Cerebellar Agenesia in Kittens

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fect the same thing and allow the added advantage of raising only purebreds.

Narrow Limits

The limits of interspecific breeding are quite narrow with only the first generation being worthy of consideration. Most hybrids are sterile and have no value from the breeding standpoint. The hybrid that has achieved greatest prominence is the mule. The cattalo and the chicken-peeasant hybrids never amounted to anything.

Dr. Craft stated in conclusion, “We know little about the merits of any system, and actual breeding is the yardstick for the determination of genetic combinations. We cannot figure on paper or estimate in our own minds the outcome of different matings unless we resort to trial and error and keep records of our observations.” He illustrated this point by saying that champions bred to champions do not always produce champions. He feels that environmental influences may wreck the chances of a young animal even if it does have an aristocratic pedigree and a wealth of desirable genetic traits.

Hybrid Corn

Upon being questioned, Dr. Craft replied that Hybrid corn was an example of nicheing of two highly inbred strains. These have desirable characters to contribute, as well as undesirable ones, thus by proper manipulation the dominant or desirable features are allowed to overshadow the undesirable qualities. This great contribution to plant breeding is a stimulus and possibly an objective for animal breeding operations.

Cerebellar Agenesia in Kittens

A Case Report

C. L. Telleen

Early last fall I was called to observe two kittens about one month old, owned by Leonard Strand of Gowrie, Iowa. They were from a litter of three, the mother and litter mate being normal, short-haired and grey in color. These two had good coats of long, yellow persian hair and their general condition was good. However, they exhibited a peculiar incoordination when attempting to walk.

Their gate resembled somewhat that of a horse with string-halt and their sense of equilibrium was lacking to the extent that they fell over on their sides continuously, first on the right and then the left. They were able to reach a certain point only by traveling in a zig-zag fashion.

Another observation during the Christmas holidays revealed that there was no improvement in the condition and the owner consented to have one of the kittens taken to the Iowa State College Clinic. Since this peculiarity seemed to be due to some embryological defect the kitten was destroyed and a post mortem examination was made.

Upon removal of the skull cap, we found a large, flabby cerebrum which extended back practically the entire length of the cranial cavity. The cerebellum was so far back that it did not have sufficient space in which to develop. It was so small that it could only be recognized by cross sectioning. The corpus quadrigemina was hypertrophied.

This condition has been reported in other animals but so far as we know has never been previously reported in the cat. Since the kittens with the same types of hair coats in this litter manifested the same symptoms it is logical to suppose that this condition might be due to color-linked genes.