



# Koko's

## DNA results



# The road to less wild

Simply put, our cats are still wild little beasts. The history of cat domestication is vastly different from the domestication of other companion or agricultural animals. Whereas dogs went through thousands of years of selective breeding for behavioral and physical traits, cats have largely remained similar to their wild ancestors. This is why our home-based felines still have excellent hunting skills, feeding and grooming habits and the ability to pounce into action at any given moment.

**So, how exactly did cats become part of human life?** The pathway to domestication began as human agriculture flourished. The rodent population drastically increased with food storage. Cats played their welcomed role as nature's exterminator. Since cats chose to live with us, a systematic breeding program was never imposed on them for traits responsible for cohabitation. Our cats are unique and in some sense, the only animals known to have domesticated themselves to live with us. **Due to this relatively short breeding process, the vast majority of modern cats are not the result of intentional breeding, nor have ancestors of a defined breed.**

Unlike other dog or human ancestry tests, we cannot make the assumption that your cat was descended from a mixture of pedigree lines since pedigree cats are so new. However, using a large panel of purebred and pedigree cats that we have sequenced, we can try to find parts of your cat's genome that are similar to a known cat breed.

93% of all cats in the world are random-bred moggies. This is all we knew about them until now! With genetic data, we can learn more about what makes each mixed-breed polycat unique! As we gather more purebred data and trait information, we will be able to start narrowing down the parts of the genome that are responsible for certain traits and thus will continue to explore what makes YOUR polycat unique!

## Breed Analysis

### Breed groups

We used high coverage whole genome sequencing pedigree cat data to generate what we call a genetic proximity map. This map visualises the underlying genomic differences between known cat breeds. For instance, breeds that are close to each other on the map share a high degree of genetic similarity. In many instances, such breeds are known to have a shared origin. The observed genetic similarity between breeds results in the formation of 4 foundational breed groups - **Eastern, Western, Persian and Exotic**. The genetic proximity map allows you to see how the breeds closest to your cat relate to other known breeds and breed groups.

### Chromosome map

Cats have 18 autosomal and 1 sex chromosome pairs. Our genetic analysis looks for regions on your cat's autosomal chromosomes that are most similar to different breed groups and individual cat breeds. We quantified these results, indicating what percentage of your cat's DNA is most similar to each respective breed or breed group. Keep in mind that genomic regions showing similarity to a particular breed do not necessarily indicate pedigree ancestry.

# Breed Analysis



The **Chromosome Map** shows your cat's chromosome pairs with regions of genomic similarity to different breed groups shown in different colors. Mouse over a specific breed on the left and you will see which chromosomal regions in your cat are the closest match to this breed. Click on each breed in the Breed Groups to read more about each breed!

You can use the slider below to modify results to reflect different degrees of statistical confidence.



## Western 63.00%

Russian Blue	17.64%
Ragdoll	9.50%
American Shorthair	6.38%
Siberian	2.01%
Broadly Western	27.47%

## Eastern 10.40%

Thai Siamese	7.13%
Birman	3.27%

## Persian 4.71%

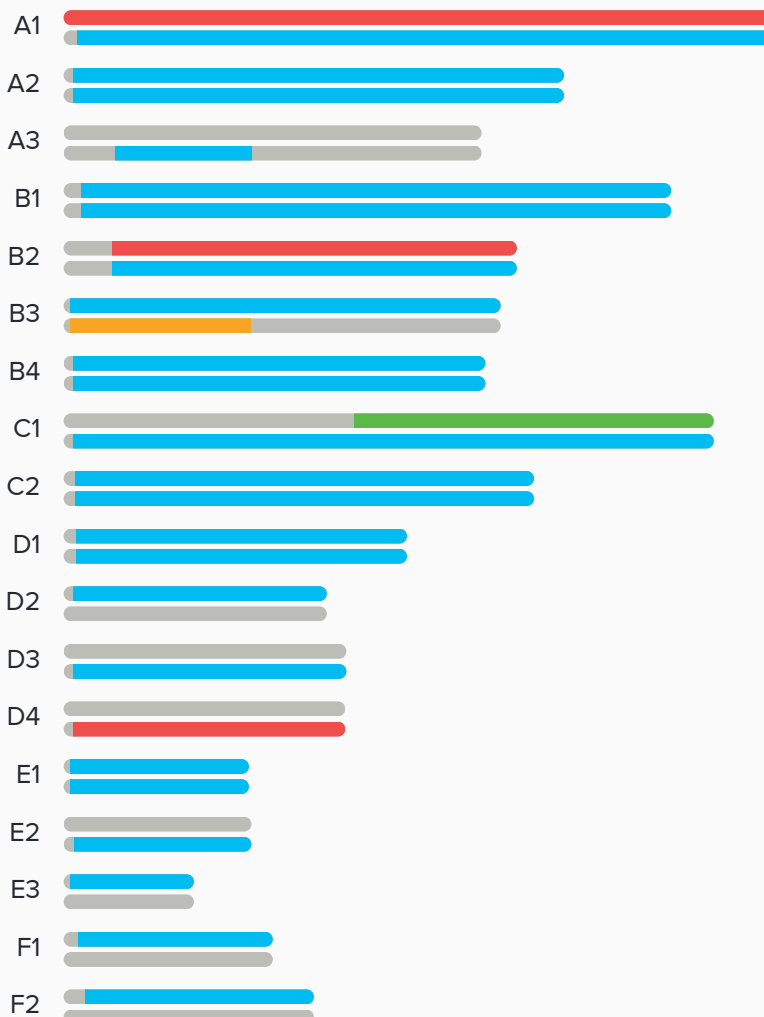
Persian	4.71%
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## Exotic 1.23%

Savannah	1.12%
Broadly Exotic	0.11%

## Polycat 20.66%

### Chromosome Map



# Wildcat Index - What is it?

All cats around the world share the same common ancestor from about 10.8 million years ago. The progressive evolution of the common ancestor eventually led to the development of 37 modern cat species. However, as the evolution progressed bringing cats from the jungles into our homes, some domestic kittens inherited more or less DNA from particular wild relatives. Tiny differences and minimal amounts, yet this gives us a chance to better understand our cat, and all cats, with the help of genetics.

We compared your cat's DNA to the DNA of four wildcats and we ranked the results based on genomic similarity. For the majority of domestic cats, these results will look very similar as they broadly reflect the evolutionary history of domestic cats. **These results should NOT be interpreted as evidence that your cat is part wildcat.**



Tigers are the largest known cat species, with males from the largest sub-species, the Amur tiger, weighing up to 660 pounds (300 kg) and measuring 10 feet (3 meters). The smallest sub-species, the Sumatran tiger, can still reach an impressive 310 pounds (140 kg) and 8 feet (2.4 meters). The black stripe pattern is unique to each tiger and can serve as an identification tag. Tigers are considered critically endangered although numbers are starting to stabilize in slowly increase in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Russia and China. It is estimated that there are around 3,900 tigers living in the wild today.



Leopards are considered a young species, having originated around 500,000 years ago. Typically, leopards are light colored, with dark rosette shaped spots. Leopards are comfortable in trees and often stalk and hunt their prey by pouncing from trees. They are great swimmers and occasionally hunt fish and crabs while in the water. Leopards inhabit sub-Saharan Africa, northeast Africa, Central Asia, India and China. However, outside of Africa, most leopard populations are considered endangered. In addition, human expansion has resulted in a loss of 66% of leopards' habitat in Africa itself.



The cheetah is the world's fastest land animal, reaching speeds of over 110 km/hr (70 mph) in 3 seconds. With its unique anatomy, characterized by long legs, flexible spine and slender body frame, the cheetah is very different from other cats and is the only member of its genus – *Acinonyx*. Today, cheetahs are found in only 9% of their historic habitat and are considered functionally extinct, with 7,100 adults in the wild. They are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, considered a protected species in Namibia and endangered under the Endangered Species Act in the United States.



The cougar, also known as panther, puma and mountain lion, is found across the Americas. Cougars used to be abundant in the United States, often considered a nuisance as they prey on livestock. However, since the beginning of the 20th century, the cougar population has drastically decreased in the United States as they are hunted for their fur and partially due to them being killed to protect livestock. Eastern cougars, originally found in the Northeastern United States, are considered to be extinct. The Florida panther, a sub-species of cougars, is among the world's most endangered mammals.

# Health Markers

## Kitty Genetics 101: Critical Reading

Genotype is the portion of your cat's genome that encodes the physical expression (phenotype) of a particular trait, such as eye color, coat color, or disease predisposition. Genes comprise the genotype. Every gene in your kitty's genome is present in two copies - one inherited from each parent. These two copies can be the same or different. If they are different, we say that the cat has two different alleles (gene variants) and is, therefore, heterozygous for this gene. On the contrary, if the two copies of the gene are the same, the cat is homozygous for the gene of interest.

When it comes to the phenotype, alleles can have different contributions. If the two gene alleles are the same, then they will both contribute to the phenotype equally. If the two alleles are different however, which allele will contribute to the phenotype depends on their relationship. Some alleles are dominant, meaning that they have the ability to "hide" other alleles and thus be the sole contributor to the phenotype. In contrast, the allele that is "hidden" in a heterozygous state is known as a recessive allele. A recessive allele can only contribute to the phenotype when your cat is homozygous for that allele, i.e., there is no dominant allele to hijack the phenotype expression.

## How Does It All Relate To Disease?

Genetic disorders are conditions that are present at birth or develop later in life and are caused by one or more genetic mutations. **We tested your cat for genetic health markers associated with genetic disorders.** Genetic health markers are mutated gene alleles associated with an increased likelihood of developing a particular genetic disorder. With the exception of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which has more complex genetics, the conditions included in this report have either a dominant or a recessive pattern of inheritance. This means that for diseases with a dominant inheritance pattern, having just one mutated gene allele will result in the cat developing the disease. Conversely, for diseases with a recessive inheritance pattern, the cat will only develop the disease if it has 2 mutated alleles. Having just one mutated recessive allele makes the cat a disease carrier, meaning that it will not develop the disease, but it can pass down the mutation to its kittens.

In this part of the report, you will see your kitty's results for 39 genetic markers associated with 17 diseases. 'Clear' status indicates that your cat tested negative for a particular genetic marker. 'Carrier' status means your cat has one copy of a recessive genetic marker and should only be a concern if you plan to breed your cat. 'At risk' and 'At high risk' status means that your cat has tested positive for a dominant allelic mutation or has two copies of a recessive allelic mutation. **If you see one of these two result designations, contact your veterinarian.**

Please note, Basepaws results should not replace the evaluation and the clinical diagnosis made by a veterinarian. We also want to point out that a 'Clear' result does not mean your cat is guaranteed to not develop the disease. It simply means your cat is negative for the mutation we tested. There may be environmental factors and other not yet known genetic mutations contributing to developing the disease.

# Health Markers

In this section, you will find a brief description for each of the genetic diseases you currently have results for. Each of these disease is represented by at least one known health marker. In addition to your cat's results, we have also included details on the genes and genetic mutations included in our test.

**Clear** – The cat is negative for the disease-associated marker we tested

**Carrier** – The cat has one copy of an autosomal recessive disease-associated marker

**At Risk** – The cat has one copy of a marker associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

**At High Risk** – This designation can mean one of three things:

- The cat has 1 or 2 copies of a marker associated with an autosomal dominant disease

- The cat has 2 copies of a marker associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

- The cat has 2 copies of an autosomal recessive disease-associated marker

**IMPORTANT:** Not all health reports might be available initially, and more markers and results can be added over the coming weeks and even months! Stay close to your results and check often to see any new health markers and diseases added.

## Polycystic kidney disease

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is the most common genetic disease in cats. PKD is characterized by the formation of small fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys that lead to kidney failure.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
PKD1	C>A	Negative	Clear

## Cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common feline heart disease characterized by tachycardia.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
MYPBC3	G>A *Frequent in Rag Doll	Negative	Clear
MYPBC3	C>G *Frequent in Maine Coon	Negative	Clear

# Health Markers

## Retinal degeneration II

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a disease marked by the deterioration of retina caused by the progressive death of retinal cells.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
CEP290	A>C	Negative	Clear

## Mucopolysaccharidosis

Mucopolysaccharidoses are a group of metabolic disorders characterized by a deficiency in the production or functioning in lysosomal enzymes required for digestion of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs).

Gene	Mutation	Status	
ARSB	A>G *Type VI	Negative	Clear
IDUA	GTC>del *Type I	Negative	Clear
IDUA	TCG>del *Type I	Negative	Clear
GUSB	G>A *Type VII	Negative	Clear
GUSB	T>G *Type VII	Negative	Clear
GUSB	C>T *Type VII	Negative	Clear

# Health Markers

## Gangliosidosis

Gangliosidosis is a group of lipid storage disorders characterized by the accumulation of lipids – gangliosides in neurons. GM2AB gangliosidosis (type AB) is associated with a deficiency in beta hexosaminidases A and B.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
HEXB	C>T *GM2 Type II	Negative	Clear
HEXB	T>del *GM2 Type II	Negative	Clear
HEXB	TAC..>inv *GM2 Type II	Negative	Clear
GM2A	GACC>del *GM2, GM2A deficiency	Negative	Clear
GLB1	C>G *GM1	Negative	Clear

## Cystinuria

Cystinuria is an inherited metabolic disease, relatively common in dogs and rare in cats, associated with high cysteine levels in urine.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
SLC3A1	C>T *Type I-A	Negative	Clear
SLC7A9	G>A *Type B	Negative	Clear
SLC7A9	C>T *Type B	Negative	Clear



# Health Markers

## Porphyria

Porphyria is a group of diseases associated with the accumulation of porphyrins. The buildup of porphyrins in the acute diseases primarily affect the nervous system.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
HMBS	ACAG>del *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
HMBS	T>ins *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
HMBS	G>A *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
HMBS	C>T *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
HMBS	G>A *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
HMBS	GAG>del *Acute intermittent	Negative	Clear
UROS	C>T *Congenital erythropoietic	Negative	Clear
UROS	G>A *Congenital erythropoietic	Negative	Clear

## Factor XII deficiency

Factor XII deficiency, or Hageman deficiency, is a blood clotting disorder characterized by deficiency in the coagulation factor XII.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
F12	C>del	Negative	Clear
F12	G>C	Negative	Clear

# Health Markers

## Mannosidosis, alpha

Alpha mannosidosis is a lysosomal storage disorder characterized by the deficiency of the alpha-D-mannosidase enzyme. A defective alpha-mannosidase causes progressive accumulation of mannose-rich oligosaccharides in all tissues, which subsequently disrupts the cellular functions and causes apoptosis.

### Gene

MAN2B1

### Mutation

CTGG>del

### Status

Negative

[Clear](#)

## Myotonia

Myotonia Congenita (MC) is a hereditary neuromuscular disorder characterized by persistent contraction (or delayed relaxation of muscles), particularly during the muscle movement.

### Gene

CLCN1

### Mutation

G>T

### Status

Negative

[Clear](#)

## Hypothyroidism

Feline Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter is a rare autosomal recessive disease that affects the thyroid levels in the blood.

### Gene

TPO

### Mutation

C>T

### Status

Negative

[Clear](#)

# Health Markers

## Vitamin D-deficiency rickets, type I

Rickets or osteomalacia is a disease associated with the softening of bones and increased rate of bone deformities and fractures.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
CYP27B1	C>del	Negative	Clear
CYP27B1	C>A	Negative	Clear

## Niemann-Pick disease, type C1

Niemann-Pick disease is a group of hereditary lysosomal storage diseases. Feline Niemann-Pick disease C coincides with the human type C of this disorder, and it is classified in two subtypes: C1 and C2.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
NPC1	C>G	Negative	Clear
NPC1	T>G	Negative	Clear

## Hypokalaemic periodic paralysis

Hypokalemia refers to the state of low potassium ion (K<sup>+</sup>) levels in the blood. It often arises as a secondary problem due to other deficiencies or diseases, but it may also be a result of a primary congenital disease, such as hypokalemic period polymyopathy.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
WNK4	C>T	Negative	Clear

# Health Markers

### Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome

Autoimmune Lymphoproliferative Syndrome (ALPS) is a lethal disease distinguished by massive enlargement of lymphatic nodes and spleen caused by the accumulation of lymphocytes.

Gene	Mutation	Status	
FASLG	A>ins	Negative	Clear

### Pyruvate kinase deficiency of erythrocyte

Pyruvate kinase deficiency is an inherited metabolic disorder characterized by disrupted survival of erythrocytes (red blood cells).

Gene	Mutation	Status	
PKLR	G>A	Negative	Clear

# Health and Wellness

We hope you enjoyed flipping through the first chapter of your cat's DNA story. This is just the start of connecting all of the dots so please stay tuned - there is much more to come. Feline health & wellness is very important to us, and we are dedicating all our resources to making a world better for cats. Together, we will elevate feline care to a new level on our mission to help cats live healthier and happier lives. We've shared some actionable insights to help you optimize your kitty's health and well being, so that you may get to know your cat better.

## Visit your veterinarian

Be proactive and have your kitty examined regularly. Annual (semi-annual for older cats) wellness exams and routine lab tests can help veterinarians find and treat many health conditions before they become life-threatening. Check-ups are especially important for cats, who are excellent at hiding when they're sick or in pain.

## Provide clean water daily

If your kitty isn't drinking enough water, they could become dehydrated or develop a urinary tract disease. Always make sure that you provide a constant supply of clean water. If they are finicky about water, try providing an intriguing fountain or feed them wet canned food which adds more water to their diet.

## Keep your cat at a healthy weight

Obesity is as dangerous for cats as it is for people. It puts them at risk for health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and lung disease. It can even increase their risk of developing cancer. Talk to your veterinarian about what a healthy weight means for your cat.

## Polish those pearly whites

Unlike humans, cats can't brush their teeth. Partner with your veterinarian to create a dental care plan. The bacteria that collects on your cat's teeth can also enter their bloodstream, contributing to a plethora of health issues and other feline diseases.

## Give your cat mini exams at home

Petting and brushing your cat is about more than minimizing hairballs and showing your kitty love. It also lets you get your hands on your kitty so you can notice any lumps, bumps, or growths early and get them checked out right away. It's equally important to look for changes in behavior, stool/urine, coat condition and weight. By knowing your kitty well, you can catch changes before it's too late.

## Proper nutrition can increase life expectancy

Aging includes a multitude of factors: environment, breed characteristics, nutrition and genetics. To help your cat live her best life, she needs a high-moisture, species-appropriate diet. While diet is important, how much and how often your cat eats is also key. Additional Tips: If you have more than one cat, feed them separately and monitor each one's consumption.

# Feline Breeds

Based on our growing cat database, we can divide breeds into four main categories: Western, Eastern, Exotic, Persian. Don't forget that random-bred moggie heritage is an equally important part of your kitty's uniqueness.

## Western

Ragdoll  
Russian Blue  
Norwegian Forest Cat  
Siberian  
American Shorthair  
Maine Coon  
Abyssinian  
Turkish Van  
Turkish Angora

## Eastern

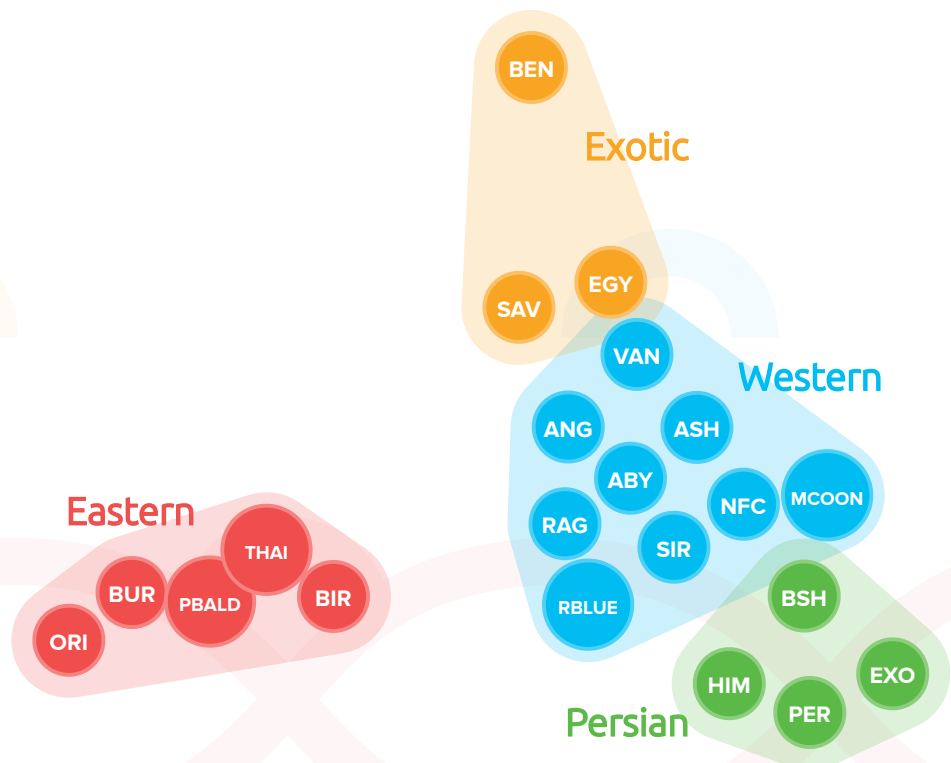
Oriental Shorthair  
Peterbald  
Burmese  
Birman  
Thai Siamese

## Persian

Persian  
Exotic Shorthair  
British Shorthair  
Himalayan

## Exotic

Bengal  
Savannah  
Egyptian Mau



# Ragdoll



Origin  
**USA**

Avg. Male Weight  
**10-15 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**10-15 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Persian, Siamese**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Calm, Docile, Lap-cat**

## Chromosome Map

9.5% Ragdoll



## General Overview

Alongside the Maine Coon, the Ragdoll is considered one of the world's largest cat breeds with an average weight ranging from 10 to 15 pounds. These friendly felines are a semi-longhaired, blue-eyed, pointed cat variety that come in a variety of pointed colors and patterns such as white, tortoiseshell, lynx, lilac, blue, chocolate, and seal.

## Breed Origins

The Ragdoll is considered to be a native to the United States. It is said that they originated in California during the 1960s. The breed was created through the crossing of a long-haired, white cat named Josephine, a seal colored mitted cat, and a black cat. It is believed that Josephine may have been a hybrid of a Persian and possibly a Birman or Siamese.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The Ragdoll is a strong, healthy breed that can live a healthy long life if nurtured properly. There are a few things to keep in mind though. These cats are at a higher risk for developing feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). HCM can be caused by several genetic mutations that have been identified in about 20% of Ragdoll cats.

## Personality

These elegant kitties are quite easygoing. They are calm and very sweet-natured, enjoying cuddles whenever available. They are known to possess quirky behaviors like drinking water from the tap or going limp like a ragdoll when being held. They are the ultimate lap cat, and because of their docile demeanor, they make perfect pets for families with children or other pets.

# Russian Blue



Origin  
**Russia**

Avg. Male Weight  
**8-15 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**8-15 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Russian White, Russian Black**

Alternate Names  
**Archangel Blue, Archangel Cat**

Personality  
**Curious, Social, Intelligent**

## Chromosome Map

17.6% Russian Blue



## General Overview

Meet the "Doberman Pinscher of cats". A cat that combines elegance and masculinity in its own unique way. Russian Blues are very strong and agile cats, with a sweet-natured temperament. The breed is known for its grayish-blue coat, broad head and vividly green eyes. Its short, plush fur has silver-tipped hairs giving the coat a slight shimmering appearance.

## Breed Origins

The Russian Blue is a naturally occurring breed thought to have originated in Archangel, Russia. However, despite its Russian origins, the breed was mainly developed in Great Britain and Northern Europe where it was thought to have been introduced by Russian sailors. The Russian Blue breed present in the US today was developed by combining the British Russian Blue with the Scandinavian Russian Blue. Russian Whites, Blacks and Tabbies were all created by crossing Russian Blues with domestic cats. The breed was also used, to a certain extent, in the development of the Havana Brown and in altering the Nebelung breed.

## Genetic predisposition and health

These moderate-sized cats have little to no predispositions to genetic diseases. However, they do love to eat, therefore it is important to appropriately dose their food to avoid the onset of obesity. Some published studies have recognized the Russian Blue, among several other breeds, to be at a higher risk for Diabetes mellitus.

## Personality

Russian Blues are very curious, friendly and social cats. They can seem shy or distant at times, but in fact, they often get depressed or anxious if they feel neglected in any way. Blues are known to be very loyal, loving and even sensitive to human emotions. They are typically quiet, and yet very playful and energetic. Due to their high level of intelligence and excellent memory they tend to remember favorite visitors even if the visits are infrequent.



# Norwegian Forest Cat



Origin  
Norway

Avg. Male Weight  
10-16 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
8-12 lbs

Related Breeds  
Siberian, Turkish Angora

Alternate Names  
Norsk Skogkatt, Skaukatt

Personality  
Social, Friendly, Explorer

## Chromosome Map

0% Norwegian Forest Cat



## General Overview

Also known as the "mystic wildcat of the fairy tales", NFC is a feline breed believed to be between 1000 to 2000 years old. This breed is so popular and beloved across Northern Europe that it has made frequent appearances in numerous Norwegian urban myths and folklore. These strong and sturdy cats are well protected in Europe's brutal winters by an insulated, waterproof double coat. Norwegian Forest cats are distinguished by their large, almond-shaped eyes, triangle-shaped head and a straight profile from the brow ridge to the tip of the nose.

## Breed Origins

Originating in Norway, one theory has it that the breed's ancestors may be black and white shorthair cats brought from Great Britain and longhaired cats introduced by the Crusaders. Another theory claims that their ancestry lies with the Russian Siberian cat and the Turkish Angora. The breed was recognized and registered in Europe in the 1970s, and in the American Cat Fanciers' Association in 1994.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Some published studies have recognized the Norwegian Forest cats, among several other breeds, to be at a higher risk for Diabetes mellitus. In a 2007 study, a complex rearrangement in the gene coding for the glycogen branching enzyme (GBE1) was identified in some cats of this breed. The rearrangement causes glycogen storage disease type IV, characterized by a perinatal hypoglycemic collapse and a late-juvenile-onset neuromuscular degeneration. The breed has also been known to suffer from hip dysplasia.

## Personality

Norwegian Forest cats have a calm temperament and will usually get along well with children and other pets. While they highly appreciate the company of their favorite humans, they do so on their own terms. These kitties love to explore, and their strong claws make them excellent climbers. A scratching post or a tall cat tree will go a long way entertaining these kitties.

# Siberian



Origin  
**Russia**

Avg. Male Weight  
**8-17 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**8-17 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Norwegian Forest Cat**

Alternate Names  
**Siberian Forest Cat, Moscow semi-longhair**

Personality  
**Social, Playful**

## Chromosome Map

2.0% Siberian



## General Overview

For centuries, the Siberian forest cat was a landrace variety of a domestic cat in Russia. By the 1980s, they developed to be a formal breed with declared standards. This feline is considered to be an ancient cat, and believed to be the ancestor of all long-haired modern cats. The Siberian cat is Russia's national animal, characterized by a long, luxuriously dense coat. They express all three natural types of fur: guard hairs, awn hairs and down hairs. The coat colors can vary from tabby, solid, tortoiseshell and color-point. Known as exceptional jumpers, Siberians are powerfully built, strong cats with large rounded paws.

## Breed Origins

The first mention of the breed appeared in a book by Harrison Wier in 1871. It wasn't until the 1990s that the breed was introduced to the US. This breed is highly popular, but being native to Russia, Siberian kittens are very expensive to obtain which is why they are relatively rare outside Europe. The breed was officially recognized and validated in the 1980s.

## Genetic predisposition and health

There are claims that Siberian cats may be at a higher risk from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), polycystic kidney disease (PKD), hereditary cancer, feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) and periodontal disease. However, there are no known conditions proven to be tightly associated with this particular breed. Siberian cats are often considered to be a hypoallergenic breed because they produce less FelD1.

## Personality

Siberians are friendly and social cats, always looking for companionship. They get along great with other animals and children. They are brave, independent, and yet easygoing and affectionate. There are claims that these cats can sense when someone is in need of moral support and will provide company to the respective person.

# American Shorthair



Origin  
**USA**

Avg. Male Weight  
**10-15 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**8-12 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**British Shorthair**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Outgoing, Social, Adaptable**

## Chromosome Map

6.4% American Shorthair



## General Overview

Sturdy, powerful, agile and full of endurance, the American Shorthair has all the characteristics of a skilled hunter. These beauties are defined by their large heads, powerful jaws and full cheeks. American Shorthairs have short, dense coats that come in various colors such as gold, brown, cameo, calico, and the popular silver tabby. Their eyes are large and distinctive and come in colors such as blue, copper, hazel and gold.

## Breed Origins

The first American Shorthairs were believed to have accompanied European settlers who left Europe and set their sails for North America. They were brought onboard as mice hunters, protecting the ship's cargo from rodent infestation. These hardy companions didn't receive their American Shorthair name until 1966, when they were crowned the title in order to differentiate them from regular random-bred, domestic shorthair cats.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Although the American Shorthair is considered a healthy breed with very few health problems, they can be affected by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). They are also prone to inherited craniofacial defects which can range from mild versions like dermoid cysts to more serious conditions such as cleft palates and crooked jaws, where the latter results in the development of misaligned teeth.

## Personality

The American Shorthair is the ideal family cat. These versatile cats are social, easygoing and quite affectionate. Even though they aren't typically known to be lap cats, they will certainly appreciate a spot next to you on the sofa. Being a moderately active breed, they are not overly demanding of attention and activity, and are good at keeping themselves entertained. When not hunting for random insects, the American Shorthair can be found lounging the day away in the sun.

# Maine Coon



Origin  
USA

Avg. Male Weight  
12-15 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
9-12 lbs

Related Breeds

Persian, Norwegian Forest Cat

Alternate Names

Snowshoe Cat, Coon Cat, American Forest Cat

Personality

Water-lover, Obedient, Playful

## Chromosome Map

0% Maine Coon



## General Overview

Tipping the scales at sometimes almost 20 pounds, the Maine Coon is said to be one of the largest and heaviest cat breeds. This breed is very muscular, agile and heavily boned, sporting a thick, uneven, double layered coat and a bushy tail. They also have the longest whiskers of any other cat breed.

## Breed Origins

The origin of the Maine Coon remains unknown, but there are many speculations and supported theories. One theory suggests that these elegant, long-haired cats accompanied the Vikings from Europe as they journeyed to America. Another story has it that the Maine Coon is the first and therefore the oldest native breed to have been created in the United States, specifically in the state of Maine, where today it is the official state cat.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The Maine Coon breed is known to be at a higher risk for developing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the most common heart condition among all feline breed groups. HCM can be caused by several genetic mutations. In the Maine Coon an autosomal dominant mutation in the myosin-binding protein C gene has been identified in 33% of the breed. HCM is a progressive disease and can result in heart failure, paralysis of the hind legs, and even sudden death. Another genetic mutation found among Maine Coon cats is known as the "Hemingway" mutation, which can result in the development of an extra toe, or at times even two. This harmless mutation is commonly referred to as polydactylism and is frequently seen among the breed.

## Personality

Termed as one of the few water loving cats, the Maine Coon is truly a gentle giant and adored for its playful, independent dog-like nature. Maine Coons are known to be pretty vocal, utilizing a wide range of complex sounds. These cats are often quite obedient and possess an above average intelligence making them easy to train. It is not uncommon to see cats of this breed being walked on leashes.

# Abyssinian



Origin  
**Asia**

Avg. Male Weight  
**7-10 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**6-8 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Old Egyptian breeds, Ocicats**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Active, Intelligent, Mischievous**

## Chromosome Map

0% Abyssinian



## General Overview

The miniature cougar of the cat world, the Abyssinian is a gorgeous and energetic breed that is said to resemble the wild cats found all over North America. The Abyssinian always has a ticked coat pattern ranging in color from ruby red, fawn tones and silvery blues. These cats are characterized by wide expressive eyes, large ears, and a long, lean body.

## Breed Origins

The Abyssinian is said to be one of the oldest cat breeds. For a long time, it was believed that these cats originated from ancient Abyssinia (present Ethiopia), but recent genetic studies have suggested that South East Asia is more likely to be their place of origin. Based on the genetic markers found in the Abyssinian, it is presumed that cats from both Asia and Europe were used to create the Abyssinian breed we know today.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Some published studies have recognized the Abyssinian breed, among several other breeds, to be at a higher risk for Diabetes mellitus. Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) has also been noted in the breed, as well as in Somali and Ocicat cat breeds. Two mutations related to this condition have been identified in all three of the breeds. Other health problems associated with the Abyssinian breed are periodontal disease (gingivitis), hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), pyruvate kinase deficiency (PKD), psychogenic alopecia (stress-related hair loss) and patellar luxation (trick knee).

## Personality

Notorious for their intelligence and agility, the Abyssinian is considered to be one of the most athletic and outgoing breeds. Although Abyssinians are not typically known to be laid back and cuddly cats, they can easily suffer from depression without the attention of their owners. These cats are excellent climbers, hunters and jumpers. They thrive in environments where they can explore, climb high spaces or simply enjoy good mischievous play with their humans and fellow cat friends.

# Turkish Van



Origin  
**Turkey**

Avg. Male Weight  
**10-12 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**7-10 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Persian**

Alternate Names  
**Turkish Vankedisi**

Personality  
**Water-lover, Energetic, Vocal**

## Chromosome Map

0% Turkish Van



## General Overview

With a striking wisp of color topping its head and its tail painted to match, this mostly white cat is one of the rarest in the world! These fur decorations are known as the "Van Pattern". The Turkish Van has two coat lengths depending on the season. The winter coat is longer and thicker than its shorter summer counterpart. The Turkish Van may sport eyes of differing colors (blue and amber), a trait not uncommon with this breed.

## Breed Origins

The Turkish Van are known as one of the oldest breeds in the world and also one of the rarest! Though being a newer breed in North America, the Turkish Van has ties back to between 6,000 BC and 3,000 BC. The Modern history of the Van starts with Sonia Halliday and Laura Lushington, two British photographers on assignment to photograph Lake Van in 1955. Upon finishing, the two were gifted two unrelated Turkish Vans with the now infamous "Van pattern". These two cats mated and were used as the base-lineage for Turkish Van cats in England. The Van wasn't officially introduced to America until 1982.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The gene (KIT) associated with the white coat seems to be linked to hearing abilities. Deafness in white cats is more common among those cats with blue eyes or with heterochromia. This is because the KIT gene can occasionally cause the degradation of the cochlea aside from disrupting melanocyte migration into one or both eyes. This results in irreversible deafness in one or both ears. Other genetic conditions found in the breed are also hereditary ataxia and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). The exact cause for HCM in cats remains unknown. Scientists have, however, found that feline HCM can be inherited.

## Personality

Turkish Van cats are extremely intelligent and friendly and they make excellent companions. They are lively cats and will enjoy playing games with humans or other cats and so they need stimulation and a chance to play. Turkish Van cats have soft voices.



# Turkish Angora



Origin  
**Turkey**

Avg. Male Weight  
**12+ lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**8-12 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Persian**

Alternate Names  
**Angora Cat, Ankara Cat**

Personality  
**Active, Stubborn**

## Chromosome Map

0% Turkish Angora



## General Overview

The Turkish Angora is an ancient, natural breed from Turkey. It is thought that this breed is the true origin of the mutation for white coat color and long hair in domestic cats. Turkish Angoras have long, posh and silky coats and their bodies are graceful and agile. Ears are pointed and the tail is rich and upright. Although they are most famous for their shimmering white furs, their coats can also be tabby (brown or white), black with a chocolate brown undercoat or a variety of smoke tones. The eyes are almond-shaped and come in a variety of colors, and heterochromia is not uncommon.

## Breed Origins

This breed has developed through natural selection in the regions of Anatolia, Turkey. Turkish Angoras were used for the development of the Persian breed, as cat fanciers selected them for their luxurious coats. In United States, The Cat Fanciers' Association officially recognized the breed in 1963, but only white Angoras were accepted until 1978. Today, all cat registries in the US recognize an assortment of coats and patterns of the Turkish Angoras.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Turkish Angoras, particularly those with white coats and blue eyes, have a higher risk of congenital deafness due to a mutation in the KIT gene. Compared to other breeds, Turkish Angora kittens also have a higher likelihood of developing heterochromia. This breed may be at a higher risk of developing congenital ataxia, which is a fatal disease that causes uncoordinated movement and shaking. Turkish Angoras may also be predisposed to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which is a condition of the heart that causes it to pump harder than necessary.

## Personality

Turkish Angoras are affectionate and intelligent companions. They are curious and enjoy being involved in everyday human activity. They often bond most with one person in the family, and can become very protective of them. They are highly trainable, and get along well with children and other pets.

# Persian



Origin  
**Iran**

Avg. Male Weight  
**9-14 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**7-11 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Western European cats**

Alternate Names  
**Persian Longhair, Shiraz**

Personality  
**Calm, Restful**

## Chromosome Map

4.7% Persian



## General Overview

The Persian cat is the glamor puss of the cat world. The Persian's exceptionally beautiful and graceful coat, chubby cheeks, expressive eyes and affectionate personality makes it one of the world's most popular feline breeds of all time. Today, this breed comes in two types: show and traditional. The show Persian is characterized by the breed's overly exaggerated features. The traditional Persian, or the "Doll Face" is essentially the original breed, without the development of these extreme features. Both types have rich, long and flowing coats that come in various colors and patterns.

## Breed Origins

Little is known about the history of this very old breed. The exact origin of this beloved kitty is mysterious, but legend has it that the breed was first introduced to Europe in the 1620s by Pietro Della Valle from Italy, as a souvenir from Persia (present day Iran). As the breed's popularity grew, these cats gradually came to be considered luxurious and precious cargo by Persian merchants. Initially, their breeding took place in Italy and France, but then quickly spread to the rest of Europe. They finally made their appearance in United States in the early 1900s.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Persians are thought to be one of the breeds with the most health issues. Aside from health problems related to brachycephaly, some of the most common inherited diseases Persians are at a high risk for are polycystic kidney disease (PKD), hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) and feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD).

## Personality

Persians are placid, friendly, and affectionate. Surprisingly, these delightful creatures are not as active as most other feline breeds. They would much rather spend their time lounging in their favorite spot on the sofa. They don't utilize much space for activity, which is why they tend to do quite well in smaller living quarters.



# Exotic Shorthair



Origin  
USA

Avg. Male Weight  
7-14 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
6-10 lbs

Related Breeds  
Persian, American Shorthair

Alternate Names  
Shorthaired Persian

Personality  
Active, Gentle, Lap-cat

## Chromosome Map

0% Exotic Shorthair



## General Overview

The Exotic Shorthair was created as a shorthaired version of the Persian cat. It meets all the criteria designed for its Persian parent breed, except for the fur. These cats are medium-sized, with an oval, broad head and short, "pushed in" muzzle. Their coat is short, but a tad longer than that in other shorthaired cats. They come in all colors and patterns.

## Breed Origins

The Exotic Shorthair's origin goes back about 50 years. The breed was created accidentally in a secret effort of American Shorthair (ASH) breeders to improve the body type of the ASH by introducing the Persian into the bloodline. The new crossbreed gained unexpected recognition, thus resulting in the production of a brand-new breed standard. This, sadly for ASH breeders, resulted in the disqualification of ASH crossbreds from the show ring, and the creation of a new breed officially recognized by the Cat Fanciers' Association in 1966. The breed was named Exotic Shorthair and it met every standard designed for the Persian breed, except for the coat. In 1987, the outcrossing of the new breed to ASH was closed, thus leaving the Persian as the only allowable outcross breed.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Like the Persian, the Exotic Shorthair is a brachycephalic breed, thus being prone to health problems associated with brachycephaly (i.e. brachycephalic airway obstructive syndrome, tooth misalignment, tooth crowding, tear ducts issues, heart problems). The breed has also been associated with increased risk from calcium oxalate urolithiasis, dystocia, and polycystic kidney disease (PKD).

## Personality

The Exotic Shorthair is a very gentle and calm kitty. Their personality reflects both parent breeds, from which they retained the best traits. They are often playful and energetic like the ASH, thus being a lot livelier than the Persian. Their temperament retains the affection and loyalty of the Persian, however, thus making them purrfectly loving 'lap cats'. Despite their energetic nature, they are very well suited for a life in the apartment.

# British Shorthair



Origin  
Europe

Avg. Male Weight  
12-18 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
9-15 lbs

Related Breeds  
Persian, Siamese, Russian Blue

Alternate Names  
The British

Personality  
Laid-back, Quiet, Patient

## Chromosome Map

0% British Shorthair



## General Overview

The British Shorthair is a version of the traditional British domestic cat. They are fairly large solid cats with chunky bodies, strong legs, broad heads and large piercing eyes. The most common coat color among this breed is known as the "British Blue", but the breed has developed a wide range of coat colors and patterns which complement their densely rich coats.

## Breed Origins

The British Shorthair is considered to be one of the oldest identifiable cat breeds in the world. The British Shorthair is considered to have originated in the 1870s. It shares common ancestry with the native wild cats of Great Britain and was first introduced to the United Kingdom by the Romans. Towards the end of World War II, the breed began to drastically decline in numbers, so in order to salvage and recreate the gene pool, breeders began crossing them with other purebreds such as Persians, Russian Blues and Burmese.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Unfortunately, recent genetic evidence suggests that the British Shorthair can be genetically predisposed to polycystic kidney disease, an inherited kidney disorder characterized by renal cysts leading to kidney failure, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), a form of heart disease that results in the abnormal thickening of the heart muscle. A 2011 Danish study of more than 329 British Shorthairs concluded that 20.4% of males and 2.1% of the females had HCM. In addition, this breed is prone to obesity, therefore it is important to instill a proper diet and exercise regimen.

## Personality

This dignified breed is famous for its easygoing and patient temperament. Although these cats are very affectionate, they don't make particularly good lap cats and do not appreciate being picked up or carried around. The British Shorthair is sweet-natured and can make a great companion for anyone seeking a low-maintenance cat.

# Himalayan



Origin  
UK

Avg. Male Weight  
9-14 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
7-11 lbs

Related Breeds  
Persian, Siamese

Alternate Names  
Colorpoint Persian

Personality  
Gentle, Affectionate, Quiet

## Chromosome Map

0% Himalayan



## General Overview

A medium-sized breed of cat, the Himalayan is a friendly companion most prized for its long, silky soft coat. Himalayan coats are identical in type to those of Persian cats, but their deep blue eye color and pointed coloration are inherited from cross-breeding with the Siamese breed. The Cat Fanciers' Association considers the Himalayan simply a color variation of the Persian breed rather than a separate breed of its own, although they do compete in their own color division.

## Breed Origins

In 1931 two breeders began a breeding program that involved crossing a Persian cat with a Siamese cat. The goal was to create a new Persian breed that would inherit the color pointed coat and blue eyes of the Siamese. This how the Himalayan breed was created.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Most Himalayans tend to live healthy long lives with very little health problems. However, being so closely related to the Persian cat, a breed known to struggle with multiple inherited health problems, Himalayans are at a higher risk for developing polycystic kidney disease (PKD) and progressive retinal atrophy. They have also been noted to be prone to various ocular disorders.

## Personality

Himalayans are gentle, affectionate, and typically not very vocal. They are known to be 'one-man cats', which means they aren't well suited for large families as they don't like sharing the attention of their favorite human. They are not very tolerant of dogs or children and may get nippy if pestered. The Himalayan is an easy going, placid feline who won't ruin the furniture, preferring to curl up on their humans' lap whenever possible.

# Oriental Shorthair



Origin  
UK

Avg. Male Weight  
7-10 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
5-8 lbs

Related Breeds  
Siamese

Alternate Names  
Oriental

Personality  
Energetic, Vocal, Attention-seeking

## Chromosome Map

0% Oriental Shorthair



## General Overview

A close relative of the Siamese, the Oriental Shorthair maintains the same head and body type of its parent breed, but sports various coat colors and patterns, such as smoke, shaded, tortoiseshell, tabby and bicolor. In fact, over 750 color and pattern combinations are possible under CFA conformation rules. Oriental Shorthairs are lean, muscular and agile with large, pointed ears similar to those of the modern Siamese. However, unlike the deep blue eye color of the Siamese, their almond-shaped eyes are green. Another variety of the breed is the Oriental Longhair who simply carries a pair of recessive long hair genes.

## Breed Origins

It is believed that the Oriental Shorthair has its foundation in the Siamese breed. The Siamese are the royal cats from Thailand, first brought to the UK in the 1800s. From there, they spread widely, quickly becoming one of the most popular breeds. During World War II, many breeding programs in UK were devastated, and the Siamese started being cross-bred with other breeds in order to expand their gene pool. They were crossed with Russian Blues, British Shorthairs, Abyssinians and Domestic Shorthairs. Kittens born with Siamese points were rotated back into Siamese breeding programs, while the non-pointed kittens became the basis for the Oriental Shorthair breed.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Since it is derived from the Siamese, the Oriental Shorthair is at a higher risk for developing some health problems, such as neoplastic and gastrointestinal disorders, crossed-eyes, lung infections, feline OCD, vestibular disease, Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome and Diabetes mellitus. Siamese-derived breeds are noted to have higher mortality rates compared to other cat breeds.

## Personality

The Oriental Shorthair is said to closely resemble the personality of the Siamese as well. They are agile, athletic and skilled jumpers. They are highly vocal, playful and social cats who aren't shy about demanding the attention they so rightfully deserve.

# Peterbald



Origin  
**Russia**

Avg. Male Weight  
**8-10 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**6-8 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Don Hairless, Oriental Shorthair**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Affectionate, Peaceful**

## Chromosome Map

0% Peterbald



## General Overview

The Peterbald is a Russian hairless cat breed originating in St. Petersburg in 1994. These unusual kitties are carriers of a hair-losing mutation and are characterized by having either a bald, flocked, velour, brush, or straight coats. Those born with fur, may lose their hair over time. They come in all colors and patterns, and are said to closely resemble the Oriental Shorthair in physical appearance. They are slim and muscular with almond-shaped eyes and large, pointed ears.

## Breed Origins

In 1994, Olga S. Mironova conducted an experimental breeding of a male Don Sphynx (Donskoy) and a female Oriental Shorthair. The first two litters produced four Peterbald kittens. These four kittens were the founders of the breed.

## Genetic predisposition and health

All cats face a certain risk of developing some type of inherited health problem. However, currently there are no known conditions associated with this particular breed.

## Personality

Peterbalds are sweet and affectionate little cats. These felines are famous for their dog-like loyal demeanor towards their favorite humans. It is said that they often follow their humans around the house in order to be near them as much as possible. They are energetic, curious, and at the same time peaceful and docile. They get along well with children and other pets.

# Burmese



Origin  
**Thailand**

Avg. Male Weight  
**8-12 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**6-10 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Siamese, Burmese**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Attention Seeking, Playful**

## Chromosome Map

0% Burmese



## General Overview

The Burmese is a compact and heavily built cat breed originating from Thailand. They have short, dense and glossy coats that come in a range of colors such as champagne, platinum and sable. This cat is known for its muscular, athletic and yet elegant appearance.

## Breed Origins

The Burmese cat was initially a hybrid of the Asian cat Burma (Myanmar cat) and the Siamese. However, the breed we know today originated in the United States during the 1930s. Geneticists believe that the Burmese shares a unique genetic trait with the Siamese - a mutation in tyrosinase (enzyme involved in the production of melanin). The mutated version of this enzyme is heat sensitive and fails to work at normal body temperatures. It tends to activate only in cooler areas of the skin (< 91°F), which is why we see the cooler parts of the cat's body, such as the extremities, face and tip of the tail, expressing a darker pigmentation compared to the rest of the torso.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The Burmese is considered to be a fairly healthy and strong cat breed with an average lifespan of 10 to 17 years. However, some published studies have recognized the breed, among several others, to be at a higher risk for Diabetes mellitus. In addition, Hypokalemia, a genetic disease characterized by low levels of potassium in blood plasma, has also been linked to the Burmese breed.

## Personality

The Burmese make excellent family pets due to their highly people-oriented nature. This breed is noted for having a dog-like loyal demeanor towards their favorite humans. They tend to form strong bonds with their owners and seem to genuinely enjoy being a part of daily human activity. They are not considered to be an independent breed and tend to cling to their owners and suffer immensely if left alone for a long period of time.



# Birman



Origin  
**Myanmar**

Avg. Male Weight  
**9-15 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**6-10 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Siamese**

Alternate Names  
**Scared Cat of Burma**

Personality  
**Docile, Patient, Affectionate**

## Chromosome Map

3.3% Birman



## General Overview

The Birman, also called the "Sacred Cat of Burma", is a strikingly beautiful long-haired cat. They are distinguished by a soft, silky coat, deep blue eyes, and contrasting white "gloves" on their paws, a trademark of the breed.

## Breed Origins

The exact origin of this breed is unknown. It is believed the Birman originated from the city of Burma over a hundred years ago. According to folklore, the striking beauty of this breed was said to have been the work of divine intervention by the "blue-eyed goddess". The breed almost completely disappeared by the end of World War II, with only two cats being the breed's sole survivors. In order to restore the breed, they were outcrossed with long-haired Persians and Siamese. The cats were first imported to the United States in 1959 and were recognized by the Cat Fanciers' Association in 1967.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The Birman is more likely to develop early renal failure, congenital cataracts, feline infectious peritonitis and hemophilia B. This breed is also at a higher risk for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), the most common heart disease seen among all feline breeds.

## Personality

The Birman is a docile, smart and very sweet-natured cat. These gentle felines get along well with young children as well as other pets, and make excellent family companions. They are known for their people-loving and affectionate nature, and are always eager to be near their favorite humans. Unlike their close relative, the Siamese, Birman cats are rather quiet, yet may on occasion greet you with a very soft meow. These sweet kitties require love and attention to thrive and don't do well in solitude.

# Thai Siamese



Origin  
Thailand

Avg. Male Weight  
8-12 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
6-10 lbs

Related Breeds  
Oriental cats

Alternate Names  
Traditional Siamese

Personality  
Active, Intelligent, Vocal

## Chromosome Map

7.1% Thai Siamese



## General Overview

Ever wonder who might be the royal feline of the cat world? The Siamese of course. This cat has enjoyed a luxurious and royal status for centuries. This outgoing, chatty breed is famous for its remarkable blue eyes, strikingly large ears and sleek, muscular body. These cats require a lot of love and affection, and in return can be the most ideal companions.

## Breed Origins

Originating from Thailand (formerly known as Siam), it is believed that the breed first made its way to Europe in 1884 when the British Consul-General Edward Blencowe Gould brought a breeding pair of cats from Bangkok as a gift for his sister, Lilian. Over the years to follow, fanciers imported more cats from Thailand, gradually forming the base breeding pool for the entire breed in the UK. As for the US, the first Siamese cat was reportedly given to Lucy Webb Hayes (First Lady and wife of Rutherford B. Hayes) in 1878 by US Consul, David Stickles.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Siamese and Siamese-derived breeds have higher mortality and morbidity rates in comparison to other cat breeds. This breed is at a higher risk for neoplastic and gastrointestinal diseases. The pointed pattern observed in Siamese cats is a form of partial albinism caused by a mutation in tyrosinase. This mutation is also linked to causing abnormal neurological connections between the eyes and the brain. As a result, many early Siamese cats had crossed-eyes. Siamese cats are prone to lung infections, feline OCD, vestibular disease and Feline Hyperesthesia Syndrome. Some published studies have recognized Siamese cats to also be at a higher risk for Diabetes mellitus.

## Personality

Siamese are very affectionate and intelligent cats, with a distinct outgoing nature. They seek and enjoy the company of humans as well as other cats. They will often strongly bond with one person in the family. These kitties are very vocal and will often demand your attention with a loud, low-pitched persistent voice nicknamed as "Meezer".



# Bengal



Origin  
US

Avg. Male Weight  
10-18 lbs

Avg. Female Weight  
6-12 lbs

Related Breeds  
Asian leopard cat, Egyptian Mau

Alternate Names  
None

Personality  
Active, Energetic, Playful

## Chromosome Map

0% Bengal



## General Overview

Often referred to as the "Miniature Leopard" of the domestic cat breeds, the Bengal is a unique breed designed to resemble exotic wild cats such as leopards, ocelots, margays and clouded leopards. Bengals are characterized by having a lean and muscular body, broad head, relatively short ears and a long, muscular neck. The coat pattern is spotted or marbled and can be any shade of orange-brown, light brown or silver. Sometimes the fur can have a sheen, giving the coat a shimmering appearance. The spots and rosettes are vivid, contrasted and at times multicolored.

## Breed Origins

Bengals were developed in California in 1963, as a result of selective breeding between the hybrids of the Asian leopard cat and domestic cat. The hybrids were backcrossed to domestic cats in order to create a healthy and friendly cat, which expressed the vivid, contrasting coat markings of a leopard cat with the docile temperament of a domestic cat.

## Genetic predisposition and health

Bengals are known to be affected by several genetic diseases, such as Bengal Progressive Retinal Atrophy (or PRA-b), a group of diseases characterized by progressive, bilateral retinal degeneration. Bengals are also susceptible to Erythrocyte pyruvate kinase deficiency (PK-Def), an inherited metabolic disorder characterized by disrupted survival of the red blood cells, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), a disease that affects the heart muscle (myocardium).

## Personality

If you're looking for a cuddly cat that will purr and snuggle its days away in your lap then a Bengal is not for you! These cats, although friendly and devoted companions, are exceptionally curious, energetic, agile and constantly on the move with confidence and flare. Bengals are considered to be highly intelligent and are known to naturally retrieve toys during a game of fetch. They are also one of the few cat breeds that are uncharacteristically fond of playing in water.

# Savannah



Origin  
**US**

Avg. Male Weight  
**12-25 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**12-25 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**African Serval**

Alternate Names  
**None**

Personality  
**Loyal, Athletic, Intelligent**

## Chromosome Map

1.1% Savannah



## General Overview

The Savannah cat is an elegant cross between an African Serval cat and a domestic cat. Savannah cats are lean and tall, but their size greatly depends on sex and the hybrid's generation. First generations are usually larger, weighing around 8 to 20 pounds, while later generations (F3 and onward) tend to be smaller. The Savannah breed is distinguished by a few prominent features inherited from their wild ancestors. They have exceptionally long bodies, tall and cupped ears, puffy noses and hooded eyes. Their coats are short and dense. TICA accepts only spotted coat patterns which can be brown, silver or black smoke (as these are the only patterns found in the African Serval). However, non-standard colors and patterns can be found as well, such as marble, rosette, pointed, cinnamon, and chocolate among others.

## Breed Origins

The Savannah cat was created by Judee Frank, who crossbred a male African Serval cat with a Siamese domestic cat. The first Savannah cat, also named Savannah, was born on April 7, 1986. The breed was first presented to the board of The International Cat Association (TICA) in 1996, and was finally accepted in 2001. While the wild cat was originally crossed with a Siamese, the hybrids were outcrossed with other domestic cats in the early days to supplement genetic diversity. TICA accepts outcrosses with the Egyptian Mau, Ocicat, Oriental Shorthair and Domestic Shorthair, but outcrosses with Bengal and Maine Coon breeds are not permitted.

## Genetic predisposition and health

All cats face a certain risk of developing some type of inherited health problem. However, currently there are no known conditions tightly associated with this particular breed.

## Personality

Savannah cats are known to be loyal and friendly with a very calm demeanor. Due to their above average intelligence, they are highly trainable and tend to enjoy being walked on a leash. They are very athletic and agile cats, preferring any activity or game that involves jumping or climbing.

# Egyptian Mau



Origin  
**Egypt**

Avg. Male Weight  
**10-14 lbs**

Avg. Female Weight  
**6-10 lbs**

Related Breeds  
**Turkish cats, Russian Blue, Korat**

Alternate Names  
**The Mau**

Personality  
**Water-lover, Adventurous, Energetic**

## Chromosome Map

0% Egyptian Mau



## General Overview

Loyal, playful and an elite athlete, the Egyptian Mau is one of the few naturally spotted domestic cat breeds. The breed conformation is described by The Cornell Book of Cats as "a balance between the compactness of a Burmese and the slim elegance of a Siamese". The breed comes in five colors, however, only silver, smoke and bronze are considered show worthy. This breed is extremely rare. Today, it is estimated that there are as little as 3,000 Egyptian Mau cats worldwide.

## Breed Origins

There is still a big controversy behind the origins of this breed. While all historic evidence suggest that this is an Egyptian breed, DNA studies reveal that the breed we know today is actually mostly of European and North American origin. The first recording of the breed came from ancient Egypt, as the breed was known to be prized by the Pharaohs, however the question of how the breed surfaced in Egypt in the first place remains a mystery. The first Egyptian Mau was brought to the US in 1956 by a Russian Princess named Nathalie Troubetzkoy.

## Genetic predisposition and health

The Egyptian Mau is at a higher risk for developing feline urate urolithiasis, a disease caused by the crystallization of minerals and compounds such as ammonium and uric acid. The disease leads to the build-up of stones within the urinary tract which can ultimately be fatal if left untreated. Egyptian Mau cats are fond of very warm temperatures, and are more temperature sensitive than most other domestic cats. They are noted to also be more sensitive to medicines and anesthesia.

## Personality

Vocal, adventurous and a water lover, the Egyptian Mau is an athletic breed that requires an engaging environment. These cats are playful, fast and keen hunters and will thrive in an environment which enables them to express their instincts. They often do better in homes with older children as opposed to younger ones.