

Name: Abyssinian

General: The Abyssinian cat, also called the “Aby” by affectionate admirers, is a truly remarkable breed known for their striking appearance, lively personality, and fascinating history. This slender, elegant cat with its ticked coat and engaging disposition has enchanted cat enthusiasts for generations. The Abyssinian cat combines an alluring appearance with a lively and endearing personality. Despite their newfound popularity, their history remains shrouded in mystery. Whether you’re drawn to their ticked coat or their playful and engaging demeanor, Abyssinian cats are sure to capture your heart and bring joy and companionship into your life. When considering an Abyssinian, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase an Abyssinian kitten, it’s crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Additionally, it’s important to conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Abyssinian breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat weighing 6 to 10 pounds.

Personality: Of all the cat breeds, the Abyssinian is perhaps the one who lives life to the fullest. He climbs higher, jumps farther, plays harder. Nothing escapes the notice of this highly intelligent and inquisitive cat, a quality that makes life with him both endlessly entertaining and continuously challenging. Staying a step ahead of an Aby, as the breed is nicknamed, or even just keeping pace with him, requires the fancy footwork of a Fred Astaire, the brainpower of an Einstein and a sense of humor that never stops. You never know what he’ll get into next, although you can assume that if you have something or are doing something, your Aby will want to investigate it closely. Some people refer to the cats as “Aby-grabbys” because of their propensity for taking things that catch their interest. Sometimes it may seem as if the Aby never sleeps. He is ever in motion, jumping up in the window to look at birds or squirrels, leaping on top of the refrigerator to supervise meal preparation, perching on your desk to watch your fingers move over the keyboard and then swiping at them so you’ll pay attention to him instead. This is a playful, persistent cat who adores being the center of attention and will do anything to achieve and maintain that status. The Aby loves to play, so plan on making or purchasing a variety of toys to keep him occupied. Ping-Pong balls, bottle caps, wadded-up pieces of paper, puzzle toys and teasers such as big peacock feathers will all amuse this busy and brainy cat. Teach him to retrieve at your peril. Once you start, he won’t let you stop. He learns tricks quickly and many Abys enjoy running a feline agility course. A love of heights is a signal trait of the Abyssinian. He likes to be as high up as possible and will appreciate having one or more ceiling-height cat trees. When those aren’t available, he is perfectly capable of making his

way to the uppermost point of any room. Fortunately, he is naturally graceful and rarely breaks items unless it is simply out of curiosity. Abys are adaptable throughout their lives and fit well into any home where they are loved and given plenty of attention. In a home where people are at work or school during the day, the Aby does best with a companion, ideally another Aby, who can match his activity level. If left to his own devices, the Aby may well dismantle the house in his search for something interesting to do. Beware! The Aby can be addictive. Once you've had one, you may find that no other cat will do.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the Abyssinian include the following: **Periodontal Disease:** Periodontal disease in cats is a common and often under-recognized dental condition that affects a cat's teeth, gums, and overall oral health. It is characterized by inflammation and infection of the structures supporting the teeth, including the gums, periodontal ligaments, and jawbone. Periodontal disease can vary in severity, ranging from mild gingivitis to advanced periodontitis, and it can have significant consequences for a cat's health if left untreated. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** A neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. **Patellar Luxation:** A hereditary dislocation of the kneecap that can range from mild to severe. Severe cases can be alleviated with surgery. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy:** Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a group of inherited eye diseases that affect the photoreceptor cells in the retina of cats. These diseases cause a gradual and progressive degeneration of the retina, leading to impaired vision and, eventually, blindness. PRA is an inherited condition, which means it is passed down from one generation to the next, and it can affect various breeds and mixed-breed cats. **Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PKD):** Pyruvate kinase deficiency (PKD) is a hereditary genetic disorder that affects the red blood cells in cats. It's a relatively rare condition and primarily impacts Abyssinian and Somali breeds. PKD is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, which means that both parents must carry a copy of the faulty gene for their offspring to develop the disorder. When both parents are carriers, there is a 25% chance that their kittens will be affected by PKD. **Renal Amyloidosis:** Renal amyloidosis is a condition that can affect cats and is characterized by the deposition of abnormal proteins called amyloids in the kidneys. Amyloids are insoluble proteins that accumulate in various organs, including the kidneys, and disrupt their normal function. In cats, renal amyloidosis is most commonly associated with a specific disease called feline systemic amyloidosis.

**Coat:** The Aby is often said to look as if he had just walked straight out of the wild. That's because of his ticked coat pattern, which resembles that of wild cats such as cougars. A ticked coat has alternating light and dark bands of color on each hair shaft. Everything about him suggests his lively, attentive nature. The Aby has a slightly rounded wedge-shaped head topped with large, broad ears, the better to hear you with. Large, almond-shaped eyes of gold or green express interest in everything they see. On the face, dark lines may extend

from the eyes and brows. The muscular body is graceful and athletic. It falls into a middle ground between the stocky, or cobby, body of a breed such as the Persian and the long, svelte body of the Oriental breeds such as the Siamese. The body is supported by slim, fine-boned legs atop small, oval, compact paws. Abys are often said to look as if they are walking on tip-toe. Swishing behind them is a long, tapering tail. Its bands of color give the Aby's coat a warm, glowing appearance. To the touch, the medium-length hair is soft and silky with a fine texture. The coat comes in four main colors: ruddy brown, more artistically described as burnt sienna and ticked with darker brown or black, with tile-red nose leather and black or brown paw pads; red (sometimes called sorrel), a cinnamon shade ticked with chocolate-brown, with pink nose leather and paw pads; blue, a warm beige ticked with various shades of slate blue, with nose leather described as old rose and paw pads as mauve; and fawn, a warm rose-beige ticked with light cocoa-brown, with salmon-colored nose leather and pink paw pads. Some associations permit additional colors, including chocolate, lilac, and various silver tones.

Friendship: The active and social Abyssinian is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He's smart enough to get out of the way of toddlers but loves school-age children because they are a match for his energy level and curiosity. Nothing scares him, certainly not dogs, and he will happily make friends with them if they don't give him any trouble. Abys have also been known to get along with large parrots, ferrets and other animals. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

Care: The short, fine coat of the Abyssinian is easily cared for with weekly combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. A bath when the cat is shedding will help to remove excess hair more quickly. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a dirty box may cause them to start using other places in the house instead. It's a good idea to keep an Abyssinian as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Abyssinians who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Aegean

General: The Aegean cat is a charming and lively breed known for its warm

Mediterranean origins and endearing personality. Of course, native to the Aegean Islands in Greece, these cats have been cherished companions of the local population for centuries. Surely, the Aegean cat is a breed that exudes the spirit of the sunny Greek islands, with a playful and affectionate nature that has won the hearts of cat enthusiasts worldwide. Furthermore, the Aegean is a great family cat, with their social disposition credited to their history as one of the oldest ever domestic cat breeds around. Additionally, they're brave and intelligent kitties who get on well with kids. Although, as the breed isn't afraid of water, it's not normally a great idea to adopt a cat of this breed if you have a fish tank at home. When considering an Aegean, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase an Aegean kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Aegean breeders always prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Aegean is a medium-sized cat. As is often the case with cat breeds, exact size standards might vary. Most male Aegean cats weigh in at nine to ten pounds and most female Aegeans are between seven and nine pounds.

**Personality:** The Aegean cat is one of the most friendly and sociable cat breeds around. They make great additions to any large family and will constantly look to seek out human interaction, whether that's to relax together during down times or for energetic play sessions. These athletic cats are also highly intelligent—in many cases Aegeans have been taught to perform tricks. While the Aegean has an independent streak, they do best in a bustling household where there's always activity going on that the cat can check out. This breed loves to be part of the action! The Aegean also has a love of being outdoors, so if you can provide a safely-enclosed catio, they'll very much appreciate it. Just be warned: Due to Aegeans being part of a rare group of cats who enjoy water, they might come to see any pet fish as an opportunity for a snack session.

**Health:** Aegeans are generally considered to be healthy cats—and to date there are not any breed specific health issues associated with the cat. Although, as with any breed, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet.

**Coat:** The main color of the Aegean's coat is white, and it usually has spots and markings in colors including black, gray, and blue. The markings on the cat vary on an individual basis. The Aegean is relatively low maintenance when it comes to grooming, although their plush coat will get thicker in winter. Shedding is mostly moderate, and brushing the breed a couple of times a week should suffice. As with all breeds, keep a close eye out for any mats that might be starting to develop while you're grooming the cat. Remember, regular brushing will help keep the cat's coat clean and healthy. When it comes to climate, the Aegean

is a generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Aegean is wonderful with children. The cat will quickly form loving bonds with the kids in your home. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Aegean is also usually fine around other domestic animals—although, as mentioned above, this is not a cat to leave unsupervised around fish or other water-based pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Aegean for good behavior and adhere to a proper training regime when you bring them home to your family.

**Care:** The Aegean cat has a well deserved reputation as a smart and athletic feline, so you'll need to ensure that the breed is always kept physically and mentally stimulated. Ideally, you'll want to purchase a cat tree for your Aegean to interact with, and if you live in an environment with furniture that the cat can safely climb up and down, they will very much appreciate the opportunity to explore. Leaving smart toys and interactive treat dispensers around the home is also a great way to keep the Aegean mentally stimulated. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Aegean will need their nails checked on a regular basis. Ask your vet how best to do this if you're new to feline maintenance. You'll also want to examine the cat's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection, and clean them if needed. Also, make sure to speak to your regular vet about a teeth brushing regimen for your Aegean.

**Name:** American Bobtail

**General:** The American Bobtail is a distinctive and eye-catching cat breed known for their unique short tail, wild appearance, and friendly demeanor. With a well-muscled and athletic body, these cats exhibit a wild charm reminiscent of their supposed bobcat ancestry. The most prominent feature is their short, bobbed tail, which can vary in length and may have a kink, curve, or be straight. The breed's coat comes in various colors and patterns, with a semi-long to short length, providing them with a luxurious and soft texture. American Bobtails have expressive almond-shaped eyes that can be of different colors, contributing to their captivating and engaging gaze. In terms of temperament, American Bobtails are renowned for their intelligence, playfulness, and adaptability. These cats are known to form strong bonds with their human companions, displaying a gentle and affectionate nature. They are often good with children and other pets, making them an excellent choice for families. Despite their wild appearance, American Bobtails are generally easygoing, making them well-suited to various living environments. Their love for interactive play and their ability to learn tricks contribute to the overall charm of this breed, making them cherished and delightful companions for those seeking engaging feline friends. When considering an American Bobtail kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need.

However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable American Bobtail kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The American Bobtail typically weighs 8 to 13 pounds.

**Personality:** Let's say you love the Golden Retriever's personality, but his size and energy level are a bit more than you can handle. American Bobtail lovers say you should take a look at their cat instead. He's a lover with a heart of gold who is devoted to his people, follows them around, loves to play, walks nicely on a leash (after training, of course), and welcomes guests with a smile. This is a smart cat who enjoys puzzle toys, learning tricks, and playing fetch. He isn't as vocal as some breeds, but he communicates his pleasure with chirps, clicks and trills, as well as the standard purr and meow. The American Bobtail has an adaptable nature, so he's a good traveler. Long-distance truckers and RVers find him to be an excellent companion. The cats have also found a niche with some psychotherapists because of their loving and intuitive nature. That same adaptability and kindness makes him a good family companion and suited to a variety of lifestyles, from relaxed to rowdy.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. American Bobtails are generally healthy, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** With his short tail, tufted ears and toes, and powerful body, the American Bobtail has a distinctively wild look—similar to that of a bobcat—but he's a domestic cat through and through. He ranges in size from medium to large and matures slowly, taking up to three years to reach his full size. Since this breed is distinguished by his short tail, it's as good a place as any to begin a description of his looks. Each tail is unique. Most are 1 to 4 inches long, but they can be shorter or longer. The ideal bobtail is flexible and expressive, long enough to be visible above the back when the cat is alert, and may be straight with a fat pad at the end, slightly curved or kinked, or bumpy along the length of the tail. Kittens are almost never completely tailless, as sometimes happens with the Manx. Some litters have kittens with full-length tails. They won't be stars in the show ring, but they can be used in breeding programs. The noticeably athletic body is covered with shaggy fur in two lengths. The shorthaired American Bobtail actually has a medium-length double coat with hard outer hairs overlaying a soft, downy undercoat. When the coat is a dilute color, a lynx point or a silver, the coat may have a softer texture. Longhaired Bobtails have a ruff around the neck and long hair on the britches (upper hind legs), belly and tail. On the face, the longhair may look as if he is sporting mutton chops. The fur comes in all colors and patterns. The eyes can be any

color except odd (each eye a different color).

**Friendship:** The social and laidback American Bobtail likes to play, so he's a good choice for families with children. Always supervise younger children to make sure they don't hurt the cat by pulling his fur or twisting his tail. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The American Bobtail's coat doesn't usually mat or tangle as long as you comb or brush it a couple of times a week. You may notice that the cat sheds more in the spring and fall, so it can be a good idea to groom him more frequently during those times. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep an American Bobtail as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. American Bobtails who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** American Curl

**General:** The American Curl is a distinctive and charming cat breed known for its unique curled ears, which curl backward in an elegant arc, giving the breed its name. This distinctive feature is a result of a genetic mutation affecting the cartilage in the ear, and the degree of curl can vary among individual cats. Apart from their captivating ears, American Curls have a medium-sized, well-muscled body with a silky, semi-longhaired coat that comes in a variety of colors and patterns. Known for their friendly and sociable nature, American Curls make excellent companions. They are affectionate, adaptable, and enjoy interacting with their human family members. Additionally, this breed is generally good with children and other pets. They make excellent additions for families and multi-pet households seeking a loving feline companion. With their playful and curious personalities, American Curls often engage in interactive play and enjoy perching on their owner's shoulder to observe the world around them. When considering an American Curl, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase an American Curl kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable American Curl breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary

health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The American Curl is a medium-size cat, weighing 5 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** The friendly and gentle American Curl is known for his people-loving personality. He even likes children, which is not always the case with cats, and has been known to seek out their company. True to his domestic shorthair heritage, he is moderately active, curious and smart. He is likely to follow you around to see what you're doing, but he's not talkative or bossy like some breeds. If need be, he will quietly petition you for attention, food or whatever else he wants. When you come home from work, he will gladly greet you with a head bump and may even extend the affectionate gesture to guests in the home. American Curls are often called the "Peter Pan" of the cat world. It is not unusual to see older Curls flying through the house with just as much joy as younger ones. Males and females are equally active. The Curl likes to play and can learn to fetch. He's also capable of opening doorknobs, so be careful what you put away in any cabinets that are within his reach. When he's ready for a break, he will happily settle into a lap. He is alert and adaptable, well suited to any home or family who will love him.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. American Curls are generally healthy, but some lines have problems with: **Narrow Ear Canals:** This can lead to ear infections from wax buildup. Narrow ear canals in cats can be a congenital (present at birth) condition or may develop as a result of certain factors. The ear canal is the passage leading from the external ear to the eardrum, and its size and shape can vary among individual cats.

**Coat:** The Curl stands out for his distinctively shaped ears, but even without them he is a striking cat with a sweet expression, and a silky coat that can be long or short and any color, including such exotic shades as chocolate tortoiseshell smoke, silver patched tabby and lilac lynx point. The longhaired variety has a pretty plumed tail. The ears, however, are the most intriguing characteristic. Straight when a kitten is born, they begin to curl back at two to 10 days after birth. They curl, uncurl and curl some more until reaching their permanent shape when a kitten is about 4 months old. A kitten destined for the show ring will have a crescent-shaped ear with a minimum 90 degree arc of curl but no more than 180 degrees. The tips of the moderately large ear are rounded and flexible, often adorned with tufts of fur. When Curls are alert, their ears swivel forward, but the tips point to the center of the base of the skull.

**Friendship:** The Curl is sweet toward children, making him a good choice for families who will supervise children to make sure they pet the cat nicely and don't pull his ears or tail. He is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.



Care: The Curl's coat can be short or long, and both lengths are easy to care for. The longhaired variety has little undercoat, so it's unlikely to mat or tangle. A weekly combing is plenty to keep the longhaired or shorthaired Curl looking beautiful. Try running the comb backwards through the shorthair's coat; it can help to remove any dead hair that has accumulated. Shorthairs shed year-round and tend to shed more than the longhairs. During warm months, when the longhairs may shed more heavily, it's a good idea to brush or comb more often. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Handle the ears carefully; you don't want to break the cartilage. Keep the American Curl's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a American Curl as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. American Curl who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Asian

General: The Asian Cat shares their origins with the European Burmese but distinguishes itself through a diverse array of coat colors and patterns. The breed includes long-haired varieties known as Tiffanies. The breed's history is intertwined with the evolution of the Burmese cat, with the Asian Cat emerging as a distinct group with a broader spectrum of coat variations. Recognition from the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy underscores the significance of their shared heritage while highlighting the unique qualities that set the Asian Cat apart. As a result, the Asian Cat has become a captivating and singular breed, appealing to those who appreciate a range of feline aesthetics within the context of a shared ancestral lineage. This intriguing blend results in a cat that boasts not only a visually stunning appearance but also a delightful and affectionate temperament. The Asian cat inherits the best of both worlds, combining the playful and sociable nature of the Burmese with the regal poise of the Persian. But before you bring one of these kitties home, know that they don't do well when left alone all day long. That's because they want to be around their humans all the time. When considering an Asian kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Asian kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats. They also conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties.

This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Asian is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Asian cats weigh around ten pounds.

**Personality:** When it comes to personality, you'll almost instantly notice that the Asian is a very outgoing and friendly cat. They love to be around humans and have a wonderfully affectionate side. At times, these cats will follow their humans around. They're happy snuggling and napping with people on the couch or hanging around in the kitchen or another busy spot in the home. Many Asian cats are also quite vocal, so be ready to engage in some lovable cat chat with your feline! Beyond the Asian cat's super social side, they are intelligent and active felines. You'll need to commit to proper play sessions and also provide smart toys and cat furniture for those times when you're not around. That being said, the Asian cat needs company, so make sure you or the other members of your household aren't away from the homestead all day long.

**Health:** Asian cats are generally considered to be healthy; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Lilac Burmese and the Chinchilla Persian breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Asians suffer from include: **Retinal Atrophy:** Retinal atrophy in cats refers to the degeneration or deterioration of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue located at the back of the eye. The retina is crucial for vision, as it captures and processes light, sending signals to the brain to create visual images. Retinal atrophy can lead to vision impairment or even blindness in cats. There are different types of retinal atrophy, and the condition can be inherited or acquired. **Hypokalaemia:** Hypokalemia in cats refers to a condition where the blood potassium levels are abnormally low. Potassium is an essential electrolyte that plays a crucial role in various physiological functions, including nerve and muscle function, maintenance of normal heart rhythm, and fluid balance. **Polycystic Kidney Disease:** Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is an inherited disorder that affects the kidneys in cats. It is characterized by the development of fluid-filled cysts within the kidney tissue, leading to an enlargement of the kidneys and potential impairment of their function over time. PKD is primarily a genetic condition, and certain cat breeds are predisposed to this disorder.

**Coat:** The Asian cat can come in almost every cat color you could imagine, with black, white, tabby, and smoke being popular colors. When it comes to grooming, brushing the kitty once or twice a week should suffice. This will help keep the feline's coat in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming. Use the grooming time as an opportunity to bond with your Asian feline. Also, note that if you adopt an Asian cat with Tiffanie in their ancestry, then your feline may have inherited a semi-long coat. It will need brushing more times each week than a short coat. Ask your vet to recommend a grooming schedule. In terms of climate, most Asian cats are fairly adaptable. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water

available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** There's no doubt about it: The Asian is an excellent cat for households with kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Always supervise playtime between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Asian cat breed can get along with many other domestic animals including dogs. Always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Asian for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Asian's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Asian cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is important for an active mixed breed like the Asian. Additionally, the Asian's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Asian. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Asian cat will appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with, so definitely make sure you have the space to add one to your home!

**Name:** American Shorthair

**General:** The American Shorthair (ASH) cat is a versatile and widely popular breed recognized for their friendly demeanor, adaptable nature, and classic appearance. Originally descended from cats that sailed on ships with early European settlers, the breed evolved in the United States over the centuries. Known for their medium to large size, sturdy build, and short, dense coat, the American Shorthair is characterized by a round face, expressive eyes, and a well-balanced body. One of the key features of the American Shorthair is their diverse coat colors and patterns, ranging from classic tabby patterns to solid colors, bi-colors, and more. The breed is low-maintenance in terms of grooming, as their short coat does not require extensive care. American Shorthairs are known for their amiable and gentle nature, making them excellent companions for families, singles, and seniors alike. They are generally adaptable to different living environments and tend to get along well with children and other pets. When considering an American Shorthair kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable American Shorthair kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for

the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The American Shorthair weighs 7 to 12 pounds.

**Personality:** The adaptable and good-natured American Shorthair retains his hunting ability, but these days he is more likely to be a family companion, a job at which he excels. He has a middle-of-the-road temperament, being calm but not comatose. The American Shorthair is moderately active and enjoys a good playtime as much as the next cat, but he's not overly demanding of attention or activity. As befits a working class cat who has made good, he is smart and enjoys playing with puzzle toys and interactive toys. He has a sociable nature and isn't the type to hide under the bed when visitors arrive. This is a placid cat but one that doesn't especially like being carried around. Let him stand on his own four feet. He may or may not be a lap cat, but he will always appreciate having a spot next to you on the sofa or at the end of the bed.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. American Shorthairs are generally healthy, but be sure to ask a breeder about the incidence of health problems in her lines and what testing has been done for any that are genetic in nature. **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:** Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a common heart condition in cats, characterized by the thickening of the heart muscle. It is particularly prevalent in certain breeds, such as Maine Coon, Ragdoll, and Persian cats. **Polycystic Kidney Disease:** Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a hereditary condition that affects the kidneys of cats. It is characterized by the formation of fluid-filled cysts within the kidney tissue, gradually leading to an enlargement of the kidneys and a decline in their function.

**Coat:** The American Shorthair has the body of a working cat: stocky, muscular and strong. His build gives him the agility and endurance he needs as a first-rate stalker, and heavily muscled legs make him capable of pouncing, jumping and climbing to get his furred or feathered prey. This is a medium-size to large cat, slightly longer than he is tall. A large head with a full-cheeked face gives the American Shorthair a sweet, open expression. He has medium-size ears that are slightly rounded at the tips and large, wide eyes. A short, thick coat comes in a large assortment of colors and patterns: solid, tabby, calico, tortoiseshell, bicolor, particolor and more. The silver classic tabby pattern is probably the most popular of them all.

**Friendship:** The laidback but playful American Shorthair is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He will get along fine with dogs if they don't give him any trouble. He is a skilled hunter, but may learn to leave pet birds or other small animals alone if he is introduced to them at an early age. When in doubt, however, separation is best. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The American Shorthair's coat is easily cared for by combing or brushing

it a couple of times a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. The thickness of the cat's coat and the amount it sheds vary based on climate and time of year. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. American Shorthairs like their meals, so they can easily become overweight. To prevent obesity, measure their food instead of free-feeding them. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a dirty box may cause them to start using other places in the house instead. It's a good idea to keep an American Shorthair as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Keeping him indoors also protects local birds and wildlife from this talented hunter. American Shorthairs who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: American Wirehair

General: The American Wirehair cat, with its distinctive and charming appearance, is a unique and relatively rare breed that captures the hearts of cat enthusiasts worldwide. Known for its unusual wiry coat and friendly demeanor, this feline breed has become a beloved companion to those seeking a one-of-a-kind pet. Originating in the United States, the American Wirehair has a fascinating history that adds to its allure. The unique texture of their fur is a result of a genetic mutation that affects the hair shafts, causing them to be crimped or curled. This gives the coat a dense and coarse feel, adding to the cat's individuality. When considering an American Wirehair cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable American Wirehair cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The American Wirehair cat is generally a medium-sized breed with a well-proportioned and muscular build. Adult males typically weigh between 8 to 15 pounds, while females usually range from 6 to 12 pounds.

Personality: An American Wirehair can be expected to have much the same personality as the American Shorthair: adaptable, good-natured, affectionate and playful. He is sometimes described as clownish. This is an athletic cat

with a moderate activity level. He enjoys a good playtime as much as the next cat, but he's not overly demanding of attention or activity. As befits a working class cat who has made good, he is smart and enjoys playing with puzzle toys and interactive toys. He has a sociable nature and isn't the type to hide under the bed when visitors arrive. The American Wirehair is a quiet cat who loves people and will follow them from room to room. He takes a keen interest in everything going on around him. He may or may not be a lap cat, but he will always appreciate having a spot next to you on the sofa or at the end of the bed.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. American Wirehairs are generally healthy, however.

**Coat:** Sproing! That's not the typical reaction we expect when we pet a cat, but his springy, resilient coat is part and parcel of the American Wirehair's charm and good looks. The crimped, tight hair of the medium-length coat has a hard but pleasing texture. Even the whiskers and the hair inside the ears is crimped and springy. The coat comes in many different colors and patterns. The American Wirehair has a rounded head with high cheekbones, medium-size ears that are rounded at the tips, and large, round bright eyes that tilt slightly upward. The medium-size body is supported by muscular legs and rounded paws with heavy pads. Flicking behind the well-rounded rear end is a tail that tapers from the rump to a rounded tip.

**Friendship:** The easygoing but playful American Wirehair is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He will get along fine with dogs if they don't give him any trouble. He is a skilled hunter, but may learn to leave pet birds or other small animals alone if he is introduced to them at an early age. When in doubt, however, separation is best. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The American Wirehair's unusual coat needs little care. Brushing or combing can damage it, so that type of grooming isn't necessary except in the spring, when the cat is shedding his winter coat. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep an American Wirehair as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. American Wirehairs who go outdoors also run the risk of

being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it.

Name: Aphrodite Giant

General: The Aphrodite Giant, also known as the Cyprus cat, is a natural cat breed, meaning they developed without the need for human intervention. These Cypriot felines are known for being gentle, loving, and intelligent. They're also known for being quite large and robust. The Aphrodite Giant is a muscular-looking cat. But despite their athletic stature, they're total sweethearts. The breed makes an excellent family pet and loves being around children. Although, being such a sociable cat means they don't do well left alone for long periods. Ensure your kitty has a feline friend or humans around for most of the day. When considering an Aphrodite Giant, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Aphrodite Giant breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Aphrodite Giant is a large cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most male Aphrodite Giants weigh in at 15 to 24 pounds and most female Aphrodite Giants are between ten and 14 pounds.

Personality: There's no doubt about it: The Aphrodite Giant is a total gentle giant of a cat. These kitties are exceptionally affectionate and very quickly form very strong and lasting loving bonds with all of the humans in their life—and they do especially well with children. The breed does best when living with a large and active family with a lot of activity going on around them. These cats love to feel as if they're part of the day's fun and games. As a large cat with mountain dwelling history, the breed will require at least one cat tree to climb up and claim for their own, and the bigger their living space, the better it is for their welfare. But while the Aphrodite Giant is definitely an athletic looking feline, you'll find that the breed also loves nothing more than to curl up on the couch with their favorite humans and nap the afternoon away.

Health: Aphrodite Giants are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Aphrodite Giants suffer from include: Ear Infections: Ear infections are relatively common in cats and can be caused by various factors. If you suspect your cat has an ear infection, it's crucial to consult with a veterinarian for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Never attempt to clean a cat's ears without consulting your vet first, as improper cleaning can worsen the condition. Obesity: Obesity in cats is a common and concerning health issue that can lead to various complications and negatively

impact a cat's overall well-being. **Hairballs:** Hairballs, or trichobezoars, are a common occurrence in cats, especially those that groom themselves frequently. While occasional hairballs are normal for most cats, monitoring your cat's behavior and addressing any concerns promptly can help ensure their well-being. If you have specific concerns about your cat's health or hairball frequency, consult with your veterinarian for personalized advice and guidance.

**Coat:** The Aphrodite Giant's coat can come in a wide array of colors, although it's never been spotted in chocolate, lilac, or mink. The Aphrodite Giant can be either a short-haired or a long-haired cat. Which variety you adopt will determine how often you'll need to brush the thick coat. For long-haired cats, this should be carried out every other day. Proper brushing will also help ward off the chances of hairballs. As with all breeds, keep a close eye out for any mats that might be starting to develop while you're grooming the cat. Remember, regular brushing will help keep the cat's coat clean and healthy! When it comes to weather, the Aphrodite Giant is generally seen as an adaptable cat who can normally live happily in most climates, and their thicker-than-usual coat means they do better than most felines in cold conditions. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Aphrodite Giant fares great when living with children. The cat will form loving bonds with the kids in your home. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Aphrodite Giant is usually fine around other domestic animals. Although, you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Aphrodite Giant for good behavior when you bring them home to your family.

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Aphrodite Giant's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. The Aphrodite Giant is a smart cat. Along with providing a large enough space for the cat to enjoy living in, you'll need to ensure that there are smart toys to keep the breed mentally stimulated. Interactive treat toys are ideal, and due to the cat's history living in the mountains and stalking prey, you should look for feeding stations that require the cat to figure out how to gain access to their food. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Aphrodite Giant will need their nails checked on a regular basis. Ask your vet how best to do this if you're new to feline maintenance. Access to a scratching post or station—whether made of corrugated cardboard or sisal—is also imperative. Beyond nail care, you'll want to examine the cat's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection, and clean them if needed. Also, make sure to speak to your regular vet about a teeth brushing regimen for your Aphrodite Giant.

**Name:** Arabian Mau



**General:** The Arabian Mau is a natural cat breed cat, known for being energetic, sociable, and playful. They are one of the oldest naturally occurring feline breeds in the world. They originated from wild cats, and are well-adapted to hot weather. Only recently were breeding programs introduced to preserve the breed. The Arabian Mau hails from the desert regions of the world. These are athletic and sporty felines who stay active and crave play sessions. They're friendly and trusting, so they quickly bond with the humans in their life; although, they definitely demand a lot of attention. They really need to live with a family where there are always people around to interact with. When considering an Arabian Mau cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase an Arabian Mau kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Arabian Mau cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Arabian Mau is a medium-sized cat breed. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most male Arabian Maus weigh in at nine to 16 pounds and most female Arabian Maus are between eight and 14 pounds. That said, many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** So what are you dealing with if you chose to adopt an Arabian Mau? Well, first of all, you'll be living with an exceptionally active and athletic cat. To that end, you'll need to make sure that your living situation is big enough for the cat to be able to run around. A cat tree and other feline furniture is a must. This is a smart breed, so you'll also want to incorporate interactive toys and smart feeders into the mix to keep the cat mentally satisfied. Along with being an energetic kitty, the Arabian Mau is also a sociable and trusting cat that will want to follow the action around the house. This is great if you have kids or are a busy family. Your Arabian Mau will love to be at the center of attention! Just be warned: While the breed enjoys being around human company, they don't have much of a reputation for being lap cats who will snuggle up with you all afternoon. But if you're looking for a cat with an independent streak, you'll instantly become smitten by the Arabian Mau!

**Health:** Arabian Maus are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the Arabian Mau, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Arabian Mau's coat can come in an array of colors, although combinations of black, white, and brown are most common, often with tabby-style markings. In more rare cases, the cat has been spotted with red coloring making its way into the mix! The Arabian Mau is a short-haired cat whose coat is often described as having a glossy feel to the touch. Grooming requirements are

on the low end of the spectrum. Brushing the coat once or twice a week will suffice. Remember that proper brushing will also help ward off the chances of hairballs, along with keeping the kitty's coat clean and healthy. When it comes to climate, the Arabian Mau is generally seen as an adaptable cat that can usually live happily in most climates, although due to their desert roots, they favor warmer rather than colder conditions. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Arabian Mau is a big hit with children. This is a breed that will quickly form bonds with the kids in their life. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Arabian Mau is equally as sociable. Although, you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Arabian Mau for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** The Arabian Mau needs to be an active cat. Definitely invest in a cat tree if you're considering adopting a cat of this breed, and if possible, make sure that the cat can climb up and down furniture to satiate their innate need to explore. An interactive treat toy is also a must. This is a smart breed who loves to figure out solutions on their own. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Arabian Mau will need to have their nails checked and trimmed on a regular basis. Your vet can show you the best and safest way to do so. Adding a scratching post to your living environment can also help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. Beyond nail care, examine the cat's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection every couple of weeks. Also, it's advisable to speak to your regular vet about a teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Arabian Mau.

**Name:** Australian Mist

**General:** The Australian Mist cat, initially known as the "Spotted Mist," is a relatively recent addition to the world of domestic felines, first developed in Australia in the late 20th century. Bred to thrive in the local climate, this cat is recognized for its distinctive spotted coat. Additionally, Australian Mists feature a variety of colors and patterns. The breed is a result of carefully planned crosses between Abyssinians, Burmese, and domestic shorthair cats. As a result, this unique combination of traits contribute to the breed's friendly demeanor and adaptability. Known for its sociable nature, the Australian Mist also makes an ideal companion, demonstrating an affectionate and gentle disposition towards its human family members. This charming and personable breed has a medium-sized, muscular build, featuring a short, easy-to-care-for coat with a spotted or marbled pattern. With its distinctive appearance and amiable temperament, these cats gained popularity not only in their country of origin but also among cat enthusiasts worldwide who appreciate its playful yet laid-back nature. When considering an Australian Mist, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However,

if you decide to purchase an Australian Mist kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Australian Mist is a medium sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Australian Mists weigh in at eight to 15 pounds. Female Australian Mists are often slightly smaller than their male counterparts. That said, many of these mixed breed cats can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** When people talk about the personality of their Australian Mist cats, they usually say that they're mellow and tolerant kitties with an exceptionally loving side. These cats adore human interaction and attention and will often follow you around or hop up on your lap at any opportunity. If you're after a cat who snuggles, this is an excellent mixed breed to consider. As the Australian Mist was originally developed to be an indoor cat, they're pretty adaptable to most living situations. Just be sure that you provide enough smart interactive toys and pieces of cat-friendly furniture around the home environment to ensure that the feline doesn't become bored or frustrated. Due to the mixed breed's very tolerant nature, they also do really well living in an active household and are fine with lots of children around the place. It's often remarked that the Australian Mist is a cat who enjoys being handled and will rarely scratch.

**Health:** Australian Mists are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Australian Mist, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Australian Mist's coat is usually seen in a range of colors that include golden, chocolate brown, blue, and peach. Their coat can be spotted or have marbled patterns running through it. When it comes to grooming, the Australian Mist is a low maintenance feline. Their short and glossy coat can be brushed once a week. This will not only help ward off the chance of any mats forming, but also keep the coat in clean and healthy condition. Maintaining a regular brushing routine also helps to lessen the likelihood that hairballs will be an issue for the feline. The Australian Mist is generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Australian Mist is a perfect cat to bring into your home if you already have children. These are tolerant and loving cats. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Australian Mist is usually okay living alongside other domestic animals. Although, you'll want to supervise early interactions

between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Australian Mist for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Australian Mist's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Australian Mist will need to have their nails checked and trimmed on a regular basis. If you're new to cat adoption, your vet can show you the safest way to carry this out. Adding a scratching post to your living environment can also help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. Beyond nail care, examine the Australian Mist's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection every couple of weeks. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Australian Mist. While the Australian Mist is fine with living indoors, they can also become prone to obesity. So monitor snacks and treats, and consider adding a smart feeder to help aid the cat's portion control.

Name: Balinese

General: The Balinese cat, a breed of extraordinary elegance and intelligence, stands as a testament to feline beauty and charm. Originating in the United States, the Balinese shares its ancestral roots with the Siamese and Javanese breeds. With its luxurious, long-haired coat, graceful build, and striking blue almond-shaped eyes, the Balinese cat captures the hearts of cat enthusiasts around the world. Named for the exotically graceful dancers on the Indonesian island of Bali, it is often referred to as the "long-haired Siamese." The Balinese cat boasts a sleek and refined appearance, characterized by its color points and silky fur. Renowned for its vocal and affectionate nature, the Balinese forms strong bonds with its human companions, seeking constant interaction and attention. When considering a Balinese, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Balinese kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Balinese breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Balinese are medium-size cats that typically weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

Personality: The Siamese and the Balinese might differ in coat length, but beneath the skin they are identical. Balinese are extremely fond of their people. They like to be "helpful" and will follow you around and supervise your every move. When you are sitting down, a Balinese will be in your lap, and at night he will be in bed with you, probably under the covers with his head on the pillow. He is frequently underfoot, so he might not be the best choice for people

who are unsteady on their feet or use a walker or cane. A Balinese is perhaps not quite as loud as his relative the Siamese, but he is most definitely just as opinionated. He will tell you exactly what he thinks, and he expects you to pay attention and act on his advice. You can also count on him to “tell all” to visitors, so be grateful that most people are not conversant in the Balinese language. The Balinese is highly intelligent, agile and athletic, and loves to play. Keep his busy brain active with puzzle toys and his body exercised with teaser toys that he can chase and a big cat tree he can climb. He likes to play fetch, is willing to walk on a leash, and learns tricks easily. He is also a good trainer himself and may be running your household before you know it. Never leave him without any form of entertainment, or you will likely come home to find that he has reprogrammed your DVR to record only nature shows or at the very least decided that your toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes look better empty. Do not get a Balinese if living with a chatty busybody would drive you insane. On the other hand, if you enjoy having someone to talk to throughout the day, the Balinese can be your best friend. Just be sure you have time to spend with this demanding and social cat. Balinese don’t mind staying home during the day while you go off to earn money to buy cat food, but they will expect you to devote time to them when you are at home. It can be smart to get two of them so they can keep each other company. Choose a Balinese if you look forward to spending time with and interacting with your cat. This is a loyal and loving feline who will pout and pine if given little or no attention. In the right home, however, he thrives for years.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The same problems that may affect the Siamese can also affect the Balinese, including the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in members of the Siamese family. **Asthma/Bronchial Disease:** Asthma in cats is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways, leading to breathing difficulties. Similar to asthma in humans, feline asthma can range from mild to severe and may require medical management. **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats are abnormalities in the structure of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can affect the heart’s chambers, valves, or blood vessels, and they can vary in severity. While some congenital heart defects may not cause noticeable symptoms, others can lead to serious health issues. **Crossed Eyes:** Strabismus in cats, also known as “crossed eyes” or “squinting,” is a condition where the eyes are misaligned, meaning they do not point in the same direction. This misalignment can be present from birth (congenital) or may develop later in life due to injury, illness, or neurological issues. **Gastrointestinal Conditions:** Enlarged esophagus in cats, also known as megaesophagus, is a condition characterized by a dilated and weakened esophagus. The esophagus is the muscular tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach. Megaesophagus can lead to difficulties in swallowing and may result in regurgitation of food and water. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** This is a neurological problem

that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. Lymphoma: Lymphoma in cats is a type of cancer that originates in the lymphocytes, which are white blood cells involved in the immune system. It is one of the most common forms of cancer in cats. Lymphoma can affect various organs and tissues in the body, leading to a range of symptoms. Nystagmus: This is a neurological disorder that causes involuntary rapid eye movement. Progressive Retinal Atrophy: Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in cats is a genetic disorder that affects the retina, leading to a gradual and irreversible loss of vision. The retina is the part of the eye responsible for detecting light and transmitting signals to the brain for visual interpretation. PRA is not a singular disease but rather a group of genetic conditions that share a similar outcome.

Coat: Except for coat length, the Siamese and the Balinese are indistinguishable, having a svelte but muscular body with long lines and a wedge-shaped head that is long and tapering from the narrow point of the nose outward to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle. The unusually large ears are wide at the base and pointed at the tip, giving them the same triangular shape as the head. Medium-size eyes are almond-shaped. The body is often described as tubular and is supported by long, slim legs, with the hind legs higher than the front legs. The Balinese walks on small, dainty, oval paws and swishes a long, plumed tail that tapers to a fine point. The appearance of the body is softened by a medium-length coat that is fine and silky. It is longest on the plumed tail. The Balinese comes in the same point colors as the Siamese: seal, chocolate, blue and lilac. The eyes are always a deep, vivid blue. The Traditional Cat Association recognizes a Balinese of a different type: one with a more rounded head and body. It also has a fluffier coat that is long over the entire body, unlike the show Balinese, whose coat is longest on the tail.

Friendship: The active and social Balinese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The fine, silky coat of the Balinese is easily cared for. Comb it once or twice a week with a stainless steel comb to remove dead hair. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Balinese are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Balinese as an indoor-only cat to protect him

from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Balinese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Bambino

General: The Bambino cat is a unique and distinctive breed with its endearing appearance and playful personality. Bred by crossing two distinct breeds, the Sphynx and the Munchkin, the Bambino inherits the hairless trait of the Sphynx and the short legs characteristic of the Munchkin. This charming and controversial combination results in a small-sized cat with a hairless coat, large ears, and a distinctive look that sets it apart. Despite their hairless appearance, Bambinos are known for their warm and affectionate nature. They enjoy interacting with their human companions, forming strong bonds within the family. Their energetic and mischievous nature adds a delightful dynamic to households lucky enough to have a Bambino as a member. When considering a Bambino cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Bambino cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Bambino is a small cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Bambinos weigh in at five to nine pounds and most female Bambinos are between four and seven pounds. That said, many may be smaller or larger than average.

Personality: When it comes to summing up the Bambino's personality, the first thing you'll want to take note of is just how playful and even a little mischievous the mixed breed is. This is a cat who will happily spend as much time as possible playing with toys and exploring every nook and cranny of their environment. It's advised to make sure your home is big enough to satisfy the cat's playful instincts. Interactive toys should be left out and rotated on a regular basis, while at least one cat tree will be required to add variety to play sessions. Balancing out the Bambino's personality, the mixed breed's playful side is complemented by their affectionate nature—this is a kitty who very easily forms bonds with the humans in their life and loves to follow up a frantic playtime with a calm and leisurely snuggle session on the couch or bed.

Health: Bambinos are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. While most Bambinos are healthy, they can become prone to some of the same conditions that the Sphynx and Munchkin breeds also face. Some of the more common health problems Bambinos suffer from include: Pectus Excavatum: Pectus exca-

vatum, commonly known as a sunken or funnel chest, is a congenital condition that can affect both humans and animals, including cats. In cats, this condition involves a deformity in the chest wall where the sternum (breastbone) sinks inward, creating a concave or depressed appearance. Pectus excavatum is often present at birth and may vary in severity. Skin Conditions: Cats can experience various skin conditions, and these can be caused by a range of factors, including parasites, allergies, infections, autoimmune disorders, and more. Cats with light-colored or thin fur may be susceptible to sunburn, especially on their ears and nose. Sunburn can cause redness, inflammation, and peeling.

Coat: The hairless Bambino usually comes in a light cream or darker black color. Due to the mixed breed's lack of fur, the Bambino is often considered to be a hypoallergenic cat and can be a good fit for someone who suffers from cat allergies. When it comes to grooming, the main maintenance requirement when caring for a Bambino is to make sure to bathe the cat regularly. This is because the hairless mixed breed doesn't possess the fur that usually absorbs the oils a cat's skin makes. Speak to your vet about the precise frequency of cat baths, and which products are safe and suitable for your feline. When it comes to climate, the Bambino is generally an adaptable cat, although due to their hairless nature you should consider using sunscreen in summer and adding a cat vest in winter if it gets exceptionally cold. The Bambino definitely does better living as an indoors cat.

Friendship: The Bambino is a great fit if you have children, especially young ones. The mixed breed has a playful and loving nature that will see them forming close bonds with the kids in their life. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Bambino is usually okay living alongside other domestic animals. Although you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Bambino for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Bambino's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, it is strongly recommended that you add a scratching post to your living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Bambino's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Bambino, as well. As with any breed that has high energy levels, the Bambino will need enough living space to be able to run around and play, including either a cat tree or safe furniture that they can climb up and down.

Name: Bengal Cats



**General:** The Bengal cat is a hybrid breed that was created by crossing a domestic cat with an Asian Leopard Cat. These cats are known for their wild appearance, with their spotted or marbled coats and their muscular bodies. Despite their fierce looks, this breed is actually quite affectionate and loving with their human families. Bengal cats are very active and playful, and they need a home that can provide them with plenty of exercise. They love to climb, chase toys, and play fetch. If you can keep up with their energy, you'll have a smart and loving cat who will keep you on your toes. When considering a Bengal, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Bengal breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** This is a medium-to-large cat. Bengals weigh eight to 15 pounds or more.

**Personality:** The Bengal is highly active and highly intelligent. This makes him fun to live with, but he can sometimes be challenging. On the whole, the Bengal is a confident, talkative, friendly cat who is always alert. Nothing escapes his notice. He likes to play games, including fetch, and he's a whiz at learning tricks. His nimble paws are almost as good as hands, and it's a good thing he doesn't have opposable thumbs or he would probably rule the world. Bored bengal cats can also adopt some unconventional (and slightly destructive) habits, including: turning light switches on and off, fishing seals out of drains and excitedly plucking CDs from your DVD player. Fond of playing in water, the Bengal is not above jumping into the tub or strolling into the shower with you. Aquarium and pond fish may be at risk from his clever paws. He also loves to climb and can often be found perching at the highest point he can reach in the home. A tall cat tree or two is a must for this feline, as are puzzle toys that will challenge his intelligence. On the rare occasions that he isn't swinging on chandeliers or swimming in your pool, the affectionate Bengal will be pleased to sit on your lap. It goes without saying that he will share your bed. And yes, he steals the covers.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Bengals are generally healthy, but the following diseases have been seen in the breed: **Distal Neuropathy:** This is a nervous system disorder that causes weakness. It can occur in Bengals as early as 1 year of age. Fortunately, many cats recover on their own, although a few relapse. **Flat-Chested Kitten Syndrome:** A deformity that can range from mild to severe. Kittens who survive to adulthood usually show no signs once they reach maturity. **Hip Dysplasia:** Hip dysplasia is a relatively uncommon but serious orthopedic condition that primarily affects dogs. While it is rare in cats, it is not impossible for them to develop hip dysplasia. **Hypertrophic Car-**

diomyopathy: A form of heart disease that is heritable in some breeds. Patellar Luxation: A hereditary dislocation of the kneecap that can range from mild to severe. Severe cases can be alleviated with surgery. Progressive Retinal Atrophy: Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) is a group of hereditary eye disorders that can affect cats, as well as dogs and other animals. PRA leads to the degeneration of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye, and can eventually result in blindness.

Coat: The Bengal could never be called delicate. He is an athlete: agile and graceful with a strong, muscular body, as befits a cat who looks as if he belongs in the jungle. His broad head is a modified wedge shape, longer than it is wide, with rounded contours. Atop it are medium-size to small ears that are relatively short, set toward the side of the head. Large oval eyes are almost round. Joining the head to the body is a long, muscular neck. Supporting the body are medium-length legs, slightly longer in the back than in the front, with large, round paws. A thick, medium-length tail tapers at the end and is tipped in black. When a Bengal rolls over, you can see that another characteristic is a spotted belly. Enhancing the Bengal's wild appearance is a short, thick pelt that feels luxuriously soft and silky. It comes in several colors and patterns, including brown tabby, seal mink tabby, black silver tabby, and seal silver lynx point. The coat can be spotted randomly or in horizontal patterns, or it can be marbled, with horizontal stripes arranged randomly on a lighter background. Some Bengals have a coat that is described as "glittered." The fur shimmers in the light, as if it were tipped with gold dust.

Friendship: The active and social Bengal is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He's smart enough to get out of the way of toddlers but loves school-age children because they are a match for his energy level and curiosity. Nothing scares him, certainly not dogs, and he will happily make friends with them if they don't give him any trouble. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting. Like many active cats, bengals have a high prey drive and should not be trusted with smaller prey animals such as: hamsters, smaller rabbits and guinea pigs.

Care: The short, thick coat of the Bengal is easily cared for with weekly combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a dirty box may cause them to start using other places

in the house instead. It's a good idea to keep a Bengal as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Keeping him indoors also protects local birds and wildlife from this avid hunter. If possible, build your Bengal a large outdoor enclosure where he can jump and climb safely. Bengals who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: European Burmese

General: The European Burmese cat is a breed known for their sleek and muscular build, almond-shaped eyes, and short, shiny coat. Originating from the United Kingdom, this breed is distinct from the Burmese, with some variations in appearance and breeding standards. European Burmese cats have a distinctive coat color that is darker on the back and lighter on the stomach, known as the "colorpoint" pattern. The breed comes in various colors, including sable, champagne, blue, and platinum. Known for their social and affectionate nature, European Burmese cats form strong bonds with their human companions and are often described as being people-oriented. They are intelligent, curious, and enjoy interactive play, making them well-suited for families and individuals seeking a lively and engaging feline companion. In terms of health, European Burmese cats are generally robust, but like any breed, they may be prone to certain genetic conditions. Regular veterinary check-ups, a balanced diet, and proper care are essential to ensure their well-being. With their striking appearance, friendly disposition, and active nature, European Burmese cats have gained popularity among cat enthusiasts and continue to be cherished pets in households around the world. When considering a European Burmese kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable European Burmese kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat that usually weighs six to 10 pounds, sometimes more.

Personality: When it comes to personality, the European Burmese and the Burmese are in alignment. The European Burmese is energetic and friendly. He has the charm and determination of his Siamese ancestors, and enjoys conversation as much as that breed, but his voice is soft and sweet, belying his tendency to run the household with an iron paw sheathed in velvety fur. He is highly intelligent and seeks out human companionship, so he's not best suited to a home where he will be left alone much of the day. If no humans will be around to engage his intellect, be sure he has the company of another pet. He gets along well with other cats and with dogs, but of course another Burmese

(of either type) will be his best pal. The European Burmese is about as curious as cats come. Expect him to explore your home thoroughly and know all of its nooks and crannies. He is playful and remains so into adulthood. Tease his clever mind with interactive toys, and teach him tricks that will allow him to show off for an audience. Besides sit, roll over, wave and come, he can learn to fetch a small toy or walk on a leash. With proper early conditioning, car rides and vet visits will be a breeze. A European Burmese is a good choice if you don't object to complete loss of privacy. This cat will want to be involved in everything you do, from reading the newspaper and working at the computer to preparing meals and watching television. He will, of course, sleep on the bed with you and may even snuggle under the covers. When you are sitting down, he will be in your lap or right next to you, waiting expectantly to be petted. You will be scolded if you ignore him. Guests will receive his full attention, and it is likely that he will win over even those who claim to dislike cats. A female European Burmese is the very definition of queenliness. She likes attention and she likes to be in charge. Males are more restful, satisfied to fill a lap. Whichever you choose, it's likely that you will soon find yourself yearning for another.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. European Burmese are generally healthy, although they can be prone to gingivitis and may be sensitive to anesthesia. The following diseases have also been seen in European Burmese: Lipemia of the Aqueous Humor: This is a transient milky appearance of the eye during kittenhood, which usually resolves on its own. Corneal Dermoid: The presence of skin and hair on the surface of the cornea, which can be successfully corrected surgically. Gangliosidosis: This is an enzyme deficiency. A test has been developed that will allow the disease to be detected. Orofacial Pain Syndrome: This is indicated by exaggerated licking and chewing motions and pawing at the mouth. The discomfort can increase when the cat is excited or stressed, and the cats often are reluctant to eat because the activity is painful. Some cats must wear an Elizabethan collar and have their paws bandaged so they don't hurt themselves. Some cases resolve on their own, then recur. The cause and the mode of inheritance are unknown. Pain medications and anti-seizure drugs can help, as can consultation with a veterinary dentist to rule out dental disease. Congenital Peripheral Vestibular Disease: A disease causing head tilting, poor balance, rapid eye movements and uncoordinated walking in kittens. Some kittens with the condition may also be deaf. Hypokalemic Polymyopathy: This is a muscle weakness caused by low levels of potassium in the blood, which is sometimes seen in Burmese kittens. Signs include general weakness, a stiff gait, reluctance to walk, and head tremors. It can be treated with potassium supplements given orally. Flat-Chested Kitten Syndrome: This is a deformity that can range from mild to severe. Kittens who survive to adulthood usually show no signs once they reach maturity. Kinked Tail: This is usually as a result of a deformity of the tailbone. It causes no pain or discomfort. Elbow Osteoarthritis: This is an early onset of arthritis in the elbow, limiting the cat's activity or mobility. Endocardial Fibroelastosis: This is a

heart condition in which the left ventricle of the heart thickens, stretching the heart muscle. Signs usually develop when a kitten is 3 weeks to 4 months old, good reason to wait until 4 months to bring a kitten home. Dilated Cardiomyopathy: This is an enlarged heart. Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a heart condition that can affect cats, impacting the structure and function of the heart muscle. Unlike some other heart issues, DCM is not typically associated with genetic predisposition in cats. Diabetes Mellitus: A type of endocrine condition caused by a defect in insulin secretion or insulin action that results in high levels of sugar in the blood.

Coat: Besides color, the European Burmese and the Burmese have other differences in appearance. The European has a more moderate appearance, especially when it comes to head type. He is more gently rounded with a body that is less compact but never long and slinky like that of the Siamese. The top of the head is slightly rounded with plenty of space between the ears and wide cheekbones that taper to a short, blunt wedge. The eyes, which range in color from yellow to amber, slant more toward the nose and have a less rounded opening than the eyes of the Burmese. Medium-size ears are slightly rounded at the tips and tilt slightly forward. Slender legs are supported by small, oval paws. A medium-length tail tapers slightly to a rounded tip. Like the Burmese, the European Burmese is heavier than he looks and can also lay claim to the description “a brick wrapped in silk.” He wears a short and satiny coat that comes in 10 different colors: brown, blue, chocolate, lilac, red, cream, and brown, blue, chocolate, and lilac tortoiseshell. The coat colors shade gradually to the roots, with the underside of the body slightly lighter than the top. The red European Burmese comes in a warm orange apricot shade and may have slight tabby markings on the face. Cream-colored cats may also have slight tabby markings, and their nose leather and paw pads are pink. Blue is the same as in the Burmese, and the lilac coat is the same as the platinum coat of the Burmese. Brown is a rich, warm, seal brown, and chocolate is a warm milk-chocolate color. The tortoiseshells have patches of color over the entire body.

Friendship: The active and social European Burmese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The soft, short coat of the European Burmese is easily cared for with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oil. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don’t run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water.

Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, European Burmese are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a European Burmese as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. European Burmese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Bombay

General: Breeders carefully crossed sable Burmese and black American Short-hair cats in the mid-20th century to create the Bombay cat, a breed renowned for its striking appearance and affectionate nature. The vibrant city of Bombay, now Mumbai, India, inspired the name for the Bombay cat. Furthermore, what sets this breed apart is its sleek, black coat that shines like polished patent leather, accentuating its muscular and compact body. With large, expressive copper or gold eyes, the Bombay's gaze is both alluring and captivating. Moreover, beyond its exquisite physical traits, this charming cat captivates hearts with its friendly and outgoing personality. These affectionate, social, and intelligent cats forge strong bonds with their human companions. When considering a Bombay cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Bombay kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Bombay breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Bombay typically weighs between 8 and 15 pounds. Males are generally larger than females.

Personality: The lively and affectionate Bombay loves people and is adaptable to many different environments and lifestyles. His calm nature makes him a good apartment dweller, and he is amenable to life with other pets, although he definitely wants to be top cat. Expect to find the Bombay hogging the warmest spot in the house. That includes under the covers at bedtime. Most will converse with their people in a distinctive but not loud voice. Bombays are often good at playing fetch, and some have learned to walk on leash. This is a smart cat who loves to play and will thrive with a family who is willing to teach him tricks, play games with him and provide him with plenty of interactive toys.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Bombays are generally healthy, although one of the genetic diseases seen in Burmese has also been seen in Bombays: Craniofacial Defect: Sometimes called Burmese head defect, the cran-

iofacial abnormality is occasionally seen in newborn kittens, which may have severely deformed heads. While kittens with this condition are euthanized, it's always worth researching breeders pedigrees carefully to make sure they don't breed cats who carry the gene for the defect.

Coat: Except for his dramatic black coat, the Bombay looks much like the Burmese, but with a few physical differences such as a larger, longer body and longer legs. He has a rounded head with medium-size ears set wide apart, eyes that range in color from gold to copper, and a straight, medium-length tail. The short, fine coat feels satiny to the touch and shines like patent leather. Although the gene for the black coat is dominant, a sable-colored kitten is sometimes born in a Bombay litter. Some associations permit these kittens to be registered as Burmese. The Bombay is a medium-size cat; when lifted, he feels heftier than he looks. The breed develops slowly and males may not reach full size and musculature until they are 2 years old.

Friendship: The outgoing Bombay is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The Bombay's short, sleek coat is easily cared for with a few strokes of the hand or at most weekly brushing or rubdown with a chamois to remove dead hair, distribute skin oil and polish the coat to its gleaming best. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Bombays are very particular about bathroom hygiene. Plan to spay or neuter your Bombay at 6 to 9 months of age. It is not unheard of for Bombays to reach sexual maturity as early as 5 months of age. It's a good idea to keep a Bombay as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Bombays who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Brazilian Shorthair

General: The Brazilian Shorthair, also known as the "Brazilian Shorthair Domestic Cat," gained recognition for their distinct appearance and amiable nature. Originating in Brazil, these cats have a medium-sized, well-proportioned body with a short, sleek coat that can come in a variety of colors and patterns. The Brazilian Shorthair is also known for their friendly and sociable temperament,

making them an ideal companion for families and individuals alike. These cats tend to form strong bonds with their human caregivers, often seeking affection and enjoying interactive play. Their adaptable nature allows them to thrive in various living environments, and their low-maintenance grooming needs add to their appeal as an easy-to-care-for pet. Whether engaging in playful antics or lounging in a sunlit spot, these cats bring joy to households seeking loving and interactive feline companions. The breed's adaptability, combined with their charming personality and distinctive appearance, has contributed to the Brazilian Shorthair's popularity both in their native country and beyond. When considering a Brazilian Shorthair kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Brazilian Shorthair kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Brazilian Shorthair is a medium- to large-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most male Brazilian Shorthairs weigh in at eleven to 22 pounds and most female Brazilian Shorthairs are between ten and 16 pounds.

**Personality:** As you'd expect from a breed with street cat roots, the Brazilian Shorthair is a cocky feline who's confident and outgoing. This extends to their relationship with humans and kids. This is a cat who enjoys being around people and will do its best to become a big part of your day to day life. Always wanting to be the center of attention, the breed will happily attempt to persuade the kids to engage in play sessions as often as possible, but they're also content to snuggle up on the couch when it's time to rest and relax. The Brazilian Shorthair is an inherently curious and inquisitive cat, especially when it comes to exploring new environments. So make sure you have enough space to keep the cat on their toes. As a smarter-than-average feline, the Brazilian Shorthair also benefits from smart interactive toys, and in some cases, owners have managed to teach the breed to perform tricks!

**Health:** Brazilian Shorthairs are generally considered to be healthy cats. To date, there aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Brazilian Shorthair, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Brazilian Shorthair's coat can be seen in a very wide range of colors that include black, brown, gray, orange, and white. The coat also comes in just about any type of pattern you can imagine! When it comes to grooming, the Brazilian Shorthair is a very low-maintenance kitty. You can brush their coat once a week, which will help lessen the chances of hairballs or mats forming. When it comes to climate, the Brazilian Shorthair is generally seen as an



adaptable feline. Although, make sure to always provide adequate shade and sufficient fresh water during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Brazilian Shorthair is a wonderful cat to adopt if you have children. Their playful and loving side will see them forming super strong bonds with the children in their life. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Brazilian Shorthair is also tolerant and gets along with most domestic animals. Although you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Brazilian Shorthair for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Brazilian Shorthair's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, you'll definitely want to add a scratching post to your living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Brazilian Shorthair's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Brazilian Shorthair. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. As with any breed with high energy levels, the Brazilian Shorthair will need to be provided with enough space to run around and explore, so you'll want to add a cat tree to your living situation.

**Name:** British Longhair

**General:** The British Longhair is a mixed breed cat—a cross between the British Shorthair and Persian cat breeds. Friendly, independent, and affectionate, these cats inherited some of the best traits from both of their parent breeds. The British Longhair is an easygoing cat who looks like a plush teddy bear in feline form! These cats enjoy human company, but they're also independent and low key enough to be okay if left alone for longer periods of the day. Just remember that when you're dealing with a long-haired feline, there are extra grooming needs to commit to. When considering a British Longhair, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a British Longhair kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable British Longhair breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The British Longhair is a medium- to large-sized cat breed who's often a little on the stockier side. As is always the case, exact size standards might

vary. Most British Longhairs weigh in at nine to 18 pounds. That said, many may be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** At heart, the British Longhair is a loving and friendly cat who will also show a great deal of tolerance. They are sociable towards people when they're around, but the breed is also happy to enjoy their own time, which makes them a smart choice for someone who might be away from the home for long hours due to work commitments. While there is a laid-back nature about the British Shorthair, it's important to encourage the breed to stay active and engage in exercise. Think of the British Longhair as a breed of cat that you'll need to invest some time and effort in when you're around them to get the best out of them. Also note that the British Longhair is an affectionate cat, but they do not generally enjoy being picked up or carried around. They are a breed that might be better suited to adult lifestyles rather than a home buzzing with kids all the time.

**Health:** British Longhairs are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems British Longhairs suffer from include: Renal Polycystosis: Renal polycystic disease in cats, also known as feline polycystic kidney disease (PKD), is an inherited condition that leads to the development of multiple fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys. This condition is most commonly seen in Persian and related breeds. PKD is an autosomal dominant genetic disorder, meaning that only one parent needs to carry the gene for their offspring to inherit the disease. Neonatal Isoerythrolysis: Neonatal isoerythrolysis (NI) in cats, also known as hemolytic icterus, is a condition that affects kittens. It occurs when there's an incompatibility between the blood type of the mother cat and her kittens, specifically related to the blood group antigens. This condition is most commonly seen in cats, particularly those of blood type B.

**Coat:** The British Longhair's coat can come in a wide range of colors, although blue is the most popular shade. Other frequent colors include tabby, white, cream, and black. As the name suggests, the British Longhair is a long-haired cat whose luxurious coat will require a commitment to daily brushing. This is imperative to help ward off any mats forming, and during times of seasonal shedding, you'll need to engage in longer than usual brushing sessions. Regular grooming will also lessen the chances of hairballs occurring. When it comes to climate, the British Longhair is generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The British Longhair can live happily with children. Although, this generally tolerant cat often doesn't take well to being picked up and carried around. So be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the British Longhair is usually fine sharing living quarters. However, you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Ultimately, early socialization

really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your British Longhair for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: The British Longhair needs a little coaxing to make sure they remain active and engage in enough exercise. Otherwise, feline obesity and other related health issues might set in. A smart way to encourage the breed to exercise is through the use of treat-based games and play sessions. Also, consider interactive feeding devices if it seems like your British Longhair is becoming a little too much of a lounge cat. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your British Longhair will need to have their nails checked and trimmed on a regular basis. If you're new to cat maintenance, your vet can show you the safest way to carry this out. Adding a scratching post to your living environment can also help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. Beyond nail care, examine the British Longhair's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection every couple of weeks. It's also smart to speak to your vet about beginning a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your British Longhair.

Name: Chartreux

General: The Chartreux cat, known for their quiet elegance and gentle disposition, is a beloved breed from France. These medium to large-sized cats have robust, muscular bodies, round faces, and copper or gold-colored eyes. One of the most striking characteristics of the Chartreux is their dense, short, water-resistant blue-gray coat, often described as "wool-like" in texture. Their fur can develop a slightly copper or russet hue as they age. In terms of temperament, Chartreux cats are known for being affectionate, gentle, and sociable. They tend to form strong bonds with their human companions and are generally good with children and other pets. Despite their calm demeanor, they are intelligent and enjoy interactive play, making them suitable for families and individuals alike. Chartreux cats are often described as "smiling" due to their slightly upturned mouths, adding to their endearing and friendly expression. This breed is relatively low-maintenance in terms of grooming, thanks to their short coat. When considering a Chartreux kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Chartreux kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Chartreux typically weighs between 7 and 16 pounds.

Personality: The Chartreux might well be compared to a mime, silent but communicative and sometimes silly. Short playtimes interspersed with naps and meals are his idea of the perfect day. When he is not displaying his superb tim-

ing and pouncing ability, “killing” toys with abandon, or performing acrobatic flips as he chases a lure toy, he is an attentive and gentle companion who likes to stay near his people and observe their doings. He appreciates any attention he receives, especially if it involves scratching him beneath the chin or between the ears, but he’s not demanding, content to follow you around devotedly, sleep on your bed and snuggle with you if you’re not feeling well. He rarely uses his voice, preferring to direct your actions with a glance from his pumpkin-colored eyes. If need be, however, he may communicate with a small meow or chirp. Make a habit of observing him carefully and being familiar with his actions since it is unlikely that he will vocalize any discomfort or make any sound to let you know where he is. This is an adaptable cat with a middle-of-the-road personality. He’s not a social butterfly, but he’s not a shy wallflower, either. Expect him to watch and wait before deciding whether to greet a guest or otherwise involve himself in a situation. His calm nature makes him suited to staying home alone while you are out earning the money for his treats and toys, but he won’t object to keeping company with another cat or dog. That same good nature makes him a good travel companion for an RV enthusiast or long-distance truck driver. As long as you keep his routine similar each day, he will be a happy camper. The Chartreux has a sunny, polite disposition that makes him a pleasure to live with. This is one cat who does his best to obey the rules. Always treat him kindly and patiently, and you will be rewarded with a friend for life.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Chartreux are generally healthy, but the following problems have been seen in the breed: Patellar Luxation is a hereditary dislocation of the kneecap that can range from mild to severe. Mild patellar luxation rarely causes problems. Severe cases cause lameness, but can be alleviated with surgery.

**Coat:** The Chartreux has the sturdy, powerful body of a working cat wrapped in a short, thick, water-repellent coat. Besides his beautiful fur, his most distinctive feature is his deep orange eyes, set in a rounded, broad head. He has full cheeks and a sweet, smiling expression. Medium-size ears sit high on the head. His body type is sometimes described as primitive, being husky and robust with broad shoulders and a deep chest. His relatively short and fine-boned legs rest on round, medium-size paws that look almost dainty. A lively, flexible tail is heavy at the base, tapering to an oval tip. Don’t let his ample body and solid muscle mass fool you. This is a supple, agile cat who typically weighs 7 to 16 pounds at maturity. Pick him up and you may be surprised by his heft. Chartreux grow slowly and males especially may not reach their full size until they are 4 or 5 years old. The medium-short double coat has a slightly woolly texture, which varies depending on the cat’s age and gender, as well as the climate in which he lives. For instance, mature males have the heaviest coats, while females or young cats may have a thinner coat or one that feels silky. The coat can be any shade of blue-gray. The tips of the fur look as if they have been lightly brushed with silver. Kittens may have the faint imprint of tabby markings (called ghost barring) or tail rings, but by the time they mature the

coat should have a bright, even tone. Completing the look is slate-gray nose leather, blue lips, and rose-taupe paw pads.

**Friendship:** The tolerant and gentle Chartreux fits nicely in a home with children. He is more likely to walk away than to scratch if he doesn't like the way he is being handled. Parents with young children should always supervise interactions to make sure the cat isn't mistreated. He is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Chartreux's short, thick coat is easy to care for with weekly brushing. The coat sheds in the spring and may require extra brushing during that time. A bath is rarely necessary. If your Chartreux does require a bath, remember that it can take time to get the water-repellent coat wet enough for bathing. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Chartreux's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Chartreux as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Chartreux who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** British Shorthair

**General:** The British Shorthair cat, with its distinctive round face, dense coat, and large, expressive eyes, is a charming and iconic breed. Known for its easygoing and placid temperament, the British Shorthair is an adaptable companion that gets along well with children and other pets. Renowned for its plush, short coat in a variety of colors and patterns, this breed requires minimal grooming. With a history dating back to the early days of cat fancy in Britain, the British Shorthair has maintained its popularity due to its sweet nature, robust health, and striking appearance, making it a beloved choice for cat enthusiasts around the world. This unique cat is a reserved and quiet companion with an undemanding personality. While it is not overly affectionate, it gets along well with everyone, including other pets. It is a mellow cat and will tolerate being held for cuddles, even if it does not seek them out itself. Unlike some high-strung and jumpy cats, British Shorthairs are calm and laid-back. If you are looking for a low-maintenance feline companion, the British Shorthair may be the perfect cat for you. When considering a British Shorthair, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a rep-

reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable British Shorthair breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices. If you're also looking for a dog, check out DogTime's dog breed page!

Size: Males weight 12 to 20 pounds, females 8 to 14 pounds.

Personality: The British Shorthair is mellow and easygoing, making him an excellent family companion. He enjoys affection, but he's not a "me, me, me" type of cat. Expect him to follow you around the house during the day, settling nearby wherever you stop. Full of British reserve, the Shorthair has a quiet voice and is an undemanding companion. He doesn't require a lap, although he loves to sit next to you. Being a big cat, he isn't fond of being carried around. This is a cat with a moderate activity level. He's energetic during kittenhood, but usually starts to settle down by the time he is a year old. More mature British Shorthairs are usually couch potatoes, but adult males occasionally behave like goofballs. When they run through the house, they can sound like a herd of elephants. British Shorthairs are rarely destructive; their manners are those of a proper governess, not a soccer hooligan. They welcome guests confidently.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that have been seen in the Shorthair are: Gingivitis: Gingivitis in cats is a common dental issue involving inflammation of the gums. It is primarily caused by the accumulation of plaque, a sticky film composed of bacteria, saliva, and food particles that forms on the teeth. When not removed through regular brushing or dental care, plaque can mineralize into tartar (also called calculus), leading to irritation of the gums and subsequent gingivitis. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a common heart condition in cats that affects the structure of the heart muscle. It involves the thickening (hypertrophy) of the heart's muscular wall, specifically the left ventricle. This thickening can lead to various complications, including impaired heart function and potential heart failure. Polycystic Kidney Disease: Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is an inherited condition in cats characterized by the formation of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys. These cysts gradually replace normal kidney tissue, leading to a decline in kidney function over time. PKD is most commonly seen in Persian cats but can also affect other breeds and mixed-breed cats.

Coat: With his short, thick coat, round head and cheeks, big round eyes, and rounded body, the British Shorthair resembles nothing so much as a cuddly teddy bear. His body is compact but powerful with a broad chest, strong legs with rounded paws and a thick tail with a rounded tip. The coat comes in just about any color or pattern you could wish for, including lilac, chocolate, black, white, pointed, tabby and many more. The best known color is blue (gray) and the cats are sometimes referred to as British Blues. The shorthair does not

reach full physical maturity until he is 3 to 5 years old.

**Friendship:** This mild-mannered cat is well suited to life with families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect and is forgiving of clumsy toddlers. Supervise young children and show them how to pet the cat nicely. Instead of holding or carrying the cat, have them sit on the floor and pet him. Other cats will not disturb his equilibrium. For best results, always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The British Shorthair's short, smooth coat is simple to groom with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hairs. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails weekly. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a British Shorthair as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. British Shorthairs who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Burmese

**General:** The Burmese cat, often referred to as the "Burmese," is a distinctive and popular breed known for its striking appearance, affectionate nature, and engaging personality. Their affectionate and sociable nature makes them wonderful companions for individuals and families alike. The Burmese cat breed originated in Southeast Asia, specifically in Burma (now Myanmar), and breeders brought the cat to the Western world in the early 20th century. They are closely related to the Siamese cat and share some common ancestry. Burmese cats typically have affectionate, outgoing, and people-oriented personalities. They are "people cats" because they enjoy human companionship and thrive on social interaction. These cats are highly intelligent, playful, and curious, making them wonderful additions to households with active families. When considering a Burmese, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Burmese kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Burmese breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** Burmese cats are typically of medium size and have a graceful, slender build. Adult Burmese cats usually weigh between 6 to 12 pounds on average.

**Personality:** The Burmese is energetic and friendly. He has the charm and determination of his Siamese ancestors, and enjoys conversation as much as that breed, but his voice is soft and sweet, belying his tendency to run the household with an iron paw sheathed in velvety fur. He is highly intelligent and seeks out human companionship, so he's not best suited to a home where he will be left alone much of the day. If no humans will be around to engage his intellect, be sure he has the company of another pet. He gets along well with other cats and with dogs, but of course another Burmese will be his best pal. The Burmese is about as curious as cats come. Expect him to explore your home thoroughly and know all of its nooks and crannies. He is playful and remains so into adulthood. Tease his clever mind with interactive toys, and teach him tricks that will allow him to show off for an audience. Besides sit, roll over, wave and come, he can learn to fetch a small toy or walk on a leash. With proper early conditioning, car rides and vet visits will be a breeze. A Burmese is a good choice if you don't object to complete loss of privacy. This cat will want to be involved in everything you do, from reading the newspaper and working at the computer to preparing meals and watching television. He will, of course, sleep on the bed with you and may even snuggle under the covers. When you are sitting down, he will be in your lap or right next to you, waiting expectantly to be petted. You will be scolded if you ignore him. Guests will receive his full attention, and it is likely that he will win over even those who claim to dislike cats. A female Burmese is the very definition of queenliness. She likes attention and she likes to be in charge. Males are more restful, satisfied to fill a lap. Whichever you choose, it's likely that you will soon find yourself yearning for another.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Burmese are generally healthy, although they can be prone to gingivitis and may be sensitive to anesthesia. The following diseases have also been seen in Burmese: Lipemia of the Aqueous Humor: Lipemia of the aqueous humor, or lipemic aqueous humor, is a medical condition in which the clear fluid (aqueous humor) that fills the front part of the eye becomes cloudy or milky due to the presence of lipids (fats). It creates a transient milky appearance of the eye during kittenhood, which usually resolves on its own. Corneal Dermoid: Corneal dermoid is a relatively rare but specific congenital eye condition that can affect Burmese cats, as well as cats of other breeds. Corneal dermoids are benign growths or tumors on the cornea, which is the clear, outermost layer of the eye. These growths consist of tissue elements, such as hair, skin, or sweat glands, that should not be present on the cornea. Orofacial Pain Syndrome: Indicated by exaggerated licking and chewing motions and pawing at the mouth. The discomfort can increase when the cat is excited or stressed, and the cats often are reluctant to eat because the activity is painful. Some cats must wear an Elizabethan collar and have their paws bandaged so they don't hurt themselves. Some cases resolve on their own, then recur. The



cause and the mode of inheritance are unknown. Pain medications and anti-seizure drugs can help, as can consultation with a veterinary dentist to rule out dental disease. Congenital Peripheral Vestibular Disease: This disease causes head tilting, poor balance, rapid eye movements and uncoordinated walking in kittens. Some kittens with the condition may also be deaf. Hypokalemic Polymyopathy: Muscle weakness caused by low levels of potassium in the blood, which is sometimes seen in Burmese kittens. Signs include general weakness, a stiff gait, reluctance to walk, and head tremors. It can be treated with potassium supplements given orally. Flat-Chested Kitten Syndrome: Flat-chested kitten syndrome, also known as pectus excavatum, is a congenital condition that affects some kittens. It results in a deformity of the chest wall, causing it to appear flat or concave rather than the normal rounded shape. This condition can affect the development of a kitten's ribcage, sternum, and associated chest structures. Kinked Tail: This is usually as a result of a deformity of the tailbone. It causes no pain or discomfort. Elbow Osteoarthritis: Elbow osteoarthritis in cats is a degenerative joint disease that affects the elbow joint. It is a condition where the smooth cartilage that covers the surfaces of the elbow joint gradually breaks down over time, leading to pain, inflammation, and decreased joint function. Endocardial Fibroelastosis: This is a heart condition in which the left ventricle of the heart thickens, stretching the heart muscle. Signs usually develop when a kitten is 3 weeks to 4 months old, good reason to wait until 4 months to bring a kitten home. Dilated Cardiomyopathy: Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a heart disease that can affect cats, including Burmese cats. DCM is a condition in which the heart's muscular walls become thin and weak, which leads to the heart becoming enlarged and less efficient at pumping blood. This can result in a range of cardiovascular issues and potentially impact the cat's overall health. Diabetes Mellitus: Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disorder that can affect cats, including Burmese cats. Diabetes in cats is similar in many ways to diabetes in humans. It is characterized by the body's inability to regulate blood sugar (glucose) properly, leading to elevated blood sugar levels.

Coat: The Burmese is often described as a "brick wrapped in silk," a testament to his solid, muscular body. While the original Burmese was a dark solid-brown color known as sable, he now comes in other shades as well, including blue, champagne and platinum. The cats have a compact body with a rounded head; large, expressive eyes in gold or yellow; and medium-size ears that are rounded at the tips and tilt slightly forward. The coat is short and satiny. The traditional sable is a rich, warm brown, slightly lighter on the underbody. A kitten's coat darkens as it matures. Nose leather and paw pads are brown. A champagne-colored Burmese is a warm honey-beige shading to a pale gold-tan on the underside. Nose leather is a light warm brown and paw pads are a warm pinkish tan. Blue Burmese have a medium-blue coat with a slightly lighter belly. Nose leather and paw pads are slate gray. Platinum Burmese are a pale silvery-gray with light fawn undertones and a slightly lighter color on the underbody. The nose leather and paw pads are a pretty lavender-pink. Some associations permit other colors, including tortoiseshell, lilac and red.

**Friendship:** The active and social Burmese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The soft, short coat of the Burmese is easily cared for with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oil. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Burmese are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Burmese as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Burmese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Burmilla

**General:** Burmilla cats, a striking feline breed resulting from the crossbreeding of Burmese and Chinchilla Persian cats, boast a medium-sized stature characterized by a well-proportioned and muscular build. These elegant cats exhibit a short to medium-length coat, dense and luxurious, often described as shimmering silver. Weighing between 6 to 12 pounds, with females tending towards the smaller end of the scale, Burmilla cats showcase a graceful demeanor and charming appearance. Their eyes, which may be green or blue-green, add to the allure of their overall aesthetic. While individual variations exist, Burmilla cats are generally recognized for their distinctive features and make delightful companions in households that appreciate their unique charm. When considering a Burmilla cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Burmilla kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Burmilla cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** These cats are generally medium-sized with a well-balanced and muscular build. Adult Burmilla cats typically weigh between 6 to 12 pounds, with females being on the smaller side of the range.

**Personality:** The Burmilla brings together aspects of the Burmese and the Persian into one sweet, friendly package. He is quietly affectionate and gentle but more extroverted than the typical Persian. He is adventurous but a bit of a klutz, so put away breakables when he is around. Burmillas remain playful into adulthood. They love their people, but they aren't excessively demanding of attention. When a lap is available, though, the Burmilla is there.

**Health:** Burmilla cats, like any other cat breed, may be prone to certain health issues. However, it's important to note that not all individuals will experience these problems, and responsible breeding practices can help minimize the risk of inherited conditions. Some potential health issues associated with Burmilla cats may include: **Respiratory Issues:** Burmese cats, one of the parent breeds, are known to be more susceptible to respiratory problems such as brachycephalic airway syndrome. **Dental Issues:** Some cats, regardless of breed, may be prone to dental problems. Regular dental care, such as brushing their teeth or providing dental treats, can help maintain oral health. **Obesity:** Like many other breeds, Burmilla cats can be prone to obesity if they are not fed a balanced diet and do not get enough exercise. Maintaining a healthy weight through proper diet and regular play can help prevent obesity-related issues.

**Coat:** Besides their sweet personalities, Burmillas stand out for their coats, which have a silver-white background color that is tipped or shaded with a contrasting color. In Burmillas with a tipped pattern, the color tips about 1/8 of the entire hair length and is evenly distributed, giving the coat a sparkling appearance. Burmillas with tipped coats generally look lighter than Burmillas with shaded coats. In the shaded pattern, about 1/3 of the hair shaft is shaded, which is why the shaded cats look darker. Colors in both tipped and shaded patterns include black, brown, lilac, blue, chocolate, cream, red and tortoiseshell. The silky coat can be shorthaired or longhaired. Longhairs may have ear tufts and a fully plumed tail. In all other respects, they look much like the European Burmese with a gently rounded head that tapers to a short, blunt wedge; medium-size to large ears with slightly rounded tips that tilt forward a bit; large eyes that can be any shade of green; and a medium-size body with slender legs, neat oval paws, and a tail that tapers to a rounded tip.

**Friendship:** The gentle and playful Burmilla is well suited to life with families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks, enjoys interactive toys, and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Supervise young children and show them how to pet the cat nicely. Instead of holding or carrying the cat, have them sit on the floor and pet him. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The Burmilla's short, smooth coat is simple to groom with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hairs. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush or comb a longhaired Burmilla two or three times a week. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails weekly. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft,

damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Burmilla as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Burmillas who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Chantilly-Tiffany

General: The Chantilly-Tiffany, often referred to simply as Tiffany or Chantilly, is a breed of cat with a semi-longhair coat and an elegant appearance. Originating in the United States, the breed is recognized for its silky, luxurious fur that comes in a variety of colors, including chocolate, blue, cinnamon, and fawn. The Chantilly-Tiffany has a medium to large-sized body with a well-muscled build, contributing to its graceful and regal presence. They possess a distinctive plumed tail and large, expressive eyes that can be green or gold, adding to their captivating look. Known for their affectionate and gentle nature, Chantilly-Tiffanys make wonderful companions. They are often described as laid-back and enjoy spending quality time with their human family members. While they may be initially reserved with strangers, they tend to warm up quickly and form strong bonds. This breed is not only appreciated for its stunning appearance but also for its loving demeanor, making it a desirable choice for those seeking a devoted and beautiful feline friend. When considering a Chantilly-Tiffany, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Chantilly-Tiffany breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Chantilly-Tiffany is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Chantilly-Tiffanys weigh between six and twelve pounds. However, many can be smaller or larger than average.

Personality: The Chantilly-Tiffany is super lovable and very devoted to the humans in their life. This is a breed of cat that always wants to be around human company, so don't be surprised if the cat happily follows you around from room to room, whether you're cooking in the kitchen, relaxing on the couch binge-watching a TV series, or napping in the bedroom. The Chantilly-Tiffany also has a reputation as a vocal feline. They'll happily talk to you throughout the day, so be prepared for some cat chat! Beyond the breed's

affectionate side, they also showcase a playful streak. Make sure you have a solid selection of toys in rotation, and consider adding smart, interactive toys to the living environment.

**Health:** Chantilly-Tiffanys are generally considered to be healthy cats; although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Chantilly-Tiffanys suffer from include: Digestive issues: Digestive issues in cats can arise for various reasons and may manifest in a range of symptoms. Cats may vomit occasionally due to reasons such as hairballs, eating too quickly, or consuming something indigestible. However, persistent or frequent vomiting could indicate underlying issues such as infections, food allergies, or gastrointestinal disorders. Obesity: Obesity in cats is a common and concerning health issue that can lead to various health problems and reduce the overall quality and length of a cat's life. Several factors contribute to obesity in cats, and addressing these factors is crucial for the cat's well-being.

**Coat:** The Chantilly-Tiffany was originally found sporting a distinctive chocolate brown colored coat, and many still do; although they're also now found in other shades. The coat is considered semi-longhaired. When it comes to grooming a Chantilly-Tiffany, ideally you will want to make time to schedule brushing daily sessions. This will help keep the cat's semi-long coat in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming. Use the grooming time as an opportunity to bond with your feline. In terms of climate, most Chantilly-Tiffanys are fairly adaptable. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Chantilly-Tiffany is normally a very good fit for families with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Chantilly-Tiffany usually fares well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Chantilly-Tiffany for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Chantilly-Tiffany's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Chantilly-Tiffany cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Chantilly-Tiffany's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Chantilly-Tiffany. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Chantilly-Tiffany is a cat breed that

will appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with. This will help keep the cat active and physically satisfied, so definitely consider adding one to your home!

Name: Chausie

General: The Chausie cat, a unique breed, is the result of a fascinating blend of domestication and wild ancestry. Recognized for their striking appearance and playful demeanor, the Chausie is a hybrid cat that originated from the crossbreeding of Abyssinian cats with the jungle cat (*Felis chaus*), a wild cat. This unique combination results in a cat that exhibits both the elegance of a domestic companion and the untamed allure of its wild lineage. Characterized by their large, muscular build, Chausie cats possess a distinctly wild appearance, enhanced by their striking coat patterns and pointed ears. With a rich history that traces back to ancient Egypt, these felines were once revered for their association with Egyptian pharaohs. Today, Chausies are cherished for their intelligence, agility, and affectionate nature, making them not only visually captivating but also engaging companions for those who appreciate the allure of a hybrid cat. When considering a Chausie, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Chausie kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Chausie breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Chausie is a large-sized cat breed. As is often the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Chausies weigh in at 15 to 30 pounds. That said, some may be larger or smaller than average.

Personality: First of all, there's no getting around the fact that the Chausie retains a lot of their wild cat traits. This breed will be active for long spells of the day and prefers to act in an athletic manner, rather than a delicate and dainty one. The Chausie is a cat who makes a lot of demands on their owner and needs a high degree of interaction and play time. In many cases, the breed has shown a willingness to play fetch with toys! The Chausie is also known to be a very intelligent feline so you'll want to constantly keep them challenged with a series of smart and interactive toys that you rotate on a regular basis. Still, despite the Chausie's energetic traits, they're also a cat who will form very strong and loving bonds with the adult humans in their life, and there's definitely an affectionate side to the feline.

Health: Chausies are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. While most Chausies are healthy, they can become prone to some of the same conditions that the Abyssinian breed faces. Some of the more common health problems Chausies suffer from include: Obesity: Obesity in cats is a prevalent and serious health

concern that can affect their overall well-being. It occurs when a cat consumes more calories than it expends, leading to an excess accumulation of body fat. Several factors contribute to obesity in cats, and understanding them is crucial for prevention and management. Intestinal issues: Chausie cats, like all cat breeds, can be susceptible to various intestinal issues. However, it's essential to note that the risk and prevalence of specific health concerns can vary among individual cats, and genetics, environment, and overall health play crucial roles. Their short intestinal tracts, inherited from their wild parent, prevents them from processing plant ingredients.

Coat: The Chausie's coat comes in three colors: Brown tabby, solid black, and grizzled tabby. When it comes to grooming, the Chausie is a very low maintenance breed of feline. You can brush their coat once a week, which will help lessen the chances of hairballs or mats forming. But in general, this is not a cat who sheds much or requires a lot of hands-on grooming from their humans. When it comes to climate, the Chausie is generally an adaptable breed of cat. Although, you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

Friendship: The Chausie is not usually recommended as a cat who does well with young children. This is because the breed retains some wild instincts and traits from their Jungle Cat heritage. When it comes to other household pets, the Chausie fares well with many domestic animals, especially dogs. However, you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Chausie for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Chausie's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. It's important to note that the Chausie requires a very specific diet that's totally comprised of meat. Feeding the breed cat foods that include grains and plant matter can lead to digestion issues. Beyond diet, you'll definitely want to add at least one scratching post to your living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Chausie's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Chausie. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. As with any breed that has high energy levels, the Chausie will need to be provided with enough space to run around and explore, so you'll want to add a couple of cat trees to your living situation. It is essential that the Chausie can partake in enough exercise—not least to ward off the chances of feline obesity setting in.

Name: Chinchilla

General: The Chinchilla cat, renowned for its luxurious and striking silver-

tipped coat, is a breed celebrated for its elegance and charm. With its roots tracing back to the Persian Cat, the Chinchilla inherits not only its exquisite coat but also its gentle and affectionate temperament. Characterized by large, expressive eyes that range in color from green to blue, this breed captivates with its sweet and calm disposition. Chinchilla cats are known for their sociable nature, often forming strong bonds with their human companions. Despite their regal appearance, these cats thrive on human interaction, enjoying gentle strokes and engaging in interactive play. Maintaining the Chinchilla cat's distinctive coat requires regular grooming to prevent matting and keep it in prime condition. The breed generally thrives indoors, appreciating a quiet and easygoing environment. With their adaptable and serene nature, Chinchilla cats make loving additions to households seeking a feline companion with both aesthetic appeal and a gentle, amiable demeanor. When considering a Chinchilla cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Chinchilla cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Chinchilla is a large cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Chinchillas weigh around 8-12 pounds, with the females often being smaller than the males.

**Personality:** If you're considering adopting a Chinchilla cat, what sort of feline are you going to end up living with? Well, first of all, you'll appreciate the Chinchilla's inherently social and loving nature. This is a breed that might be a little wary of strangers at first, but it soon loves to be around the humans in its life and will form exceptionally loyal bonds. Naturally, the Chinchilla is a cat that very much likes to lounge around and relax, so feel free to start planning your TV binge-watching sessions with the feline in mind! While the Chinchilla has picked up a reputation as being laid back and not the most active cat, it's important to take care of its playful side — definitely consider adding some interactive toys to the home. If you prefer the peaceful life over noisy environments, you'll also be glad to hear that the Chinchilla is usually a quiet cat with a very gentle disposition.

**Health:** Chinchillas are generally considered to be healthy cats—although they can be predisposed to the same conditions that Persian breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Chinchillas suffer from include: **Dental Issues:** Dental issues are common among cats and can lead to various health problems if left untreated. Regular veterinary check-ups, including dental examinations, are essential for early detection and prevention of dental issues. **Breathing Problems:** Brachycephalic syndrome is a condition that affects certain cat breeds



with distinctive short-nosed or “brachycephalic” facial features. Breeds prone to this syndrome include Persian cats, Himalayans, and Exotic Shorthairs, among others. Brachycephalic cats have a distinctive appearance characterized by a short skull, flat face, and compressed upper respiratory tract. **Kidney Failure:** Kidney failure, also known as renal failure, is a common and serious health issue in cats. It can occur acutely (sudden onset) or develop gradually over time (chronic). Kidney failure is often associated with aging, but it can affect cats of any age. As with all cats, it’s important to keep up your Chinchilla’s regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy.

**Coat:** The Chinchilla is a cat breed that comes in a pure white color, although it can give off a silver appearance due to the darker tips of its fur. When it comes to grooming a Chinchilla, you’ll need to commit to regular grooming sessions to keep the cat’s long hair in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming. Use the grooming time as an opportunity to bond with your Chinchilla. Consult with your veterinarian about the ideal number of grooming sessions to partake in every week. In terms of climate, most Chinchillas are fairly adaptable. Just remember to always make sure that there’s enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** Due to the breed’s gentle nature, the Chinchilla is an excellent choice of cat for households with kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Chinchilla can get along with many other domestic animals including dogs. Always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets—sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets’ personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Chinchilla for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Chinchilla cat’s living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat’s nails in good condition. Additionally, the Chinchilla’s ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Chinchilla. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques if you haven’t cleaned a cat’s teeth before. Finally, the Chinchilla is a cat breed that will really appreciate a cat tree or cubby to play and interact with—so definitely make sure you have the space to add one to your home!

**Name:** Chinese Li Hua

**General:** The Chinese Li Hua cat, also known as the Li Hua Mau or Dragon Li, is a distinctive and ancient feline breed. The Li Hua holds a special place in Chinese culture and history. Characterized by a striking spotted coat, almond-

shaped eyes, and a robust yet elegant build, the Li Hua cat has been a part of Chinese folklore and art for centuries. This breed originated in China and has been depicted in traditional Chinese paintings and writings, showcasing its cultural significance. When considering a Chinese Li Hua, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Chinese Li Hua breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kittens. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Li Hua typically weighs between 9 and 12 pounds.

**Personality:** Smart, loyal and lively, the Li Hua is gentle with people but has a reputation as a talented hunter of rats and other vermin. His retrieval skills extend beyond rodents. One Li Hua is said to have learned to fetch the morning paper.

**Health:** There isn't a specific and well-documented list of health issues that are particularly associated with the Chinese Li Hua cat breed. However, it's essential to note that all cats, regardless of breed, can be prone to certain health problems. Genetic factors, environment, diet, and general care play significant roles in a cat's overall health. To ensure the well-being of a Chinese Li Hua cat or any cat, regular veterinary check-ups are crucial. It's also essential to provide a balanced diet, engage in regular play and exercise, and maintain good dental hygiene.

**Coat:** The Chinese Li Hua is large and sturdy with a striking brown mackerel tabby coat that is short and thick. The ticked hairs are black at the root, light yellow in the middle and brown at the tip. It's sometimes described as a "mouse coat." The lower belly is a brownish yellow with two vertical and four horizontal leopard spots. Black rings encircle the legs and tail, and the tip of the tail is black. On the face, a small black mark at the upper corner of the mouth gives the Li Hua the appearance of a smile. The head is shaped somewhat like a hexagonal diamond, longer than it is wide and rounded between the ears. Large bright eyes are green, yellow or brown, but green is favored. Medium-size ears have sharply pointed tips and may be tufted. The wide, strong, body, carried on muscular legs, is longer than it is tall. The tail is slightly shorter than the length of the body. Chinese Li Hua mature slowly and may not reach their full size until they are 3 years old.

**Friendship:** This active but mild-mannered cat is well suited to life with families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks, enjoys interactive toys, and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Supervise young children and show them how to pet the cat nicely. Instead of holding or carrying the cat, have them sit on the floor and

pet him. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

Care: The Chinese Li Hua's short, smooth coat is simple to groom with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hairs. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails weekly. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Chinese Li Hua as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Li Hua who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a rare cat without paying for it.

Name: Colorpoint Shorthair

General: The Colorpoint Shorthair cat, an offshoot of the Siamese breed, is distinguished by their striking color patterns and captivating blue almond-shaped eyes. This breed typically has a lighter body color with darker points on the ears, face, paws, and tail, creating a visually appealing contrast. Colorpoint Shorthair cats come in various color variations, including seal, chocolate, blue, and lilac. The breed is known for their vocal and social nature, often forming strong bonds with their owners. Colorpoint Shorthairs are intelligent and enjoy interactive play, making them well-suited for households that provide mental stimulation and affection. With their sleek, short coat and elegant build, Colorpoint Shorthair cats exhibit a graceful and regal appearance. In terms of health, Colorpoint Shorthair cats are generally robust, but like other breeds, they may be prone to certain genetic conditions. Regular veterinary check-ups and proper care are important to ensure their well-being. The Colorpoint Shorthair cat's unique coloration and engaging personality contribute to their popularity among cat enthusiasts, and they remain a beloved and cherished breed in households around the world. When considering a Colorpoint Shorthair kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Colorpoint Shorthair kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Colorpoint Shorthair kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Colorpoints are medium-size cats that typically weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** The Siamese and the Colorpoint Shorthair might differ in color, but beneath the skin they are identical. The Colorpoint Shorthair is talkative and opinionated. He will tell you exactly what he thinks, in a loud, raspy voice, and he expects you to pay attention and act on his advice. Colorpoints are extremely fond of their people. They like to be “helpful” and will follow you around and supervise your every move. When you are sitting down, a Colorpoint Shorthair will be in your lap, and at night he will be in bed with you, probably under the covers with his head on the pillow. Do not get a Colorpoint if living with a chatty busybody would drive you insane. On the other hand, if you enjoy having someone to talk to throughout the day, a Colorpoint can be your best friend. Just be sure you have time to spend with this demanding and social cat. Colorpoints do not like being left alone for long periods, and if you work during the day it can be smart to get two of them so they can keep each other company. The Colorpoint is highly intelligent, agile and athletic, and loves to play. Keep his busy brain active with puzzle toys and his body exercised with teaser toys that he can chase and a big cat tree he can climb. He is fully capable of opening doors and drawers or rifling through your purse in search of something interesting or shiny to play with. Never leave him without any form of entertainment, or you will likely come home to find that he has reprogrammed your DVR to record only nature shows or at the very least decided that your toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes look better empty. Choose a Colorpoint if you look forward to spending time with and interacting with your cat. This is a loyal and loving feline who will pout and pine if given little or no attention. In the right home, however, he thrives for years.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The same problems that may affect the Siamese can also affect the Colorpoint Shorthair, including the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in Siamese. **Asthma:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial disease or feline asthma, is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways. It is a common condition in cats and can affect felines of any age or breed. **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats refer to abnormalities in the structure or function of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can vary in severity and may affect different parts of the heart. While some congenital heart defects may not cause significant health problems, others can lead to serious complications. **Crossed Eyes:** Crossed eyes in cats, also known as strabismus, is a condition where a cat’s eyes are misaligned and do not focus on the same point simultaneously. This can be a result of various factors and may affect one or both eyes. **Megaesophagus:** Megaesophagus in cats is a condition characterized by the abnormal enlargement of the esophagus, the muscular tube that transports food from the mouth to the stomach. This enlargement results in a loss of normal esophageal function, leading to difficulties in swallowing and regurgitation. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** This is a neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act

frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. Lymphoma: Lymphoma in cats is a type of cancer that originates in the lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell involved in the immune system. Nystagmus: A neurological disorder that causes involuntary rapid eye movement. Progressive Retinal Atrophy: Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in cats is a hereditary condition that affects the eyes, leading to a gradual degeneration of the retina. This can eventually result in blindness.

Coat: Except for color, the Siamese and the Colorpoint are indistinguishable, having a svelte but muscular body with long lines and a wedge-shaped head that is long and tapering from the narrow point of the nose outward to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle. The unusually large ears are wide at the base and pointed at the tip, giving them the same triangular shape as the head. Medium-size eyes are almond-shaped. The body is often described as tubular and is supported by long, slim legs, with the hind legs higher than the front legs. The Colorpoint walks on small, dainty, oval paws and swishes a long, thin tail that tapers to a fine point. Colorpoints come in 16 colors and patterns, including red point, cream point and lynx point. The coat often darkens as the cat ages. Eyes are a vivid blue.

Friendship: The active and social Colorpoint is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He gets along with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The short, fine coat of the Colorpoint is easily cared for. Comb it every couple of weeks with a stainless steel comb or soft bristle brush to remove dead hair, then polish it with a soft cloth to make it shine. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Colorpoint's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Colorpoint as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Colorpoints who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Cymric

General: The Cymric cat, known for its charming appearance and distinctive taillessness, is a breed with origins in the Isle of Man. This cat breed is essen-

tially a long-haired variety of the Manx cat, sharing the same genetic mutation that results in a naturally occurring taillessness or short tail. The Cymric is characterized by a round face, large eyes, and a compact, muscular body. Its most defining feature is its lack of a tail, giving it a rabbit-like appearance. The coat is thick, silky, and comes in various colors and patterns. Renowned for their playful and affectionate nature, Cymric cats make wonderful companions. They are social and get along well with children and other pets, making them a great addition to family households. Despite their playful demeanor, Cymrics are also known for being adaptable and easygoing, making them well-suited for indoor living. The absence of a tail or a short tail doesn't hinder their agility, and they are often skilled hunters. Regular grooming is necessary to maintain their luxurious coat, but overall, the Cymric is a delightful and unique feline companion that brings joy to those who appreciate its distinctive characteristics. When considering a Cymric, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Cymric kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Cymric breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** This is a medium-size cat who weighs 8 to 12 pounds and feels surprisingly heavy when lifted.

**Personality:** These cats originated as mousers, and whether shorthaired or long-haired they retain their fine hunting skills and alert nature. With a Cymric around the house, you don't need a watchdog; you've got a "watchcat" who reacts rapidly and will growl threateningly or maybe even go on the attack at the sight or sound of anything out of the ordinary. If he sees that you aren't alarmed, he'll settle back down. When he's not protecting his family and property from mice, stray dogs, or other threats, however, the Cymric is a mellow fellow: an even-tempered and affectionate cat who enjoys serene surroundings. That's not to say he is inactive. This is a happy, playful cat who likes to follow his favorite person through the house and assist with whatever he or she is doing. When you are ready to relax, though, the Cymric will be in your lap, ready for a comfy nap. If no lap is available, he'll curl up on the nearest available spot that allows him to keep an eye on you. He "speaks" in a quiet trill and will carry on a conversation if you talk to him. The Cymric has an adaptable nature if he is exposed to activity and plenty of people as a young kitten. He will enjoy meeting new people, greeting them with a gentle head butt or cheek rub, and can adapt to a new home or family if such an upheaval in his life is necessary. This is a smart cat who can learn tricks, including fetch and come, and is willing to walk on leash if taught early. He often likes to ride in the car, making him a great companion on long-distance trips. He is also good at learning how to open doors, so be sure anything you don't want him to have is under lock and key.

Unlike most cats, the Cymric is willing to accept boundaries and will usually respect your wishes if you tell him no when he jumps on the counter or scratches on your sofa. Just be sure you give him an acceptable alternative as thanks for his nice behavior. The Cymric is highly people-oriented. Choose him only if you can give him plenty of time and attention daily.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Cymric are generally healthy, but the following diseases have been seen in the breed: **Arthritis:** Arthritis of the tailbone, also known as caudal spondylosis or caudal spondyloarthropathy, can affect cats. The tail, composed of several small vertebrae, is susceptible to arthritis, just like any other part of the spine. Arthritis in the tailbone of a cat occurs when there is degeneration and subsequent abnormal bone growth or bony spurs in the vertebrae. This condition can lead to discomfort, stiffness, and reduced flexibility in the tail. **Corneal Dystrophy:** Corneal dystrophy in cats is a condition involving the abnormal accumulation of various materials within the cornea—the transparent outer layer of the eye. This condition can lead to opacity or cloudiness in the cornea, affecting vision to varying degrees. **Manx Syndrome:** This is a collection of birth defects that may include a spine that is too short, urinary tract defects, and problems with the bowels and digestion. The condition affects approximately 20 percent of Manx cats, most often rumpies, and usually shows up by the time a kitten is 4 months old, a good reason to wait until that age before bringing a Manx kitten home.

**Coat:** The Cymric is known for his lack of a tail, but not every Cymric is completely tailless. Some, known as “longies,” have a normal-length tail, and others, known as “stumpies,” have short tails. A Cymric with no tail is called a “rumpy” and one with just a rise of bone at the end of the spine is known as a “riser.” You will see only rumpies and risers in the show ring, but cats with tails can be used in Cymric breeding programs. A Cymric has other distinguishing characteristics as well, including a round head with large round eyes, a stout, powerful body with a broad chest, short back and broad, round rear end, short front legs and long hind legs with muscular thighs. The long rear legs give him the appearance of a rabbit and may be the source of the “cabbit” myth. The Cymric has a long, soft, silky double coat that comes in many different colors, including various solids, tabbies, tortoiseshells and calicos. Chocolate and lavender colors and the pointed Himalayan pattern are not permitted. The coat gradually lengthens from the shoulders, and the fur on the neck ruff, upper rear legs (known as breeches) and belly is usually longer than that on the rest of the body. The neck ruff goes around the shoulders and forms what looks like a bib on the chest. Many Cymrics have tufts of fur on the toes and ears as well. Because of the long hair, especially over the rear, the Cymric sometimes looks longer than the Manx, but it’s merely an optical illusion. The Cymric matures slowly and may not reach his full size until he is five years old.

**Friendship:** If he is introduced to them in kittenhood, the active and social Cymric is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He

will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority and can learn to leave birds and fish alone. An adult Cymric may not appreciate children as readily, especially if he is used to a quiet household. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The Cymric's coat is easily cared for with brushing or combing a couple of times a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oil. Check the rear end closely to make sure feces aren't clinging to the fur surrounding the anus, and clean it if necessary to prevent the cat from smearing poop on carpets or furniture. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Cymrics are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Cymric as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Cymrics who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Cyprus

General: The Cyprus cat, also known as the Aphrodite Giant or Aphrodite Cat, is native to the sun-soaked landscapes of the Mediterranean island from which it takes its name. A unique feline breed with antiquity-steeped history, these cats have become an integral part of Cyprus's cultural tapestry. These remarkable cats reflect a resilient spirit and adaptability that have allowed them to thrive in the island's diverse environment. Characterized by a lean and medium-sized frame, short dense coat, almond-shaped eyes, and bushy tails, Cyprus cats possess distinctive physical traits that set them apart. Beyond their appearance, Cyprus cats have a friendly and intelligent temperament. Forming close bonds with their human companions, these cats have played historical roles as guardians against rodents in homes, grain stores, and ships. When considering a Cyprus cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Cyprus kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Cyprus cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.



**Size:** The Cyprus is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Cyprus cats weigh between eight and 16 pounds, with the females often being smaller than the males.

**Personality:** First of all, it's important to note that the Cyprus cat is a very energetic breed of feline who needs to be kept active. This means regular play times with the humans in their life are a must, along with a living environment that is large enough to let the cat run around and explore. This is vital to ensure that the Cyprus gets their required daily exercise, which will help keep the cat happy and prevent them from becoming frustrated and possibly developing behavioral issues. Adding a cat tree or other form of cat furniture to your home is an essential requirement for adopting a Cyprus. Beyond their athletic nature, the Cyprus is also a social feline who will usually enjoy being around the humans in their life; although, it should be mentioned that some accounts of living with a Cyprus have suggested that the breed sometimes does not enjoy being picked up or handled.

**Health:** The Cyprus is generally considered to be a healthy cat; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Cyprus, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Cyprus is usually found sporting a coat with tabby patterns, but they've also been spotted in a range of colors. When it comes to grooming a Cyprus, brushing the cat once a week should suffice. This will help keep the feline's coat in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming. Use the grooming time as an opportunity to bond with your cat. In terms of climate, most Cyprus cats are fairly adaptable, a virtue credited to their hardy origin in the mountains. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Cyprus cat is normally a good fit for families with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Cyprus is said to fare well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Cyprus for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Cyprus's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Cyprus cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is vital for such an energetic breed. The Cyprus's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up

or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Cyprus. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Cyprus will appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with. This will help keep the cat active and physically satisfied, so definitely consider adding one to your home!

Name: Desert Lynx

General: The Desert Lynx is a mixed breed cat, resulting from the combination of a number of other breeds including the American Lynx, Maine Coon, Pixie Bob, and possibly even the Bobcat. These felines are known for being outgoing, playful, and social. Despite their name bringing visions of a wildcat to mind, the Desert Lynx mixed breed is often said to act more like a domesticated dog. This is a feline who's loyal and likes to be around people, and they'll likely follow you around the house from room to room. They make for great family pets; although, they do fare better around people rather than being left alone all day. When considering a Desert Lynx, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Desert Lynx breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Desert Lynx is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Desert Lynx cats weigh between eight and 16 pounds, with the females often being smaller than the males. However, many cats may be smaller or larger than average for their breed.

Personality: If you've been considering adopting a Desert Lynx, you might be wondering exactly what sort of cat you're going to be living with. First of all, despite the feline's action-packed name, the Desert Lynx is considered to be a totally domesticated cat. In fact, the mixed breed has picked up a reputation for being more like a dog than a cat at times! So expect your Desert Lynx to act like a faithful companion who will like to follow you around and be by your side, whether you're relaxing on the couch with a good book or pottering around the kitchen preparing dinner. This is a very social cat who forms long-lasting bonds with the loving humans in their life. The Desert Lynx has a strong playful side, so you'll need to be able to commit to regular play sessions and also provide a living environment that gives the cat the option to roam around and explore.

Health: The Desert Lynx is generally considered to be a healthy cat; although, it's always important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the Desert Lynx, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

Coat: The Desert Lynx is usually found sporting a coat whose pattern is either

spotted, ticked, or clouded. Common color combinations for the cat include chocolate brown, silver, ebony, and blue. When it comes to grooming a Desert Lynx, brushing the cat once or twice a week should suffice. This will help keep the feline's coat in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming. Use the grooming time as an opportunity to bond with your kitty pal. In terms of climate, most Desert Lynx cats are fairly adaptable. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Desert Lynx is often cited as a great cat for households with kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Desert Lynx can get along with many other domestic animals; although, you should exercise caution if you already have smaller pets. Always make sure to supervise playtime between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Desert Lynx for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Desert Lynx's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Desert Lynx cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is a vital consideration for any feline. The Desert Lynx's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Desert Lynx. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Desert Lynx will appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with, so definitely look into adding one to your home!

**Name:** Devon Rex

**General:** The Devon Rex cat is renowned for their unique appearance and playful personality. Characterized by their large, low-set ears, short curly coat, and large, expressive eyes, the Devon Rex has a pixie-like or impish look. The soft, wavy coat is one of their most notable features, and they lack the guard hairs that most cat breeds have, giving them a soft and downy texture. The breed comes in various colors and patterns, and their slender, muscular bodies add to their overall elegant yet mischievous appearance. Beyond their physical traits, the Devon Rex is also recognized for their friendly and affectionate nature. These cats are often described as "people-oriented" and enjoy being involved in their human family's activities. Devons are known to form strong bonds with their owners and are often found perched on shoulders or snuggled in laps. Their playful and active nature makes them excellent companions for families, and their love of climbing and exploring provides endless entertainment. The

Devon Rex is generally a healthy breed, and their low-maintenance coat makes them suitable for those who prefer a cat with minimal grooming needs. When considering a Devon Rex, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Devon Rex kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Devon Rex breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats. They also conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Devon Rex weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** The Devon's favorite perch is right at head level, on the shoulder of his favorite person. He takes a lively interest in everything that is going on and refuses to be left out of any activity. Count on him to stay as close to you as possible, occasionally communicating his opinions in a quiet voice. He loves people and welcomes the attentions of friends and family alike. This is a smart cat with a moderate activity level. He's not in constant motion, but he does like to learn tricks and play fetch. Puzzle toys and interactive toys are a delight to his inventive brain and will help to keep him occupied while you are out earning money to buy more of them. At mealtime, the Devon will try to seat himself at the dining room table with the rest of the family, sure that the food you have prepared is just for him. He likes to eat and will snack himself into a few extra pounds if you don't carefully monitor his food intake. Under the covers is his preferred place to sleep. Like a heat-seeking missile, he targets the warmest spots he can find. Choose a Devon if you will enjoy the company of a mischievous, agile cat and won't be alarmed to see him peering down at you from the top of a door, plotting the trajectory to your shoulder.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Devon Rex are generally healthy, but the following diseases have been seen in the breed: Congenital Hypotrichosis: Otherwise known as hereditary baldness, Congenital Hypotrichosis is a condition that is probably the result of an inherited recessive gene. The Devon Rex naturally has a very fine coat, but those with less hair than normal for the breed are considered to be hypotrichotic. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: This is a form of heart disease that is inherited in some cat breeds such as the Maine Coon. Heritability has not been proven in the Devon Rex. Malassezia Dermatitis: This is a single-celled yeast that causes ear infections, greasy skin and itchiness, which is treated with antifungal drugs. Hip Dysplasia: A malformation of the hip socket that causes laxity of the hip joint. Urticaria Pigmentosa: A dermatological problem that causes crusty sores on the body and is treated with prednisolone and essential fatty acids. Devon Rex Myopathy: Also known as spasticity, this is an inherited condition that becomes apparent between 3 weeks and 6 months of age. It causes generalized muscle weakness, and the cats

tire easily. No treatment is available, and severity of the condition varies. It may remain stable or progress slowly.

**Coat:** The Devon is often described as having an elfin appearance, with his large ears, high cheekbones and striking eyes. His outstanding characteristic, however, is his soft, wavy fur. His curvy body starts with his head, a modified wedge shape with convex curves forming the outer edge of the ear lobes, the cheekbones and the whisker pads. The Devon has large, wide-set, oval-shaped eyes and strikingly large ears set low on the head. Sometimes the tips of the ears are tufted with fine fur. A “rexed” coat is soft and fine, appearing to be without the harsh guard hairs that characterize most cat coats. The cat’s body is well covered with fur, most thickly on the back, sides, tail, legs, face and ears. Some Devons have loose, shaggy curls, while others have a coat that is more thin and suedelike. The hair on the top of the head, the neck, chest and abdomen is slightly less dense and may even look downy, but the cat should never have bare patches. Smooth the coat with your hand and rippled waves appear. It comes in any genetically possible color, pattern or combination of colors and patterns, including solid white, black, blue, chocolate, cinnamon, lavender and red; smoke patterns, which are a white undercoat deeply tipped with a specific color; and various calico, tabby, tortoiseshell and pointed patterns. A Devon’s medium-size body is deceptively slender, unless the cat has been sneaking too many snacks. His body should feel hard and muscular. The legs are long and slim, supported by small, oval paws. A long, fine tail covered with short fur tapers at the end.

**Friendship:** The active and social Devon Rex is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Devon’s wavy coat is easy to maintain. Groom gently so you don’t break the delicate hairs. In many cases, brushing your hand over the coat is all it needs. The best thing about a Devon Rex coat is that it doesn’t shed much, and the fur is so fine that it isn’t very noticeable on clothing and furniture. Baths are rarely necessary unless the cat is white or has a lot of white on the coat. Those cats can start to look dingy if they are not regularly bathed. The coat dries quickly after a bath. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes daily with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don’t run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Devon Rex are very particular about bathroom hygiene. The Devon Rex feels warm to the touch, but he is always seeking warmth. If you are cold, he probably is too. Buy him a

nice sweater or two to help him retain heat. It's a good idea to keep a Devon Rex as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Devon Rex who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it. If possible, build your Devon Rex a large outdoor enclosure where he can jump and climb safely. If your Devon Rex has an outdoor enclosure that allows for sunbathing, be sure to apply cat-safe sunscreen to his body to prevent sunburn.

Name: Egyptian Mau

General: The Egyptian Mau is a captivating and ancient breed of domestic cat that exudes an air of elegance and mystique. Revered for its distinctive physical characteristics and storied historical significance, this breed holds a unique place in the world of felines. Renowned for its striking coat pattern, enchanting "worshiped" appearance, and agile, lithe frame, this breed is not only a visually arresting cat but also a companion deeply rooted in the annals of Egyptian history and culture. With a legacy that spans millennia, this enigmatic breed continues to captivate cat enthusiasts worldwide with its beauty, intelligence, and playful demeanor. When considering an Egyptian Mau, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Egyptian Mau breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Mau is a medium-size cat of 6 to 14 pounds

Personality: When the Egyptian Mau is happy, you know it. He vocalizes (called chortling) in a quiet, pleasant voice, swishes his tail rapidly, and kneads with his front paws. What makes him happy is being with his family, to whom he is fiercely devoted, or showing off his hunting prowess by chasing and retrieving a tossed toy or stalking and pouncing on a wriggling lure at the end of a fishing pole toy. This is a moderately to highly active cat. He likes to jump and climb and will appreciate a tall cat tree, a window perch or two, and a sturdy scratching post that allows him to stretch out to full height. The Mau also enjoys playing in water. Don't be surprised to find him dipping a paw into your koi pond or aquarium, turning on the tap in the bathroom or kitchen, or splashing water out of your pool — or his water dish. The Egyptian Mau prefers family members to anyone else. When he's not playing fetch, he enjoys sitting in a lap and being worshipped, just as his ancestors may have been. The Mau has the distinction of being the fastest domestic house cat, as she can run at speeds of up to 30 mph.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Egyptian Maus are generally healthy due to crossbreeding, but be sure to ask a breeder about the incidence of health problems in her lines and what testing has been done for any that are genetic in nature.

**Coat:** The Mau's most striking characteristic is his spotted coat in silver, bronze or smoke (pale silver fur tipped in black), closely followed by his large gooseberry-green eyes. He is a medium-size cat with a muscular body and a slightly rounded wedge-shaped head topped with medium-size to large ears. With hind legs slightly longer than the front legs, he gives the appearance of standing on tiptoe on his small, dainty feet. A medium-long tail is thick at the base, tapering slightly at the end. The medium-length coat has a silky, fine texture in the smoke coloration and a dense, resilient texture in the silver and bronze colors. The body is covered randomly with distinct spots that can be small or large, and round, oblong or other shapes. The forehead bears an M shape, the cheeks are adorned with "mascara" lines, and the tail is banded, ending with a dark tip. On the pale belly are dark spots that resemble "vest buttons." In addition to the silver, bronze and smoke colors, Maus can come in solid black, blue silver, blue spotted (a dilute version of bronze), blue smoke and solid blue, but these colors are not permitted in the show ring. These cats of a different color make fine pets, however, sharing all the other characteristics of the Mau.

**Friendship:** The active and playful Mau is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He's smart enough to get out of the way of toddlers but loves school-age children because they are a match for his energy level and curiosity. Nothing scares him, certainly not dogs, and he will happily make friends with them if they don't give him any trouble. He is a skilled hunter, however, and pet birds or other small animals are probably not safe in his presence. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The Egyptian Mau's coat is easily cared for with weekly combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a dirty box may cause them to start using other places in the house instead. It's a good idea to keep an Egyptian Mau as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or

coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Keeping him indoors also protects local birds and wildlife from this avid hunter. Egyptian Maus who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: German Rex

General: The German Rex cat, known for its distinct curly coat, is a breed that stands out for its unique appearance. The German Rex originated in post-World War II Germany and is characterized by its curly whiskers, soft and wavy coat, and large, expressive eyes. This breed is also known for its friendly and sociable nature. They often form strong bonds with their human companions. Additionally, German Rex cats are affectionate and enjoy being part of the family, making them well-suited for households seeking a loving and interactive feline friend. With a moderate size and a well-proportioned body, the German Rex is an agile and playful cat that thrives on mental and physical stimulation. They generally do not require a large amount of grooming compared to some long-haired breeds. Their unique coat, however, certainly benefits from occasional brushing to maintain its texture. The German Rex's engaging personality, distinctive appearance, and social demeanor contribute to its popularity as a charming and delightful companion in homes around the world. When considering a German Rex, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable German Rex breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The German Rex is a small- to medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most German Rex cats weigh in at five to eight pounds. Some cats can be smaller or larger than the average for their breed.

Personality: In general you can expect the German Rex to be a very active and very loving cat. You'll definitely need to be willing to provide your German Rex with a lot of attention, whether that's instigating play times or letting the cat come and snuggle up to you on the couch or in bed. This cat will form a very strong bond with the humans in their life, and they also enjoy being picked up and handled. But it's important to underscore that you'll definitely need to be very involved in this breed's life on a day to day basis. This is a smart feline that will happily learn to play fetch and will love solving problems to secure treats. If you're away from the home for long periods of the day, the German Rex might not be the ideal cat breed for you. But if you can commit to lavishing your cat with attention, you'll have a perfect feline companion.

Health: German Rexes are generally considered to be healthy cats. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There



aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the German Rex, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The German Rex cat can be found in a very large range of colors; although versions based around black, white, chocolate, and fawn are common. The breed also comes in a wide array of patterns, including tabby, calico, smoke, and bicolor. When it comes to grooming, most German Rex cats are fine with weekly brushing sessions. This will help lessen the likelihood of hairballs and mats forming. Although as a breed with wavy hair, the German Rex often doesn't naturally produce enough oil to maintain healthy skin and hair, so you'll need to give the cat regular baths to prevent them from feeling greasy or suffering from skin irritations. In terms of climate, the German Rex is generally an adaptable breed of cat, although they favor warmer temperatures. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The German Rex goes great with young kids. They'll become best friends and instant play buddies. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured German Rex fares well with many domestic animals. But again, always supervise playtime between the new cat and existing pets, especially smaller ones who might be seen as prey by the cat. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your German Rex for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your German Rex's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your German Rex's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The German Rex is an active and athletic cat, so it's imperative that their nails are kept in tip-top shape. The breed's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your German Rex. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques.

**Name:** Havana Brown

**General:** The Havana Brown cat is a distinct and charming breed known for its rich, chocolate-brown coats and captivating green eyes. The Havana's special head shape distinguishes it, as it is longer than it is wide. The Havana Brown cat breed has an interesting history, with its roots dating back to the early 1950s in England. Siamese Cats and Domestic Black Cats were likely crossed to create Havana Brown cats. In summary, these cats have a rare appearance, loving personality, and unique history. If you're looking for a unique and loving feline friend with a coat that looks like a piece of fine chocolate, the Havana Brown

might be the perfect choice for you. When considering a Havana Brown, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Havana Brown breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Havana is a medium-size cat weighing 6 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** The rich tobacco-colored cat known as the Havana Brown may or may not be named for the addictive leaf, but the cats themselves are addictive to the people who come to know them. They are outgoing and friendly. Expect one to follow you around the house as you go about your day. Like most cats with Siamese ancestry, the Havana can be demanding and talkative, but his voice is softer and his personality more subtle. He is smart and likes the challenge of teaser and puzzle toys. When he is through playing, the affectionate Havana will happily ensconce himself on your lap.

**Health:** Havana Brown cats are generally a healthy breed, but like all cats, they can be prone to certain health issues. Responsible breeding practices can help reduce the likelihood of genetic health problems. Here are some health issues that Havana Brown cats may be predisposed to: **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM):** HCM is a common heart condition in cats, including Havana Browns. It involves the thickening of the heart muscles, which can affect the heart's ability to function properly. Regular veterinary check-ups and echocardiograms can help detect and manage HCM. **Respiratory Infections:** Havana Brown cats, like other breeds, can be susceptible to upper respiratory infections, such as feline herpesvirus (FHV) and feline calicivirus (FCV). These infections can cause symptoms like sneezing, coughing, and eye discharge. **Obesity:** Obesity can be a concern for Havana Browns, as they enjoy eating and may become overweight if their diet is not controlled. Maintaining a healthy weight through proper portion control and exercise is essential. **Joint Problems:** As they age, cats, including Havana Browns, can develop joint issues like arthritis. Providing a comfortable environment and monitoring their mobility as they get older is important.

**Coat:** The Havana Brown's distinctive color extends even to his whiskers. He is the only cat with a breed standard that spells out whisker color: brown, of course, complementing the coat color. Looking out from all that minky-brown richness are vivid green eyes with an oval shape. The Havana is also distinguished by his uncommon head shape; it's longer than it is wide. Large ears tilt forward. He has a firm, muscular body covered in short, smooth fur in a rich, warm reddish-brown. Kittens and young adults may have the barest hint of tabby markings, which disappear as they mature. The nose leather is brown with a rosy flush, and the paw pads are a rosy brown as well.

**Friendship:** The Havana Brown is playful and smart and can be a good friend to a child who treats him nicely. He's one of those cats who enjoys playing fetch and learning tricks, and his energy level means he won't wear out before the child does. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Havana Brown's short, smooth coat is easy to care for with a quick weekly combing. Polishing it with a chamois will make it shine. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Havana Brown as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Havana Browns who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Highlander

**General:** The Highlander cat is a distinctive and striking breed known for its unique appearance and playful demeanor. Characterized by its wildcat-like features, this breed typically has curled ears, a bobbed tail, and a robust build. The distinctive curled ears are a result of a genetic mutation, adding to the breed's charm. The Highlander cat's coat can vary in length, but it is often dense. These beautiful felines come in a variety of colors and patterns. Despite their wild appearance, the Highlander cat is known for its affectionate and sociable nature. With a love for interactive play and exploration, Highlander cats are intelligent and adaptable. They thrive in environments that provide mental stimulation and physical activity. They are often described as energetic and agile, displaying a playful nature that persists into adulthood. While the breed is relatively new, having originated in the early 2000s, it has gained popularity among cat enthusiasts who appreciate its distinctive look and engaging personality. Highlander cats make wonderful additions to households that can provide them with the attention and activities they need to stay happy and fulfilled. When considering a Highlander, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Highlander breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This

active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Highlander is a medium-to-large-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Highlanders weigh in at 10 to 20 pounds. That said, some may be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** Highlander cats are athletic and energetic felines. You'll need to be able to provide a large enough living space for them to run around in, along with adding interactive toys to the environment. The Highlander is a very intelligent cat—in many cases they can be taught to play fetch and pull off tricks! Balancing out the Highlander's upbeat side, these cats are also very social and loving. They enjoy being around humans and interacting with them, and despite the big cat angle to their heritage, they're affectionate towards the people in their life. The cat also does well around children, acting like a new play friend. Unlike most other cat breeds, the Highlander also likes water, so don't be surprised to see them playing with water in the bathtub or from a running tap!

**Health:** Highlanders are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Desert Lynx and Jungle Curl breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any known breed specific health problems associated with the Highlander, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Highlander is a mixed breed of cat that you'll see in a wide range of colors and patterns. It's common to see them with solid coat colors or with tabby or lynx point markings. When it comes to grooming, most Highlanders are fairly low maintenance, with their short hair requiring only a quick weekly brushing. This will help lessen the likelihood of hairballs and mats forming. Although it should be noted that some Highlanders are long haired felines—in which case you'll need to aim for closer to daily brushing sessions. In terms of climate, the Highlander is generally an adaptable breed of cat. Although you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Highlander is a super friendly and outgoing feline who does very well with young children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Highlander fares well with many domestic animals, including dogs. Always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Highlander for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Highlander's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, you'll want to add a scratching post to your

Highlander's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Highlander's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Highlander. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. It's important to underline that the Highlander mixed breed needs a higher than usual amount of exercise, so make sure to add at least one cat tree or piece of interactive furniture to your home before adopting one.

Name: Japanese Bobtail

General: The Japanese Bobtail is a captivating and distinctive domestic cat breed known for its unique appearance, charming personality, and cultural significance. Originating in Japan, this breed has a history that spans centuries and is deeply intertwined with Japanese folklore and art. One of the most noticeable features of the Japanese Bobtail is their tail, which is short, flexible, and often resembles a pom-pom. The tail can be expressive, conveying the cat's mood and adding to its overall allure. The Japanese Bobtail has deep roots in Japanese culture and folklore. They are often depicted in traditional Japanese art, including ukiyo-e woodblock prints. Additionally, they are associated with good luck and prosperity. They form strong bonds with their human companions and are often good with children and other pets. Their playful and active demeanor makes them enjoyable to have around. When considering a Japanese Bobtail, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Japanese Bobtail breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat weighing 6 to 10 pounds.

Personality: This active and affectionate cat will "talk" to you in a soft, chirpy voice. You will be amazed by the range of his feline vocabulary. He's not loud at all, but he does have a lot to say and a range of tones in which to say it. When he's not telling you about his day or asking about yours, he is very likely carrying around a favorite toy or splashing his paw into your koi pond or aquarium. He likes playing with water, so you may find your faucets turned on or puddles beside his water dish. The Japanese Bobtail is playful and smart. He will relish the challenge of a rotating assortment of puzzle toys or the fun of chasing a lure on a fishing pole toy. He is very good at learning tricks and will even walk on a leash if he thinks it's a fun thing to do. When you are sitting down, though, expect this friendly feline to find a place in your lap. This is an adaptable cat who travels well, making him a good choice for boisterous families or people who enjoy an RV lifestyle. On the downside, he can be headstrong, and it's difficult to change his mind about which things are okay to do and which ones aren't. He

is a busy cat and must have companionship—people or another Bobtail would be his first choice—but a dog will do in a pinch to keep him entertained when you are out earning the money for his food and toys. Remember that a bored Bobtail is an amazingly creative Bobtail—and not necessarily in a way that you will appreciate.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Japanese Bobtails are generally healthy, and the recessive gene that produces the bobtail is not associated with any spinal or bone abnormalities. Be sure to ask a breeder about the incidence of health problems in her lines and what testing has been done for any that are genetic in nature. **Urinary Tract Issues:** Like many cat breeds, Japanese Bobtails can be susceptible to urinary tract problems, including infections or blockages. Providing a balanced diet and ensuring access to fresh water can help prevent these issues. **Obesity:** Maintaining a healthy weight is crucial for overall well-being. Obesity can lead to various health problems, so it's important to feed your cat a balanced diet and monitor their weight.

**Coat:** This breed's tell-tale characteristic, of course, is a short "bunny" tail that can be flexible or rigid, with one or more curves, angles or kinks, ideally extending out from the body no more than three inches. The fur fans out to create the look of a pom-pom on a shorthair, or a blooming chrysanthemum on a longhair. Each cat in the breed has a unique tail. The Japanese Bobtail is known as well for his tricolor calico pattern—called "mi-ke" meaning three-fur and pronounced "mee-kay"—but other popular colors are black and white or red and white. He also comes in solid colors and tortoiseshell and tabby patterns. Some cat registries permit pointed or sepia-tone coats. Bold, dramatic markings and vividly contrasting colors are a trademark of this breed. The eyes can be any color, including blue or odd-eyed (each eye a different color). The silky coat can be shorthaired or longhaired. In both lengths, the cats have little undercoat. Longhaired Bobtails may have a ruff around the neck, long fur on the belly, and fur that is noticeably longer on the tail and upper hind legs (britches) than it is on the upper part of the body. Some have tufts of fur on the ears and toes. He has a slender but muscular body, long, slender legs that are noticeably longer in the rear, although they are angled in such a way that the body remains level rather than rising up toward the rear, and a finely chiseled head with high cheekbones, large oval eyes set at a slant, and large, upright, expressive ears.

**Friendship:** The Bobtail is a great match for families with kids because he shares their high energy level. He is up for anything, from playing fetch to being a guest at a tea party to being dressed up in doll clothes and paraded around in a baby buggy. Always supervise children to make sure they pet and play with the cat nicely and don't pull his ears or twist his tail. He is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable and fearless disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** Because the Japanese Bobtail has little undercoat, both the shorthaired

and longhaired varieties are very easy to groom. Tangles are uncommon, and a weekly combing will remove dead hairs. Both longhairs and shorthairs shed seasonally. The coat is highly water-resistant, so it's a good thing that a bath is rarely necessary; it takes some doing to get a Japanese Bobtail wet enough to shampoo him. Always handle the tail gently, especially if it is more rigid than flexible. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Japanese Bobtail's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. A clean litter box will also help to keep a longhaired Bobtail's coat clean. It's a good idea to keep a Japanese Bobtail as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Japanese Bobtails who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Javanese

General: The Javanese cat, an exquisite and graceful breed, captivates feline enthusiasts with its striking appearance and affectionate demeanor. Originating in North America, this breed is a close relative of the Balinese and shares its elegant Siamese ancestry. This unique cat breed was named after the island of Java as a nod to the Balinese. Renowned for its striking color points, long silky fur, and piercing blue almond-shaped eyes, the Javanese cat exudes an air of regality. The Cat Fancier's Association regards the Javanese cat to be a sub-group of the Balinese. These cats are also exhibit sociable and interactive personalities. Additionally, they often form strong bonds with their human companions. Their silky coats, reminiscent of a luxurious veil, come in various color patterns, adding to their allure. When considering a Javanese, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Javanese kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Javanese breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Javanese are medium-size cats that typically weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

Personality: The Siamese and the Javanese might differ in coat length and color, but beneath the skin they are identical. Javanese are extremely fond of their people. They like to be "helpful" and will follow you around and supervise your

every move. When you are sitting down, a Javanese will be in your lap, and at night he will be in bed with you, probably under the covers with his head on the pillow. He is frequently underfoot, so he might not be the best choice for people who are unsteady on their feet or use a walker or cane. A Javanese is perhaps not quite as loud as his relative the Siamese, but he is most definitely just as opinionated. He will tell you exactly what he thinks, and he expects you to pay attention and act on his advice. You can also count on him to “tell all” to visitors, so be grateful that most people are not conversant in the Javanese language. The Javanese is highly intelligent, agile and athletic, and loves to play. Keep his busy brain active with puzzle toys and his body exercised with teaser toys that he can chase and a big cat tree he can climb. He likes to play fetch, is willing to walk on a leash, and learns tricks easily. He is also a good trainer himself and may be running your household before you know it. Never leave him without any form of entertainment, or you will likely come home to find that he has reprogrammed your DVR to record only nature shows or at the very least decided that your toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes look better empty. Do not get a Javanese if living with a chatty busybody would drive you insane. On the other hand, if you enjoy having someone to talk to throughout the day, the Javanese can be your best friend. Just be sure you have time to spend with this demanding and social cat. Javanese don’t mind staying home during the day while you go off to earn money to buy cat food, but they will expect you to devote time to them when you are at home. It can be smart to get two of them so they can keep each other company. Choose a Javanese if you look forward to spending time with and interacting with your cat. This is a loyal and loving feline who will pout and pine if given little or no attention. In the right home, however, he thrives for years.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The same problems that may affect the Siamese can also affect the Javanese, including the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in members of the Siamese family. **Asthma/Bronchial Disease:** Asthma in cats is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways, leading to breathing difficulties. Similar to asthma in humans, feline asthma can range from mild to severe and may require medical management. **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats are abnormalities in the structure of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can affect the heart’s chambers, valves, or blood vessels, and they can vary in severity. While some congenital heart defects may not cause noticeable symptoms, others can lead to serious health issues. **Crossed Eyes:** Strabismus in cats, also known as “crossed eyes” or “squinting,” is a condition where the eyes are misaligned, meaning they do not point in the same direction. This misalignment can be present from birth (congenital) or may develop later in life due to injury, illness, or neurological issues. **Gastrointestinal Conditions:** Enlarged esophagus in cats, also known as megaesophagus, is a condition characterized by a dilated and weakened esophagus. The esophagus



is the muscular tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach. Megae-sophagus can lead to difficulties in swallowing and may result in regurgitation of food and water. Hyperesthesia Syndrome: This is a neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted Lymphoma: Lymphoma in cats is a type of cancer that originates in the lymphocytes, which are white blood cells involved in the immune system. It is one of the most common forms of cancer in cats. Lymphoma can affect various organs and tissues in the body, leading to a range of symptoms. Nystagmus: This is a neurological disorder that causes involuntary rapid eye movement. Progressive Retinal Atrophy: Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in cats is a genetic disorder that affects the retina, leading to a gradual and irreversible loss of vision. The retina is the part of the eye responsible for detecting light and transmitting signals to the brain for visual interpretation. PRA is not a singular disease but rather a group of genetic conditions that share a similar outcome.

Coat: Except for color and coat length, the Siamese and the Javanese are indistinguishable, having a svelte but muscular body with long lines and a wedge-shaped head that is long and tapering from the narrow point of the nose outward to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle. The unusually large ears are wide at the base and pointed at the tip, giving them the same triangular shape as the head. Medium-size eyes are almond-shaped. The body is often described as tubular and is supported by long, slim legs, with the hind legs higher than the front legs. The Javanese walks on small, dainty, oval paws and swishes a long, thin tail that tapers to a fine point. The appearance of the body is softened by a medium-length coat that is fine and silky. It is longest on the plumed tail. The other way in which the Javanese differs from the Siamese is in the point colors seen in the breed. The darker points of the face, ears, paws and tail come in solid colors such as red and cream, plus various lynx point colors, including seal lynx point and seal-tortie point, and parti-color points such as chocolate-tortie and lilac cream. The eyes are always a deep, vivid blue.

Friendship: The active and social Javanese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The fine, silky coat of the Javanese is easily cared for. Comb it once or twice a week with a stainless steel comb to remove dead hair. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water.

Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Javanese are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Javanese as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Javanese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Jungle Curl

General: The Jungle Curl cat, a relatively new feline breed, has a wild appearance and unique genetic heritage. Born from the fusion of an African Jungle Cat and domestic breeds, the Jungle Curl boasts a striking physical presence. It has a large, strong body and many coat patterns. One of the most special features of this breed is its cutely curled ears, reminiscent of its wild ancestry. With a playful and intelligent personality, the Jungle Curl cat has gained popularity among cat lovers. Many appreciate its combination of exotic charm and domestic companionship. When considering a Jungle Curl, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Jungle Curl kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Jungle Curl breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Jungle Curl is a large-to-medium cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Jungle Curls weigh in at 8-25 pounds.

Personality: So what sort of a personality does the average Jungle Curl display? Well, first of all, the breed definitely lives up to its wild cat billing in terms of being a super energetic and highly active feline. This is a cat that's going to need a lot of space to prowl and run around, along with suitable cat furniture to scale and explore. If you have a safe enclosed outdoor space, like a catio, that would be ideal for a Jungle Curl. Many Jungle Curl owners have compared the cat to being much like a dog, in terms of the way it likes to play and be around human beings. So you'll need to be a big presence in its life—and if you have children, this can be a great breed to act as a play buddy. Beyond the Jungle Curl's physically outgoing side, the breed also loves humans and will form strong and affectionate bonds with the people in its life. In some cases, Jungle Curls have even been known to become territorial about the homestead and almost act as guard cats towards strangers!

Health: Jungle Curls are generally considered to be healthy cats—although they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the African Jungle Cat and Hemingway Curl breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems

associated with the Jungle Curl, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy:** Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in cats is a genetic disorder that affects the retina, leading to a gradual and irreversible loss of vision. The retina is the part of the eye responsible for detecting light and transmitting signals to the brain for visual interpretation. PRA is not a singular disease but rather a group of genetic conditions that share a similar outcome. **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:** Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common form of heart disease in cats and is characterized by the thickening of the heart muscle. HCM affects the heart's ability to pump blood effectively and can lead to serious health problems.

**Coat:** The Jungle Curl is a cat that can be found as either a long or short-haired feline. It is often seen with leopard-style markings. The most common colors for a Jungle Curl's coat are brown, silver, lilac and cream. When it comes to grooming, it will really depend on whether your Jungle Curl has long or short hair. A short-haired Jungle Curl will suffice with weekly brushing sessions—but longer-haired felines will need closer to daily brushings to make sure mats don't take form. In terms of climate, most Jungle Curl cats are adaptable, but as befits their heritage, they prefer a slightly warmer living environment. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** In general, the Jungle Curl gets along really well with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats, especially when you're dealing with such an athletic cat as the Jungle Curl. When it comes to other household pets, the Jungle Curl usually fares well with many domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets—sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individuals' personalities. Be wary of leaving the Jungle Curl around smaller animals, too. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Jungle Curl for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Jungle Curl's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Jungle Curl cat's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. This is especially important for such an active and athletic cat breed like the Jungle Curl. The cat's ears—whether they're out-turned in appearance or not—should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Jungle Curl. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Jungle Curl is a cat with lots of energy, it's recommended that you add

at least one cat tree to your home—and if you can secure safe enclosed outdoor time then that’s even better.

Name: Karelian Bobtail

General: The Karelian Bobtail cat, a unique and rare breed, has a unique appearance and charming personality. Originating from the Karelian region in Russia, this feline companion boasts a striking bobbed tail. With a robust and well-proportioned body, adorned by a luxurious coat of varying patterns and colors, the Karelian Bobtail exudes a sense of elegance and individuality. Known for their friendly and sociable nature, the Karelian Bobtail cat forms strong bonds with their human companions, making them an ideal choice for those seeking a loyal and affectionate feline friend. This breed’s intelligence and playful demeanor contribute to their adaptability in various living environments, making them a delightful addition to households around the world. When considering a Karelian Bobtail kitten, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it’s crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Karelian Bobtail kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Karelian Bobtail is a medium cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Karelian Bobtails weigh in at 10-15 pounds.

Personality: If you come across a Karelian Bobtail at your local shelter and decide that this might be the perfect cat for you, what sort of feline can you expect to be sharing your home with? Well, first of all, this is a cat breed that is exceptionally friendly towards humans, whether young or old. Your Karelian Bobtail will happily follow you around the homestead, wanting to be part of whatever action is going on. These felines love to take part in cuddle and petting sessions, so be prepared for a very affectionate kitty. However, the breed is also playful and quite athletic, so get ready to take part in frequent play sessions—this is definitely a breed that will benefit from having a cat tree to climb and interact with. In general, the Karelian Bobtail also has a reputation for being a quiet cat—so if you live in a place where a very vocal cat could be an issue, this might be a very fitting breed for you!

Health: Karelian Bobtails are generally considered to be healthy cats—but it’s always important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat’s vet. There aren’t any breed-specific health problems associated with the Karelian Bobtail, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

Coat: The Karelian Bobtail is a breed of cat that you’ll see in a wide range of colors and patterns—although it is never spotted in shades of either brown or cinnamon. You might also see some pattern in the cat’s fur, depending on the

individual feline. When it comes to grooming, most Karelian Bobtail's are fairly low maintenance—although as the breed comes in short and long-haired varieties, the length of hair will determine how much brushing is required. Short-haired Karelian Bobtails can get by with just the one brushing session a week, whereas long-haired kitties will need brushing on a near daily basis. This will help lessen the likelihood of hairballs and mats forming. In terms of climate, the Karelian Bobtail is generally an adaptable breed of cat, and long-haired versions can tolerate colder weather. Although you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Karelian Bobtail is a exceptionally friendly and outgoing feline that does very well with young children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Karelian Bobtail fares well with many domestic animals, including dogs. Always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Karelian Bobtail for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Karelian Bobtail's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you include a scratching post in your Karelian Bobtail's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Karelian Bobtail's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Karelian Bobtail. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, it's important to reiterate that while the Karelian Bobtail is a cute and loving feline, they do also require a decent amount of exercise—so definitely add a cat tree and interactive toys to the home before adopting one.

**Name:** Khao Manee

**General:** The Khao Manee is a distinctive and elegant cat breed originating from Thailand, known for its striking appearance and captivating eyes. Recognized for their pure white coat and gemstone-like, usually blue or odd-colored eyes, Khao Manees have a distinct allure. The breed has a short to medium-length coat that is smooth and lies close to the body. What sets the Khao Manee apart is its unique genetics, resulting in a high likelihood of having heterochromia, where each eye is a different color. Their name, which translates to “White Gem” in Thai, reflects their regal and precious demeanor. Beyond their stunning physical characteristics, Khao Manees are cherished for their friendly and affectionate nature. They are also known to form strong bonds with their human companions, and their sociable personality makes them well-suited for family life. Khao Manees are often described as intelligent and playful, enjoying interactive activities and engaging with their owners. This breed has gained

popularity for its unique combination of beauty and loving temperament, making it a sought-after choice for those seeking an enchanting and affectionate feline companion. When considering a Khao Manee cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Khao Manee Cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kittens. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Khao Manee is a small- to medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Khao Manees weigh in at eight to ten pounds. They're usually ten to twelve inches in length when fully grown.

**Personality:** When it comes to the Khao Manee's personality, you'll instantly realize that this is one super playful and curious cat! This breed will happily play fetch games and never think twice about exploring every nook and cranny of an environment—so make sure you have at least one cat tree installed for the kitty and preferably lots of safe furniture that can be scaled. The breed bonds well with children and other small pets, and will quickly become your kids' best new playmate. Adding on to the Khao Manee's playful side, this is a sociable cat who always wants to be at the center of any action going on. If your home is empty for large parts of the day, the cat could suffer from loneliness. In fact, Khao Manee's have also become known for being very talkative and verbal kittens—so be prepared for many back and forth conversations with your new feline friend!

**Health:** Khao Manees are generally considered to be healthy cats—but always schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. One breed-specific health problem that's associated with the Khao Manee is potential deafness. This is actually something that any cat with the combination of a white coat and blue eyes might suffer from. **Deafness:** Deafness in cats is not an uncommon condition and can be congenital or acquired later in life. Understanding the causes, signs, and management of feline deafness is crucial for cat owners and caregivers.

**Coat:** The Khao Manee is a white cat. The breed's plain white coat also has the effect of making their eyes stand out and sparkle! When it comes to grooming, most Khao Manee cats are very low maintenance—because this is such a short haired cat, you can get by with brushing them just once a week. This will help lessen the likelihood of hairballs and mats forming. In terms of climate, the Khao Manee generally prefers to be around warmer temperatures rather than cold ones. Although you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Khao Manee is a great fit with young children, not least be-

cause the breed is so outgoing and playful. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Khao Manee fares well with many domestic animals, including dogs. Always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Khao Manee for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Khao Manee's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Khao Manee's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Khao Manee's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's also vital to check the cat's skin regularly, especially around the ears, as white cats are often more prone to developing skin cancer. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Khao Manee. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, for such an active cat, the Khao Manee definitely needs to be provided with enough space to be able to run around and satisfy their exercise needs.

Name: Korat

General: The Korat cat, with its striking silver-blue coat and captivating green eyes, is a cat breed that exudes elegance and charm. Originating from Thailand, the Korat is revered not only for its physical beauty but also for its rich cultural significance. The Korat cat is called the “good luck cat” in its native land, and is steeped in ancient folklore and believed to bring prosperity and happiness to its owners. Beyond its appearance, the Korat is beloved for its gentle and affectionate nature. These cats form strong bonds with their human companions and are known to be devoted and loyal. They thrive on human interaction and enjoy being part of family activities. Despite their affectionate nature, Korats can also be independent and may appreciate some alone time, making them adaptable to various living situations. When considering a Korat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Korat kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Korat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat, weighing from 6 to 10 pounds.

Personality: The smart and opinionated Korat is possessive of his people. He likes to stay close by and won't desert them for visitors. He gives his heart to

one or two people whose company he prefers, or with whom he spends the most time, but he's certainly willing to accept affection from others as well. Be aware of this propensity before you get a Korat, just in case having a cat follow you around all the time would drive you crazy. A Korat is not a loner. He does best with companionship, whether that is someone who works at home or another animal. There's a reason, it seems, that traditionally they were always given in pairs. A Korat who is frequently left alone or ignored may develop behavior problems such as aggression or separation anxiety. That's not to say that adult Korats can't switch their affections. Cats placed in new homes quickly adapt and bond closely with their new family. This is an energetic cat who enjoys learning tricks, playing fetch and even walking on leash. It's easy to teach household rules to the Korat if you reward him with petting, a happy "Good cat" or a treat. Limit corrections to a loud "No!" or hand clap. If you have multiple cats, be sure you have plenty of toys to go around. The Korat did not learn to share in kittygarden, and he can be stubborn about giving up toys or other objects that he views as his. Although he can be bold with definite likes and dislikes, the Korat is generally a quiet cat who likes a quiet environment. Although he's not known for being talkative, he is capable of making many different sounds, from a chirp to a scream, when he wants to get his point across. Choose the Korat if you enjoy having a lap cat. He will be pleased to fulfill this desire any time you like.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Korats are generally healthy, but they have a couple of issues buyers should be aware of: **Anesthesia Sensitivity:** A genetic neuromuscular degenerative disease as well as low body fat, which can make them sensitive to anesthesia, GM1 and GM2 gangliosidosis occur when cats lack particular enzymes that are necessary for proper functioning of the nervous system. Fortunately, tests are available to identify cats that carry the diseases, so the condition is uncommon. Korats typically have a low percentage of body fat, so veterinarians should take this into account when determining how much and what type of anesthesia to give when a Korat is undergoing any type of surgery. Be sure to ask a breeder about the incidence of health problems in her lines and what testing has been done for any that are genetic in nature. In the case of GM1 or GM2, both parents should have been tested, and if one is positive or a carrier, the kittens should be tested as well.

**Coat:** With his silver-tipped blue coat and huge green eyes—"as sparkling as the dewdrops on a lotus leaf"—the Korat is one of Thailand's most beautiful exports. He is noted as well for his heart-shaped head, large ears and alert expression. A Korat's eyes are blue at birth. As he matures, the eyes turn to amber, the pupil surrounded by a fringe of green. By the time the cat is two to four years old, the eyes have become the brilliant green for which the breed is known. The short single coat has hairs that are a light blue at the roots, then deepen, ending in a silver tip, producing a halo effect. Unlike some breeds, the coat has its silver-blue color from the time kittens are born, although kittens may have what are known as "ghost tabby" markings. These should disappear



with maturity. The Korat's nose leather, lips and paw pads range from dark blue to lavender.

**Friendship:** Korats will appreciate the attentions of a child who treats them respectfully, and they enjoy playing and learning tricks. With proper supervision, they can be a good companion for children. Like many cats that originated in Southeast Asia, Korats tend to prefer other Korats. They can get along with other cats, and with dogs, but they expect to have pride of place. This may or may not go over well with other animals. The Korat likes to have company, however, and if he spends a lot of time with another cat or dog, they will likely become close friends.

**Care:** The Korat's short single coat requires little grooming. Comb it weekly to remove any dead hairs. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Korat as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Korats who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Kurilian Bobtail

**General:** The Kurilian Bobtail cat, known for its distinctive and captivating appearance, captures the hearts of feline enthusiasts with its unique tail and charming personality. Originating from the Kuril Islands, nestled between Russia and Japan, these felines boast a rich history and a striking physical presence. With a well-proportioned body, tufted ears, and a distinctive bobbed tail, the Kurilian Bobtail stands out among cat breeds, attracting attention and admiration. Beyond its alluring exterior, this breed is celebrated for its active and playful nature, making it a delightful companion for those seeking an interactive and engaging feline friend. When considering a Kurilian Bobtail cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Kurilian Bobtail cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Kurilian Bobtail is a medium- to large-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Kurilian Bobtails weigh in at eight to 15 pounds, with the females often being smaller than the males.

**Personality:** When it comes down to the Kurilian Bobtail's personality, most owners of the breed remark just how sociable the cat is. This is a feline who's friendly towards humans and other animals alike and will actively seek out people and other pets to interact with. Befitting this social streak, the Kurilian Bobtail loves to play—so make sure you can provide enough time and attention to satisfy their exercise needs. The breed is smart and curious, so adding interactive toys to your home environment will be a must. Just remember that, due to their heritage as a cat with excellent hunting instincts, you'll want to closely socialize any early interactions with smaller pets—and it might not be a great idea to have fish around the feline! At the end of the day, the Kurilian Bobtail is also a very loving kitty who will definitely want to try and snuggle up to you when it's bed time.

**Health:** Kurilian Bobtails are generally considered to be healthy cats. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Kurilian Bobtail, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Kurilian Bobtail can be found in a very large range of colors, and they can also be solid or tabby. Some of the most eye-catching Kurilian Bobtails display silver streaks! When it comes to grooming, most Kurilian Bobtail's are very low maintenance—the cat's thick double coat will be good with weekly brushings. This will help lessen the likelihood of hairballs and mats forming. In terms of climate, the Kurilian Bobtail is generally an adaptable breed of cat. Although you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Kurilian Bobtail is a great fit with young children, mainly because this is an outgoing and playful breed. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Kurilian Bobtail fares well with many domestic animals, including dogs. But always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, especially smaller ones that might be seen as prey by the cat. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Kurilian Bobtail for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Kurilian Bobtail's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Kurilian Bobtail's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. This is especially important with a cat with high hunting and chasing instincts like the Kurilian Bobtail.

The breed's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Kurilian Bobtail. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, for such an active cat, the Kurilian Bobtail definitely needs to be provided with enough space to be able to run around and satisfy their exercise needs—so consider adding a cat tree to your home an absolute must.

Name: LaPerm

General: The LaPerm is a distinctive and enchanting cat breed known for its unique curly coat, characterized by loose, bouncy ringlets that set it apart from other feline varieties. The LaPerm's striking appearance is matched by its affectionate and people-oriented nature. These cats come in various colors and patterns, and their coats can be short or long. Despite their elegant curls, LaPerms are not high-maintenance in terms of grooming, as their fur is soft and pliable. Renowned for their friendly and sociable disposition, LaPerms enjoy interacting with their human companions, forming strong bonds within the family. Their charming looks and amiable personalities make them cherished members of households seeking a unique and loving feline companion. The LaPerm is a testament to the diversity of the cat world. With its distinctive curly coat and endearing personality, LaPerms have carved out a special place in the hearts of cat enthusiasts worldwide. This breed's origins can be traced back to the early 1980s when a naturally occurring genetic mutation gave rise to the first LaPerm cat in Oregon, USA. This fortuitous mutation led to the development of the breed, which is celebrated for its unique and eye-catching curly coat. When considering a LaPerm, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable LaPerm breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The LaPerm is a small cat, weighing five to eight pounds. He reaches maturity when he is two to three years old.

Personality: The clever LaPerm has a sense of humor. Often described as clownish, he is something of a mischief-maker who makes talented use of his paws to open doors, swipe things he wants or tap you on the shoulder for attention. He's not clingy, but he likes to be with you and will follow you around, sit on your shoulder or the top of your computer, or sit in your lap, whichever option is most convenient for him. He is moderately active and enjoys retrieving items that are thrown for him. Despite his reputation for getting into things, the LaPerm is pleasant to live with. He rarely uses his voice, and he is affectionate, gentle and patient with his people. Most are also welcoming to visitors as long

as they were well socialized as kittens.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. La Perms are generally healthy, however. They are not known for developing any particular illnesses.

**Coat:** The LaPerm's outstanding feature, of course, is his coat, which has loose, bouncy curls, making it light and airy to the touch. Tighter, longer curls surround the neck, forming a ruff and clustering at the base of the ears. The whiskers are also long and curly. The coat comes in two lengths—short and long—and any color or pattern. Tabbies, tortoiseshells and red cats are most common. Longhaired LaPerms have a plumed tail. The coat's length and fullness may vary seasonally. It sometimes parts naturally down the middle of the back. The shorthaired LaPerm does not necessarily have a ruff, ringlets or "ear-muffs," and the texture of the coat may be harder than that of the longhaired LaPerm. He has a tail with fur that looks wavy, more like a bottlebrush than a plume. The short coat may also part down the middle of the back. Whatever the length, the LaPerm coat manifests in different ways. Kittens may be born hairless, with straight hair or with curly hair. Both longhaired and shorthaired kittens can be born in the same litter. You may notice that the name on your kitten's pedigree includes the letters BC, BS or BB. Those initials indicate whether the kitten was born curly, born straight or born bald and helps breeders study how the gene is expressed. The LaPerm's head is a modified wedge shape, meaning it is slightly rounded. The medium-size to large ears are slightly flared. Longhaired LaPerms have full furnishings (hair inside the ears) and a covering of fur on and around the outer ears that resembles earmuffs. Expressive eyes can be any color.

**Friendship:** The easygoing but playful LaPerm is well suited to life with families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks, enjoys interactive toys, and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Supervise young children and show them how to pet the cat nicely. Instead of holding or carrying the cat, have them sit on the floor and pet him. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The LaPerm's unusual coat is easy to care for and usually doesn't mat or tangle if it is combed or brushed one to three times a week. Longer coats should be groomed more frequently. Use a comb with revolving teeth for best results. It will go through the coat easily without straightening the curls. To keep the cat looking his curly best, mist the coat with a little water or fluff it with damp hands to set the curls. The coat sheds little, and shedding is further reduced with regular brushing. If small mats develop, brush them out gently with a slicker brush or greyhound comb (stainless steel with narrow teeth at one end and wider teeth at the other end). If you give the LaPerm a bath, press a towel against the coat to soak up moisture and then let him air dry in a warm, draft-free spot. Using a blow dryer will give him a bad case of the frizzies. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is

best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails weekly. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a LaPerm as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. LaPerms who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it.

Name: Lykoi

General: The Lykoi cat, often known as the "werewolf cat," is a breed recognized for their one-of-a-kind looks. These cats sport a partially or fully hairless coat with a roan pattern, providing them with an iconic appearance. The Lykoi's hair coat is not only sparse, but also exhibits variations in color, ranging from solid hues to tabby patterns. Despite their eerie appearance, Lykoi cats are friendly, intelligent, and social. They often form strong bonds with their human companions and get along well with other pets. Lykoi cats are also known for their playful nature and can be quite active. As a relatively new breed, Lykoi cats are still gaining recognition and popularity in the cat world, with breeders working to establish and refine the standard for this captivating and enigmatic feline variety. Since their emergence in 2011, the Lykoi have quickly picked up a bit of feline fame. When considering a Lykoi, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Lykoi breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Lykoi is a small- to medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Lykoi cats weigh in at four to seven pounds. That said, many may be smaller or larger than average.

Personality: When you find yourself living with a Lykoi, you'll immediately notice just how smart these cats are. As a breed, they're inquisitive, curious and great problem solvers—so you'll want to ensure that you have a stash of interactive cat toys available, plus a batch of play items that are rotated regularly. Keeping your Lykoi mentally stimulated will help bring out the best in this breed's personality. Along with being a super smart kitty—and a feline that you can teach to play games of fetch—the Lykoi is generally an all around energetic cat who loves to stay active. Make sure you have adequate space and scope for

climbing missions if you're considering adopting a Lykoi. Fortunately, at the end of a hard day's playing, the Lykoi loves nothing more than to cuddle up with the humans in their life and enjoy some well deserved relaxation time.

**Health:** Lykois are generally considered to be healthy cats, but it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the Lykoi, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. It's also worth noting that, due to the breed's short history, accurate predictions as to their average lifespan are not yet available. **Skin and Coat Issues:** Due to their partially hairless appearance, Lykoi cats may be more susceptible to skin problems. This can include skin infections, rashes, and sunburn. It's important to provide them with proper sun protection and regular skin care.

**Coat:** You'll usually see the Lykoi sporting a signature black or gray coat. Sometimes a silvery shade of white also appears. The breed's roan coat gives it an endearingly patchy appearance. When it comes to grooming, most Lykoi cats are fine with weekly brushing sessions—but make sure that you brush in a gentle fashion so that you don't irritate or hurt the cat's skin. Ask your vet for help on techniques if needed. Also, due to the cat's lack of hair, you'll need to give your Lykoi regular baths to help keep oils in check. In terms of climate, most Lykoi cats are adaptable, although they generally favor warmer temperatures. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Lykoi cat and young kids are a top notch combination. Your kids will love interacting and forming bonds with a cat that resembles a werewolf! Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured Lykoi fares well with many domestic animals. But always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Lykoi for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Lykoi's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Lykoi's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Lykoi is such an energetic kitty that it's exceptionally important that their nails are kept in great shape. The breed's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Lykoi. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Lykoi is a cat with such high energy levels, it's imperative that you add a cat tree to your home.

Name: Maine Coon

General: The Maine Coon is one of the largest and most majestic domestic cat breeds, originating from the United States. Known for their impressive size, tufted ears, bushy tails, and luxurious, semi-longhair coats, Maine Coons have a distinctive appearance. Also renowned for their friendly and sociable personalities, these cats are often referred to as “gentle giants.” They are characterized by their intelligence, playfulness, and adaptability, making them well-suited for family life. Despite their large size, they are graceful and agile, displaying a friendly and outgoing demeanor. Additionally, Maine Coons are often good with children and other pets, making them excellent companions for families. Their thick, water-resistant fur helps them adapt to various climates, and their tufted ears protect them from harsh weather conditions. With their affectionate nature and striking looks, Maine Coons have become a popular and beloved breed in many households around the world. When considering a Maine Coon, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Maine Coon kitten, it’s crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Maine Coon breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a large cat. Most Maine Coons weigh 9 to 18 pounds—males are larger—and some tip the scales at 20 or more pounds. They don’t reach their full size until they are three to five years old.

Personality: The good-natured and affable Maine Coon adapts well to many lifestyles and personalities. They like being with people and have the habit of following them around, but they aren’t needy. They’re happy to receive attention when you direct it their way, but if you’re busy, they’re satisfied to just supervise your doings. Close a door on them and they will wait patiently for you to realize the error of your ways and let them in. They’re not typically a lap cat, but they do like to be near you. They also retain their skill as a mouser. No rodents will be safe in a home where a Maine Coon resides. Even if you don’t have any mice for them to chase, they’ll keep their skills sharp by chasing toys and grabbing them with their big paws. A Maine Coon also enjoys playing fetch and will retrieve small balls, toys, or wadded-up pieces of paper. They can climb as well as any cat but usually prefer to stay on ground level. That’s where their work is, after all. They’re also very smart and will happily learn tricks or play with puzzle toys that challenge their brain. Maine Coons usually enjoy a kittenish love of play well into adulthood. Males, especially, are prone to silly behavior. Females are more dignified, but they aren’t above a good game of chase. Not especially vocal, they make any requests in a soft chirp or trill.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the

Maine Coon include the following: Hip Dysplasia: Hip dysplasia is a relatively uncommon but serious orthopedic condition that primarily affects dogs. While it is rare in cats, it is not impossible for them to develop hip dysplasia. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: HCM is a common heart condition in cats, including Maine Coons. It involves the thickening of the heart muscles, which can affect the heart's ability to function properly. Regular veterinary check-ups and echocardiograms can help detect and manage HCM. Polycystic Kidney Disease: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is an inherited genetic disorder that affects cats, among other animals. This condition leads to the development of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, which can interfere with their normal function and, over time, lead to kidney failure. Spinal Muscular Atrophy: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in cats is a genetic disorder that affects the spinal cord and the motor neurons responsible for controlling muscle movement. It's a relatively rare condition but can cause significant mobility issues in affected Maine Coons.

Coat: A Maine Coon is a big, rugged cat with a smooth, shaggy coat who looks as if they could put in a full day mousing on a farm in all weather conditions. Indeed, they were built for just such work in the harsh Maine climate, and their breed standard reflects their heritage, calling for a medium-size to large cat with a well-proportioned body that is muscular and broad-chested. A Maine Coon has substantial, medium-length legs and large, round paws, well tufted with fur, to serve as "snowshoes" during winter. A heavy coat is shorter on the shoulders, longer on the stomach and britches (long fur on the upper hind legs), with a ruff in front and a long, furry tail waving a greeting. A medium-width head is slightly longer than it is wide and has a squarish muzzle. Large, well-tufted ears are wide at the base, tapering to a point, and large, expressive eyes are green, gold, greenish-gold or copper. White or bi-colored Maine Coons may have blue or odd eyes. The brown tabby pattern is so common in this breed that many people don't know Maine Coons can come in any other colors or patterns. They might be surprised to learn that Maine Coons are found in solid colors that include black, red or white, all tabby colors and patterns, bi-color such as blue and white or red and white, and patterns such as tortoiseshell and calico.

Friendship: The friendly, laid back Maine Coon is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. They love the attention they receive from children who treat them politely and with respect, and they don't mind playing dress-up or going for a ride in a baby buggy. They're happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to their amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: Despite the length of the Maine Coon's coat, it has a silky texture that doesn't mat easily—if you groom it regularly. It is easily cared for with twice weekly combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Useful grooming tools include a stainless steel comb for removing tangles and what's called a "grooming rake" to pull out dead undercoat, which is what causes tangles when it's not removed. Use it gently, especially in the stomach area and on the tail.



Maine Coons are patient, but they don't like having their hair pulled any more than you do. Check the tail for bits of poop stuck to the fur and clean it off with a baby wipe. Bathe a Maine Coon as needed, which can range from every few weeks to every few months. If their coat feels greasy or their fur looks stringy, they need a bath. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Maine Coon's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will help to keep the coat clean as well. It's a good idea to keep a Maine Coon as an indoor-only cat to protect them from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Maine Coons who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Manx

General: Manx cats are recognizable by their most striking feature -no tail or a very short tail. Some have a small stub, while others have no tail at all. This distinctive taillessness or "rumpy" feature is the hallmark of the breed. They are believed to have originated on the Isle of Man, a small island located in the Irish Sea. Manx cats are a distinct and captivating breed known for their taillessness, friendly personalities, and historical significance. They make wonderful companions for families and individuals who appreciate their unique features and loving nature. When considering a Manx, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Manx breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat who weighs 8 to 12 pounds and feels surprisingly heavy when lifted. The Manx matures slowly and may not reach his full size until he is five years old.

Personality: The Manx began life as a mouser, and he retains his fine hunting skills and alert nature. With a Manx around the house, you don't need a watchdog; you've got a "watchcat" who reacts rapidly and will growl threateningly or maybe even go on the attack at the sight or sound of anything out of the ordinary. If he sees that you aren't alarmed, he'll settle back down. When he's

not protecting his family and property from mice, stray dogs, or other threats, however, the Manx is a mellow fellow: an even-tempered and affectionate cat who enjoys serene surroundings. That's not to say he is inactive. This is a happy, playful cat who likes to follow his favorite person through the house and assist with whatever he or she is doing. When you are ready to relax, though, the Manx will be in your lap, ready for a comfy nap. If no lap is available, he'll curl up on the nearest available spot that allows him to keep an eye on you. He "speaks" in a quiet trill and will carry on a conversation if you talk to him. The Manx has an adaptable nature if he is exposed to activity and other people as a young kitten. He will enjoy meeting new people, greeting them with a gentle head butt or cheek rub, and can adapt to a new home or family if such an upheaval in his life is necessary. This is a smart cat who can learn tricks, including fetch and come, and is willing to walk on leash if taught early. He often likes to ride in the car, making him a great companion on long-distance trips. It's not unusual for the Manx to enjoy playing in water—he is an island cat, after all—and you may find him turning on faucets or "fishing" in a fountain. He is also good at learning how to open doors, so be sure anything you don't want him to have is under lock and key. Unlike most cats, the Manx is willing to accept boundaries and will usually respect your wishes if you tell him no when he jumps on the counter or scratches on your sofa. Just be sure you give him an acceptable alternative as thanks for his nice behavior. The Manx is highly people-oriented. Choose him only if you can give him plenty of time and attention daily.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Manx are generally healthy, but the following diseases have been seen in the breed: **Arthritis:** Arthritis in cats with partial tails, also known as Manx syndrome or Manx cat arthritis, can be a challenging condition that affects the mobility and comfort of these unique felines. **Manx cats are known for their genetic mutation that leads to the absence of a full tail, and sometimes this mutation can be associated with other health issues, including arthritis.** **Corneal Dystrophy:** Cloudiness that begins to develop when a kitten is approximately 4 months old **Manx Syndrome:** This is a collection of birth defects that may include a spine that is too short, urinary tract defects, and problems with the bowels and digestion. The condition affects approximately 20 percent of Manx cats, most often rumpies, and usually shows up by the time a kitten is 4 months old, a good reason to wait until that age before bringing a Manx kitten home.

**Coat:** The Manx is known for his lack of a tail, but not every Manx is completely tailless. Some, known as "longies," have a normal-length tail, and others, known as "stumpies," have short tails. A Manx with no tail is called a "rumpy" and one with just a rise of bone at the end of the spine is known as a "riser." You will see only rumpies and risers in the show ring, but cats with tails can be used in Manx breeding programs. A Manx has other distinguishing characteristics as well, including a round head with large round eyes, a stout, powerful body with a broad chest, short back and broad, round rear end, short front legs and long

hind legs with muscular thighs. The long rear legs give him the appearance of a rabbit and may be the source of the “cabbit” myth. The Manx has two different coat lengths: a short double coat or a longhaired double coat. The longhaired Manx is called a Cymric in some cat registries, but the Cat Fanciers Association simply considers the longhair a variety of Manx. In both lengths, the coat comes in many different colors, including various solids, tabbies, tortoiseshells and calicos. Chocolate and lavender colors and the pointed Himalayan pattern are not permitted. This is a medium-size cat who weighs 8 to 12 pounds and feels surprisingly heavy when lifted. The Manx matures slowly and may not reach his full size until he is five years old.

Friendship: If he is introduced to them in kittenhood, the active and social Manx is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority and can learn to leave birds and fish alone. An adult Manx may not appreciate children as readily, especially if he is used to a quiet household. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The soft, short coat of the Manx is easily cared for with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oil. Check the rear end closely to make sure feces aren't clinging to the fur surrounding the anus, and clean it if necessary to prevent the cat from smearing poop on carpets or furniture. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Manx are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Manx as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Manx who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Mekong Bobtail

General: The Mekong Bobtail is a unique cat known for their unique physical features and charming personality. Characterized by their shortened, kinked, or bobbed tail, the Mekong Bobtail is easily identifiable and stands out among other breeds. This breed is native to Southeast Asia, particularly the Mekong River region, and has gained popularity for their striking appearance and friendly demeanor. Mekong Bobtails are medium to large-sized cats with a well-muscled and elegant build. These cats have a silky coat that comes in various colors and patterns, and their almond-shaped eyes can range from blue to green.

Known for their social nature, Mekong Bobtails are often affectionate, forming strong bonds with their human companions. They are playful, intelligent, and adaptable to various living situations. With their charming personalities and unique physical traits, Mekong Bobtails make delightful and loving additions to households seeking engaging a furry companion. When considering a Mekong Bobtail kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Mekong Bobtail kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats. They also conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Mekong Bobtail is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Mekong Bobtails weigh in at eight to ten pounds. That said, many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** The Mekong Bobtail is an exceptionally loyal breed of cat, renowned for the way they very quickly form loving and strong bonds with the humans in their lives. Don't be surprised if you notice that your Mekong Bobtail insists on following you around the house! In fact, if your household is empty for long periods of the day, the breed might start to suffer from loneliness. This is definitely a feline who prospers in a busy home environment with a lot of action going on. Mekong Bobtails also especially enjoy being around children, which helps, as they have a decent amount of energy and will need regular play sessions. The breed really enjoys climbing, so make sure you add a cat tree to your homestead and, ideally, provide safe furniture that can be successfully scaled by the cat.

**Health:** Mekong Bobtails are generally considered to be healthy cats, but always make sure to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems the Mekong Bobtail might suffer from include:  
**Eye Issues:** Eye issues in cats can arise from various causes and may manifest in a range of symptoms. It's crucial for cat owners to be vigilant about their feline friends' ocular health and promptly address any concerns.  
**Gastrointestinal Problems:** Gastrointestinal issues in cats can range from mild to severe and may be caused by various factors. It's essential for cat owners to be attentive to changes in their cat's behavior, appetite, and litter box habits.

**Coat:** The Mekong Bobtail's coat comes in a wide range of pointed colors, including blue point, chocolate point, and seal point. When it comes to grooming, Mekong Bobtail cats are considered to be a low-maintenance breed. These short-haired cats will only need brushing once a week; although, it's advisable to use the grooming sessions as a way to bond with the cat. In terms of climate, most Mekong Bobtail cats are adaptable. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Mekong Bobtail is an excellent breed to consider if you have young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured Mekong Bobtail fares well with many domestic animals. But always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Mekong Bobtail for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Mekong Bobtail's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Mekong Bobtail's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The breed's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Mekong Bobtail. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Mekong Bobtail is a cat with a quite high energy level, it's recommended that you add a cat tree to your home.

**Name:** Napoleon

**General:** The Napoleon cat, an endearing cat breed, represents the perfect fusion of elegance and whimsy. This charming breed emerged from a deliberate crossbreeding of Persian cats, known for their luxurious coats and aristocratic bearing, with Munchkin cats, celebrated for their distinctive short legs. The result is a cat that captivates with its unique appearance and affectionate demeanor. Characterized by its short legs and a sweet facial expression, the Napoleon cat, also known as the Minuet, exudes an irresistible charm that has won the hearts of cat enthusiasts around the world. The combination of Persian traits and Munchkin characteristics has created a feline companion that embodies the best of both worlds. When considering a Napoleon, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Napoleon kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Napoleon breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Napoleon is a small cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Napoleons weigh in at five to nine pounds. That said, many may be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** If you talk to the owner of a Napoleon cat, you'll very quickly hear them go on about just how loving and people-focused these felines are. In fact, when living with a Napoleon cat, you can expect the kitty to follow you around and want to snuggle up with you at any opportunity. They also do great with kids and will bond very easily with humans. Just remember that the Napoleon is such a sociable kitty that they really need to be around people as much as possible, so consider another breed of cat if you're going to be away from the house for long periods of the day. Beyond being a total cuddle bug, the Napoleon also has a playful and curious side. They might not be the most athletic jumpers, mainly due to their short legs, but they are always up for a play session. It's best to add some interactive toys to the living environment to keep your cat mentally stimulated.

**Health:** Napoleons are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Munchkin and Persian breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Napoleons suffer from include: **Cataracts:** Cataracts in cats refer to the clouding or opacification of the lens within the eye, leading to impaired vision. While cataracts are more commonly associated with dogs, they can occur in cats as well. **Lordosis:** Lordosis in cats, including Munchkin mixed cats, refers to an abnormal posture where the spine exhibits an exaggerated inward curvature. **Polycystic Kidney Disease:** Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is an inherited genetic disorder that affects cats. It is characterized by the formation of fluid-filled cysts within the kidneys, which can gradually lead to kidney enlargement and impaired kidney function. PKD is most commonly observed in Persian cats, but it can also affect other breeds.

**Coat:** The Napoleon cat comes in a very large range of colors. In fact, pretty much any color and combination goes with this kitty! When it comes to grooming, it will depend on whether your Napoleon cat is long or short-haired. While a short-haired Napoleon will make do with weekly brushing sessions, a long-haired feline will need much more attention. Brushing a long-haired Napoleon four or five times a week will really help ward off the chances of mats forming. In terms of climate, most Napoleon cats are adaptable. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Napoleon gets along great with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured Napoleon usually fares well with many domestic animals. But always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Napoleon for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Napoleon's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Napoleon cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The mixed breed's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Napoleon. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Napoleon is a cat with a quite high energy level, make sure you provide enough space for them to scamper around!

Name: Nebelung

General: The Nebelung cat, a captivating and elegant breed, came from the long-haired Russian Blue lineage. The Nebelung showcases a fluffy, shimmering silver-blue coat, which gives it an ethereal and mist-like quality. The name "Nebelung" means creature of the mist, derived from the German word "Nebel," meaning mist or fog, perfectly capturing the breed's enchanting aura. Known for their intelligence and grace, Nebelung cats make cherished companions for those seeking a feline friend with a calm and loving nature. These cats often form strong bonds with their human families and display a shy but loving demeanor. With their bright green eyes, tufted ears, and silky fur, Nebelungs are not only a pleasure to behold but also a testament to the careful breeding that has gone into their development. When considering a Nebelung, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Nebelung kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Nebelung breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Nebelung is a medium-sized cat with a long body. They tend to weigh in at seven to 15 pounds with females generally being smaller than males. That said, some Nebelungs may fall outside of that range.

Personality: The Nebelung has a reputation as a gentle, quiet cat, somewhat shy, but don't get the wrong idea. This cat may have a reserved nature, but they love to play—being especially fond of retrieving—and enjoy jumping or climbing to high places where they can study people and situations at their leisure before making up their mind about whether they want to get involved. Guests will not receive this cat's immediate attention and may never see them unless they decide the humans are worthy of their notice, but toward family members, especially their favored person, the Nebelung is ever loyal, following them through the house and even riding on a shoulder. The Nebelung is a sensitive cat who doesn't like to be ignored and will be hurt if they don't receive the same amount

of affection they give. Lack of attention can cause them to become anxious or fearful. While the Nebelung loves your company, they're capable of entertaining themselves during the day while you are at work. Unlike some active, intelligent breeds, they're not destructive but move through the house with the lithe grace of a Russian ballerina. When you are at home, their subtle sense of humor and manual dexterity will never fail to entertain. Just make sure you laugh with them, not at them. They have a strong sense of self-worth and don't like being made fun of. This is a cat who does best in a quiet, stable environment. They don't like change, and it's especially important to them that meals arrive on time. Count on them to be a faithful alarm clock in the morning—not so you don't miss work, but so they don't miss a meal. If you take the time to develop a relationship with a Nebelung, your reward will be a deep bond with this loving cat.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The Nebelung is generally healthy, however. An owner's main concern will probably be this cat's hearty appetite, which can turn them from sleek to stout in no time. **Obesity:** Obesity in cats is a prevalent and concerning health issue that can have significant consequences on their overall well-being. Obesity is defined as an excess of body fat relative to body weight, and it can affect cats of all ages, breeds, and backgrounds. Several factors contribute to feline obesity, and understanding them is crucial for prevention and management.

**Coat:** The Nebelung looks much like the elegant-yet-muscular Russian Blue, but with a thick, shimmering, medium-length coat. Their general appearance is that of a long, sturdy, well-muscled cat. The International Cat Association breed standard for the Nebelung calls for them to have a modified wedge-shaped head that is more pointed than rounded, although his long hair may give the head a rounded look. Large ears are wide at the base with pointed tips, and rich, deep-green eyes have a slightly oval shape and are set wide apart. Kittens may have yellowish-green eyes, but by the time they are two years old they should have developed into the vivid green of maturity. The nose pad is charcoal gray. A long, slender neck sometimes looks shorter than it actually is because of the Nebelung's dense fur. The body is what's called semi-foreign, meaning it is moderate in shape, falling somewhere between the short, compact body of breeds such as Persians and the sleek angles of Oriental breeds such as the Siamese. It is athletic but not bulky, with a medium-boned body that is well proportioned. Supporting the body are long, medium-boned legs set on medium-size, well-rounded oval paws with generous tufting between the toes. The Nebelung looks as if they're walking on the balls of their feet. Their tail is at least as long as their body from shoulder blades to rear end, covered in fur that is longer than the body hair. The Nebelung stands out for their luxurious coat and striking color. A medium-length double coat covers the body, increasing in length from the shoulder to the tail. Males have a distinct neck ruff, but females are not as well endowed. Behind the ears is feathering in a lighter shade of blue. Fur covering the back of the upper thighs gives the Nebelung the appearance of



wearing pantaloons. The outer coat is fine and silky, topping an undercoat that is soft and downy. The coat typically does not develop fully until the cat is two years old. It is thicker, longer and softer in winter. To the uninformed, the Nebelung might look gray, but in cat show terms, they are blue all the way to the roots. It's ideal if the fur is silver-tipped, which makes the coat seem to glisten, but often silver tipping is noticeable only on the head and shoulders. Some Nebelung kittens are born with "ghost stripes," a reminder of the tabby gene that all cats carry, even if it isn't expressed in their coat, but these generally fade, leaving the cat with the solid blue coat of maturity.

Friendship: Nebelungs have a tolerant nature toward children who treat them kindly and respectfully, but they can be wary of younger children who pet them clumsily. Always supervise very young children when they want to pet the cat. The Nebelung is accepting of other animals, including dogs, as long as they aren't chased or menaced by them. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The Nebelung's long, dense coat should be combed twice a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly teeth brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Nebelung's litter box spotlessly clean. They are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will help to keep their coat clean, as well. It's a good idea to keep a Nebelung as an indoor-only cat to protect them from catching diseases spread by other cats, suffering attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Nebelungs who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for one.

Name: Norwegian Forest

General: The Norwegian Forest cat (also known as the Skogkatt or Wegie) is a large, long-haired cat breed that is native to Norway. They are known for their thick, double coat that helps them to withstand the cold winters in Norway. Norwegian Forest cats are also known for their gentle and affectionate nature, and they make great family pets. Norwegian Forest cats come in a variety of coat colors, including white, black, blue, red, cream, silver, and golden. They can also have solid, bicolor, tortoiseshell, calico, and tabby fur patterns. The most common coat color is brown tabby. Norwegian Forest cats are relatively rare in the United States, but they are becoming more popular. When considering a Norwegian Forest, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research

to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Norwegian Forest breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** These are big cats. Males can weigh 13 to 22 pounds or more, with females somewhat smaller. The Wegie matures slowly and isn't full grown until 5 years of age.

**Personality:** The Norwegian Forest Cat is satisfied to be in the same room with people and will entertain himself if no one is home. Although he appreciates human company, he can be a bit reserved with visitors. Even with family, he's not much of a lap cat, but a nice scratch between the ears or beneath the chin is always welcome, and he'll usually reciprocate with a nice head butt or cheek rub. He communicates with classic Scandinavian restraint. His quiet voice is employed only when he needs something—dinner on time, perhaps—and rises only if he is ignored. Not surprisingly, this large and athletic cat is a climber. You will often find him at the highest point he can reach in the home, and unlike some cats, he doesn't have any qualms about descending trees or other heights headfirst. Thanks to his heritage as a wilderness and farm cat, not to mention his waterproof coat, the Wegie thinks nothing of fishing in a body of water for a nice meal. Aquarium and koi pond denizens, beware! While he loves the outdoors, he is content to live quietly in a home. This is a smart, independent cat who learns quickly and has an alert nature. He likes to play and thrives with a busy family that loves him.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Norwegian Forest Cats are generally healthy, with a long life span of 14 to 16 years. The following diseases have been seen in the breed: Glycogen Storage Disease IV: This is a rare heritable condition that affects the metabolism of glucose. Most kittens with the disease are stillborn or die within a few hours of birth, but occasionally a kitten will not show signs until about 5 months of age and usually die within a few months. A DNA test is available that can identify affected and carrier cats. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: This is a form of heart disease that is inherited in some cat breeds such as the Maine Coon. Heritability has not been proven in the Norwegian Forest Cat. Polycystic Kidney Disease: This is a genetic condition that progressively destroys the kidneys. No DNA test for the disease is available for Norwegian Forest Cats, but the disease can be detected through ultrasound as early as 10 months of age. Retinal Dysplasia: This is an eye defect that causes spots on the retina but does not worsen the cat's vision.

**Coat:** The Norwegian Forest Cat is notable for his long, thick, beautiful coat and large size. The head has an inverted triangle shape, pointed at the chin and then widening on each side up toward the medium to large ears, which are heavily tufted. Large, almond-shaped eyes are green, gold, or copper, although

white cats may have blue eyes or odd eyes (one blue eye and one eye of another color). The moderately long body looks powerful, with its broad chest and heavily muscled thighs. Large round paws have tufts of fur between the toes. The bushy tail is as long as the body. The weatherproof double coat varies in length. The “bib” begins with a short collar at the neck, “mutton chops” on the side, and a full frontal ruff. Full britches—long hair on the thighs—cover the hind legs. On the body, the coat is long and flowing, but it changes with the seasons. A Wegie in summer looks relatively naked compared to his full winter glory. The coat comes in almost every color and pattern, with or without white, with the exceptions of chocolate, lavender lilac, or a pointed pattern like that of the Siamese.

**Friendship:** The friendly, laidback Norwegian Forest Cat is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect, and he doesn’t mind playing dress-up or going for a ride in a baby buggy. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** Brush or comb the Norwegian Forest Cat’s long coat once or twice a week, using a bristle brush, wire slicker brush or stainless steel comb. If you run across tangles, work them out gently so you don’t hurt the cat. A bath is rarely necessary, which is a good thing. With the Wegie’s practically waterproof coat, it can be very difficult to get him wet enough for a bath. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes daily with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don’t run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Wegies are very particular about bathroom hygiene. A clean litter box will also help to keep their fur clean. He is certainly built to survive a cold climate, but it’s a good idea to keep a Norwegian Forest Cat as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Wegies who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it. If possible, build your Wegie a large outdoor enclosure where he can enjoy the elements safely.

**Name:** Ocicat

**General:** The Ocicat stands out among house cats with its wild appearance and lively personality. This breed, which began in the United States, was created by crossing Siamese, Abyssinian, and American Shorthair cats. The result is a breed that looks like an ocelot, a wild spotted cat native to South America, while keeping the friendly and loving nature of a house cat. Recognized by their

almond-shaped eyes, Ocicats have a strong body with a short, spotted coat. The coat patterns look like those of the ocelot, featuring spots or marbled patterns in a variety of colors. Also known for their intelligence and agility, Ocicats are highly interactive and enjoy engaging in activities with their human buddies. They often form strong bonds with their owners and are talkative, using many vocalizations to communicate. When considering an Ocicat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase an Ocicat kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Ocicat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Ocicat ranges in size from six to 15 pounds

**Personality:** The devoted and playful Ocicat loves people and will trail their footsteps through the house or ride on a shoulder. Guests are welcomed by this generally social cat as new opportunities for petting or lap sitting. Ocicats don't even mind being carried around as long as they are with you. As with any animal, they come in a range of personalities, so some are more shy than others. Favorite activities include retrieving toys and learning to walk on a leash. Ocicats are highly intelligent and learn tricks easily. Puzzle toys are a good way to keep them occupied and entertained. Carefully put away anything you don't want him to have. He is perfectly capable of figuring out how to open doors or undo latches. His Siamese ancestors bequeathed the Ocicat a tendency to be vocal, but he is not as loud or as demanding. He is sensitive and will respond to nothing more than a verbal correction. Although the Ocicat is adaptable, he doesn't like being left alone. Be sure he has another cat or dog as a companion if you aren't home during the day.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Ocicats are generally healthy, but they have the potential to develop certain health problems. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy:** Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) is a group of genetic disorders that affect the retina of the eye and lead to a gradual decline in vision over time. While PRA can affect various animal species, including cats, this condition is particularly concerning because it can eventually result in blindness. The disease is inherited, meaning it is passed down from one or both parents with the defective genes. **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:** Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common heart disease in cats and is characterized by the thickening of the heart muscle, specifically the muscular wall of the left ventricle. This condition affects the heart's ability to pump blood effectively and can lead to various complications, including heart failure. **Renal or Liver Amyloidosis:** Amyloidosis is a condition in which abnormal protein deposits called amyloids accumulate in various organs, disrupting their normal function. In cats, two

types of amyloidosis are commonly recognized: renal amyloidosis and hepatic (liver) amyloidosis.

**Periodontal Disease:** Periodontal disease in cats is a common and often overlooked health concern that affects the structures supporting the teeth, including the gums, periodontal ligament, and alveolar bone. It is caused by the accumulation of dental plaque, a biofilm composed of bacteria, saliva, and food particles, on the teeth. If not properly addressed, periodontal disease can lead to pain, tooth loss, and systemic health issues.

**Coat:** The Ocicat stands out for his spotted coat, which gives him the look of a small wildcat. The short, smooth, satiny coat comes in 12 colors, all of which feature dark thumbprint-shaped spots on a light background. Like the Abyssinian, which was one of his ancestors, the Ocicat has what's called an agouti coat, meaning that each hair has several bands of color (the exception is the tip of the tail). The spots are formed where those bands of color meet. Rows of round spots run along the spine, and more spots are scattered across the shoulders and rear end, extending down the legs. Broken "bracelets" of spots encircle the legs and broken "necklaces" adorn the throat. Large, well-scattered spots appear on the side of the body and on the belly. The tail has what look like horizontal brushstrokes going 'round it, sometimes alternating with spots. Markings around the eyes and on the cheeks make the Ocicat look as if he has been at work with a mascara tube. The forehead is marked with an M (for mischief, no doubt) and small spots cover the lower neck and shoulders. Some Ocicats have classic, mackerel and ticked tabby coats, which are beautiful, but aren't correct for the show ring. Those cats have the same great Ocicat personality, however, and make wonderful pets. The Ocicat has a medium-size to large body. He is muscular yet graceful. Large ears corner the modified wedge-shaped head. Some Ocicats have tufts of fur that extend vertically from the tips of the ears. Large almond-shaped eyes angle slightly upward and can be any color except blue. The lengthy tail has a dark tip.

**Friendship:** The gentle and playful Ocicat is well suited to life with families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He can learn tricks, enjoys interactive toys, and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Supervise young children and show them how to pet the cat nicely. Instead of holding or carrying the cat, have them sit on the floor and pet him. It's likely that the Ocicat will dominate other cats in the household and may even rule the dogs. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

**Care:** The Ocicat's short, smooth coat is simple to groom with weekly brushing or combing to remove dead hairs. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails weekly. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp

cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep an Ocicat as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Ocicats who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it.

Name: Oriental

General: The Oriental cat breed is known for their sleek and elegant appearance. Sharing similar ancestry, they closely resemble the Siamese cat. With a long, slender body, large ears, and almond-shaped eyes, Oriental cats exude a sense of grace and sophistication. They come in a variety of colors and patterns, including solid, tabby, and bicolor. These feline companions are sociable and intelligent, forming strong bonds with their human families. They are also vocal and enjoy communicating with their owners. Their playful and active nature makes them well-suited for interactive games and activities, and they often appreciate being the center of attention. Oriental cats share many characteristics with the Siamese breed, including a short, fine coat that lies close to their body. Their coat requires minimal grooming, making them relatively low-maintenance in terms of grooming needs. The Oriental cat is a perfect choice for individuals or families seeking a loving and interactive companion with an unmistakable sense of style. When considering an Oriental kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Oriental kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Orientals are medium-size cats that typically weigh 5 to 10 pounds.

Personality: The Siamese and the Oriental might differ in color, but beneath the skin they are identical. The Oriental is talkative and opinionated. He will tell you exactly what he thinks, in a loud, raspy voice, and he expects you to pay attention and act on his advice. Orientals are extremely fond of their people. They like to be "helpful" and will follow you around and supervise your every move. When you are sitting down, an Oriental will be in your lap, and at night he will be in bed with you, probably under the covers with his head on the pillow. Do not get an Oriental if living with a chatty busybody would drive you insane. On the other hand, if you enjoy having someone to talk to throughout the day, an Oriental can be your best friend. Just be sure you have time to spend with this demanding and social cat. Orientals do not like being left alone for long periods, and if you work during the day it can be smart to get two of them so

they can keep each other company. The Oriental is highly intelligent, agile and athletic, and loves to play. Keep his busy brain active with puzzle toys and his body exercised with teaser toys that he can chase and a big cat tree he can climb. He is fully capable of opening doors and drawers or rifling through your purse in search of something interesting or shiny to play with. Never leave him without any form of entertainment, or you will likely come home to find that he has reprogrammed your DVR to record only nature shows or at the very least decided that your toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes look better empty. Choose an Oriental if you look forward to spending time with and interacting with your cat. This is a loyal and loving feline who will pout and pine if given little or no attention. In the right home, however, he thrives for years.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The same problems that may affect the Siamese can also affect the Oriental, including the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in Siamese. **Asthma:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial disease or feline asthma, is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways. It is a common condition in cats and can affect felines of any age or breed. **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats refer to abnormalities in the structure or function of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can vary in severity and may affect different parts of the heart. While some congenital heart defects may not cause significant health problems, others can lead to serious complications. **Crossed Eyes:** Crossed eyes in cats, also known as strabismus, is a condition where a cat's eyes are misaligned and do not focus on the same point simultaneously. This can be a result of various factors and may affect one or both eyes. **Megaesophagus:** Megaesophagus in cats is a condition characterized by the abnormal enlargement of the esophagus, the muscular tube that transports food from the mouth to the stomach. This enlargement results in a loss of normal esophageal function, leading to difficulties in swallowing and regurgitation. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** This is a neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. **Lymphoma:** Lymphoma in cats is a type of cancer that originates in the lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell involved in the immune system. **Nystagmus:** A neurological disorder that causes involuntary rapid eye movement. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy:** Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in cats is a hereditary condition that affects the eyes, leading to a gradual degeneration of the retina. This can eventually result in blindness.

**Coat:** Except for color, the Siamese and the Oriental are indistinguishable, having a svelte but muscular body with long lines and a wedge-shaped head that is long and tapering from the narrow point of the nose outward to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle. The unusually large ears are wide at the base and pointed at the tip, giving them the same triangular shape as the head. Medium-size eyes are almond-shaped. The body is often described as

tubular and is supported by long, slim legs, with the hind legs higher than the front legs. The Oriental walks on small, dainty, oval paws and swishes a long, thin tail that tapers to a fine point. Oriental Longhairs have a medium-length coat that is fine and silky. It is longest on the plumed tail. Often nicknamed “Ornamentals” because of their extensive color palette, Orientals come in more colors and patterns than any other breed, including solid, shaded, smoke, parti-color, bi-color and tabby. Depending on the coat color, the eyes may be blue, green, or odd (one blue and one green).

**Friendship:** The active and social Oriental is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He gets along with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The short, fine coat of the Oriental Shorthair is easily cared for. Comb it every couple of weeks with a stainless steel comb or soft bristle brush to remove dead hair, then polish it with a soft cloth to make it shine. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don’t run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Oriental’s litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It’s a good idea to keep an Oriental as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Orientals who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Oriental Bicolor

**General:** The Oriental Bicolor cat is known for their sleek, slender body and distinctive coat pattern. A cross between the American Shorthair and Siamese cat breeds, the Oriental Bicolor is social, smart, and curious. Their coat can showcase a combination of two colors, often with a predominantly lighter shade on the body and a darker color on the ears, face, paws, and tail. The captivating bicolor pattern, coupled with the breed’s long, graceful lines and large, almond-shaped eyes, contributes to the Oriental Bicolor’s enchanting appearance. The Oriental Bicolor is a top-notch choice for a family cat. The mixed breed is exceptionally social and will always want to be around the humans in their lives. These felines also form great bonds with young children. Just remember that such a friendly and outgoing cat will need a lot of human interaction. This is not a mixed breed that fares well left alone for long periods of the day. When considering an Oriental Bicolor kitten, it’s advisable to prioritize



adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Oriental Bicolor kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Oriental Bicolor is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Oriental Bicolors weigh in at eight to twelve pounds. However, many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** The Oriental Bicolor is one of the most social cats out there. This distinctive, sleek breed loves to be around humans and bonds equally strongly with older folks and young kids alike. In fact, the cat almost demands to be the center of attention, so be wary of this if you often find yourself away from the home for long periods of time or have to embark on work trips. The Oriental Bicolor craves human attention. That being said, these are also intelligent cats who will happily entertain themselves by figuring out smart interactive toys and exploring new nooks and crannies. Providing your feline with a large living space that offers the chance to roam around and check out new areas is essential for this mixed breed. Also, be warned that the Oriental Bicolor is often described as a talkative and communicative cat, so be ready for lots of back and forth conversations!

**Health:** Oriental Bicolors are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the American Shorthair and Siamese breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Oriental Bicolors suffer from include: **Crossed Eyes:** Crossed eyes in cats, also known as strabismus, is a condition where the cat's eyes do not align properly. The misalignment can be inward (cross-eyed) or outward. While some cats are born with crossed eyes, it can also develop later in life due to various factors. Crossed eyes in cats are generally not a cause for concern unless it suddenly appears, indicating an underlying issue. **Asthma:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial asthma or feline allergic bronchitis, is a respiratory condition that affects the airways of felines. It is characterized by inflammation of the small airways in the lungs, leading to increased mucus production and constriction of the bronchial tubes. This can result in difficulty breathing, coughing, wheezing, and other respiratory symptoms. **Heart Disease:** Heart disease in cats, also known as feline cardiomyopathy, is a condition that affects the heart muscle, making it difficult for the heart to pump blood effectively. There are several types of cardiomyopathy in cats, with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) being the most common.

**Coat:** The Oriental Bicolor has a mix of a white base coat with many other colors; cinnamon, blue, and chestnut are all popular combinations. When it

comes to grooming, the Oriental Bicolor is a low shedder and only really needs brushing once a week. This will help ward off mats and keep the coat in good condition. Just be sure to groom gently as the mixed breed has a thin coat. In terms of climate, most Oriental Bicolor cats are adaptable, but they prefer a slightly warmer living environment. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Oriental Bicolor gets along really well with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured Oriental Bicolor usually fares well with many domestic animals. But always remember to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Oriental Bicolor for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Oriental Bicolor's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Oriental Bicolor cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. This is especially important for a mixed breed like the Oriental Bicolor who likes to be active and inquisitive. The cat's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Oriental Bicolor. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Oriental Bicolor is a cat with lots of energy, it's recommended that you add a cat tree to your home.

**Name:** Peterbald

**General:** Picture a feline that's a stunning blend of elegance and exotic charm, and you've got the Peterbald, a breed that's turning heads and stealing hearts around the globe. The Peterbald is a mixed breed cat—a cross between the Donkoy and Oriental Shorthair breeds. Hailing from Russia, these cats are like the James Bonds of the feline world – sleek, sophisticated, and oh-so-stylish. What sets them apart? Well, for starters, their fur (or lack thereof). Peterbalds come in various coat types, from completely bald to velvety fuzz, making each truly unique. In terms of temperament, Peterbalds are known for being social butterflies, forming strong bonds with their human counterparts. Playful, intelligent, and always up for a cuddle, these cats know how to bring joy and excitement to any household. When considering a Peterbald, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Peterbald breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary

health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Peterbald is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Peterbalds weigh in at six to ten pounds. Some can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** First up, you'll instantly notice just how much this breed loves humans. Peterbalds very quickly form super strong bonds with the humans in their lives and will often follow them around from room to room, much in the fashion of a dog. This loyal streak means that the Peterbald also makes a great cat for households with young children. But make sure that you can spend enough time with your Peterbald on a day-to-day basis, as this breed doesn't enjoy being left alone for long periods of the day. While the Peterbald is often hailed as a very affectionate and loving feline, these cats also have a strong athletic streak and will very much enjoy extended play sessions. In many cases, the Peterbald is also said to be a very vocal cat—so be prepared to engage in cat talk conversations with the breed!

**Health:** Peterbalds are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Donskoy and Oriental Shorthair breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Peterbald, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. **Skin Sensitivity:** Due to their unique coat types, some Peterbalds with little to no hair may be more sensitive to sun exposure. It's advisable to provide them with shade and protection from direct sunlight.

**Coat:** The Peterbald is usually hairless, although sometimes the breed will possess a very short and almost fuzzy layer of coat. The Peterbald comes in a wide range of colors. When it comes to grooming, a totally hairless Peterbald will require bathing at least once a week. This is to get rid of any oils that accumulate on the skin. Also, consult with your vet about using feline-friendly sunscreen, especially if the cat has access to the outdoors. In terms of climate, most Peterbald cats prefer warmer weather rather than cold environments. It's best to keep the breed indoors so that it can find warm and cosy spots to lounge around in.

**Friendship:** The Peterbald is a great fit for families with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the friendly and outgoing Peterbald usually fares well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, too. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individuals' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Peterbald for good behavior when you bring them home to your

family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Peterbald's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Peterbald cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Peterbald usually has larger-than-normal ears, and they should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Peterbald. Your vet can advise you about specific brands of toothpaste and brushing techniques. Finally, because the Peterbald is a cat with a decent amount of energy, it's recommended that you add at least one cat tree to your home environment.

Name: Pixie-Bob

General: The Pixie-Bob cat stands out among the diverse world of domestic cats with their wild appearance and captivating personality. Originating in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, the Pixie-Bob showcases a striking resemblance to the elusive bobcat. This fascinating blend of wild aesthetics and amiable temperament makes the breed a subject of keen interest for cat fanciers, breeders, and those seeking a cat companion. These aesthetically unique cats typically have a short, spotted or marbled coat in various colors, with tufted ears, expressive eyes, and a muscular build. The breed is recognized for its friendly and social nature, forming strong bonds with its human companions. Pixie-Bobs are often described as dog-like, enjoying interactive play, walks on a leash, and even learning tricks. Despite their wild appearance, they are affectionate and make loving additions to households willing to provide the attention and engagement they crave. When considering a Pixie-Bob cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Pixie-Bob kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Pixie-Bob cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Pixie-Bob can be quite a large cat! Female Pixie-Bobs tend to weigh in between 8-12 pounds, whereas the male Pixie-Bob can clock in around up to 25 pounds! The Pixie-Bob is a brawny, muscular cat, which is why many breeders do believe a Coastal Red Bobcat had to be the founding father of the breed.

Personality: Pixie-Bobs may have been created out of wild passion, but for the most part, Pixie-Bobs are a mellow sort of cat. Pixie-Bobs love to be with their owners, but Pixie-Bobs are not considered hyperactive by any stretch of

the imagination. These cats enjoy laid-back hang sessions with the family and have been described as “dog-like” in personality. Pixie-Bobs bond very strongly with their families and love taking car rides and leashed walks with their loved ones. This is what makes the Pixie-Bob an ideal cat for families with children. Pixie-Bob’s ability to bond with their humans along with their patient personas make them excellent companions for children.

Health: Pixie-Bobs as a breed are relatively healthy and not prone to many illnesses. The breed is frequently outcrossed, which helps avoid potential health problems that arise from inbreeding. There are a couple of health issues that still can arise with a Pixie-Bob cat. Difficult Births: A small percentage of Pixie-Bobs have difficulty delivering litters and may suffer health consequences. These Pixie-Bobs are taken out of breeding in hopes of reducing this issue. Cryptorchidism: A few cases of Cryptorchidism (missing testes or scrotum) have been reported in Pixie-Bobs, but not enough to consider it a health hazard for Pixie-Bobs across the board.

Coat: Pixie-Bobs have a thick double coat which needs to be brushed regularly to avoid matting and excessive shedding. The texture is “wooly,” like a bobcat, and can be either short-haired or long-haired. Typically, Pixie-Bobs have a mackerel or striped coat pattern. Sometimes these stripes are accompanied by rosettes, giving the Pixie-Bob that authentic bobcat look. A Pixie-Bob’s coat can be a variety of colors, but are mostly tawny, light gray, or reddish in appearance.

Friendship: Given the Pixie-Bob’s dog-like reputation, these cats make excellent companions for homes with other pets and with children. The Pixie-Bob’s devotion to its family and overall loyalty make them excellent companions for pretty much anyone!

Care: Pixie-Bobs do not inherently have many health issues, but basic care is a must for these large cats. An issue that can arise with Pixie-Bobs is a little extra weight. Be sure to maintain your Pixie-Bob’s weight at a healthy point and not mistake it for him simply being a large cat.

Name: Raas

General: Naturally developed without human intervention, the Raas cat breed is a powerful, athletic, and loyal companion. Also known as the Madurese cat, these energetic and strong felines boast excellent hunting instincts and a slightly stubborn streak. Raas cats, originating from the Indonesian island of Raas, are an exotic breed that is rare outside of Indonesia and especially uncommon beyond Asia. These large cats, successfully domesticated in recent years, are best suited for experienced cat owners. Once tamed, Raas Cats are known for their high energy levels and playfulness, requiring ample mental and physical stimulation for happiness. Although initially nervous around new people, their affectionate and sometimes needy nature emerges once they feel secure and unthreatened. When considering a Raas Cat, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in

need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Raas Cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Raas is a large cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Raas weigh in at 15 pounds.

**Personality:** There's no denying that the Raas breed is a headstrong and sometimes stubborn feline. This is a cat that has hunting and survival roots and will often seem wary or suspicious of humans at first. You'll need to put in work to bond with your Raas cat—but once you do, it's a guarantee that you'll become totally smitten with their sweet and loyal side. Befitting such a large and powerful cat, the Raas enjoys physical activity and definitely needs to be challenged to stay healthy and satisfied—along with adding cat trees and safe scalable furniture to its environment, smart and interactive toys are a must. Just remember that the Raas breed is very strong-willed and sometimes a little intolerant—so if the cat seems to be showing you physical signs that it is not happy with you, make sure to give it a little space and time alone.

**Health:** Raas are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Raas, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Raas is a cat that is usually either one color or a mix of two, often coming in shades including blue, gray and black. When it comes to grooming, the short-haired Raas cat can be brushed once a week. This will help ward off the chances of any mats forming. Although ask your vet for tips if you find that your Raas doesn't take to sitting still and being brushed at first. In terms of climate, most Raas cats are fairly adaptable felines. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Raas cat is best suited to people and families with previous experience being around cats, especially as it's a breed that can take time to adjust to new people in its life. Young children might annoy the cat—definitely make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. The Raas's hunting heritage means that it might view other smaller domestic animals as prey—so this is probably not the best cat for a household with existing resident pets. Ultimately, in cases involving both kids and other pets, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Raas for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Raas's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a

care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Raas cat's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is especially important for such a physical and active breed as the Raas. The cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Raas. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques—although if the Raas is not tolerant of the process, do not force things. Finally, because the Raas is a cat with a high amount of energy, it's recommended that you add at least one cat tree to your home—and if you can provide safe enclosed outdoor space, all the better.

Name: Ragamuffin

General: The Ragamuffin cat, known for its endearing personality and luxurious appearance, is a delightful breed characterized by their large size, expressive eyes, and silky, semi-longhair coats. While their name might suggest otherwise, Ragamuffins exude charm and grace. These affectionate felines also have a gentle nature and love to be the center of attention. They form strong bonds with their human companions. Originating as a variant of the Ragdoll breed, Ragamuffins share many of their predecessor's distinctive traits. Their plush fur comes in an array of colors and patterns, making each Ragamuffin cat unique and visually striking. Beyond their stunning appearance, Ragamuffin cats have a laid-back temperament, making them an excellent choice for families, singles, and seniors alike. Their sociable nature extends to other pets, and they are often described as “puppy-like” due to their willingness to follow their owners from room to room. When considering a Ragamuffin, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Ragamuffin breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Females usually weigh 10 to 15 pounds, and some males weigh more than 20 pounds.

Personality: Like his cousin the Ragdoll, the Ragamuffin is a huggable lug who wants nothing more than to follow his people around and sit in a lap whenever possible. A nice combination of sweet and smart, he is often described as puppylike for his friendly personality and willingness to play fetch, learn tricks and walk on a leash. He greets visitors warmly and would meet you at the door with a martini if only he had opposable thumbs. The Ragamuffin is known for his docile nature. He loves to be held like a baby and will completely relax into your arms. Ragamuffins like to play but are good about limiting their attentions to their toys and scratching posts, not your furniture. It is rare to nonexistent

for them to lay a claw on a person. This is a mellow cat but one who craves attention. Don't get a Ragamuffin if you will have to leave him alone for many hours every day.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Ragamuffins are generally healthy, but be sure to ask a breeder about the incidence of health problems in her lines and what testing has been done for any that are genetic in nature. It's also smart not to let this big cat overeat. He is large, to be sure, but he shouldn't be fat. It's a good idea to monitor your cat for the following common ailments: Polycystic Kidney Disease: Patellar Luxation:

**Coat:** The Ragamuffin's breed standard describes him as a cuddly feline teddy bear. He is characterized by his large size, large walnut-shaped eyes that can be any color, sweet expression, and variety of colors and patterns. One of the interesting facts about the breed is that kittens are born white, then develop their color or pattern as they mature. Some of the differences between the Ragamuffin and the Ragdoll are seen in the face. For instance, the Ragamuffin has full cheeks and the eyes are walnut-shaped rather than oval. The Ragamuffin has a broad, modified-wedge-shaped head with a rounded appearance. It's supported by a short, heavy, strong neck that is especially apparent in males. Mature males are known for their jowls, giving them something of the look of a crusty old brigadier general. The broad-chested body is muscular and heavy, often with a pad of fat on the lower abdomen. A long, fully furred tail looks as if it would make a nice, soft bottlebrush. Medium to medium-long fur is rabbit soft, dense and silky. It's slightly longer around the neck, on the sides and belly, and on the hind legs. The paws and ears are furnished with tufts of fur as well. The coat comes in every color and pattern. This is a large cat, and they mature slowly, not reaching their full size until they are four years old.

**Friendship:** The calm and even-tempered Ragamuffin is an ideal family cat. He doesn't mind being held or carried around by a child or dressed up and pushed in a baby buggy. He is playful and smart, one of those cats who enjoys playing fetch and learning tricks, and his energy level means he won't wear out before the child does. Always teach children how to hold the cat properly, supporting both the hind end and the front end, and have little children pet him while they are sitting on the floor or on a sofa so they can be on the same level as the cat without trying to hold him. After all, he may weigh more than they do. The Ragamuffin is also friendly toward other pets, including dogs, other cats, birds, rodents and lizards. To this gentle giant, everyone is his friend. Nonetheless, it's always a good idea to introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Ragamuffin's soft coat is long, but its texture is tangle-resistant. Weekly brushing or combing is all that's needed to remove dead hairs and keep it looking beautiful. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp



cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. The Ragamuffin has a fearless personality, so it's never a good idea to let him go outside. He has no notion that other people or animals might mean him harm and is not "street smart" in the least. Ragamuffins who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Russian Blue

General: The Russian Blue's elegant yet muscular body led one cat judge to declare him the "Doberman Pinscher of cats." With their striking appearance and enchanting personalities, these cats have captured the hearts of cat lovers worldwide. These alluring felines have an elegant, silvery-blue coat, bright green eyes, and gentle nature. Undoubtedly, this breed is steeped in history and mystique, and they are cherished companions in homes around the globe. Beyond their bold appearance, Russian Blues are known for their sweet and loving nature. They are shy around strangers but form deep bonds with their human families. These cats thrive on companionship, and their gentle nature makes them excellent pets for families, singles, and seniors alike. When considering a Russian Blue, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Russian Blue breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Russian Blue cats are generally considered a medium-sized breed with a slim and elegant build. Russian Blue cats typically weigh between 7 to 15 pounds (3.2 to 6.8 kilograms). Males are often larger and heavier than females, but there can be variations within the breed. They have a slender and graceful body with fine bones and well-defined muscles. Their bodies are not bulky, and their frame is sleek and streamlined. Russian Blues are of average height for a domestic cat breed. They usually stand about 9 to 10 inches (23 to 25 centimeters) tall at the shoulder. They have a long, slender tail that tapers to a fine point. The tail complements their overall elegant appearance. Russian Blues may appear slightly larger due to their luxurious, plush fur, but underneath the coat, their bodies are relatively compact. It's important to note that individual Russian Blue cats can vary in size, just like any other breed.

Personality: The Russian Blue has a reputation as a gentle, quiet cat, somewhat shy, but don't get the wrong idea. This cat may have a reserved nature, but he loves to play (being especially fond of retrieving) and enjoys jumping or

climbing to high places where he can study people and situations at his leisure before making up his mind about whether he wants to get involved. Guests will not receive his immediate attention and may never see him unless he decides they are worthy of his notice, but toward family members, especially his favored person, he is ever loyal, following them through the house and even riding on a shoulder. The Russian Blue is a sensitive cat who doesn't like to be ignored and will be hurt if he doesn't receive the same amount of affection he gives. Lack of attention can cause him to become anxious or fearful. While the Russian Blue loves your company, he is capable of entertaining himself during the day while you are at work. Unlike some active, intelligent breeds, he is not destructive but moves through the house with the lithe grace of a Russian ballerina. When you are at home, his subtle sense of humor and manual dexterity will never fail to entertain. Just make sure you laugh with him, not at him. He has a strong sense of self-worth and doesn't like being made fun of. This is a cat who does best in a quiet, stable environment. He doesn't like change, and it's especially important to him that meals arrive on time. Count on him to be a faithful alarm clock in the morning, not so you don't miss work but so he doesn't miss a meal. If you take the time to develop a relationship with a Russian Blue, your reward will be a deep bond with this loving cat.

**Health:** Russian Blue cats are generally a healthy breed, but like all cat breeds, they can be prone to certain health issues. It's important to note that not all Russian Blues will develop these problems, and many can live long, healthy lives with proper care. Here are some health issues that Russian Blue cats may be predisposed to: **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM):** HCM is a common heart condition in cats, including Russian Blues. It involves the thickening of the heart muscles, which can affect the heart's ability to function properly. Regular veterinary check-ups and echocardiograms can help detect and manage HCM. **Respiratory Infections:** Russian Blues may be more susceptible to upper respiratory infections, such as feline herpesvirus (FHV) and feline calicivirus (FCV). These infections can cause symptoms like sneezing, coughing, and eye discharge. **Urinary Tract Issues:** Russian Blues may be at a slightly higher risk of urinary tract issues like urinary tract infections (UTIs) or urinary crystals. Ensuring they have access to fresh water and feeding them a balanced diet can help reduce the risk. **Obesity:** Obesity can be a concern for Russian Blues, as they enjoy eating and may become overweight if their diet is not controlled. Maintaining a healthy weight through proper portion control and exercise is essential.

**Coat:** The Russian Blue's elegant yet muscular body led one cat judge to proclaim him the "Doberman Pinscher of cats." He has what's called a semi-foreign body type, meaning it is moderate in shape, falling somewhere between the short, compact body of breeds such as Persians and the sleek angles of Oriental breeds such as the Siamese. The Cat Fanciers Association breed standard for the Russian Blue calls for him to have a head that is a smooth, medium-size wedge shape with a blunt muzzle. The broad wedge of the head and its flat skull are often described as cobra-like, although that is much too dangerous a

description for this sweet-natured cat. Regal is perhaps a better term. Large ears are wide at the base with pointed tips, the interior lined with thin, translucent skin, and rounded vivid green eyes are set wide apart. A long, slender neck segues into high shoulder blades and a fine-boned body that is firm and muscular, covered with a short, thick double coat with a plush texture, often described as similar to that of a seal or beaver. If you were to run your fingers through a Russian Blue's coat, the patterns they made would remain until they were petted smooth. The body is supported by long, fine-boned legs set on small, slightly rounded paws with pads that are a pinky lavender or mauve shade. The tail is long but in proportion to the body. The Russian Blue stands out for his coat color. To the uninformed, he might look gray, but in cat show terms he is an even, bright blue with silver-tipped hairs that make him seem to glisten. Some Russian Blue kittens are born with "ghost stripes," a reminder of the tabby gene that all cats carry, even if it isn't expressed in their coat, but these generally fade, leaving the cat with the solid blue coat of maturity. You might think that a Russian Blue would only come in blue, and in CFA that is true, but other cat associations have more liberal breed standards. In Australia and New Zealand, the cats are called "Russians" and come in white and black as well as the traditional blue. The American Cat Fanciers Association permits black Russians.

**Friendship:** Russian Blues have a tolerant nature toward children who treat them kindly and respectfully. They will even put up with the clumsy pats given by toddlers, as if they recognize that no harm is meant, and if necessary they will walk away or climb out of reach to escape being bonked on the head. That said, the patient and gentle Russian Blue should always be protected from rough treatment, so always supervise very young children when they want to pet the cat. The Russian Blue is also accepting of other animals, including dogs, as long as they aren't chased or menaced by them. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Russian Blue's dense coat should be combed twice a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. A bath when the cat is shedding will help to remove excess hair more quickly. Keep the Russian Blue's litter box spotlessly clean. He is very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Russian Blue as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Russian Blues who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Savannah

**General:** The Savannah cat, a striking breed, stands as a testament to the intriguing intersection of wild and domestic feline worlds. Born from the crossbreeding of a domestic Siamese cat and a Serval, a medium-sized wild African

cat, the Savannah cat captivates enthusiasts with its unique appearance, intelligence, and playful personality. This unique feline brings a touch of the untamed to the comforts of home. Characterized by its sleek, spotted coat bringing to mind its serval heritage, large ears, and a unique wildcat-like appearance, the Savannah is a breed that embodies the essence of the wild while still having an affectionate and social nature. The International Cat Association (TICA) recognizes various generations of Savannah cats, each reflecting the degree of serval ancestry, and these cats have gained popularity for their striking physical features and engaging personalities. When considering a Savannah, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Savannah breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Savannah is typically described as a medium-size breed, however. Her weight can range from 8 to 20 pounds, sometimes more. Males are larger than females.

**Personality:** If you want to live with a sweet, quiet lap cat, don't get a Savannah. This is an active, adventurous feline who enjoys life in the fast lane. Her athletic body allows her to jump to very high places, and her questing spirit leads her to take well to walks on leash, seek out water to play in, and thoroughly explore her surroundings. This is a confident, alert, curious, and friendly cat. While some cats are retiring sorts, most Savannahs are gracious hosts who will greet your guests with aplomb, as well as close companions who will want to spend time interacting with you. Be sure you have a well-developed sense of humor if you live with one of these cats; they are not above playing jokes on you. It takes a highly intelligent person to outwit a Savannah. You may need to switch faucet styles to prevent them from turning on their own private waterworks, or attach childproof locks to keep them out of cabinets. Don't forget to protect breakables. Put them away where the Savannah can't knock them over as she makes one of her famous leaps, and ensure electrical cords are protected from gnawing kittens. Provide a Savannah with toys that will stand up to rough play and interactive games that will challenge her mind. To live happily with a Savannah, plan to spend plenty of time interacting with her. Be sure she has interesting toys to occupy her when you're not around. Reward her when she does things you like, and redirect her energy and interests when she does things you don't like. Protect special belongings by putting them out of reach. If all of this sounds like too much work, choose a different cat.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The Savannah is generally healthy, however, and does not have any known genetic problems. Cosmetic

flaws may keep some Savannahs out of the show ring, but they don't affect his health or his ability to be a great companion.

**Coat:** Savannahs come in several different colors and patterns: black, brown, or black spotted tabby; black silver spotted tabby; and black smoke. Most have solid black or dark brown spots on golden, cream, sandy, or white backgrounds. They stand out for their bold, solid markings, which can be round, oval, or elongated. Some Savannahs have what's called a marble pattern, in which the spots resemble an elongated bull's-eye. Because domestic shorthairs figured in their ancestry, some Savannahs come in colors and patterns that aren't described in the breed standard, including chocolate, cinnamon, blue, red, and colorpoint. Savannahs that are non-standard colors can be registered but not shown. The Savannah's triangular head is supported by a long neck and topped by large, wide ears. The medium-size eyes can be any color. Nose leather ranges from pink to black, but black Savannahs must have solid black nose leather. A Savannah has a medium-length tail. If she were an athlete, the tall and lean Savannah would be heavily recruited by all the best basketball teams. Her unusual height comes from her long-legged serval ancestor. It takes a Savannah approximately three years to reach adult size. A kitten who looks average in size may rocket up in height after she's 3 months old. She usually achieves his height in the first year and then her body fills out over the next couple of years. Interesting fact: the back legs are slightly longer than the front legs.

**Friendship:** The active and social Savannah is a good choice for families with older children and cat-friendly dogs. She likes to play, learns tricks easily, is often willing to walk on leash, and appreciates the attention she receives from children who treat her politely and with respect. If you are away during the day, it's probably a good idea to provide your Savannah with a companion: Another Savannah, another cat breed, or even a dog. Most Savannahs get along well with dogs, especially if they were raised with them. Otherwise, a period of adjustment may be necessary for both Savannah and dog. Introduce them gradually, and ensure they are both always under control until you are sure that they have come to an amicable understanding. With other cats, Savannahs do best with breeds who either have a similar personality and activity level — such as Abyssinians, Siamese, or Oriental Shorthairs — or more laid-back cats such as Maine Coons, Ragdolls, or domestic shorthairs who will just yawn good-naturedly as they watch the Savannah swing on the chandelier. Some pets aren't safe in the presence of this stealthy cat. Think twice about getting a Savannah if you have pet birds; pocket pets such as hamsters, mice, guinea pigs, or rats; or an aquarium full of fish. The Savannah is a very fine hunter and can probably get past any safeguards that you attempt to put up.

**Care:** Brush a Savannah's short to medium-length coat once or twice a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. It's a good idea to provide a Savannah with a large outdoor enclosure or to keep her as an indoor-only cat to prevent diseases spread by other cats, attacks by

dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors (such as being hit by a car). Savannahs who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have a unique and beautiful cat without paying for it. Be aware some cities or states have laws against keeping hybrid or exotic animals. While the cats registered with TICA are considered fully domestic, a first- or second-generation Savannah (meaning one who has a serval as a parent or grandparent) may face restrictions. Check the laws in your area before purchasing any Savannah that could fall under laws governing hybrids. Check the Hybrid Law for more information.

Name: Scottish Fold

General: There is nothing a Scottish Fold—named for their folded ears—likes better than to be with their people, participating in whatever they are doing. As the name implies, Scottish Folds come from Scotland, and they can all trace their ancestry back to a barn cat named Susie who had folded ears and worked as a mouser. These cats are sensitive, expressive, and active. They love to play and are not the best cats to leave home alone. They prefer a companion—even another cat—to keep them company. If you can provide this loving feline with the attention they crave and keep up with their needs, they just might be the new furry family member you’re looking for. It’s important to remember that cats of any breed can suffer from health issues throughout their lives. A good pet insurance plan can help you prepare to give your cat the care they need at any age. [Click here to get a pet insurance plan for your Scottish Fold!](#) See all Scottish Fold cat breed characteristics and facts below!

Size: Overall, the Scottish Fold is a medium-sized cat with a compact build. Females tend to be about six to nine pounds in weight, while males tend to be about nine to 13 pounds. Many cats may be smaller or larger than average.

Personality: After their ears, the first thing you will notice about a Scottish Fold is their habit of posing in odd positions—flat out on the floor like a little frog, sitting up for all the world as if they were a meerkat on a nature program, or lying on their back, paws up in the air. And although you might assume that their ears are less mobile than those of other cats, such is not the case. Scottish Folds use those ears to communicate quite effectively, adding comments in a quiet, chirpy voice when necessary. This is a smart, moderately active cat. The Scottish Fold enjoys teaser toys that test their agility and puzzle toys that challenge their intelligence. Their favorite activities include anything that involves human interaction. There is nothing a Scottish Fold likes better than to be with their people, participating in whatever they are doing. They’re a sweet cat who enjoys attention. The last thing they want is to be left alone for hours on end, so they’re not the best choice unless someone is home during the day or you can give them the company of another cat. Rest assured, however, that they will expect you to play with them when you get home from work or school—or at least sit down so they can get in a little lap time or curl up next to you while you watch television.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. A typical lifespan is 15 years. Problems that may affect the Scottish Fold include the following: Degenerative joint disease, especially in the tail but also in the ankle and knee joints, causing pain or poor mobility. It's important to handle the tail carefully if it has developed stiffness. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a form of heart disease, has been seen in the breed, but it has not yet been proven to be a heritable form of the disease. Regardless of how healthy your cat is when you first bring them home, you should prepare for any issues that may come up throughout their life. A pet insurance plan can help you stay ready for any of your cat's veterinary needs. [Click here to find a pet insurance plan for your Scottish Fold!](#)

**Coat:** With the way their small ears fit like a cap over their rounded head, the Scottish Fold is often described as resembling an owl. The ears range in appearance from a single fold, bent forward about halfway up the ear, to a double fold, somewhat tighter, and the triple fold, lying tight to the head, which is desirable for show cats. Kittens are born with straight ears, which may or may not fold when they are about three weeks old. Wide open eyes gaze out at the world with a sweet expression. The medium-size body is also rounded, completed by a medium to long tail that sometimes ends in a rounded tip. A shorthaired Fold has a dense, plush coat with a soft texture. The longhaired variety has medium-long to long fur with britches (longer fur on the upper thighs), toe tufts, a plumed tail, and tufts of fur on the ears. They may also have a ruff around the neck. The Scottish Fold comes in a number of colors and patterns, including solid, tabby, tabby and white, bicolor, and particolor. Eye color depends on coat color. For instance, white and bicolor cats can have blue eyes or odd eyes (where each eye is a different color).

**Friendship:** The friendly, laidback Scottish Fold is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. They love the attention they receive from children who treat them politely and with respect, and they like to play and are capable of learning tricks. They're happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to their amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** Comb the Scottish Fold's coat weekly to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. A longhaired Fold may need to be groomed a couple of times a week to ensure that tangles don't develop. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly, especially if they are tightly folded. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Scottish Fold's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will help to keep the

coat clean, as well. It's a good idea to keep a Scottish Fold as an indoor-only cat to protect them from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Scottish Folds who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Selkirk Rex

General: The Selkirk Rex is a unique and charming cat breed known for its distinctive curly coat and friendly personality. Tolerant and affectionate, the Selkirk is not always a lap cat, but he likes people and other animals. The most defining feature is its curly coat, which can vary in length from short to long. The curls are soft, plush, and appear all over the body, including the whiskers and eyebrows. These cats are known for their friendly and affectionate nature. They are social, outgoing, and people-oriented. In summary, these cats are known for their unique and eye-catching curly coat, as well as their friendly and adaptable personalities. If you're looking for a cat with a distinctive appearance and a loving disposition, the Selkirk Rex might be an excellent choice for your family. When considering a Selkirk Rex, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Selkirk Rex breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: These cats weigh 10 to 15 pounds.

Personality: The Selkirk is the relaxed Rex. His Persian and British Shorthair ancestors give him a placid, cuddly nature, but he is more active than those breeds and likes to play. People who live with him describe him as sweet and endearing, with a bit of a silly streak. Tolerant and affectionate, the Selkirk is not always a lap cat, but he likes people and other animals. With his sociable nature, he dislikes being left alone for long periods. Keep this fun-loving cat entertained with a fishing-pole toy or flashlight beam, and he will be thrilled. Ignore him at your peril. He won't hesitate to demand attention in a small, quiet voice if he feels that he's not getting his due.

Health: Selkirk Rex cats are generally considered a healthy breed, but like all cat breeds, they can be prone to certain health issues. Responsible breeding practices can help reduce the likelihood of genetic health problems. Here are some health issues that Selkirk Rex cats may be predisposed to: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD): Some Selkirk Rex cats may be at risk of developing PKD, a genetic disorder that leads to the formation of cysts in the kidneys. Routine veterinary check-ups and kidney function testing can help monitor and manage this condition. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM): HCM is a common heart



condition in cats, and Selkirk Rex cats can be susceptible to it, just like other breeds. Regular cardiac screenings by a veterinarian can help detect and manage HCM. Respiratory Infections: Selkirk Rex cats, like other breeds, can be prone to respiratory infections, such as feline herpesvirus (FHV) and feline calicivirus (FCV). These infections can cause sneezing, coughing, and eye discharge. Skin Conditions: While the curly coat of Selkirk Rex cats is their defining feature, it can also make them more susceptible to skin issues, including matting and dermatitis. Regular grooming and skin care are important to prevent skin problems.

Coat: Imagine a medium-size to large cat with a heavy-boned but muscular body, a rounded head, and a soft, woolly coat of loose curls that can be short or long in any of a multitude of colors. That's the Selkirk Rex. Kittens come out curly, go through a straight stage during adolescence, then mature into plush, dense clumps of curls when they are about two years old. The Selkirk's facial characteristics include full cheeks—males are downright jowly—broad-based medium-size ears, sometimes with curly furnishings, and large rounded eyes that give a sweet expression. The difference in coat length may not be immediately obvious without first observing the ruff and tail. Shorthairs have a ruff that is the same length as the fur on the rest of the body and plush curls on the tail that lie compactly. A longhaired Selkirk has a longer ruff that frames the face and plummy curls on the tail that stand out rather than lying demurely in place. With either length, the coat may appear most curly around the neck and on the belly and tail. The coat comes in any genetically possible color or combination of colors. If it's possible for a cat to be purple polka-dotted, you will find a Selkirk in that pattern. The eyes, too, can be any color.

Friendship: The gentle but social Selkirk Rex is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The Selkirk Rex has a dense coat that should be combed a couple of times a week to prevent or remove tangles. Selkirks do shed, so regular combing also removes dead hair that would otherwise end up on your clothing or furniture or hacked up as hairballs. Gently running your fingers through his coat will help fluff up the curls, just about the easiest styling you can do. A bath is rarely necessary, but if your Selkirk gets dirty, use a moisturizing shampoo and let him air dry for a few hours in a warm, draft-free place. Using a blow dryer will give him an appearance more like that of a Poodle. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes daily with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all

cats, Selkirk Rex are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Selkirk Rex as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Selkirk Rex who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it.

Name: Siamese

General: Siamese cats are a beautiful and iconic breed known for their striking blue almond-shaped eyes, short coat, and distinctive color-point pattern. They thrive in loving and interactive environments where their need for attention and mental stimulation is met. As loyal and affectionate companions, Siamese cats bring joy and charm to households lucky enough to have them. Siamese cats thrive on mental and physical stimulation, enjoying interactive play sessions and puzzles that challenge their agile minds. They also form strong bonds with their loved ones and are known to be affectionate and loyal companions. Because of their social nature, Siamese cats often get along well with other pets and children. However, they can become anxious if left alone for long periods, so providing them with company and attention is crucial for their well-being. When considering a Siamese, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Siamese kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Siamese breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Siamese cats are generally of medium size, with a slender and elegant build. Adult male Siamese cats typically weigh between 11-15 pounds, while adult females usually weigh between 8-12 pounds.

Personality: "We are Siamese if you please. We are Siamese if you don't please." Those lines, sung by two haughty Siamese cats in Disney's *Lady and the Tramp*, express the Siamese personality perfectly. Perhaps the most important thing to know about these cats is they are talkative and opinionated. They will tell you exactly what they think, in a loud, raspy voice, and they expect you to pay attention and act on their advice. Siamese cats are extremely fond of their people. They like to be "helpful" and will follow you around and supervise your every move. When you are sitting down, a Siamese will be in your lap, and at night he will be in bed with you, probably under the covers with his head on the pillow. Do not get a Siamese if living with a chatty busybody would drive you insane. On the other hand, if you enjoy having someone to talk to throughout the day, the Siamese can be your best friend. Just be sure you have time to spend with this demanding and social cat. Siamese do not like being left alone for long periods, and if you work during the day it can be smart to get two of

them so they can keep each other company. The Siamese is highly intelligent, agile, athletic, and loves to play. Keep his busy brain active with puzzle toys and his body exercised with teaser toys he can chase and a big cat tree he can climb. Never leave him without any form of entertainment, or you will likely come home to find that he has reprogrammed your DVR to record only nature shows or at the very least decided your toilet paper rolls and tissue boxes look better empty. Choose a Siamese cat if you look forward to spending time with and interacting with your cat. This is a loyal and loving feline who will pout and pine if given little or no attention. In the right home, however, he thrives for years.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the Siamese include the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in Siamese. **Asthma:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial disease or feline asthma, is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways. It is a common condition in cats and can affect felines of any age or breed **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats refer to abnormalities in the structure or function of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can vary in severity and may affect different parts of the heart. While some congenital heart defects may not cause significant health problems, others can lead to serious complications.

**Coat:** What the Siamese looks like depends on the breed standard of each particular organization. Most cat associations call for the Siamese to have a svelte but muscular body with long lines. The wedge-shaped head is long and tapering from the narrow point of the nose outward to the tips of the ears, forming a triangle. The unusually large ears are wide at the base, pointed at the tip, giving them the same triangular shape as the head. Medium-size almond-shaped eyes are always a deep vivid blue. The body is often described as tubular and is supported by long, slim legs, with the hind legs higher than the front legs. The Siamese walks on small, dainty, oval paws and swishes a long, thin tail that tapers to a fine point. The short coat of the Siamese has a fine texture. In the Cat Fanciers Association, it comes in four colors: seal point, a pale fawn to cream body with deep seal brown points and deep brown nose leather and paw pads; chocolate point, an ivory body with milk chocolate-colored points and cinnamon-pink nose leather and paw pads; blue point, a bluish-white body with deep blue points and slate-colored nose leather and paw pads; and lilac point, a glacial white body with frosty pinky-gray points and lavender-pink nose leather and paw pads. The International Cat Association allows for a range of colors beyond the four point colors recognized by CFA. They include tabby points, red points, cream points, silver tabby points, smoke points and particolor points. The Traditional Cat Association recognizes two types of Siamese, the Traditional and the Classic, both with a very different look than the modern Siamese recognized by CFA, TICA and other cat associations. The TCA's Traditional Siamese has a round head and a big-boned, rounded

body. The TCA's Classic Siamese is also big-boned but has a slightly more elongated body than the Traditional Siamese and a wide wedge-shaped head. They come in the same four colors recognized by CFA, plus albino. What about the Thai? The TICA breed standard calls for it to have modified wedge-shaped head of medium width with rounded cheeks and a muzzle that tapers to a rounded end, much like a tapered garden spade. The head is longer than it is wide, but not to an extreme degree. The eyes have a full almond shape and the ears are medium size to slightly large, with the tip pointing outward at a slight angle. The lithe, graceful body is moderately long but not tubular. Medium-length legs are graceful and are supported by medium-size oval-shaped paws. The tail is as long as the torso, tapering at the tip. The coat is short and silky with a pale, off-white body color and dense, even point colors.

Friendship: The active and social Siamese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect.

Care: The short, fine coat of the Siamese is easily cared for with weekly combing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. It's a good idea to keep a Siamese as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Siamese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Singapura

General: The Singapura cat breed is a small and charming feline known for its distinctive appearance and affectionate personality. Originating from Singapore, these cats are one of the smallest domestic cat breeds, with adult females weighing around 4 to 6 pounds and males ranging from 6 to 8 pounds. Their coat is short and fine, featuring a warm, sepia-toned coloration with a unique pattern that resembles "ticking," giving them a speckled appearance. What sets the Singapura apart are their large, expressive eyes, which contribute to their endearing and sweet expression. In addition to their physical characteristics, Singapura cats showcase an affectionate and people-oriented nature. Additionally, they form strong bonds with their human companions. Despite their small size, they are energetic and playful with a curious and intelligent disposition. Singapuras often get along well with other pets and children, making them an excellent choice for families. Their vocalizations are soft and gentle, reflecting their social nature. They easily adapt to various living environments, thriving equally in apartments or houses. When considering a Singapura, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. It's also important to conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their

cats. Reputable Singapura breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Singapura weighs 4 to 8 pounds.

**Personality:** The tiny Singapura has a tiny little voice, but this mischievous and active cat makes his presence known in other ways: chasing small balls down the hall, tapdancing on keyboards, climbing curtains or anything else that will place him on high, or jumping on your shoulder as you walk by to go for a ride. He retains his playfulness well into adulthood. The Singapura loves people and isn't shy about meeting people. He likes being a lap cat and is an excellent bedwarmer on cold winter nights. Despite his busy nature, he is a gentle friend who will put aside his activities to keep you company when you're feeling under the weather. The rest of the time? Watch out — he is as curious as cats come and will be into anything that looks interesting. The Singapura does best in a home where he will have plenty of company — human or animal.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Singapuras are generally healthy, but one problem that might occur in the breed is: Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency: Known as PKD for short (not to be confused with polycystic kidney disease in Persians), the inherited genetic disease is caused by a deficiency of an enzyme important for red blood cell energy metabolism and results in hemolytic anemia. A test is available that can determine whether a cat is affected, a carrier, or clear of the disease. Fortunately, Singapuras with PKD can usually live a normal life.

**Coat:** The Singapura has three distinguishing characteristics: his small size of 4 to 8 pounds, big eyes and ears for his size, and his sepia-toned coat that gives him the look of having stepped out of a 19th-century photograph. The short, fine coat has a silky texture. Its color is called sepia agouti, described as dark-brown ticking on a background color that resembles warm old ivory. Each hair has at least two bands of dark ticking separated by light bands, ending with a dark tip. The fur on the muzzle, chin, chest and belly are the color of unbleached muslin. On the face, the Singapura looks as if he's been playing in the makeup box, with dark lines extending from his brows and the outside corners of his hazel, green or yellow eyes, dark lines extending downward from the inner corner of the eyes along the bridge of the nose — called cheetah lines — and dark brown lines around the eyes, lips and nose. In contrast, his nose leather is a pale to dark salmon color, and his paw pads are rosy brown. The Singapura may be small, but he's by no means delicate. His body is stocky and muscular, and his neck is short and thick. Heavily muscled legs taper to small, short, oval feet. His tail is short and slender with a dark tip.

**Friendship:** The Singapura is playful and smart and can be a good friend to a child who treats him nicely. He's one of those cats who enjoys playing fetch and learning tricks, and his energy level means he won't wear out before the child

does. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together. Singapuras usually get along well with other animals and seem to prefer living with some kind of company, not thriving when left alone all day.

Care: The Singapura's short, smooth coat is easy to care for with a quick weekly combing. Polishing it with a chamois will make it shine. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Singapura as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Singapuras who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Snowshoe

General: The Snowshoe cat is a beautiful breed, celebrated for their striking appearance and engaging personality. This breed is a relatively recent addition to the popular cat world, originating in the 1960s when Siamese breeders introduced a new crossbreeding program. Snowshoes showcase short, sleek coats, which come in a variety of colors, but the classic pattern includes a mostly white body with color points on the ears, face, paws, and tail. One of the most notable features of the Snowshoe cat is the distinctive "snowshoe" pattern on their paws, which resembles the markings left by a snowshoe in the snow. This breed is also known for their affectionate and social nature. They often form strong bonds with their human companions. Snowshoes are typically vocal and enjoy interactive play, making them well-suited for families and individuals seeking an engaging and loving feline companion. When considering a Snowshoe, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Snowshoe breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats. They also conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This medium-size cat weighs 9 to 12 pounds. Females are smaller, weighing 7 to 10 pounds, although some approach the size if not the heft of males.

**Personality:** The Snowshoe is a unique individual who is always interesting to live with. A Snowshoe may be the bossy master or mistress of the home, the feline “Mom” who’s always checking in on you, the entertaining clown, or the needy best friend. In whatever guise she comes, you can expect her to be smart, active, and affectionate, although she may take her time warming up to visitors. A Snowshoe usually chooses a favorite person in the family, but she maintains cordial relationships with everyone. She stays close to the favored person and can often be seen leading them to something of the Snowshoe’s interest. Snowshoes are smart and will often learn to open doors or perform tricks, including running feline agility courses. They like to play fetch, may walk on leash, and enjoy dabbling in running water. Some even take to swimming. This is an active cat who can often be found perching on top of the refrigerator or some other vantage point from where he can survey all that’s going on. Thanks to their Siamese heritage, Snowshoes tend to be “talkers.” Fortunately, they have a soft, melodic voice that’s easy on the ears. Plan to carry on many interesting conversations with your Snowshoe; she’ll want to know all about your day, how you feel about the local school board election, and whether you think dinner will be soon. He won’t hesitate to register any complaints with you about her meals or accommodations, but this sweet-tempered cat knows you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. Snowshoes are mellow and generally get along with other pets, including dogs. That said, it’s certainly possible to end up with one who prefers to be the center of your world and will do best as an only cat. Choose a Snowshoe if you will enjoy spending time with and interacting with your cat. A Snowshoe likes company and would prefer not to be home alone all day. If you work long hours, she’ll appreciate having a feline or canine friend.

**Health:** Both pedigreed and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. The Snowshoe is generally healthy, however. Occasionally, a Snowshoe may have a kink in her tail or crossed eyes — vestiges of her Siamese ancestry — but those cosmetic flaws don’t affect her health or ability to be a great companion. These are common cat issues that may arise, but not specific to the Snowshoe: **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM):** HCM is the most common heart condition in cats, and Snowshoe cats can be susceptible. It’s essential to have regular veterinary check-ups, including cardiac evaluations, to monitor and manage heart health. **Kidney Disease:** Chronic kidney disease is a common concern in older cats, and Snowshoe cats are no exception. Regular veterinary check-ups can help monitor kidney function. **Respiratory Problems:** Snowshoe cats, with their Siamese ancestry, may be more susceptible to upper respiratory infections and related issues. Proper vaccination and maintaining good overall health can help reduce the risk of respiratory problems.

**Coat:** The Snowshoe has a short, smooth coat that’s easy to care for. Snowshoe kittens are born white. Their points (dark or patterned areas of fur on the tail, legs, head, and ears) begin to develop when they are a few weeks old and darken as the kitten matures. The body is usually a light cream color ranging to beige or tan with seal or blue points. Other point colors such as chocolate

or lilac are difficult to produce and rarely seen. Those colors also provide little contrast with the white paws. Paw pads and nose leather can be pink; the same color as the points; or a combination of the two. Because the Snowshoe's pattern is recessive and involves several gene factors, it's difficult to consistently achieve the desired look. No cat has perfect markings. Those who come closest to the ideal — the ones you'll see in the show ring — have an inverted white "V" between the eyes and over the muzzle, two white mittens in the front and two white boots in the back. The more symmetrical the markings, the better. Markings that are acceptable but not preferred include a blaze on the face or white markings on the chin, throat, and stomach. It's best if all four feet are solid white with dark points separating the white foot color from the light body color. White that goes too high or too low on the leg or face is a flaw and may put a kitten into the "pet quality" category depending on her other qualities. In a perfect world, a Snowshoe won't have spots of the point color in the white areas or white streaks (called runners) going from the white areas into the points. A Snowshoe glances at you with large, wide eyes of sparkling blue. The eyes are described as walnut-shaped: larger and rounder than the Siamese eye, but not as round as the eye of a Persian. The rectangular body is firm and muscular, but never bulky. The Snowshoe resembles a runner, not a wrestler, but is more powerful than she looks. When you pick her up, you may be surprised at how substantial she feels. Medium-large ears top the slightly rounded head, which should be as wide as it is long. Medium-size paws are oval and taper to the toes.

**Friendship:** The active and social Snowshoe is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. She will play fetch as well as any Retriever, learns tricks easily, and appreciates the attention she receives from children who treat her politely and with respect.

**Care:** Brush a Snowshoe's short coat once or twice a week to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. It's a good idea to keep a Snowshoe as an indoor-only cat to protect her from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Snowshoes who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have a unique and beautiful cat without paying for it.

**Name:** Sokoke

**General:** The Sokoke cat is known for its distinctive appearance, charming personality, and fascinating origin. Hailing from the coastal region of Kenya, East Africa, these cats have garnered attention for their wild appearance, resembling the elusive African wildcat. Despite this, they maintain the endearing qualities of a domestic companion. The origins of the Sokoke cat trace back to the Arabuko Sokoke Forest, a coastal reserve in Kenya. Believed to have lived in the wild for centuries, these cats adapted to their natural environment, developing the distinctive coat pattern that helps them blend into the dappled sunlight and foliage



of their native habitat. While they were once considered a rare and indigenous treasure, efforts to preserve and protect the breed have led to their introduction to the international cat community. When considering a Sokoke, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Sokoke kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Sokoke breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Sokoke is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Sokokes weigh in at six to ten pounds. Many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** In terms of the Sokoke's overall personality, this is a feline who's often compared to a dog. That means the breed is adept at being trained to learn tricks and will even have fun playing fetch games. Oh, and just like many canines, the Sokoke is often fond of playing with water! Sokokes also have a reputation for being very loyal to the people they live with and often like to stick close to wherever the family is, whether that's for lounging sessions or play times. You'll need to ensure that your cat isn't alone for long periods of the day. This breed does best in a busy family environment where there's always someone available for company or fun. As a final consideration, be aware that the Sokoke likes to be active and is very inquisitive, so you'll need to provide a living space where they can climb around to satisfy their instincts.

**Health:** Sokokes are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's always important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Sokoke, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Sokoke has a short coat, and their fur is usually described as being thin. They sport a brown tabby pattern that many owners like to say looks like the bark of a tree. When it comes to grooming, the Sokoke is a low maintenance cat. Brushing the feline once a week should suffice and will help lessen the chances of any mats taking root. In terms of climate, most Sokoke cats definitely prefer a hotter rather than a colder environment. You should also always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Sokoke is generally a really good fit for families with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured Sokoke usually fares well with many domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these

relationships are very much dependent on the individuals' pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Sokoke for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Sokoke's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Sokoke cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The cat's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Sokoke. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, because the Sokoke is a cat with lots of energy, it's recommended that you add at least one cat tree to your home. This is also a cat who takes well to being walked on a leash, but make sure you take appropriate safety steps before adding the activity to your cat's routine.

**Name:** Suphalak

**General:** The Suphalak cat is a rare natural cat breed, developing without the need for human intervention. These felines are confident, active and loyal. The Suphalak cat also goes by the name Thong Daeng in its native Thailand, which means "copper colored." While they may resemble other chocolate brown cat breeds, the Suphalak cat has been around for many centuries. With their lively personalities, Suphalak cats practically beg for attention and hate empty laps. An active household is always the best household for a Suphalak. They love attention and interactive play, so the Suphalak cat is perfect if you're looking for a curious cat to keep you company. When considering a Suphalak cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Suphalak kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Suphalak cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Suphalak is a medium cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Suphalaks weigh around 15 pounds.

**Personality:** When you live with a Suphalak, you'll instantly notice just what a confident, out-going and people-friendly cat this is. The breed is often called dog-like for the way it will follow around the humans in its life and always wants to be where the action is. Naturally, this is a kitty that does well in a busy and active home, especially if there are children around who can become play buddies. On the other hand, the Suphalak is such a social cat breed that they do not fare

well being left alone for long periods of the day—in fact, behaviour and boredom issues might develop. So make sure you can provide enough companionship for the cat. The Suphalak also has a strong playful streak so you'll want to make sure the cat's living environment has a cat tree and safe scalable furniture, along with smart and interactive cat toys.

**Health:** Suphalaks are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Suphalak, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Suphalak is a cat that sports a brown or copper colored coat, sometimes with a little bit of a red tint going on. When it comes to grooming, the short-haired Suphalak cat is pretty low maintenance and will be good with weekly brushing sessions. This will help ward off the chances of any mats forming. Although ask your vet for tips if you find that your Suphalak doesn't take to sitting still and being brushed at first. In terms of climate, most Suphalaks are fairly adaptable felines. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Suphalak is an excellent fit for families with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the confident Suphalak usually fares well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets—sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Suphalak for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Suphalak's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Suphalak cat's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is especially important for such a playful kitty like the Suphalak. The cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Suphalak. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, this is definitely a cat breed that will appreciate a good cat tree to play and interact with!

**Name:** Thai

**General:** The Thai Cat, also known as the “Wichien Maat” in their home country, is a graceful and elegant breed originating from Thailand. This cat is closely related to the traditional Siamese, sharing similar physical features and a rich cultural history. The Thai Cat is characterized by its sleek, short coat, which can come in various color points, typically with a darker color on the

ears, face, paws, and tail. Their almond-shaped blue eyes contribute to their striking appearance, and they have a slender, muscular body with a long, tapered tail. Known for their vocal and sociable nature, Thai Cats are affectionate companions who thrive on human interaction. They are highly intelligent and enjoy participating in interactive play and games. With their engaging personalities, Thai Cats form strong bonds with their owners, and their vocalizations serve as a means of communication. While they may have a vocal presence, they are generally good-natured and adapt well to indoor living. Their loyalty and social nature make Thai Cats wonderful additions to households looking for a loving and interactive feline companion. When considering a Thai kitten, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Thai kitten breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Thai is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Thais weigh between eight and 15 pounds. However, many cats can be larger or smaller than average.

**Personality:** First of all, the Thai is a very people-focused feline. These cats will often follow the humans of a household around from room to room as they seek out company. The Thai is also a very vocal breed of cat, with many owners insisting that their Thai cats talk to them to let them know how they're feeling! They're also inquisitive and curious creatures who love to explore the world around them, so living in a home with lots of safe climbable furniture would be a bonus. Just be warned that, due to the Thai's very sociable nature, they are cats who definitely need what might seem like constant attention. If you have a household with young children, that's great, as the Thai will happily become like a new best friend and play buddy to your kids.

**Health:** Thais are generally considered to be healthy cats, although it's always important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Thai, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in Siamese. **Asthma:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial disease or feline asthma, is a respiratory condition characterized by inflammation and constriction of the airways. It is a common condition in cats and can affect felines of any age or breed. **Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects in cats refer to abnormalities in the structure or function of the heart that are present at birth. These defects can vary in severity and may affect different parts of the heart. While some congenital heart defects may not cause significant health problems, others can lead to

serious complications.

**Coat:** The Thai cat can be found in any point color, including tortie point, torbie point, and tabby point. When it comes to grooming, the short-haired Thai cat is pretty low maintenance and will be good with weekly brushing sessions. This will help ward off the chances of any mats forming. Although, ask your vet for tips if you find that your Thai doesn't take to sitting still and being brushed at first. In terms of climate, most Thais are fairly adaptable felines, but they do tend to prefer warmer rather than colder places to live. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Thai is a wonderful match for families with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise all interactions between kids and cats, especially early on. When it comes to other household pets, the outgoing Thai usually fares well with most other domestic animals, including dogs. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Thai for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Thai's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Thai cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Thai cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Thai. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Thai will definitely appreciate a sturdy cat tree to play and interact with. This will help keep the kitty stimulated and satisfied and may prevent behavior issues from arising.

**Name:** Thai Lilac

**General:** The Thai Lilac cat captivates admirers with its striking appearance and charming personality. This breed, a relative of the Korat, hails from Thailand and holds a special place in the hearts of cat lovers worldwide. The "lilac" part of the breed's name refers to their coat color. Renowned for their stunning lilac-blue coat, large green eyes, and distinctive heart-shaped face, the Thai Lilac cat exudes an air of elegance and grace. Beyond their visual appeal, this breed is celebrated for their friendly and affectionate nature. Additionally, these affectionate cats form strong bonds with its human companions. The Thai Lilac is a natural cat breed cat, which means they developed without the need for human intervention. On a day-to-day basis, this breed behaves almost exactly the same as the related Korat cat, meaning they're very people-focused felines

who love to be around humans. If you want a sweet cat who's friendly with just about everybody, this may be your new best friend. When considering a Thai Lilac, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Thai Lilac kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Thai Lilac breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices. Additional articles that will interest you:

**Size:** The Thai Lilac is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Thai Lilacs weigh around 15 pounds. Many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** Just like the Korat, the Thai Lilac is a very social and inquisitive cat. They will often be found following around the people in their lives, and if there's any action going on anywhere in the household, these felines will want to be right in the middle of it. Children and Thai Lilacs are a great combination—they will come to see each other as new best friends and play buddies. But make sure you can provide enough attention to the cat—this is a breed that can develop behavior issues if left alone for long periods of the day on a regular basis. Be aware that the Thai Lilac also has a reputation as a very vocal and talkative cat—so get ready to have a cute new voice in the household! There's a playful and curious side to the Thai Lilac, so make sure you can provide enough space for them to satisfy their physical need. Having safe, climbable furniture is definitely a bonus.

**Health:** Thai Lilacs are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't too many breed-specific health problems associated with the Thai Lilac, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. **Gangliosidosis:** Gangliosidosis is a rare and inherited lysosomal storage disease that can affect cats. Lysosomes are cellular structures responsible for breaking down and recycling various substances within the cells. In the case of gangliosidosis, there is a deficiency or malfunction in the enzymes responsible for breaking down certain lipids called gangliosides. There are two main types of gangliosidosis that can affect cats: GM1 gangliosidosis and GM2 gangliosidosis. Both types are caused by a genetic mutation, and affected cats inherit the condition from their parents.

**Coat:** The Thai Lilac sports a lilac-colored coat, which can often look a little pink in certain light. When it comes to grooming, the short-haired Thai Lilac cat is pretty low maintenance and will be good with weekly brushing sessions. This will help ward off the chances of any mats forming. Although ask your vet for tips if you find that your Thai Lilac doesn't take to sitting still and being brushed at first. In terms of climate, most Thai Lilacs are fairly adaptable

felines, although they do tend to prefer warmer rather than colder places to live. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Thai Lilac is a top notch fit for families with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the social Thai Lilac usually fares well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, too. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Thai Lilac for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Thai Lilac's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Thai Lilac's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is very important for such an inquisitive cat breed. The Thai Lilac cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your cat. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Thai Lilac is definitely a cat breed that will appreciate a sturdy cat tree to play and interact with. This will keep the kitty stimulated and help prevent any behavior issues from arising.

**Name:** Tonkinese

**General:** Tonkinese cats are a charming breed known for their distinctive appearance and engaging personalities. Originating from the crossbreeding of Siamese and Burmese cats, they boast a unique coat that typically combines the sable's warmth with the Siamese's color points. The Tonkinese rose to national recognition in the 1960s when Jane Barletta promoted the breed on Jeopardy! while being a contestant. Renowned for their social nature and tender attitude, Tonkinese cats make delightful companions and are loved for their playful, lively, and curious nature. Their active interest in family activities and their taste for interactive play make them a popular choice among cat lovers seeking a warm and loving feline companion. When considering a Tonkinese, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Tonkinese kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Tonkinese breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Tonk feels surprisingly heavy when picked up and can weigh six to 12 pounds or more.

**Personality:** The Tonk, as he's nicknamed, is friendly, active and loving. If you think of cats as being aloof and independent, it's only because you haven't yet met a Tonkinese. He demands attention and affection and won't rest until he gets it. This is a cat who will follow you around, ride on your shoulder and be involved in all family activities. He likes meeting people and is not the type of cat who will be satisfied to stay home alone all the time. If you work during the day, it's a good idea to make sure he has a friend to keep him occupied, whether it's another Tonkinese or other cat or even a dog. Like his forebear the Siamese, the Tonk is brainy and active. He likes to jump up to high places, retrieves as if he were born to it, masters puzzle toys instantly and will learn to walk on leash if you so desire. Teach him tricks and provide him with a rotating assortment of interactive toys to keep his mind and body exercised. Tonkinese can be stubborn in their quest to get their own way, but their clownish behavior is so endearing that it doesn't really matter. A Tonk is talkative, although his voice is not as loud and raspy as that of a Siamese. The Tonk also has a softer side. He loves sitting in a lap and will claim yours just as soon as you sit down.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Tonkinese are generally healthy, although they can be prone to gingivitis and may be sensitive to anesthesia. Because they descend from the Siamese, albeit relatively far up on their family tree, they may also develop some of the same diseases that affect the Siamese, including the following: **Amyloidosis:** This is a disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the liver in members of the Siamese family **Asthma/Bronchial Disease:** Asthma in cats, also known as feline bronchial asthma, is a common respiratory condition that affects the airways of felines, causing difficulty in breathing. This condition is characterized by the inflammation and constriction of the small air passages within a cat's lungs, resulting in various respiratory symptoms.

**Congenital Heart Defects:** Congenital heart defects refer to abnormalities in the heart's structure or function that are present at birth. These can range from relatively minor issues to severe, life-threatening conditions. Some congenital heart defects might not display noticeable symptoms initially but can cause problems later in life. **Crossed Eyes:** Tonkinese cats, like many other breeds, can occasionally display a condition known as strabismus, which results in crossed eyes. This can happen due to various factors, including genetics, injury, or underlying health issues. **Gastrointestinal Conditions:** Tonkinese cats, like many other cat breeds, can experience a range of gastrointestinal issues, such as megaesophagus. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** This is a neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. **Lymphoma:** Lymphoma is one of the most common types of cancer in cats, affecting their lymphatic system. The lymphatic system is a part of the immune system, and lymphoma



occurs when cancerous cells develop from lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. This condition can manifest in various parts of a cat's body, such as the lymph nodes, liver, spleen, intestines, or other organs. Nystagmus: This is a neurological disorder that causes involuntary rapid eye movement. Progressive Retinal Atrophy: Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a genetic condition that affects the eyes of cats and leads to progressive vision loss. It primarily involves the degeneration of the photoreceptor cells in the retina, ultimately resulting in blindness. This condition usually occurs due to a genetic mutation and can affect various breeds, including domestic cats.

Coat: The Tonkinese is a medium-size cat with a moderate body. Goldilocks would have liked him: he's not too sleek and he's not too chunky; for Tonk fans, he's just right. A Tonk's head is a slightly rounded wedge shape, a little longer than it is wide. Medium-size ears are broad at the base with oval tips, and aqua, blue, green or yellow-green eyes (depending on coat color) are an open almond shape, slanting along the cheekbones toward the outer edge of the ear. The muscular body is supported by slim legs on oval paws. The tail is proportionate in length to the body and tapers toward the end. The short coat of the Tonkinese comes in a medium thickness and feels soft and silky. It comes in "mink," solid, and pointed shades in natural, champagne, blue and platinum, for a total of 12 different colorways. Mink Tonkinese have a body color that is rich, even and unmarked, shading almost imperceptibly to a slightly lighter shade on the underparts, with a distinct contrast between body color and points. For example, a champagne mink Tonkinese has a buff-cream to beige body, which may have reddish highlights, medium-brown points, cinnamon-brown nose leather, and cinnamon-pink to cinnamon-brown paw pads. A natural solid Tonk has a sable-brown body with dark-brown points and nose leather and medium- to dark-brown paw pads. A platinum-pointed Tonkinese has a pearly white body, frosty gray points, lavender-pink or lavender-gray nose leather, and lavender-pink paw pads. At a show, you will most likely see only see mink Tonkinese, but solid and pointed Tonks carry the genes that are necessary for a successful breeding program.

Friendship: The active and social Tonkinese is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with cats and dogs who respect his authority. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The soft, short coat of the Tonkinese is easily cared for with weekly brushing to remove dead hair and distribute skin oil. A bath is rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth

moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Tonkinese are very particular about bathroom hygiene. It's a good idea to keep a Tonkinese as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Tonkinese who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Toyger

General: The Toyger cat, a captivating feline breed, is a relatively recent addition to the world of domestic cats that has a striking appearance reminiscent of a miniature tiger. The name "Toyger" is a clever blend of "toy" and "tiger," underscoring the breed's intentional resemblance to its wild counterpart. Developed through crossing a Bengal breed and American Shorthair tabbies, Toygers showcase a distinctive coat pattern that mimics the bold stripes and warm, orange tones of a tiger. Affectionate, energetic and playful, these kitties inherited some of the best qualities from both of their parents. Toygers make excellent family cats. Once you see the mixed breed prowling around your home, it will seem like you have a miniature tiger living with you! But while this feline is muscular and athletic, they're also a very loving and cuddle-some kitty. When considering a Toyger it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Toyger kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Toyger breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Toyger is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case with newer mixed cat breeds, exact size standards might vary. Most male Toygers weigh in at ten to 15 pounds, and most female Toygers are between seven and ten pounds.

Personality: When it comes to personality, the Toyger is one of the most affectionate and loving cats around. While they have a striking big cat appearance, this is a mixed breed that will love to cuddle up with you for snuggles while you relax on the couch. Befitting such a social cat, the Toyger enjoys human company and having people around—this is a cat who thrives in a busy household rather than one where they're left alone for long periods of time. The Toyger is also a super smart cat who can be trained relatively easily, and the breed is often renowned for taking to outdoor adventures on a safe leash and harness. In fact, in many cases pet owners have trained their Toyger to play games of fetch. Unlike many other cat breeds, the Toyger is also said to enjoy playing with water, just like big cat tigers in the wild!

**Health:** Toygers are generally considered to be healthy cats—although the breed can be predisposed to some of the same conditions that the Bengal and Domestic Shorthair face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Toygers suffer from include: **Obesity:** Obesity in cats is a prevalent and concerning health issue that has become increasingly common in domestic feline populations. Much like in humans, obesity in cats is defined as an excessive accumulation of body fat, often resulting from an imbalance between caloric intake and energy expenditure. This condition can have serious consequences for a cat's overall health and well-being. **Heart Murmurs:** Heart murmurs in cats refer to abnormal sounds heard during the cardiac cycle, typically when a veterinarian listens to the heart using a stethoscope. These murmurs are caused by turbulent blood flow within the heart or blood vessels. While heart murmurs themselves may not always indicate a serious problem, they can be a sign of an underlying cardiac issue that requires attention.

**Coat:** The main color of the Toyger's coat is orange or tan with darker vertical stripes. These distinctive stripes can either be broken or they might branch off. The mixed breed is relatively low maintenance when it comes to grooming, with their denser coat only really needing to be brushed once a week. Although, as with all cats, keep a close eye out for any mats that might be starting to develop while you're grooming. Remember, regular brushing will help keep the cat's coat clean and healthy. When it comes to climate, the Toyger is a generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates, Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Toyger is a great match with kids. The cat will form strong bonds with the children in your household and become like a new play pal for them. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Toyger is also usually fine around other domestic animals. Although you'll want to make sure you oversee early interactions when introducing the cat to your household. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Toyger for good behavior and adhere to a proper training regimen when you bring them home to your family.

**Care:** The Toyger is a smart, athletic, and intelligent cat so you'll need to ensure that the mixed breed is kept physically and mentally stimulated. A cat tree or access to furniture they can safely climb up is a must. It's also advisable to provide interactive smart toys that will keep the feline sharp and satisfied. If you consider bringing your Toyger outside, make sure that you use a safe leash and harness and supervise all outdoors sessions. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Toyger will need their nails checked on a regular basis and clipped around once a week. You'll also want to examine the cat's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection, and clean them if needed. Your

vet can help show you the best practice for this. Also make sure to speak to your regular vet about starting a teeth brushing regimen for your Toyger.

Name: Turkish Angora

General: The Turkish Angora is a captivating and elegant breed known for its long, silky coat, strikingly colored eyes, and graceful demeanor. Originating in Turkey, this breed has a rich history dating back centuries and is often associated with royalty and luxury. Turkish Angoras are medium to large-sized cats with a finely boned and muscular build. Their most distinctive feature is their luxurious, fine-textured coat, which can come in various colors and patterns. Renowned for their intelligence and playful nature, Turkish Angoras are highly interactive, vocally communicative, and enjoy engaging with their human companions. With a sociable and affectionate temperament, these cats also make loving and devoted additions to households that appreciate their beauty and engaging personalities. The Turkish Angora cat, a breed steeped in mystique and elegance, is a true symbol of feline grace and charm. They are also one of the oldest naturally occurring cat breeds, and their existence is mixed with tales of royalty, mythology, and cultural significance. Ottoman royalty cherished Turkish Angoras, where the breed received the highest regard. When considering a Turkish Angora, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Turkish Angora kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Turkish Angora breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties.

Size: The Turkish Angora is a small to medium-size cat, weighing 5 to 9 pounds.

Personality: Beautiful and elegant on the surface, the Turkish Angora can surprise an unsuspecting owner with his athleticism and intelligence. No bookcase is too high for him to reach the top, and no closed door is safe from being opened by his questing paws. While he certainly can have lovely manners, the Turkey, as he is sometimes nicknamed, has an active, boisterous side to his nature, with a cleverness that makes him endlessly entertaining. He likes to play and will do whatever is necessary to get and keep your attention, even if it means getting into a little trouble. The Angora keeps his kittenlike playfulness well into old age. He is friendly toward guests but loves his own people best. This is a sociable breed who is best suited to a home where he will have another cat or a dog to keep him company if people aren't home during the day. When you are home, the Angora may drape himself across your shoulders or settle comfortably into your lap. At night you're likely to find him next to you with his head resting on your pillow. To live happily with a Turkey, you should have a sense of humor that matches his own, as well as a good store of patience. Once he gets an idea into his head, it can be difficult to change his mind about how he should behave, but he is so charming that you probably won't care. If you will, it's best to consider another breed. This is an affectionate, gentle cat who

is devoted to his family, but his precocious intelligence, resourcefulness, desire for interaction and play, and short attention span may make him a challenge to live with.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Here are common health issues seen in Turkish Angora cats: **Deafness:** including congenital deafness, is a condition that can affect cats of any breed, including Turkish Angora cats. Deafness in Turkish Angora cats can result from various factors, including genetics and other causes. Turkish Angoras are generally healthy, but solid white cats with one or two blue eyes are prone to deafness in one or both ears. **Ataxia:** Ataxia is a neurological condition characterized by a lack of coordination in voluntary muscle movements. It can affect cats of any breed, including Turkish Angora cats. Ataxia may result from various underlying causes, and it can manifest in different ways, depending on the severity and location of the neurological problem. This disorder affects very young kittens at 2 to 4 weeks of age. **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:** Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common form of heart disease in cats and is characterized by the thickening of the heart muscle. HCM affects the heart's ability to pump blood effectively and can lead to serious health problems.

**Coat:** The Turkish Angora is best known for his long, fine, silky coat, which seems to shimmer as he moves. The length of the coat varies, with the longest hair usually seen in the ruff around the neck, the "britches" on the upper hind legs and the plumed tail. You may think of an Angora as being solid white, but the coat can also be other solid colors as well as tabby, tortoiseshell, calico or other patterns. Beneath the coat is a body that is firm, long and muscular. Legs are long, with the hind legs being longer than the front legs, and the paws are small, round and dainty, often with tufts of fur between the toes. The long tail tapers from a wide base to a narrow end. Contributing to the cat's beauty is a small to medium-size wedge-shaped head with large ears that sit high on the head and are tufted with fur and large almond-shaped eyes that slant slightly upward. The eyes can be blue, green, gold, amber or odd (one blue eye and one green, green-gold or amber eye).

**Friendship:** The Angora who has been well socialized is comfortable with kids, making him a good choice for families who will supervise children to make sure they pet the cat nicely and don't pull his fur or tail. He is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, as long as they recognize that he's in charge. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Turkish Angora has a single coat with a silky texture. Because there's no undercoat to cause mats or tangles, it's easy to groom with weekly combing or brushing, and it sheds very little. The coat doesn't achieve its full length until the cat is approximately two years old. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the

eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Angora's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will also help to keep the long coat clean. It's a good idea to keep a Turkish Angora as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Turkish Angoras who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Turkish Van

General: While the Turkish Van Cat is not very fond of sitting on laps, they will happily cuddle next to you and sleep in your bed. They are one of the few domestic cat breeds that are completely comfortable in water. In fact, they may even try to play in your bathtub, sink, or even the toilet if you're not careful. The Van is not a cat that you should leave home alone for long periods of time. They are highly intelligent and need plenty of stimulation to prevent boredom. If they don't get it, they may create their own fun by engaging in destructive behavior. Also, don't leave your breakable items out in the open, as Turkish Van cats have a habit of knocking things over just to see what will happen. When considering a Turkish Van, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Turkish Van breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Turkish Vans weigh 10 to 18 pounds at maturity.

Personality: When he is properly socialized in kittenhood, this is a social and affectionate cat who is strongly attached to members of his family, although he may choose one or two as his favorites. He is highly active and athletic, remaining playful into his senior years. Athletic doesn't mean graceful, however. The Van is big and ungainly; this is one cat who doesn't always land on his feet. Turkish Vans are highly intelligent and can learn tricks and games, including playing fetch. They like teaser toys that allow them to mimic pouncing on prey. And if you can't find your Van, look up; he is probably perched overhead, as high as he can get. Don't put anything on display that is easily broken; the Van has a wicked sense of humor and may enjoy pushing items off a shelf just to see what happens. Or sometimes he's just clumsy. The Van may or may not be a good traveler. Trips to the veterinarian often involve the cat vomiting, peeing

or pooping in the car. If you like to RV or take road trips with your cat, ask the breeder if cats in her line are prone to carsickness. The Van's love of water can lead him into trouble. Put down toilet seats and cover swimming pools and spas if you aren't there to supervise his aquatic excursions. And resign yourself to finding your faucets dripping. He can easily learn to turn them on so he can drink from them or play in the sink. It's not unusual for a Van to simply enjoy lying in water, especially during hot weather. A Van dislikes being held or restrained, and it is a rule at cat shows that the cats are displayed on the table instead of being held up in the air. Most notably, if you are ever unsure of how a Van is feeling, pay attention to his Vanometer. That pretty shell-pink nose will start to turn red if your Turkish Van is upset. If his nose shading from pink to crimson, heed the warning and leave him alone. He's not much of a lap cat, but the Van will be happy to cuddle next to you and sleep in your bed. He will also give firm direction as to the proper way to pet him.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Turkish Vans are generally healthy, although some have been reported to develop the following: Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: HCM is a common heart condition in some cats. It involves the thickening of the heart muscles, which can affect the heart's ability to function properly. Regular veterinary check-ups and echocardiograms can help detect and manage HCM.

**Coat:** You might think that the Turkish Van is a white cat with patches of color, but genetically you would be wrong. He is, in fact, a colored cat with very large patches of white, a pattern caused by the piebald white spotting gene. The result is a cat whose body is mostly white, with colored markings on the head and tail. He may also have random spots of color on the body and legs. This type of coloring is sometimes seen in other breeds and is known as the Van pattern. Colors seen in the breed include red, cream, black, blue, tabby in red, cream, brown and blue, and various shades of tortoiseshell. Nose leather is pink, as are paw pads, although they can sometimes have color spots. The Turkish Van has a broad, wedge-shaped head with a rounded muzzle, moderately large ears with slightly rounded tips, and moderately large rounded eyes that can be blue, amber, or one of each color. As befits a cat who was formed to survive in a rugged landscape and climate, he has a strong, powerful body with a broad chest and shoulders and long, muscular legs. Males are much larger and more muscular than females. Keeping the Turkish Van cozy is a soft, semi-long single coat with feathering (longer hair) on the ears, legs, feet and belly, a ruff around the neck, and a fully plumed tail. Kittens and young adults have a less developed coat than mature adults. The coat doesn't achieve its full length until the cat is at least two years old. In summer the coat is short, but it becomes substantially longer and thicker in winter. This is a large breed; they can take three to five years to reach their full size.

**Friendship:** The Van who has been well socialized is comfortable with kids, making him a good choice for families with active children who will enjoy running

around with a teaser toy, throwing a ball for the cat to fetch, or teaching tricks. Supervise young children to make sure they pet the cat nicely and don't pull his fur or tail. The Turkish Van is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, as long as they recognize that he's in charge. When it comes to cats, he prefers the company of his own kind, but he will accept other cats, especially if he is brought up with them from kittenhood. In any case, introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: The Turkish Van has a single coat with a silky texture. Because there's no undercoat to cause mats or tangles, it's easy to groom with weekly combing or brushing with a slicker brush. It sheds very little except during spring and fall when old coat is falling out or new coat is coming in. Older cats may have difficulty grooming themselves thoroughly, so it can be a good idea to brush or comb them more often. The Turkish Van's coat is water-resistant, so be glad that baths are rarely necessary. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will also help to keep the long coat clean. It's a good idea to keep a Turkish Van as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Turkish Vans who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Ukrainian Levkoy

General: The Ukrainian Levkoy cat is a unique breed known for its captivating appearance and friendly demeanor. Originating in Ukraine, this breed is a relatively recent addition to the world of feline companions. With its development beginning in the early 2000s, this cat is a cross between the Donskoy and Scottish Fold breeds. What sets the aUkrainian Levkoy apart is its striking appearance, characterized by a combination of hairless skin and folded ears, giving it an unmistakable and endearing charm. On a day to day basis, these cats make excellent household pets, especially because they love to hang around and play with children. They also do well in smaller living environments, making them a good fit for apartment dwellers. Just remember that a hairless cat can require a little more in the way of maintenance than a short or long-haired kitty. When considering a Ukrainian Levkoy cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and pri-



oritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Ukrainian Levkoy cats breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Ukrainian Levkoy is a medium cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Ukrainian Levkoys weigh between eight and twelve pounds, with the females often being noticeably smaller than the males.

**Personality:** You'll immediately notice that the Ukrainian Levkoy is super inquisitive and highly curious. They love to explore every nook and cranny of their immediate environment. It's important that you can provide enough variety in their world, which might include moving around cat trees or scratching posts, and you'll also want to invest in some smart interactive toys to keep them intellectually interested. The Ukrainian Levkoy has a strong play instinct, which is great news if you have children or other pets, as this is a social feline who will benefit from the company. That being said, these cats don't fare well if left alone for too long, so make sure your household isn't empty for the majority of the day.

**Health:** Ukrainian Levkoys are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Donskoy and Scottish Fold breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the Ukrainian Levkoy, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain. **Skin Care:** Due to their lack of fur, Ukrainian Levkoys may be more sensitive to temperature changes, sunlight, and other environmental factors. They may require protection from extreme weather conditions, such as cold temperatures or excessive sun exposure. Regular moisturizing may also be recommended to maintain the health of their skin. **Sun Protection:** Hairless breeds, including Ukrainian Levkoys, can be more susceptible to sunburn. Providing a shaded environment and, in some cases, using pet-safe sunscreen can help protect their skin when outdoors.

**Coat:** The Ukrainian Levkoy is an almost totally hairless cat who's often said to look like a cute alien creature. When it comes to grooming, hairless cats like the Ukrainian Levkoy require a little extra time and attention. First of all, you'll need to make sure you're feeding your cat a high protein diet so they stay in shape and can regulate their proper body temperature. You'll also want to talk to your vet about feline-friendly sunscreens. Finally, the Ukrainian Levkoy needs bathing at least once a month to regulate the oils that naturally occur on their skin. In terms of climate, most Ukrainian Levkoys need to be kept warm. You might even want to consider purchasing some cat sweaters to make sure your mixed breed cat doesn't get too cold.

**Friendship:** The Ukrainian Levkoy is a wonderful fit for families with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are

properly set on both sides. Always supervise playtime between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the good-natured and outgoing Ukrainian Levkoy usually fares well with most other domestic animals. But always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your Ukrainian Levkoy for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Ukrainian Levkoy's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Ukrainian Levkoy cat's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is very important for such an inquisitive mixed breed of cat. The Ukrainian Levkoy cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Ukrainian Levkoy. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the Ukrainian Levkoy is definitely a mixed breed that will appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with. This can keep the kitty stimulated and will work towards preventing behavior issues from arising.

Name: Siberian

General: Siberian cats, glamorous natives of Siberia's subarctic taiga, owe their thick, protective coats to their harsh environment. Highly affectionate and playful when they want to be, these cats don't need much exercise and are just as happy snuggling up with their humans as they are chasing a laser toy. They'll follow you everywhere and gladly participate in whatever you're doing, whether you like it or not. If you crave a warm cuddle buddy, the Siberian cat may be the perfect feline family member. When considering a Siberian, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Siberian kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Siberian breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This cat typically weighs 8 to 17 pounds — and sometimes more.

Personality: The Siberian's heart is as warm as his homeland is cold. He loves people and wants to be near them, so expect this affectionate cat to follow you around, including to the bathroom, and to "help" you with all of your reading, TV viewing, computer work and meal prep. Sitting in your lap while you comb his fur may well be the highlight of his day.

When you come home from work, he might not have a martini waiting, but he will be pleased to tell you all about his day in quiet, pleasant trills and chirps, interspersed with a few meows and purrs. Guests will find him to be a genial host; this is not typically a cat who is shy in the presence of strangers.

Besides being loving and attentive, the Siberian is also active and playful. He will instigate games of fetch by bringing you a favorite toy to throw. Any item can become a plaything for this clever cat, so keep jewelry or other potentially intriguing items out of his sight. Teaching him tricks is a fun and easy way to challenge his agile brain. Because of his heritage as a forest dweller, he likes playing with water—perhaps it's a genetic memory of going fishing for his supper. Don't be surprised if he enjoys splashing you in the tub, drinking from a fountain or faucet, or making puddles by batting his paw in his water dish.

As befits a working and hunting cat, he's highly athletic and you may find him balancing atop a doorway or propelling himself to the highest point in the room. In fact, Siberian coaches may well be the secret to the success of Russian gymnasts. Activity and noise won't bother him a bit. His calm nature gives him the potential to be a therapy cat. If nothing else, he will be happy to snuggle with you when you're down with a cold or other illness. And although he loves attention, he's not needy and will wait patiently until you have time to devote to him.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Siberians are generally healthy due to their natural breeding. Here are some common problems that might affect a Siberian cat:

**Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy** is a form of heart disease that causes the heart muscle to enlarge. It is found in pedigreed and non-pedigreed cats. Siberians are one of the breeds that may be affected by this disease. **Locomotor Injury:** With their curiosity and activity levels, these cats might suffer from an injury due to their athletic and adventuresome personalities.

**Coat:** The Siberian is notable for having a long triple coat with guard hairs (the outer coat), awn hairs (the middle part of the coat) and a downy undercoat. He has an abundant ruff around the neck, thick but slightly shorter hair on the shoulder blades and lower part of the chest, and thick fur on the belly and britches (the upper hind legs). The undercoat thickens in cold weather.

The coat comes in all colors and combinations of colors, with or without white. He looks powerful and alert, but gazes out at the world with a sweet expression. His head is a modified wedge with rounded contours—broad at the top and narrowing slightly at the muzzle. Medium-large ears are well furnished with tufts of fur. The nearly round eyes can be green, gold, green-gold, or copper. White Siberians or Siberians with white patches may have blue or odd eyes.

The “hefty, hefty, hefty” slogan could have been written with the Siberian in mind. This is a medium-size to large cat weighing 8 to 17 pounds and sometimes

more. It can take the Siberian up to five years to reach his full size and coat. His body is muscular and he has big round paws with tufts of fur and a thickly furred tail.

**Friendship:** The Siberian has a bold temperament, and nothing much ruffles his composure. These characteristics make him an excellent choice for a family with kids. No nighttime monsters will get past the Siberian on guard at the foot of a child's bed. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, as long as they recognize that he's in charge. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** The Siberian's thick triple coat should be combed or brushed a couple of times a week to prevent tangles or mats. The coat will shed seasonally in the spring and fall, and you may need to groom more frequently during that time. A bath is rarely necessary, which is a good thing because the coat is highly water-resistant. It can be difficult to get a Siberian wet enough to shampoo him.

Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear.

Most of the Siberian's growth occurs in his first year and a half of life. Your kitten's breeder may recommend that you feed him kitten food during that time to make sure he gets enough nourishment.

Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will also help to keep the long coat clean. It's a good idea to keep a Siberian as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Siberians who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it. If possible, build your Siberian a large outdoor enclosure where he can jump and climb safely.

**Name:** California Spangled

**General:** The California Spangled Cat is a unique and striking feline breed with a wild appearance and distinctively spotted coat. Originating in the 1980s, this breed was selectively developed by crossing Angora, Siamese, American Shorthair, Abyssinian, Manx, and British Shorthair breeds to resemble the wild leopard. Known for its captivating beauty, the California Spangled Cat boasts a medium to large size, muscular build, and a short, sleek coat adorned with a distinctive spotted pattern. Energetic, loyal, and loving, these kitties inherited

some of the best traits from all of their parent breeds. When considering a California Spangled cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable California Spangled cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The California Spangled is a medium-to-large sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most California Spangleds weigh in at eight to 15 pounds. That said, many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** What exactly are you dealing with when you adopt a California Spangled? Well, first of all, you can be reassured that, while the mixed breed was developed to look like a wild cat, there's nothing predatory or wild about this feline. In fact, they are one of the most affectionate and loving cats around, so much so that, if you leave a California Spangled alone for too long, they may act out if they become stressed or become withdrawn if they start to feel lonely. Naturally, this is also a highly athletic mixed breed particularly known for their leaping and jumping feats. So make sure there are lots of opportunities for the cat to explore the homestead and climb to their heart's content. It goes without saying that a cat tower is essential for this mixed breed. The California Spangled also has a playful heart, so if you have young children, you'll find that the cat quickly becomes like a new best play buddy to your kids!

**Health:** California Spangleds are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the California Spangled, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The California Spangled's coat can come in a range of colors which often include gold, brown, white, black, and blue. They also sport their distinctive leopard-style spots. When it comes to grooming, the California Spangled is a pretty low-maintenance feline. Their short, spotted coat can be brushed once a week. Doing so will not only help ward off the chance of any mats forming, but also keep the coat in clean and healthy condition. Regular brushing also lessens the chance of hairballs being an issue for the cat. When it comes to climate, the California Spangled is generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The California Spangled is a perfect choice if you have children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it

comes to other household pets, the California Spangled is fine living alongside other domestic animals. Although you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets, as well. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this mixed breed. Make sure to reward your California Spangled for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

Care: The California Spangled is always going to be ready and willing to embark on a play session or explore the highest parts of their environment. So, as a responsible guardian, you'll need to first make sure that their home is spacious enough and well equipped to satisfy the mixed breed's exercise needs. A cat tree is a must—or if you have the room, feline-friendly shelving that the cat can climb and jump between is ideal. If you have the option of adding a secure catio to your home, the California Spangled will love the chance to be safely outside! Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your California Spangled will need to have their nails checked and trimmed on a regular basis. If you're new to cat adoption, your vet can show you the safest way to carry this out. Adding a scratching post to your living environment can also help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. Beyond nail care, examine the California Spangled's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection every couple of weeks. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your California Spangled.

Name: Cornish Rex

General: The Cornish Rex cat, with their striking appearance and unique characteristics, is a captivating breed that has captured the hearts of cat lovers worldwide. These elegant felines have a wavy coat that is soft and fine, resembling crushed velvet. Additionally, their large ears and inquisitive nature set them apart in the world of domestic cats. This beloved breed is somewhat hypoallergenic, making them a popular choice for those with cat allergies. The Cornish Rex is also known for their playful and active nature. Their acrobatic abilities and love of climbing earn them the description of "cat-like monkeys." They are highly sociable and enjoy being the center of attention, making them great companions. Whether you're drawn to their striking appearance or their engaging nature, Cornish Rex cats make wonderful and entertaining companions for those who are willing to give them the love and attention they deserve. When considering a Cornish Rex, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Cornish Rex kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Cornish Rex breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Cornish Rex typically weighs 6 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** The Cornish Rex appears suave and refined, but then this charming and highly intelligent cat's sense of humor and love of attention take over and he strolls onto center stage, ready to play the piano, perform tricks, or amaze onlookers with his ability to vault to the highest point in the room. His long toes enable him to manipulate objects deftly and to open doors and cabinets with ease. Be sure you put away securely anything you don't want him to have (and don't let him see you doing it). This is a confident cat who loves people and will follow them around, waiting for any opportunity to sit in a lap or give a kiss. He enjoys being handled, making it easy to take him to the veterinarian or train him for therapy work. If it weren't insulting, it might be fair to describe the Cornish Rex as "doglike." That includes his willingness to retrieve toys that are thrown. He has the speed of a sighthound but does not share the sighthound's laidback temperament. The Cornish Rex is highly active, always on the move. His speed and sleek exterior are reminiscent of a finely tuned racecar, complete with quick starts and cornering ability. Although he is affectionate and gentle, he is not the choice for someone who wants a quiet, ornamental cat. His voice ranges from sweet to strident, and although he is not as talkative as his ancestor the Siamese, he will indeed carry on a conversation if he feels the need to express his opinion. The Cornish Rex maintains his kittenlike attitude well into old age. He never loses the desire to interact with people and is best suited to a home where he will receive the love and constant companionship he craves.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Cornish Rex are generally healthy, but the following diseases have been seen in the breed: Congenital Hypotrichosis: Otherwise known as hereditary baldness, this is a condition that is probably the result of an inherited recessive gene. The Cornish Rex naturally has a very fine coat, but those with less hair than normal for the breed are considered to be hypotrichotic. Umbilical Hernia: This occurs when a defect in the abdominal wall—near the umbilicus, hence the name—allows part of the intestine or other abdominal organs to protrude through the abdominal wall. The last known report of umbilical hernias in the breed was from 1997. Umbilical hernias can also have non-genetic causes. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: A form of heart disease that is inherited in some cat breeds such as the Maine Coon. Heritability has not been proven in the Cornish Rex.

**Coat:** With his crushed velvet coat, racy, slender body, and curly whiskers, the Cornish Rex is a dandy of a cat. In addition to his soft, wavy fur and curvy body, he is distinguished by a small, egg-shaped head, about one-third longer than it is wide. His facial features include a rounded forehead, the high cheekbones of a supermodel, a Roman nose with a high, prominent bridge, and oval eyes that slant slightly upward. Sitting high on the head are large ears that look as if they could pull in satellite signals. The distinctive body, a gift from the Cornish Rex's Siamese ancestors, is made up graceful arches and curves. It consists of a long, slender torso, a deep chest, a naturally arched back, and a belly that curves gently upward to form a small waistline. Muscular hips, thighs and rear end propel the Cornish Rex's great leaps. Supporting him when he

lands are long, slender legs and dainty, slightly oval paws. A long, flexible tail tapers toward the end. His curvy, slender body might make the medium-size Cornish Rex seem delicate, but he is surprisingly heavy when picked up. He typically weighs 6 to 10 pounds. The Cornish Rex curls are present at birth. Some kittens go through a stage during which the coat is flat and suedelike, but as they mature the coat becomes wavy again. At adulthood, usually between 18 months and three years, the coat is short, soft and silky, with no harsh guard hairs. The fur lies close to the body in tight waves, like the marcelled hairdo of a 1940s film star. It should not be sparse or bare in places. The coat comes in a profusion of colors and patterns. Solid colors are white, black, blue, red, cream, chocolate and lavender. They also come in various tabby colors and patterns, tortoiseshell, calico, bi-color and pointed patterns, to name just a few. Depending on the coat color, the eyes may be gold, green or hazel.

**Friendship:** The active and social Cornish Rex is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

**Care:** Grooming the Cornish Rex is typically as easy as brushing your hand over his coat. Some Cornish Rex cats have a longer or woollier coat, however, and may need some help from a soft bristle brush or fine-tooth comb to keep their coat looking neat. Groom gently so you don't break the delicate hairs. The best thing about a Cornish Rex coat is that the hairs are so fine that they aren't very noticeable on clothing and furniture. Baths are rarely necessary unless the cat is white or has a lot of white on the coat. Those cats can start to look dingy if they are not regularly bathed. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Wipe the corners of the eyes daily with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Cornish Rex are very particular about bathroom hygiene. The Cornish Rex feels warm to the touch, but he is always seeking warmth. If you are cold, he probably is too. Buy him a nice sweater or two to help him retain heat. It's a good idea to keep a Cornish Rex as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Cornish Rex who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it. If possible, build your Cornish Rex a large outdoor enclosure where he can jump and climb safely. If your Cornish Rex has an outdoor enclosure that allows for sunbathing, be sure to apply cat-safe sunscreen to his body to prevent sunburn.



Name: Donskoy

General: The Donskoy cat, a breed as distinct as it is elegant, has a hairless body and captivating personality. One of the most distinguishing features of the Donskoy cat is their hairlessness, a result of a natural genetic mutation that emerged in the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia in the early 1990s. Despite their apparent lack of fur, Donskoys are not to be mistaken for being cold or uninviting; on the contrary, their exposed skin feels warm and soft to the touch, making them especially sought after by those seeking an affectionate and unique feline companion. The Donskoy is also sometimes known as the Don Sphynx. Beyond their physical uniqueness, Donskoy cats are known for their friendly and sociable nature. These cats form strong bonds with their human counterparts, often seeking warmth and closeness. Their interactive and playful personalities make them well-suited for households where they can receive the attention and affection they crave. When considering a Donskoy, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Donskoy breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Donskoy is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Donskoys weigh in at six to 15 pounds.

Personality: The Donskoy has a reputation as one of the gentlest cat breeds around. They are loving and sociable and enjoy being around both humans and other cats, so if you already have a feline-friendly household, definitely consider the Donskoy if you're looking to add more cats to the homestead. Donskoys love to be handled by humans and will always want to be the center of attention when you're at home. It's vital to understand that the breed needs companionship, so this is not the best cat to adopt if you're away for long periods of the day due to work commitments or if you travel a lot. The Donskoy is an intelligent and inquisitive cat, so you'll also want to provide an environment where the breed can explore and seek out new adventures on their own. Strategic use of smart and interactive toys can help keep your cat stimulated and satisfied.

Health: Donskoys are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Donskoys suffer from include: Sunburn: While cats have fur that provides some natural protection against the sun, they can still be susceptible to sunburn, particularly in areas where the fur is thin or skin is exposed. Hairless breeds, such as the Donskoy cat, are more vulnerable to sunburn because they lack fur as a natural barrier against the sun's UV rays. Skin Issues: Skin issues in cats can manifest for various reasons, ranging from allergies and infections to underlying medical conditions. It's important

to note that diagnosing the specific cause of a cat's skin problem often requires a veterinarian's expertise.

**Tooth Decay:** Tooth decay in cats, also known as dental caries, is relatively uncommon compared to dental issues such as periodontal disease. Unlike humans, cats typically do not experience true tooth decay involving the breakdown of tooth structure due to bacterial acid. However, dental problems in cats are often associated with plaque buildup, tartar formation, and gingivitis.

**Coat:** The Donskoy's coat comes in four different types that can be many different colors. These coats are known as rubber bald, flocked, velour, and brush. Rubber bald cats are bald and remain that way for life. Flocked coats are yellowish and may disappear as the baldness gene takes over. Velour kittens have a bald spot on their heads with wiry, woolly hair on the body that disappears after their first year, though some of the coat can remain. Brush coats cover the whole body except for patches on the head and neck or back. When it comes to grooming, the Donskoy is a hairless cat so you'll need to wipe the breed down daily. This is to get rid of oils that the skin produces—as a hairless cat, there is no hair to absorb the oils. You'll also need to instigate a bathing routine, ideally once a week but definitely at least twice a month. Climate is also an issue to keep an eye on: The Donskoy does not fair well in extreme temperatures. Speak to your vet about applying a suitable sunscreen to the cat, and also consider a cat coat during the colder months. While Donskoys may grow a winter coat, it is often fine and not suited for very cold winters. Interestingly, cats of this breed can sweat through their skin and even get tan with exposure to sunlight, much like humans. That said, protection from the elements is a must, so talk to your vet.

**Friendship:** The Donskoy is a friendly and social cat who does well with young children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Donskoy fares well with many domestic animals. Although, you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Donskoy for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Donskoy's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, you'll definitely want to add a scratching post to your living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Donskoy's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Donskoy, especially as the breed is prone to suffering from tooth and gum issues. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques.

Name: Exotic

General: The Exotic Shorthair is known for their plush, teddy bear-like appearance and easygoing temperament. Developed as a short-haired counterpart to the Persian, the Exotic Shorthair has a compact and well-muscled body with a broad face, round eyes, and a sweet expression. The breed is characterized by their dense and soft coat, which comes in various colors and patterns. Despite their Persian ancestry, Exotic Shorthairs require less grooming due to their shorter fur, making them a popular choice for cat enthusiasts who appreciate the Persian look without the extensive grooming commitment. Known for their affectionate and laid-back nature, Exotic Shorthairs are often described as lap cats who enjoy lounging and cuddling with their owners. They are adaptable to various living environments and get along well with children and other pets. Their friendly disposition and calm demeanor make them well-suited for indoor living, and they thrive on human interaction. With their endearing appearance and amiable personality, Exotic Shorthairs make wonderful companions for individuals and families alike, offering the perfect blend of charm and low-maintenance care. When considering an Exotic cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Exotic cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat. Exotics usually have a weight range of 7 to 12 pounds.

Personality: Like the Persian, the Exotic is sweet, docile and quiet, but don't get the idea that she is merely an adornment for the home. She loves to play when she's not sitting in a lap or being petted. Exotics have a reputation for being more active and curious than their Persian siblings, and they are more suited to an active family. Males are said by some to be sweeter and more affectionate than females, who are sometimes described as aloof. Exotics enjoy batting at toys for as long as you will play with them but are capable of entertaining themselves when their people are busy or away. They follow faithfully after family members and wait patiently for any attention to come their way. Exotics are little heard, but when they do speak it is in a soft, pleasant and musical voice. An Exotic's needs are simple: regular meals, a little playtime with a catnip mouse or feather teaser, and lots of love, which is returned many times over.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Although they are beautiful and sweet, Exotics are prone to a number of potential health problems, most commonly related to their facial structure: Breathing Difficulty: Brachycephalic

syndrome is a condition that affects certain cat breeds with distinctive short-nosed or “brachycephalic” facial features. Breeds prone to this syndrome include Persian cats, Himalayans, and Exotic Shorthairs, among others. Brachycephalic cats have a distinctive appearance characterized by a short skull, flat face, and compressed upper respiratory tract. Dental Malocclusions: Dental malocclusions in cats refer to misalignments of the teeth or jaws, disrupting the normal occlusion, or the way the upper and lower teeth fit together when the mouth is closed. Malocclusions can occur in various degrees of severity and may affect a cat’s ability to eat, groom, or may cause discomfort. Excessive Tearing: Excessive tearing in cats, also known as epiphora, can be caused by various factors. While some tearing is normal, persistent or increased tearing may be indicative of an underlying issue. Eye Conditions: Entropion in cats is a medical condition where the eyelids, usually the lower eyelids, roll inward, causing the fur and skin to rub against the cornea (the clear front part of the eye). This can lead to irritation, discomfort, and potential damage to the cornea. Entropion is not as common in cats as it is in some dog breeds, but it can still occur. Heat Sensitivity: Cats can be sensitive to heat, and excessive heat can pose risks to their health. Polycystic Kidney Disease: Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is an inherited genetic disorder that affects cats. It is characterized by the formation of fluid-filled cysts within the kidneys, which can gradually lead to kidney enlargement and impaired kidney function. PKD is most commonly observed in Persian cats, but it can also affect other breeds. Ringworm: Ringworm in cats is a fungal infection caused by dermatophytes, which are fungi that can infect the skin, hair, and nails. Despite its name, ringworm is not caused by a worm but rather by various fungi, with the most common culprit being *Microsporum canis*. Ringworm is contagious and can affect not only cats but also other animals and humans. Seborrhea Oleosa: Seborrhea oleosa, also known as oily seborrhea, is a skin condition in cats characterized by excessive oil production. This condition is often associated with an overactive sebaceous (oil-producing) gland, leading to greasy and oily skin and coat. Seborrhea oleosa is a form of feline seborrheic dermatitis, a group of skin disorders that affect the sebaceous glands.

Coat: In all respects but coat length, the Exotic shares the Persian’s sweet expression and soft round lines. It has a large, round head; large, round eyes; a short nose; full cheeks; and small ears with rounded tips. The head is supported by a short, thick neck and a deceptively sturdy, muscular body—a type known as “cobby.” An Exotic’s legs are short, thick and strong with large, round, firm paws. The tail is short but proportional to the length of the cat’s body. A medium-length soft, thick, plush coat with a rich, thick undercoat completes the Exotic’s look. It does not have the ruff or the plumelike tail of the Persian. Exotics come in different “looks,” known as extreme and traditional. “Extreme” Exotics, those seen in the show ring, have a flatter face, which may come with breathing problems. Cats with the traditional look have a more old-fashioned appearance, with a face that is not as flat and a nose that is set lower on the face with more of a “break,” permitting easier breathing. They are registered by the Traditional Cat Association. Exotics of all stripes stand out for their

infinite variety of coat colors and patterns. Imagine, if you will, seven solid color divisions — white, blue, black, red, cream, chocolate and lilac — plus silver and golden division colors of chinchilla and shaded silver or golden and blue chinchilla and blue shaded silver or golden; and then there are the shaded, smoke, tabby, calico, particolor and bicolor divisions. That's not counting the various pointed patterns of the Himalayan. Eye color is related to coat color. For instance, white Exotics have deep blue or brilliant copper eyes, or odd eyes—one copper and one blue; other solid-colored Exotics have brilliant copper eyes; silver and golden Persians have green or blue-green eyes; and so on.

Friendship: Exotics are adaptable and can do well in homes with children who treat them nicely. They also get along with cat-friendly dogs.

Care: The Exotic is often nicknamed “the lazy man’s Persian.” Comb the Exotic twice a week to remove dead hair and keep the coat shiny and healthy. A monthly bath is a good idea. Be sure to blowdry the cat thoroughly. Excessive tearing can be a problem in this breed, so wipe the corners of the eyes clean daily to prevent under-eye stains from forming. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. It’s a good idea to keep an Exotic as an indoor-only cat. He’s not a scrapper and would fare poorly against other cats, dogs, coyotes and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors. Exotics who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Foldex

General: The Foldex is a distinctive cat breed known for its unique folded ears, which give it an endearing and captivating appearance. Originating in Canada, the Foldex is a result of carefully planned breeding between Scottish Fold and Exotic Shorthair breeds. The breed’s most notable feature is their folded ears, which typically bend forward and downward, giving the cat an owl-like expression. This characteristic is a result of a genetic mutation that affects the cartilage in the ear, and while it adds to the breed’s charm, responsible breeding practices are essential to ensure the cat’s overall health and well-being. In addition to its folded ears, the Foldex boasts a compact and muscular body with a rounded head and large, expressive eyes. Additionally, the coat can come in various colors and patterns, adding to the breed’s visual appeal. Also known for its affectionate and gentle nature, the Foldex makes for an excellent companion cat. With their unique appearance and friendly demeanor, the Foldex has gained popularity among cat enthusiasts who appreciate the blend of distinctive physical traits and amiable temperament. When considering a Foldex, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it’s crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Foldex breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for

the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices. Additional articles that will interest you:

**Size:** The Foldex is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Foldexes weigh in at five to 14 pounds. That said, many can be larger or smaller than average.

**Personality:** When it comes to the Foldex's personality, you'll struggle to come across a more loving and people-friendly cat breed. These are felines who absolutely love cuddle and snuggle sessions with the humans in their life. At times, you might become convinced you're actually hanging out with a teddy bear as you lounge together on the couch or the bed! It follows that the Foldex is a cat who adores being petted, which also means they bring a soothing presence to the household. Along with being adorable, the Foldex has a strong inquisitive streak, so make sure to provide smart interactive toys to keep the breed mentally stimulated, along with suitable cat furniture so they can explore and play at their own pace. These sweet felines are also exceptionally approachable, making them a great fit for big families or homes where there's a large amount of people always coming and going.

**Health:** Foldexes are generally considered to be healthy cats; although, they can be predisposed to the same conditions that the Scottish Fold and Exotic Shorthair breeds face. As always, it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. Some of the more common health problems Foldexes suffer from include: **Skeletal Defects:** Osteochondrodysplasia is a genetic disorder that affects the development of cartilage and bone in animals, including cats. In the context of feline health, it's often associated with breeds that exhibit distinctive physical characteristics, such as short legs or folded ears. The condition results from a mutation that affects the normal growth and formation of bones and cartilage. **Feline Obesity:** Obesity in cats is a common and significant health concern that can have adverse effects on their overall well-being. This condition occurs when a cat consumes more calories than it expends, leading to an excess accumulation of body fat. **Polycystic Kidney Disease:** Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is a genetic disorder that affects the kidneys in cats. It is an inherited condition characterized by the development of fluid-filled cysts within the kidneys. PKD is most commonly associated with certain cat breeds, notably the Persian and related breeds, although it can occur in mixed-breed cats as well.

**Coat:** The Foldex is a breed of cat that you'll see in almost every cat color available, and in patterns that include tabby and calico. When it comes to grooming, this will totally depend on whether your Foldex is a long or short haired kitty. If you have a short haired Foldex, brushing their coat once a week should suffice. But a long haired Foldex will require more frequent brushing to help lessen the chances of hairballs and mats forming. Aim for every other day—although the breed will happily take to daily brushing sessions. In terms of climate, the Foldex is generally an adaptable breed of cat. Although you should

always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Foldex is a friendly feline who does very well with young children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides, and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Foldex fares well with many domestic animals, including dogs. Always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Foldex for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Foldex's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, you'll want to add a scratching post to your Foldex's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. The Foldex's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Foldex. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. While the Foldex has a sweet and laid back personality, it's also important to make sure that there is enough space for the breed to play and exercise, so consider adding a cat tree to your home.

**Name:** Serengeti

**General:** The Serengeti is a mixed breed cat—a cross between the Bengal and Oriental Shorthair breeds. These felines are known for being loyal, energetic, and agile. This feline marvel draws its inspiration from the untamed beauty of the African Serval while embodying domestic cats' affectionate and adaptable qualities. The result is a strikingly regal companion that captures the essence of the African plains. As you'd expect, these felines are super athletic and require a lot of daily exercise and playtime, which means you'll also need a roomy living situation and at least one sizable cat tree. While these cats can be a little shy at first, they are super loyal once they bond with a human. The breed also has a reputation for being very vocal! Developed in the late 1990s, the Serengeti cat is a relatively recent addition to feline breeds. When considering a Serengeti, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Serengeti kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Serengeti breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

**Size:** The Serengeti is a medium-sized cat breed. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most Serengetis weigh somewhere between eight and 15 pounds. That said, many can be smaller or larger than average.

**Personality:** When it comes to summing up the Serengeti's personality, the first thing most people notice is just how active and agile these cats are! Befitting the breed's spiritual wild cat ancestry, the Serengeti is exceptionally athletic and loves to spend time climbing up cat trees and furniture, often perching at the top and watching the world around them go by. It goes without saying that you'll need to provide a suitably spacious and varied environment for the Serengeti to live in, and be warned: They love to dart around the home at high speed! Beyond the Serengeti's spirited and energetic nature, they have proved themselves to be a loving breed of cat who forms very strong bonds with the humans they live with. In fact, it's not uncommon for a Serengeti to always follow their humans around! The Serengeti is also a very vocal cat who will happily chat away to their humans.

**Health:** Serengetis are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Serengeti, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Serengeti's coat is usually seen in either golden or gray colors, but always with its eye-catching leopard-style spots and markings. When it comes to grooming, the Serengeti is a low maintenance feline. Its short and silky coat can be brushed once a week. Doing so will not only help ward off the chance of any mats forming, but also keep the coat in clean and healthy condition. Maintaining a regular brushing routine also helps to lessen the likelihood that hairballs will be an issue for the feline. When it comes to climate, the Serengeti is generally seen as an adaptable cat who can usually live happily in most climates, although they do prefer slightly warmer temperatures. Just remember to always make sure adequate shade and fresh water is provided when the temperature spikes.

**Friendship:** The Serengeti is an excellent cat to bring into your home if you already have children, not least because they're a high energy and friendly feline. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the Serengeti is usually okay living alongside other domestic animals. Although you'll want to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Serengeti for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Serengeti's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. On a day to day basis, it cannot be stressed enough how important it is that your Serengeti is given



enough space to run around and climb. This is essential to keeping the breed both healthy and in good spirits—otherwise feline obesity and a sense of frustration at being bored might become an issue. Also, add interactive toys to the home environment to keep this curious kitty mentally satisfied. Along with scheduling yearly wellness vet visits, your Serengeti will need to have their nails checked and trimmed on a regular basis. If you're new to cat adoption, your vet can show you the safest way to carry this out. Adding a scratching post to your living environment can also help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition. Beyond nail care, examine the Serengeti's ears for signs of dirt building up or possible infection every couple of weeks. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your Serengeti.

Name: European Shorthair

General: The European Shorthair is a versatile and adaptable cat breed with a rich history rooted in Europe. Also known for its medium to large size, well-muscled body, and short, dense coat, the European Shorthair exhibits a variety of coat colors and patterns. Unlike some selectively bred breeds, the European Shorthair is a natural breed that has evolved over time in the streets and farms of Europe. They are known for their robust health and resilient nature, having adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions. European Shorthairs are additionally characterized by their friendly and balanced personalities. They make excellent companions for families, as they are typically good with children and other pets. While they may not be as demanding of attention as some other breeds, they still enjoy social interactions and will often form strong bonds with their human family members. With their easygoing and adaptable nature, European Shorthairs can thrive in various living situations, making them a popular choice for cat lovers seeking a low-maintenance yet affectionate feline companion. When considering a European Shorthair, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a European Shorthair kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable European Shorthair breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices. Additional articles that will interest you:

Size: The European Shorthair is a medium-sized cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary.

Most European Shorthairs weigh in at eight to 15 pounds.

Personality: The European Shorthair has picked up a sterling reputation as one of the most desirable house cats you could hope to adopt. This breed is athletic and intelligent, and they also love to form strong bonds with the humans in

their lives.

European Shorthairs will happily end fun-filled play sessions by cuddling up on the couch with you, and these kitties also get along well with children.

One aspect to consider, however, is the breed's territorial streak—so take appropriate steps if that might be an issue.

While there can be a lot of variety in the personality between individual European Shorthairs, in general you're looking at a feline who's a wonderful balance between being playful and loyal—traits that make them some of the best companion cats to adopt for a wide range of people, including the very young and very old.

**Health:** European Shorthairs are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet.

There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the European Shorthair, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The European Shorthair is a breed of cat that you'll see in a large variety of colors and markings. Common colors include brown, black, tan, and gray, and they're often seen sporting distinctive tabby patterns.

When it comes to grooming, the European Shorthair is a fairly low-maintenance feline. Due to their short hair, you'll only need to brush the cat once a week or so. This will help ward off the chances of hairballs and mats forming.

In terms of climate, the European Shorthair is generally an adaptable breed of cat. Although you should always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The European Shorthair is a loving cat that does very well with young children. Just be sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats.

When it comes to other household pets, the European Shorthair fares well with many domestic animals—although their hunting instincts might kick in if you already live with hamsters or guinea pigs. Always supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets.

Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your European Shorthair for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your European Shorthair's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy.

Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, you'll definitely want to add a scratching post to your European Shorthair's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition.

The European Shorthair's ears should also be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. It's also advisable to talk with your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your European Shorthair. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques.

As with any breed with high energy levels, the European Shorthair will need to be provided with enough space to run around and explore, so you'll want to add a cat tree to your living situation. Interactive smart toys can also help keep your European Shorthair mentally stimulated and satisfied.

Name: Birman

General: Birman cats, known for their enchanting beauty and bright blue eyes, are a distinctive breed that exudes elegance and charm. Originating from Burma (now Myanmar), these feline companions are medium to large size with silky semi-longhair coats. Their color-point pattern is reminiscent of Siamese cats and luxurious fur comes in a variety of colors, with the signature darker points contrasting against a lighter body. Beyond their striking appearance, Birmans are revered for their friendly and affectionate nature, making them sought-after companions for cat lovers around the world. When considering a Birman cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Birman kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Birman cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: Birmans typically weigh 6 to 12 pounds.

Personality: If you like the pointed pattern of the Siamese but not the yowly voice, a Birman might be the cat for you. He is a docile, quiet cat who loves people and will follow them from room to room. Expect the Birman to want to be involved in what you're doing, and be grateful that he's not as bossy as the Siamese.

Docile doesn't mean dumb. The Birman is a smart cat and, of course, curious. He likes to explore his environment and has been known to get trapped underneath floors that are being replaced or to accidentally (maybe on purpose) go for a ride on top of a car. It's a good idea to always keep tabs on where he is.

He communicates in a soft voice, mainly to remind you that perhaps it's time for dinner or maybe for a nice cuddle on the sofa. He enjoys being held and will relax in your arms like a furry baby.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the Birman include the following:

**Congenital Hypotrichosis:** This causes them to be born with no hair. **Thymic Aplasia:** This is an immune deficiency that leads to increased risk of infection and death. Fortunately, these conditions are rare. **Corneal Dermoid:** Corneal dermoid is a relatively rare but specific congenital eye condition that can affect Burmese cats, as well as cats of other breeds. Corneal dermoids are benign growths or tumors on the cornea, which is the clear, outermost layer of the eye. These growths consist of tissue elements, such as hair, skin, or sweat glands, that should not be present on the cornea. It can be corrected surgically. **Spongiform Degeneration:** A progressive degenerative disease of the central nervous system causing signs that include hind-limb weakness and uncoordinated movement. **Shaking and Trembling in Kittens:** This condition begins in some kittens when they are about 10 days old and lasts until they are about 12 weeks old. The cause is unknown and recovery occurs spontaneously. **Kidney Disease:** Unusually high concentrations of urea and/or creatinine in the blood, which may or may not indicate kidney dysfunction.

**Coat:** The Birman has a silky, medium-length coat in the pointed pattern of the Siamese (meaning that the color is darker on the face, ears, legs and tail), a broad, rounded head topped with medium-size ears, bright blue eyes that give him a sweet expression, and four white feet that give him the appearance of wearing little white mittens.

This is a medium-size to large cat with a stocky, powerful body that belies his gentle demeanor. The medium-long to long coat has a silky texture and little undercoat, which means that it rarely mats. It forms a heavy ruff around the neck and is wavy on the belly.

A pale body, which varies in shade depending on the cat's color, is set off by darker points. For instance, a seal point Birman has a body that is a pale fawn to cream color with a warm tone, gradually shading to a lighter color on the belly and chest. The points are a deep seal brown. On the front and back paws are white "gloves" ending in an even line across the paw. On the back paws, the gloves extend up the back of the leg (called laces) and end in a point or an inverted V shape. In the show ring, the symmetry of the "gloves and laces" are an important factor and may mean the difference between a kitten going on to a career as a show cat or as a pet.

Besides seal point, Birmans come in blue point, chocolate point, lilac point, and various parti-color point and lynx point colors. Lynx point Birmans have a clearly defined M marking on the forehead, light markings that resemble eyeglasses around the eyes, spotted whisker pads, solid-colored ears with no stripes, and "thumb marks" on the back of the ears. The legs and tail have stripes and rings.

**Friendship:** The friendly, laidback Birman is a perfect choice for families with

children and cat-friendly dogs. He loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect, and he doesn't mind playing dress-up or going for a ride in a baby buggy.

He is happy to live with cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: Despite the length of the Birman's coat, it has a silky texture that doesn't mat easily. Comb it weekly to remove dead hair and distribute skin oils. Birmanians shed their winter coat in the spring, so you may want to comb more frequently then to remove loose hair. A warm bath can also help to loosen and remove the shedding coat. To accomplish a Birman bath, wetting the cat with a hand-held shower nozzle is often preferable to immersing him in a tub of water.

Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection.

Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. Keep the Birman's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will help to keep the coat clean as well.

It's a good idea to keep a Birman as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Birmanians who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Himalayan

General: The Himalayan cat is a long-haired breed who has a sweet temperament and striking appearance. They are a cross between Persian and Siamese cats and have the best qualities of both breeds. Himalayans have the dense, luxurious coat of a Persian and the distinctive colorpoint markings of a Siamese. Their eyes are always a brilliant blue, and their noses and paws are typically darker than the rest of their body. Himalayans, also called Himmies, are generally gentle and affectionate cats. They are for good with children and other pets. Himalayans are also relatively low-maintenance cats but require regular grooming to prevent their coats from becoming matted.

Size: Himalayan cats are a medium to large-sized breed. On average, they typically weigh between 7 to 12 pounds (3.2 to 5.4 kg) and stand about 9 to 10 inches (23 to 25 cm) tall at the shoulder. Their size can vary slightly based on gender, genetics, and individual differences, but they are generally known for their sturdy build and luxurious, long fur.

Personality: Himalayan cats are known for their gentle, affectionate, and docile personalities. They are often described as being “lap cats” because they love to cuddle and be petted. Himalayans are also relatively quiet cats, and they are not known for being overly active. They are content to relax on their owners’ laps or follow them around the house.

Here are some of the key personality traits of Himalayan cats:

Affectionate: Himalayans are very loving and cuddly cats. They love to be petted and scratched, and they will often follow their owners around the house just to be close to them. Docile: Himalayans are gentle and easygoing cats. They are not known for being aggressive or destructive, and they are generally good with children and other pets. Quiet: Himalayans are relatively quiet cats. They do not meow often, and they are not known for being noisy or disruptive. Loyal: Himalayans are very loyal cats. They form strong bonds with their owners, and they will often follow them around the house just to be close to them. Intelligent: Himalayans are intelligent cats. They are easy to train, and they can learn simple tricks. If you are looking for a loving, affectionate, and docile cat, then the Himalayan may be the perfect breed for you. They are relatively low-maintenance cats, but they do require regular grooming. With proper care, Himalayans can live long and happy lives.

Here are some additional facts about Himalayan cats:

They were first bred in the United States in the 1930s. The name “Himalayan” comes from the fact that their colorpoint markings are similar to those of the snow leopard, which is found in the Himalayas. Himalayans are one of the most popular cat breeds in the world. They are often used as therapy cats because they are so gentle and loving.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Although they are beautiful and sweet, Exotics are prone to a number of potential health problems, most commonly related to their facial structure:

Breathing difficulty or noisy breathing caused by constricted nostrils Dental malocclusions, meaning the teeth don’t mesh well together Excessive tearing Eye conditions such as cherry eye, entropion and progressive retinal atrophy Feline hyperesthesia syndrome, a nervous system disorder Heat sensitivity Polycystic kidney disease, for which a genetic test is available Predisposition to ringworm, a fungal infection Seborrhea oleosa, a skin condition that causes itchiness, redness and hair loss

Coat: The Himalayan cat shares the Persian’s sweet expression and soft round lines. It has a large, round head; large, round eyes; a short nose; full cheeks; and small ears with rounded tips. The head is supported by a short, thick neck and a deceptively sturdy, muscular body. Its legs are short, thick, and strong with large, round, firm paws. The tail is short but proportional to the length of the cat’s body.

A Himalayan's coat is long, thick, shiny, and fine-textured. It is long all over the body and includes an immense ruff around the neck, a deep frill between the front legs, long ear and toe tufts, and a full "brush," or tail.

The Himalayan is bred in the following point colors: chocolate, seal, lilac, blue, red, cream tortie, blue-cream, chocolate-tortie, lilac-cream, seal lynx, blue lynx, red lynx, cream lynx, tortie lynx, blue-cream lynx, chocolate lynx, lilac lynx, chocolate-tortie lynx, and lilac-cream lynx. The body is various shades of white to fawn with color only on the facial mask and the feet, ears, and tail.

Unlike the Persian and the Exotic, the Himalayan's eyes come in only one color: a deep, vivid blue.

Himalayans come in two different "looks," known as extreme and traditional. Extreme Himalayans, those seen in the show ring, have a flatter face, which may come with breathing problems. Cats with the traditional look have a more old-fashioned appearance, with a face that is not as flat and a nose that is set lower on the face with more of a "break," permitting easier breathing. They are registered by the Traditional Cat Association.

Friendship: Himalayan cats are not the best choice for a houseful of boisterous children and dogs. They are gentle and docile cats who prefer a quiet and serene environment. However, they do not mind being the object of gentle attention from children, as long as the children are respectful of the cat's boundaries.

If you have children, it is important to teach them how to interact with a Himalayan cat in a way that is safe and comfortable for both the cat and the child. For example, children should be taught to avoid pulling the cat's tail or ears, and they should not try to pick up the cat unless the cat is clearly comfortable with being picked up.

Himalayan cats can also get along well with friendly dogs, as long as the dog is not aggressive or overly playful. If you have a dog, it is important to introduce the dog to the cat slowly and carefully, and to supervise their interactions closely at first.

Here are some tips for introducing a Himalayan cat to a child or dog:

Start by letting the cat and the child or dog sniff each other through a closed door. Once they seem comfortable with each other's scent, you can open the door and let them see each other. Supervise their interactions closely at first, and intervene if either the cat or the child or dog seems to be getting stressed or uncomfortable. With patience and positive reinforcement, most Himalayan cats and children or dogs can learn to get along well. If you are considering getting a Himalayan cat, it is important to think about your lifestyle and your family's needs. If you have young children or a lot of noise and activity in your home, a Himalayan cat may not be the best fit for you. However, if you are looking for a gentle and loving companion who enjoys being around people, a Himalayan cat could be the perfect pet for you.

Care: The most important thing to understand about caring for a Himalayan cat is that they require daily grooming. Their long, beautiful coat does not stay clean and tangle-free on its own. It must be gently but thoroughly combed every day, and regular bathing (at least once a month) is a good idea.

Another factor to consider is the litter box issue. Litter may become lodged in a Himalayan's paws or coat. If the cat and the litter box are not kept scrupulously clean, a Himmie is more likely than most to just stop using the box.

Excessive tearing can be a problem in this breed, so wipe the corners of the eyes clean daily to prevent under-eye stains from forming. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing.

It is a good idea to keep a Himalayan cat as an indoor-only cat. They are not scrappers and would fare poorly against other cats, dogs, coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors. Himalayans who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Persian

General: The Persian cat, with their luxurious long fur and distinctive appearance, is a breed known for elegance and a regal demeanor. Originating in Persia (modern-day Iran), these cats have a distinctive round face, flat nose, and large, expressive eyes. Persian cats come in a variety of coat colors and patterns, showcasing their beauty and versatility. Despite their aristocratic appearance, Persians are known for their calm and gentle nature, making them well-suited for indoor living. They are highly affectionate and are happy to enjoy the day lounging around the house, snuggling up alongside their human companions. Regular grooming is essential to maintain their long, flowing coat and prevent matting. With their serene disposition and stunning aesthetics, Persian cats are a popular choice among cat enthusiasts worldwide. When considering a Persian cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Persian kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Persian breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat. Persians usually have a weight range of 7 to 12 pounds.

Personality: The dignified and docile Persian is known for being quiet and sweet. She is an ornament to any home where she can enjoy sitting in a lap—surely her rightful place—being petted by those who are discerning enough to recognize



her superior qualities, and playing house with kind children who will gently comb her hair, wheel her around in a baby buggy, then serve her tea at their parties.

Persians are affectionate but discriminating. They reserve their attention for family members and those few guests whom they feel they can trust. Loud environments aren't a Persian's style; they are sedate cats who prefer a serene home where little changes from day to day.

With large, expressive eyes and a voice that has been described as soft, pleasant and musical, Persians let their simple needs be known: regular meals, a little playtime with a catnip mouse or feather teaser, and lots of love, which they return tenfold.

This is one cat who is unlikely to climb up your curtains, jump on your kitchen counters, or perch on top of your refrigerator. She is perfectly happy to rule her domain from the floor or more accessible pieces of furniture. When you are at work or are busy around the house, the Persian is content to adorn a chair, sofa or bed until you are free to admire her and give her the attention she willingly receives but never demands.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Although they are beautiful and sweet, Persians are prone to a number of potential health problems, most commonly related to their facial structure:

**Respiratory Issues:** Due to their flat faces and brachycephalic (short-nosed) features, Persian cats are prone to respiratory problems. They may experience difficulties in breathing, snoring, and are more susceptible to respiratory infections. **Dental Problems:** Persian cats can be prone to dental issues, including gum disease and tooth decay. Regular dental care, such as brushing their teeth and providing dental treats or toys, can help mitigate these problems. **Eye Conditions:** Their distinctive flat faces can also lead to eye conditions like entropion (a condition where the eyelids roll inward) and excessive tearing. Regular eye cleaning and keeping the face area clean can help prevent these issues. **Heat Sensitivity:** Due to their long fur and brachycephalic faces, Persian cats can be sensitive to heat and prone to heatstroke. It's important to keep them in a cool and well-ventilated environment, especially during hot weather. **Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD):** PKD is a genetic condition that is more common in Persian cats. It leads to the formation of fluid-filled cysts in the kidneys, which can eventually lead to kidney failure. Responsible breeding practices and genetic testing can help reduce the risk of PKD in Persian cats. **Skin Issues:** Their long, dense coats can be prone to matting and skin conditions if not properly groomed. Regular brushing and grooming are essential to keep their fur in good condition.

**Coat:** The Persian has a distinctive appearance: a large, round head; large, round eyes; a short nose; full cheeks; and small ears with rounded tips. The head is supported by a short, thick neck and a deceptively sturdy, muscular

body—a type known as “cobby.” A Persian’s legs are short, thick and strong with large, round, firm paws. The tail is short but proportional to the length of the cat’s body.

A long, thick, shiny coat with a fine texture completes the Persian’s look. It’s long all over the body and includes an immense ruff around the neck, a deep frill between the front legs, long ear and toe tufts, and a full “brush,” or tail. Persians can come in different “looks.” Some, known as Peke-face Persians, have an extremely flat face. Think twice about the breathing problems such a cat might have before deciding to get one. “Doll-face” Persians are said to have a more old-fashioned appearance, with a face that is not as flat as the show Persian or the Peke-face Persian.

Persians of all stripes stand out for their infinite variety of coat colors and patterns. Imagine, if you will, seven solid color divisions—white, blue, black, red, cream, chocolate and lilac—plus silver and golden division colors of chinchilla and shaded silver or golden and blue chinchilla and blue shaded silver or golden; and then there are the shaded, smoke, tabby, calico, particolor and bicolor divisions. That’s not counting the various pointed patterns of the Himalayan.

Eye color is related to coat color. For instance, white Persians have deep blue or brilliant copper eyes; other solid-colored Persians have brilliant copper eyes; silver and golden Persians have green or blue-green eyes; and so on.

Friendship: Persians aren’t the best choice for a houseful of boisterous children and dogs, but they have no objection to being the object of a gentle child’s attentions or to rubbing along with a friendly dog who doesn’t chase them or otherwise cause them anxiety.

Care: The most important thing to understand about caring for a Persian is the need for daily grooming. That long, beautiful coat doesn’t stay clean and tangle-free on its own. It must be gently but thoroughly combed and brushed every day, and regular bathing—at least once a month—is a good idea.

Another factor to consider is the litter box issue. Litter may become lodged in a Persian’s paws or coat. If the cat and the litter box aren’t kept scrupulously clean, a Persian is more likely than most to just stop using the box.

Excessive tearing can be a problem in this breed, so wipe the corners of the eyes clean daily to prevent under-eye stains from forming. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing.

It’s a good idea to keep a Persian as an indoor-only cat. She’s not a scrapper and would fare poorly against other cats, dogs, coyotes and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors. Nor is the Persian’s coat made for shedding dirt, leaves and stickers. Letting a Persian outdoors just means that much more time spent grooming the cat. Persians who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Ragdoll Cats

General: The Ragdoll cat breed is renowned for its striking appearance, docile temperament, and captivating blue eyes. Originating in the 1960s in California, Ragdolls are characterized by their large size, semi-longhair coat with color-point patterns, and a silky texture. One of the distinctive features of Ragdolls is their tendency to go limp when picked up, giving rise to their name. To that end, this behavior reflects their gentle and relaxed nature, making them ideal lap cats and companions. Ragdolls typically have a sturdy build, striking blue almond-shaped eyes, and a color-point pattern that is darker on the ears, face, paws, and tail. Beyond their enchanting physical attributes, Ragdolls exhibit a friendly and affectionate demeanor. The Ragdoll cat forms strong bonds with their family members and enjoy human interaction. Additionally, Ragdolls are typically social and get along well with children and other pets, contributing to their reputation as excellent family cats. Their semi-longhair coat requires regular grooming to prevent matting, but their laid-back nature makes the grooming process more manageable. With their stunning appearance and gentle disposition, Ragdolls have become a popular and sought-after breed for those seeking a loving and beautiful feline companion. When considering a Ragdoll, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Ragdoll breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kittens. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices. Additional articles you will be interested in:

Size: Females usually weigh 10 to 15 pounds, and some males weigh more than 20 pounds.

Personality: Unlike many cats, Ragdolls are notable for collapsing into the arms of anyone who holds them, even if they are cradled on their back. They love their people, greeting them at the door, following them around the house, and leaping into a lap or snuggling in bed whenever given the chance. They often learn to come when called or to retrieve toys that are thrown for them.

The word most often used to describe them is docile, but that doesn't mean they are inactive. They like to play with toys and enter into any family activities. With positive reinforcement in the form of praise and food rewards when they do something you like, Ragdolls learn quickly and can pick up tricks as well as good behaviors such as using a scratching post.

In a small, sweet voice, they remind you of mealtime or ask for petting but are not excessively vocal. Ragdolls have nice manners and are easy to live with. You will find a Ragdoll on your sofa or bed, but generally not much higher than that. He prefers to stay on the same level with his people rather than the

highest point in a room

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the Ragdoll include the following:

**Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy:** A form of heart disease that is inherited in Ragdolls. A DNA-based test is available to identify cats that carry one of the mutations that causes the disease. **Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD):** PKD is a hereditary condition that causes cysts to form on the kidneys. It can lead to kidney failure. Responsible breeders screen for PKD, and owners should ensure their cat receives regular kidney function evaluations. **Bladder and Kidney Stones:** Ragdolls may be more prone to developing urinary tract issues, including the formation of stones or crystals in the bladder and kidneys. Maintaining proper hydration and feeding a balanced diet can help reduce the risk of these issues. **Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP):** This is a severe and often fatal disease in cats caused by a type of coronavirus known as the feline coronavirus (FCoV). FIP is a complex and poorly understood condition that primarily affects young cats, particularly those under the age of two. Ragdoll cats are generally known for their docile and affectionate nature, but like all breeds, they can be prone to certain health issues. It's essential for Ragdoll cat owners to be aware of these potential health concerns and provide proper care and regular veterinary check-ups.

**Coat:** Ragdolls stand out for their large size, semi-long coat in a pointed pattern, and sparkling blue eyes. They are among the largest of the domesticated cats, with some males weighing in at 20 pounds or more. A Ragdoll has a light-colored body with a darker face, legs, tail and ears. He comes in three patterns: mitted and bicolor, both of which have white, and colorpoint, which has no white.

Ragdolls don't reach their full size and coat development until they are three to four years old. The Cat Fanciers Association breed standard says the Ragdoll should have a large, broad head in a modified wedge shape. All sides of the head should be of equal length and the muzzle should be gently rounded. The eyes are described as vivid blue ovals. Medium-size ears have rounded tips and tilt forward.

Supporting the head is a heavy, strong neck, which segues into a large and long body that is broad, solid and heavy-boned. The heavy-boned legs are moderately long, with the hind legs longer than the front legs. Large round paws are tufted with fur, and the long tail looks like a waving plume. The Ragdoll has a silky coat that is moderately long. It's short on the face, blossoms into a ruff around the neck, shortens again on the shoulder blades, then lengthens toward the tail, which is fully feathered with fur.

Depending on the association, the coat comes in four patterns—bi-color, van, mitted and colorpoint—up to six colors: seal, blue, chocolate, lilac, red, and cream, and points that may be solid, lynx, tortie, or torbie (tortie and lynx). That adds up to many different possibilities when it comes to color and pattern.

Mitted Ragdolls are just what they sound like: they have four white feet, plus a white chin and belly, and sometimes a white spot on the face that may look like a blaze, star or hourglass.

Bi-colors have even more white than mitteds, including on the chest and belly and sometimes on the back. On the face they may have a white inverted V-shape. Vans have the most white on the body, and Colorpoints have no white.

Ragdolls sold as pets may have slight cosmetic imperfections that make them unsuitable for the show ring. These might include ears set higher on the head than preferred, a nose that doesn't turn up at the tip, eyes that aren't Crater Lake-blue, or maybe mitts that don't go up high enough on the hind legs. As long as they have the sweet, loving Ragdoll temperament, none of that really matters for a cat who will be a beloved companion instead of a show-ring star.

Friendship: The laidback Ragdoll is perfectly suited to family life. He rarely extends his claws when playing, and he usually doesn't mind playing dress-up, riding in a baby buggy or being a guest at a tea party. Because of their large size, males are an especially good choice for families with children.

Of course, you should always supervise young children to make sure they don't torment the cat. And with a cat this size, it's essential to teach children how to support the cat, with one arm beneath the front legs and one beneath the hind legs. Never hold a Ragdoll with the hind end hanging down. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, thanks to his amiable disposition. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: A Ragdoll's moderately long fur has little undercoat, which means it is less likely to mat and shed, but that doesn't mean the cats need no grooming. Comb it twice a week with a stainless steel comb to remove dead hair that can cause tangles. Be sure to comb the fur on the legs thoroughly, especially where the leg meets the body, where mats are most likely to occur. A rubber curry brush will smooth the fur after you comb it and remove any remaining loose hairs.

If you are gentle and don't pull their hair, Ragdolls will love the attention they receive from you during grooming time. Note that seasonal changes as well as hormonal fluctuations in unaltered cats can affect the length of the coat. The coat will be at its peak in winter. Ragdolls that have been spayed or neutered will usually have a lush coat year-round because they lack the hormonal fluctuations that occur in unaltered cats.

Check the tail for bits of poop stuck to the fur and clean it off with a baby wipe. Bathe a Ragdoll as needed, which can range from every few weeks to every few months. If his coat feels greasy or his fur looks stringy, he needs a bath.

Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any

discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear.

Keep the Ragdoll's litter box spotlessly clean. Cats are very particular about bathroom hygiene, and a clean litter box will help to keep the coat clean as well. Speaking of litter boxes, a large cat like the Ragdoll needs a box that is super-sized to ensure that he has plenty of room to turn around and squat. Ragdolls usually go through several growth spurts as they mature. These can continue off and on until the cat is four years old. Don't be deceived by the pad of fat on the belly, which is a trait of the breed.

Until you are sure they have reached their mature size, make sure they always have plenty of food available to fuel their growth. It's a good idea to keep the gentle Ragdoll as an indoor-only cat to protect him from attacks by dogs or coyotes, diseases spread by other cats, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Ragdolls who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: Serrade Petit

General: The Serrade Petit is a natural cat breed cat, which means they developed without the need for human intervention. These felines are laid back, playful, and affectionate. The Serrade Petit cat can often be a little shy at first, but once they get used to their new humans, these felines are remarkably loving and affectionate. They have a strong bond with their families and can be quite cuddly companions. The breed also has a strong playful streak, although they don't have the highest energy levels. The Serrade Petit also prefers company rather than being left alone all day. When considering a Serrade Petit cat, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Serrade Petit kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Serrade Petit cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Serrade Petit is a small cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary.

Most Serrade Petits weigh in at between 6-9 pounds.

Personality: So what sort of cat will you be living with on a day to day basis if you adopt a Serrade Petit and bring one home? Well, first up, be warned

that the breed is sometimes shy and will take a minute to get used to its new surroundings and the humans it will be living with. But with a little patience you'll discover that a sweet and affectionate cat very quickly emerges—and this is definitely a feline that will happily snuggle up with you for lounging sessions on the couch or bed.

The breed also gets along well with young children. The Serrade Petit might possess a smaller than usual feline physique, but these cats definitely enjoy play sessions. Just remember that their lower energy levels mean that Serrade Petits might tire out sooner than you'd imagine. The breed also has a reputation for being a talkative feline—so get ready to add a chatty cat to your home!

**Health:** They are still considered a developing breed and haven't been recognized by major cat associations like TICA or CFA. Research and data collection on their health vulnerabilities are currently limited. Serrade Petits are generally considered to be healthy cats—although it's important to schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed-specific health problems associated with the Serrade Petit, but always keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The Serrade Petit is a cat that can be seen in either one color or as a bi- or even tri-color kitty. Its short fur is often white, orange or tan in color. When it comes to grooming, the short-haired Serrade Petit cat is pretty low maintenance and can be brushed once a week. This will help ward off the chances of any mats forming. Although ask your vet for tips if you find that your Serrade Petit doesn't take to sitting still and being brushed at first.

In terms of climate, most Serrade Petits are fairly adaptable felines. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The Serrade Petit is a great fit for families with young children. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides—and supervise early interactions between kids and cats.

When it comes to other household pets, the Serrade Petit might not be the best fit around dogs or other larger pets. In all cases, make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets—sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your Serrade Petit for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your Serrade Petit's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your Serrade Petit cat's living environment—this can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition.

The cat's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or

possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regime that will suit your Serrade Petit. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, while the Serrade Petit does enjoy lounging and napping, they do have a playful streak so make sure to add a cat tree and some interactive toys to the home.

Name: Sphynx

General: Sphynx cats, often referred to as the “naked cat,” is one of the most distinctive and unique breeds in the feline world. What sets the Sphynx apart is its striking lack of fur, revealing a warm and inviting personality that has captivated cat lovers worldwide. This remarkable breed, with its sleek and smooth skin, exudes a sense of elegance and charm, making it a conversation piece and a cherished companion in equal measure. When considering a Sphynx, it’s advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase, it’s crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Sphynx breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The Sphynx is a medium-size cat. He typically weighs 6 to 12 pounds.

Personality: It’s a good thing that the Sphynx loves attention because he draws it wherever he goes. He is demanding of human attention and will do anything for a laugh. “Look at me!” is his catchphrase. That makes him easy to handle by veterinarians or anyone else, and it’s not unusual for a Sphynx to be a therapy cat since he is so fond of meeting people.

When he is not receiving the attentions of his adoring fans, the curious and energetic Sphynx is exploring his surroundings, climbing his cat tree or otherwise seeking high places, chasing a bug or just generally getting into mischief. He is extremely fond of teaser toys and puzzle toys that challenge his athleticism and brains.

This is a highly social cat. If you are gone during the day, the Sphynx will enjoy having a friend in the form of another Sphynx, another cat or even a dog. He likes the company and, equally important, he likes having someone to snuggle with so that he stays warm. He loves to be held, and you can expect him to sleep with you, most likely under the covers. Think of it as having a living hot water bottle.

Health: Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Sphynx are generally healthy, although the following diseases have been seen in the breed:

Urticaria Pigmentosa: Feline Urticaria Pigmentosa is a skin condition that affects cats, similar to the human version but with some differences. It is a type



of cutaneous mast cell tumor, which involves the abnormal growth and accumulation of mast cells in the skin. Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: A form of heart disease that is inherited in some cat breeds such as the Maine Coon. Heritability has not been proven in the Sphynx. Dental Issues: Dental problems, including gingivitis and periodontal disease, can be common in cats, and Sphynx are no exception. Regular dental care, including brushing their teeth and providing dental treats, can help prevent dental problems.

Coat: Bald, wrinkled and potbellied, the Sphynx is sometimes proclaimed to be ugly, but only by those who have a shallow understanding of beauty. His unusual body shape and the physiological and emotional warmth he emits are what attract people to him. Much like an apricot, the hard, muscular body of the Sphynx can be smooth or covered with a fine, soft down. The nose, toes, ears and tail may also have a light covering of fur.

To hug him is to melt into the warmth of his suedelike coat. A Sphynx does not have a higher body temperature than other cats, but it seems like it because there is no fur to serve as insulation. A broad chest and a well-rounded abdomen give him the appearance of having eaten just a little too much at dinnertime, but he should not be fat.

Supporting the body are firm, muscular legs set on oval paws with long, slender toes. Thick paw pads make the Sphynx look as if he is walking on “air cushions.” A long, slender, flexible tail is described as whiplike. A Sphynx with a little tuft of fur on the end of the tail is said to have a lion tail.

Sphynx kittens are heavily wrinkled, but as they grow the wrinkles smooth out, although some remain throughout the cat’s life. A Sphynx should not be so wrinkled that eyesight or other functions are compromised. The head of the Sphynx is a modified wedge shape, slightly longer than it is wide, with prominent cheekbones, large ears and large, lemon-shaped eyes. Whiskers and eyebrows are sparse to nonexistent.

The Sphynx comes in all colors and patterns, including white, black, red, chocolate, lavender, various tabby patterns, tortoiseshell, calico, bicolor, and pointed and mink patterns. The color is seen in the pigment of the skin as well as in whatever hair the cat has and can sometimes be difficult to distinguish.

Friendship: The active and social Sphynx is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He lives peacefully with dogs and other cats. Always introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Care: Despite his bald body, a Sphynx requires at least as much grooming as cats with fur and maybe even more. Their skin must be kept moisturized with a gentle, scent-free lotion or oil, and they need weekly baths so as not to leave greasy spots on your furniture and clothing. Use a gentle baby shampoo or moisturizing shampoo and rinse thoroughly, especially between the folds of the

wrinkles.

If you begin bathing your Sphynx kitten while he is young, he will learn to accept and sometimes even enjoy baths. Baby wipes will help to keep him clean between baths. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing.

Wipe the corners of the eyes daily with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear.

Keep the litter box spotlessly clean. Like all cats, Sphynx are very particular about bathroom hygiene. Although the Sphynx feels warm to the touch, he doesn't have a fur coat to keep him warm. If you're cold, he probably is too. Buy him a nice sweater or two to help him retain heat.

It's a good idea to keep a Sphynx as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Sphynx who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such an unusual cat without paying for it. If your Sphynx has an outdoor enclosure where he can sunbathe, be sure to apply cat-safe sunscreen to his skin to prevent sunburn.

Name: Somali

General: Somali cats, with their long, luxurious fur and cute bushy tails, are a breed that exudes beauty and grace. Known for looking like a fox with a plush coat, these feline beauties are charming. Originating from the Abyssinian cat breed, Somali cats have semi-longhair coats, which come in a wide array of colors. Their coats feature a mix of vibrant shades, creating a warm and friendly appearance. Beyond their physical allure, Somali cats have a playful and intelligent nature. Highly active and agile, these cats love playing and can be found gracefully leaping from perch to perch with apparent ease. Their curious nature make them excellent pets for those who appreciate a cat that keeps them on their toes. When considering a Somali, it's advisable to prioritize adopting a cat or kitten from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a Somali kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable Somali breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: This is a medium-size cat weighing 6 to 10 pounds.

**Personality:** Like his sibling the Abyssinian, the Somali lives life to the fullest. He climbs higher, jumps farther, plays harder. Nothing escapes the notice of this highly intelligent and inquisitive cat, a quality that makes life with him both endlessly entertaining and continuously challenging. Staying a step ahead of a Somali, or even just keeping pace with him, requires the fancy footwork of a Fred Astaire, the brainpower of an Einstein and a sense of humor that never stops. You never know what he'll get into next, although you can assume that if you have something or are doing something, your Somali will want to investigate it closely. Sometimes it may seem as if the Somali never sleeps. He is ever in motion, jumping up in the window to look at birds or squirrels, leaping on top of the refrigerator to supervise meal preparation, perching on your desk to watch your fingers move over the keyboard and then swiping at them so you'll pay attention to him instead. This is a playful, persistent cat who adores being the center of attention and will do anything to achieve and maintain that status. The Somali loves to play, so plan on making or purchasing a variety of toys to keep him occupied. Ping-Pong balls, bottle caps, wadded-up pieces of paper, puzzle toys and teasers such as big peacock feathers will all amuse this busy and brainy cat. Teach him to retrieve at your peril. Once you start, he won't let you stop. He learns tricks quickly and many Abys enjoy running a feline agility course. A love of heights is a signal trait of the Somali. He likes to be as high up as possible and will appreciate having one or more ceiling-height cat trees. When those aren't available, he is perfectly capable of making his way to the uppermost point of any room. Fortunately, he is naturally graceful and rarely breaks items unless it is simply out of curiosity. Somalis are adaptable throughout their lives and fit well into any home where they are loved and given plenty of attention. In a home where people are at work or school during the day, the Somali does best with a companion, ideally another Somali or Aby, who can match his activity level. If left to his own devices, the Somali may well dismantle the house in his search for something interesting to do. Beware! The Somali can be addictive. Once you've had one, you may find that no other cat will do.

**Health:** Both pedigreed cats and mixed-breed cats have varying incidences of health problems that may be genetic in nature. Problems that may affect the Somali include the following:

**Periodontal Disease:** Periodontal disease in cats is a common and potentially serious dental condition that affects the tissues surrounding the teeth. It is characterized by inflammation and infection of the gums, often leading to dental problems that can impact a cat's overall health. **Hyperesthesia Syndrome:** This is a neurological problem that can cause cats to excessively groom themselves, leading to hair loss, and to act frantically, especially when they are touched or petted. **Patellar Luxation:** This is a hereditary dislocation of the kneecap that can range from mild to severe. Severe cases can be alleviated with surgery. **Progressive Retinal Atrophy:** Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) is a group of genetic disorders that affect the retina in both humans and animals, including cats. The condition leads to the degeneration of the retina over time, ultimately

resulting in vision impairment or blindness. Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PKD): Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency (PKD) is a hereditary disorder that affects the metabolism of red blood cells in cats. It is an enzyme deficiency that impairs the ability of red blood cells to generate energy, leading to various health issues. Renal Amyloidosis: This is a heritable disease that occurs when a type of protein called amyloid is deposited in body organs, primarily the kidneys in Abyssinians. It eventually leads to kidney failure.

Coat: Except for the additional length, the Somali has the same ticked coat as the Abyssinian. A ticked coat has alternating light and dark bands of color on each hair shaft. The Somali's ticking may be slower to develop than that of the Aby. Everything about him suggests his lively, attentive nature. The Somali has a slightly rounded wedge-shaped head topped with large, broad ears, the better to hear you with. Large, almond-shaped eyes of gold or green express interest in everything they see. On the face, dark lines may extend from the eyes and brows. The muscular body is graceful and athletic. It falls into a middle ground between the stocky, or cobby, body of a breed such as the Persian and the long, svelte body of the Oriental breeds such as the Siamese. The body is supported by slim, fine-boned legs atop small, oval, compact paws. Somalis are often said to look as if they are walking on tip-toe. Swishing behind them is a full brush, or tail, thick at the base and slightly tapering at the end. Its bands of color give the Somali's coat a warm, glowing appearance. To the touch, the medium-length hair is soft and silky with a fine texture. The Somali stands out from the Aby for the ruff around his neck and the "breeches" on his legs, which give him a more full-coated appearance than the Aby. Horizontal tufts of fur adorn the inner ears. The coat comes in four main colors: ruddy brown, more artistically described as burnt sienna and ticked with darker brown or black, with tile-red nose leather and black or brown paw pads; red (sometimes called sorrel), a cinnamon shade ticked with chocolate-brown, with pink nose leather and paw pads; blue, a warm beige ticked with various shades of slate blue, with nose leather described as old rose and paw pads as mauve; and fawn, a warm rose-beige ticked with light cocoa-brown, with salmon-colored nose leather and pink paw pads. Some associations permit additional colors, including chocolate, lilac, and various silver tones.

Friendship: The active and social Somali is a perfect choice for families with children and cat-friendly dogs. He will play fetch as well as any retriever, learns tricks easily and loves the attention he receives from children who treat him politely and with respect. He's smart enough to get out of the way of toddlers but loves school-age children because they are a match for his energy level and curiosity. Nothing scares him, certainly not dogs, and he will happily make friends with them if they don't give him any trouble. Somalis have also been known to get along with large parrots, ferrets and other animals. Always introduce any pets, even other cats, slowly and in a controlled setting.

Care: The medium length coat of the Somali needs a moderate amount of grooming. Comb the coat once or twice a week with a stainless steel comb to

remove dead hair, prevent or remove tangles, and distribute skin oils. In the spring, when the cat is shedding his winter coat, you may need to comb him daily. A bath when the cat is shedding will help to remove excess hair more quickly. Check the tail for bits of poop stuck to the fur and clean it off with a baby wipe. Brush the teeth to prevent periodontal disease. Daily dental hygiene is best, but weekly brushing is better than nothing. Trim the nails every couple of weeks. Wipe the corners of the eyes with a soft, damp cloth to remove any discharge. Use a separate area of the cloth for each eye so you don't run the risk of spreading any infection. Check the ears weekly. If they look dirty, wipe them out with a cotton ball or soft damp cloth moistened with a 50-50 mixture of cider vinegar and warm water. Avoid using cotton swabs, which can damage the interior of the ear. It's a good idea to keep a Somali as an indoor-only cat to protect him from diseases spread by other cats, attacks by dogs or coyotes, and the other dangers that face cats who go outdoors, such as being hit by a car. Somalis who go outdoors also run the risk of being stolen by someone who would like to have such a beautiful cat without paying for it.

Name: York Chocolate

General: The York Chocolate cat is an intriguing and relatively rare feline breed celebrated for its stunning appearance and delightful temperament. This breed originated in the late 1980s in New York State. Janet Chiefari, a dedicated colorpoint shorthair breeder, meticulously developed York Chocolates with the intention of creating a distinctive cat with a unique coat and amiable personality. Beyond their remarkable physical attributes, York Chocolates display an amiable and affectionate nature. These cats showcase a social and interactive personality, forming strong bonds with their human companions. Additionally, their playful and intelligent demeanor makes them wonderful additions to households, as they readily engage in family activities and interact positively with children and other pets. When considering adding a cat to your home, it's advisable to prioritize adopting from rescue organizations or shelters to provide a loving home to a cat in need. However, if you decide to purchase a kitten, it's crucial to choose a reputable breeder. Conduct thorough research to ensure that the breeder follows ethical practices and prioritizes the well-being of their cats. Reputable cat breeders prioritize the health and temperament of their cats, conduct necessary health screenings, and provide a nurturing environment for the kitties. This active approach ensures that you bring home a healthy and happy kitty while discouraging unethical breeding practices.

Size: The York Chocolate is a large cat. As is always the case, exact size standards might vary. Most York Chocolates weigh between 10 and 18 pounds, with the females often being smaller than the males.

Personality: When you adopt a York Chocolate, be aware that this cat will always want to follow you around and be part of whatever action is going on! Some owners even say that adopting a York Chocolate is a little like living with a dog. The breed balances a playful side with a relaxed and affectionate side: The York Chocolate is definitely a cat who benefits from having extra people

and other pets around to play and socialize with, but these kitties are also very much content to snuggle up on the couch or lounge on the bed for extended nap sessions. On a day to day basis, the York Chocolate is a social feline who really does need company; this is not the cat for anyone who's away at work all day and leaves behind a totally empty house. You'll also need to keep the cat's excellent hunting instincts satisfied, so add smart, moving, and interactive toys to the living environment, and make sure to rotate them on a regular basis.

**Health:** York Chocolates are generally considered to be healthy cats, but always schedule regular wellness visits with your cat's vet. There aren't any breed specific health problems associated with the York Chocolate, but make sure to keep an eye out for signs that your cat might be in distress or pain.

**Coat:** The York Chocolate is usually found sporting a long-haired, chocolate brown colored coat. The coat is often a lighter shade during kittenhood. When it comes to grooming a York Chocolate, you will want to make time to schedule brushing sessions three or four times a week. This will help keep the cat's coat in good condition and also ward off the chances of mats forming, which is always something to watch out for with long-haired felines. In terms of climate, most York Chocolates are fairly adaptable felines. Just remember to always make sure that there's enough shade and fresh water available during the hotter months.

**Friendship:** The York Chocolate is great for families with young kids. Just make sure that early socialization takes place and boundaries are properly set on both sides. Supervise early interactions between young children and cats. When it comes to other household pets, the York Chocolate usually fares well with most other domestic animals; although, their hunting instincts mean it might not be advisable to bring them into a house with very small pets. Always make sure to supervise early interactions between the new cat and existing pets. Sometimes these relationships are very much dependent on the individual pets' personalities. Ultimately, early socialization really pays off with this breed. Make sure to reward your York Chocolate for good behavior when you bring them home to your family!

**Care:** As with all cats, it's important to keep up your York Chocolate's regular veterinary checkups to detect any health concerns early. Your vet can help you develop a care routine that will keep your cat healthy. Beyond scheduling yearly wellness visits with your vet, make sure that you pick up a scratching post for your York Chocolate's living environment. This can help promote healthy scratching and keep the cat's nails in good condition, which is very important for a kitty with such strong hunting instincts like this breed. The York Chocolate's ears should be examined regularly for signs of dirt building up or possible infection. Talk to your vet about starting a regular teeth brushing regimen that will suit your York Chocolate. Your vet can advise you about specific brands and techniques. Finally, the York Chocolate will definitely appreciate a cat tree to play and interact with. This will help keep the cat active and physically satisfied.