at this different colour of Siamese and overheard the following remark: “I think they’re wishy-washy looking things!” Even as late as 1937, Phyl Wade wrote that few people knew of the variety. Perhaps she meant the general public; breeders of Siamese were well acquainted with it. However, justice had a strange sense of humour. Ironically, one of the first two Blue Point Siamese to become a Champion in 1936 was Sayo of

Bedale, who was actually bred by Mrs. Phyl Wade, owned by Mrs. Greta Hindley, and eventually sold to a New York fancier.

Following hot on his heels was another Blue Point Siamese, Miss Busted's Grisnez. She was given a fifth prize at Newbury Show in 1930 and her third Challenge Certificate at the Southern Counties Show in 1937 at the age of seven years. One of her ancestors was the famous Champion Carlisle Lad who was born in 1910.

Phyl Wade gave an account in the "Cats and Kittens" magazine dated August 1937 of her visit to a cattery earlier in the year belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Cox-Ife at Linden, near Oxted. She reported on their activities in trying to "fix a breed of Blue Pointed Siamese" and recorded that, back in 1934, Grace Cox-Ife started to breed Siamese with this object in view and in 1935 she was organizing meetings for interested breeders of the variety. At the time of the visit, Grace Cox-Ife had two Blue Pointed studs, Reekie and Muski, and three Blue Pointed queens, Blue Angel of Fleet, Loraine, and Wantele Sheherazade. Blue Angel of Fleet was reported to have "really glorious eye colour" and she had recently given birth to a litter of three kittens by Reekie.

Also in 1937 it was reported that the fourteenth annual Siamese Cat Club Show had put on two additional classes for Blue Pointed Siamese, male and female contenders for Championship were divided, and there was also a Debutante Class for adult cats making their first appearance.

In 1938 Zy-Azuree, owned by Mrs. Towgood who had shared Grace Cox-Ife's early interest in the variety, became another Blue Point Siamese Champion and Mrs. Godfrey's Blue Point Siamese Tang-Sheng-Chin won her first Championship card. Luckily for her she obtained the other two necessary Championship certificates needed for her title just before cat shows ceased in 1939, the year the Second World War broke out.

These pre-war years had witnessed the development of the variety with light clear coats and contrasting blue points. The writer Sidney France reported that for some years before the advent of World War Two, interest was beginning to be shown in the variety. In fact this interest had been channelled into the birth of the Blue Pointed Siamese Cat Club in 1944, founded by Greta Hindley, whose members were determined to let interested parties know that the variety would indeed breed true. This club became the first specialist Siamese Cat Club covering a Siamese variety. Grace Cox-Ife became the club's GCCF delegate.

The early members met a great deal of opposition from the Siamese Fancy, including that of the influential Chairman of the Siamese Cat Club – who was none other than Phyl Wade. The Blue Point Siamese Cat Club offered special classes and trophies in an attempt to publicise the variety.

### Post-War Problems

However, there was a set-back when the Siamese Cat Club held its first show after the war in 1946 in London. By all accounts there were nine exhibits, and it became apparent in most cases that the Blue Point coat had lost its clarity. This was attributed to the travelling difficulties experienced in the war years, together with the lack of Blue Point Siamese stud boys. It inevitably led to Blue Point Siamese cats being mated to Seal Point Siamese cats to keep the breed going through these difficult times.

Devotees of the Blue Point Siamese spoke out against mating the two varieties together. It was felt that this type of mating was responsible for losing the glacial white coat as laid down in the Standard of Points of the Blue Pointed variety. The clear white coats had given way to shaded coats, and in some cases a fawn tint. At least there was one advantage: the Seal Point Siamese did appear to develop lighter coats as a result.

However, some breeders still produced show-winning stock, and on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1948 there was visible proof that the variety had achieved popularity by the appearance on television of Blue Point Siamese cats. This occurred after the Southern Counties Cat Club Show, when Mrs. K. Williams invited some of the winners to go with her to the television studios at Alexandra Palace. Included in the party was Mrs. Macdonald with her winning Blue Pointed Siamese male, Raard Blue Sacchi and her two winning kittens, Raard Blue Pamela and Raard Blue Wynne.

Later in the same year, Ch. Pincop Azure Kym, another Blue Point Siamese, won the coveted award of Best in Show at the Siamese Cat Club's Championship Show. He was owned by Mrs. Lamb of Little Browndreys, Carhampton in Somerset. Even at the age of eleven years in 1956, he still lived very happily in his "own little wooden house in a big grass pen". He still retained his character at this advanced age and became known as a grand old man. He sired many beautiful Blue Pointed Siamese Champions including Ch. Tailand Oberon, Ch. Pincop Azure Zelda, Ch. Pincop Azure Tingasha and Ch. Konowana Kym.

In 1949, the Siamese Cat Club defined the following classes for either Seal Point or Blue Point Siamese for that year's annual show. At least by this time the two varieties were recognised on equal terms.

"The entries in the brace, pair and team classes had to be of one colour, either all seal pointed or blue pointed".

### Colour Concerns

In the late 1950's the problem of shaded coats and incorrect colour of points became a burning issue with some breeders. Apparently the cats' type could not be faulted. As always, part of the blame for these faults was attributed to the stud cats of the day, but some attached to the breeders, who were proving resistant to the idea of selective breeding for a glacial white coat and cold tone blue points. A cat who had blue points "running" into the coat should not be used for breeding at all. It was also thought that the "fawn-shaded" coats were due to a seasonal factor or even the condition of the cat. Thetis Randall suggested that the glacial coat could appear again in Blue Point Siamese by mating the very few pale-coated stud boys to pale-coated queens. The product of this type of mating should then be mated to a similarly endowed cat for colour of coat. He then explained that after four generations of such breeding, the desired result would be apparent when the kitten was only a few months old. The quality of the coat colour at this age would enable the breeder to make an informed judgement as to the quality of the kitten's coat in adult life.

Other breeders had suggested that the best way of producing a glacial white coat was to mate a Blue Point Siamese to a Lilac Point Siamese in an attempt to lighten the body colour. The counter argument to this proposal suggested that this type of mating would result in a very dark coat with little contrast between points and body colour.

It was also felt that judges could play their part in improving the colour scheme of the variety. All they had to do was withhold Challenge Certificates from cats who did not conform to the Standard of Points for Blue Point Siamese!

### Worthy Champions

By the early 1960's some outstanding examples of the Blue Point Siamese variety made their appearance, one of the most notable being Ch. Linton Ajax who was bred and owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Biggie. He became a Champion at the South Western Counties Cat Club Show, held in Exeter in September 1962. He was also voted the Best Shorthair Exhibit at the Herts and Middlesex Show and was the father of the Best Short Haired Kitten at the Croydon Cat Club Show held in November 1962.

The 1961 – 1962 list of Champions also contained another well-known prefix, Arboreal Blue Pandora, owned by Mrs. S. Wallington and bred by Mrs. Dyte.

The Misselfore prefix produced some lovely prize-winning progeny – Daltrees Blue Adito sired by Misselfore Tempest, and Shikaree Mahcoboy and Bitchet Wedgewood sired by Ch. Misselfore Ryken.

Even the judge, Elsie Hart, admitted that Blue Point Siamese had improved enormously and referred to several beautiful specimens on the show bench. One of these was Mrs. Ireland's kitten, Gaytail Wendy, who became the Best Exhibit at the Siamese Cat Club Show.

Breeders acknowledged that the crossing of the two colours, Seal and Blue Pointed Siamese, was a mistake and they began to mate Blue Point Siamese to Blue Point Siamese with the result that the later decades of this century have seen some very good examples of this variety.

### The Seventies

In the 1970's, John Shewbridge's Ch. Tamruat Blue Lancer gained his title in record time. Mrs. Guthrie's Ch. Roseangle Khavirondo won her Grand Challenge at the Northern Siamese Cat Society Show. Other cats who won Grand Challenge Certificates included Mrs. Gamble's Ch. Zyclon Jacinth who was bred by Mrs. Stallard, and Ch. Chalmi Tzuthai, whose breeder was Mrs. Imlach. One of the most well-known Blue Point Siamese around in this decade was Ch. Coromandel Blue Beau who was born on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1975, bred by Jean Gamble. Beau was born in Jean Gamble's first Siamese litter, which comprised three kittens, all Blue Point Siamese. The previous year Jean Gamble had bought Beau's mother, Zyclon Jacinth, for breeding and showing. Following advice to take her to an experienced stud boy, Beau's sire Cantarra Blue Byou owned by Suzanne Smith was chosen.

Beau developed into a quiet, gentle cat with balanced type and excellent colouring. He was booked in to be neutered, but at this time his father Byou died, and so Beau went to live with Suzanne Smith. He sired many Champions and Premiers for his owner. After she gave up breeding, Beau went to live with Mrs. Venita Cook who later had him neutered. He died at ten years of age, having to be put to sleep with kidney failure.

### The Eighties

The interest in the Blue Pointed Siamese variety continued through the 1980's with Gillian Mason's Gr. Ch. Eirrem Smart Alec and neuter Gr. Pr. Falcon Blue Ophas who was bred by Mrs. Hall. His owner was Mrs. Hazel Turnbull. Rosemary Bennett also bred Blue Point Siamese under her Thairano prefix. Mrs. Dot Bailey bred and owned Gr. Ch. Zenobia Fast Mover, whose name appears in many Siamese pedigrees of today.

One of the most interesting and recent Blue Point Siamese lines started with Mrs. Elizabeth Biggie's Blue Point Siamese, Ch. Craigiehilloch Blue Bryony, who was bred by Mrs. Dora Clarke. Bryony was the mother of Linton Blue Selene who was owned by Mrs. Jane Wyatt. Jane Wyatt went on to breed from Selene and produced Ch. Moonswift Madame Butterfly who was owned by Mrs. Margaret Tyce. This Blue Point Siamese became the mother of Ch. Tyemead Gentleman Jim who became the Best Blue Point Siamese at the Supreme Cat Show in 1986.

### The Nineties

The 1990's have continued with some lovely examples of the variety being shown, and in 1994 the Siamese Cat Association at their annual show held an exhibition under the banner of "Pride of Siamese Cats". Four Blue Point Siamese were exhibited. One was Ch. Amberwych Moody Blue, who is owned by Mrs. G. Churchill and bred by Mrs. J. Jobson. Another Moonswift Blue Point Siamese bred by Mrs. Jane Wyatt, Moonswift Samarkand, took his pride of place accompanied by his owner, Miss L. Dinsdale. The Eirrem prefix made an appearance with Ch. Eirrem Lordsnooty, who is bred and owned by Miss Gillian Mason. This prefix has a wonderful history of beautiful, strongly bred Siamese cats. One of the earlier cats mentioned in the Eirrem pedigree is Merrie Christmas and the prefix is Merrie spelled backwards. The last Blue Point Siamese on exhibition was Gr. Ch. Roysterer Oberon who was bred by Mrs. Dawn Williams together with Mrs. J. Hirst. His owner is Mrs. Hazel Turnbull.

Many articles refer to the Blue Point Siamese character, stating it was and is very different from that of the Seal Pointed variety. Owners had observed that the Blue Point Siamese appeared to be more affectionate and easy-going – they were more able to adapt to new situations in life. There was also

another difference noted – that out of all the Siamese varieties, Blue Point Siamese produced bigger litters of kittens!

### The Blue Point in the USA

In the USA, the Blue Point Siamese variety fared a little better in the 1920's. They were allowed to compete with Seal Pointed Siamese in the non-specific Siamese classes in North American shows. It is recorded that in the early 1930's, the Boston Cat Club had allocated the variety a class of their own as they had been recognised by the C.F.A. in 1932 and given Championship status.

In 1947, the Siamese Cat Society of America published The Official Siamese Standard. The booklet it appeared in, together with many photographs of Seal Point Siamese and Blue Point Siamese, was dedicated to the memory of Louise Selden Frith. The American Cat Association and The Cat Fanciers Federation had authenticated the booklet by stating that this published Standard was the one used in their Siamese Specialty Shows.

The standard laid down for the Seal Pointed Siamese was to be used for the Blue variety in every way except for colour: “the coat is to be of a silvery blue, slightly darker across the shoulders, changing gradually to an oyster white on the stomach and chest. Points to be of a much darker blue, but of the same tone as the coat. There must be no warm tone of fawn in the coat. Allowance made for older cats. Kittens lighter in colour.”

In the 1950's, it was recorded that the coats of the Blue Point Siamese in the USA had developed a pale, cold body tone with the points being a greyish blue in colour.

Nowadays, the variety has two shades of blue colour points that are both acceptable in the North American show ring: one is a deep slate blue and the other is a lighter “silvery” blue. The body should be a pale grey blue as opposed to a fawn colour. Like Seal Point Siamese, they darken with age.

Taken from “The Complete Siamese” by Sally Franklin  
Ringpress Books Ltd., 1995

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