

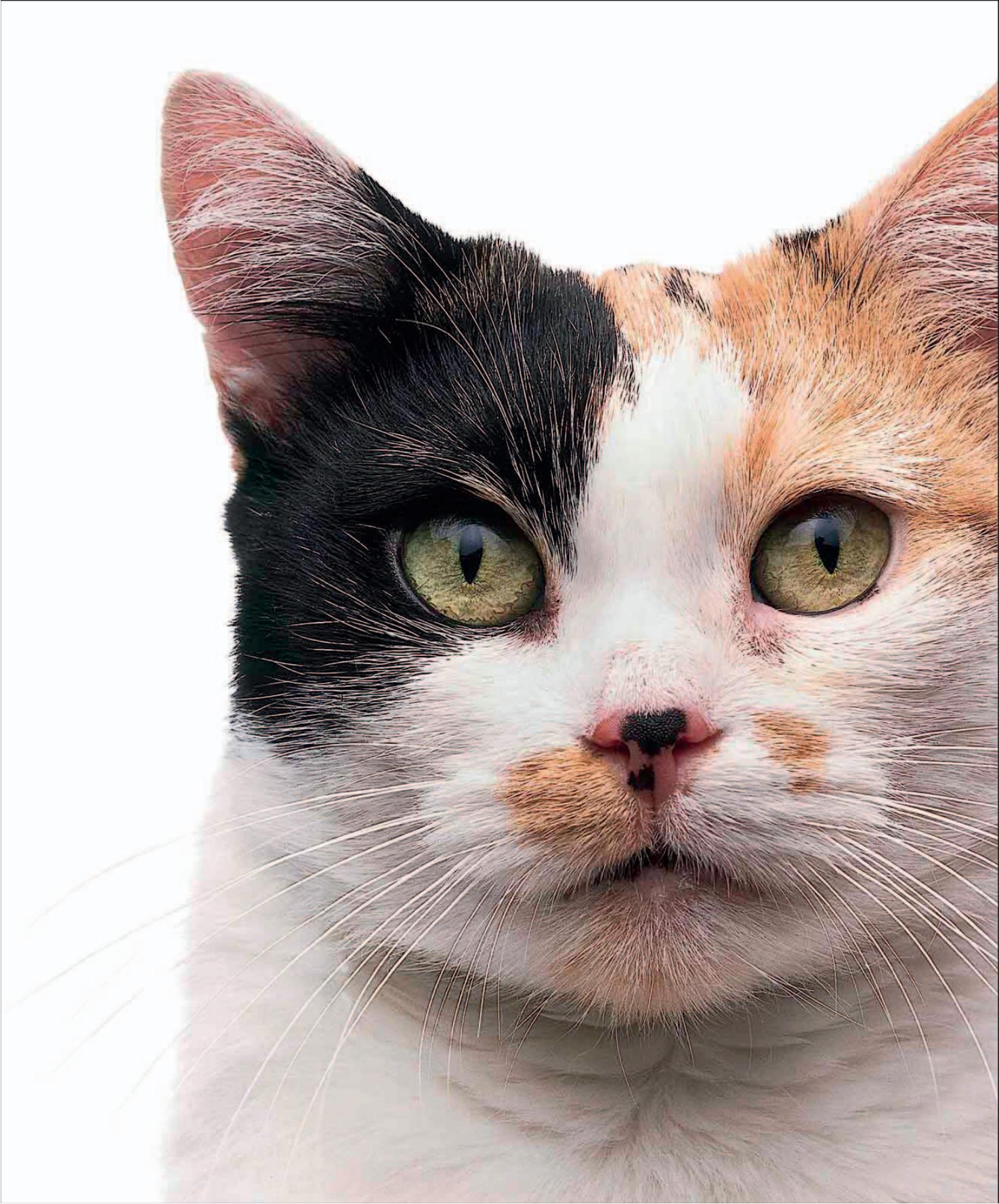


THE COMPLETE
CAT
BREED
BOOK

CHOOSE THE **PERFECT CAT** FOR YOU

THE COMPLETE
CAT
BREED
BOOK







THE COMPLETE
**CAT
BREED
BOOK**

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CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION TO CATS

What is a cat? 8

Choosing the right cat 20





2 CATALOG OF BREEDS

Shorthairs	26	Health	238
Longhairs	134	Inherited disorders	244
		Responsible breeding	246

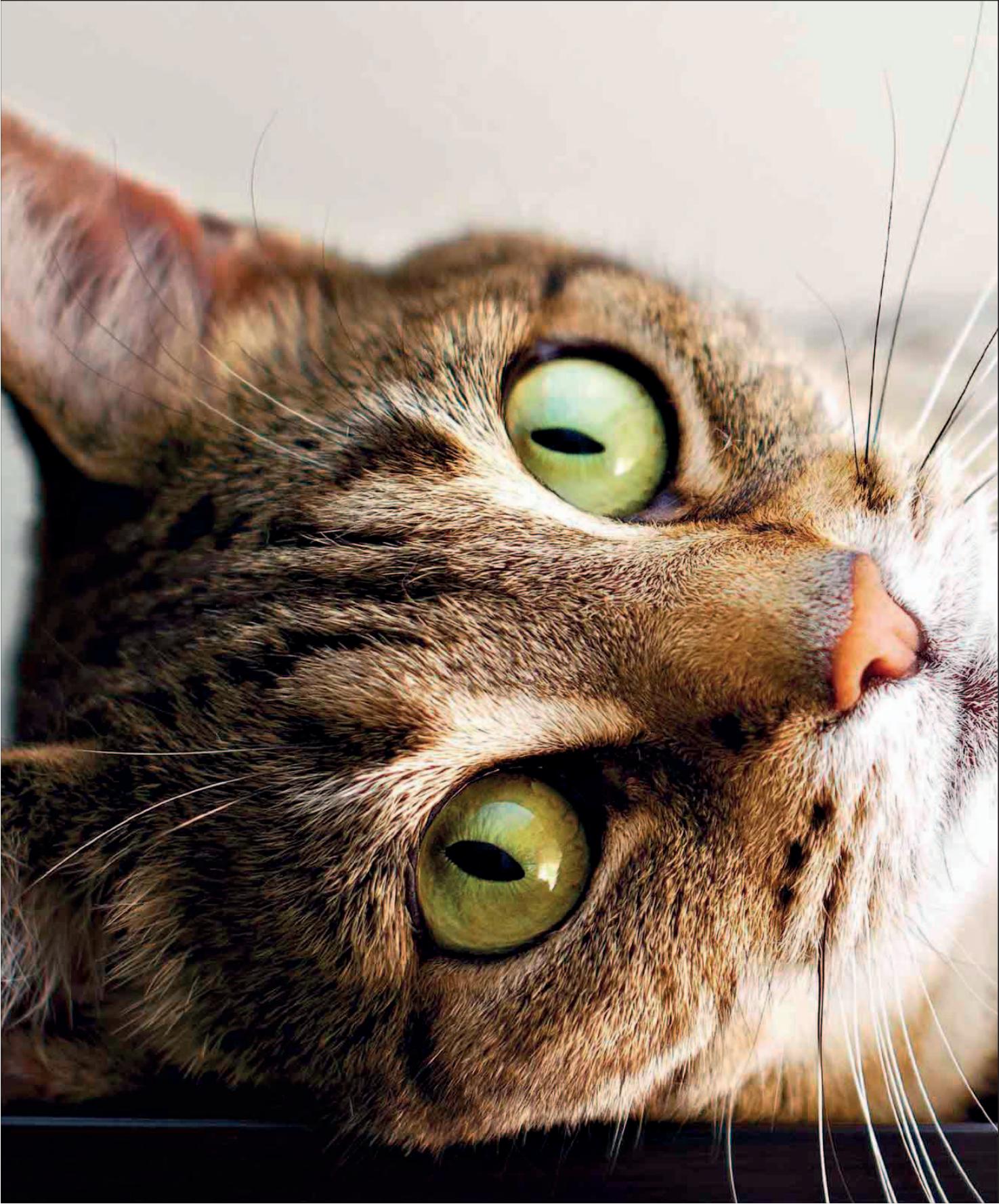
3 CARE AND BEHAVIOR

Preparing for arrival	202
First days	206
Food and feeding	212
Handling your cat	216
Socializing your cat	218
Indoors or outdoors?	222
Cat communication	224
The importance of play	226
Grooming and hygiene	228
Training your cat	232
Behavior problems	234

4 HEALTH AND BREEDING

GLOSSARY	248
INDEX	250
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	256







INTRODUCTION TO CATS

WHAT IS A CAT?

The domestic cat is now the world's most popular pet, but cats were not always tame. The relationship between humans and cats began in the Near East about 10,000 years ago, when cats killed the rodents that ate grain stored in towns and villages. They were kept as pets in Egypt from about 2000 BCE, but the different breeds have only been created over the last hundred years or so.



Cats are fast-moving natural athletes

Evolution of the cat

The family history of the domestic cat goes way back in time, to long before the first humanlike primates walked the Earth. All cats—from tigers, jaguars, and other big cats to smaller lynxes and ocelots—belong to the family of mammals called Felidae, which contains 41 living species. The first catlike carnivores appeared around 35 million years ago. Fossil evidence suggests that modern felids arose in Asia about 11 million years ago. However, the big cats we know today, such as the lion, did not evolve until much later, between 4 and 2 million years ago, when a drier, warmer climate gave rise to open habitats and herds of soft-skinned grazing animals. The athletic build of big cats was ideal for catching such prey. Less agile cats, such as the sabre-tooths, gradually died out.

The most recent cats to evolve include the lynxes (US and Europe), the bobcat (US), the leopard cat (Southeast Asia), and the wildcats (Africa, Europe, and Asia). The domestic cat is descended from the African wildcat, and it is generally considered to be a wildcat subspecies.

Domestication

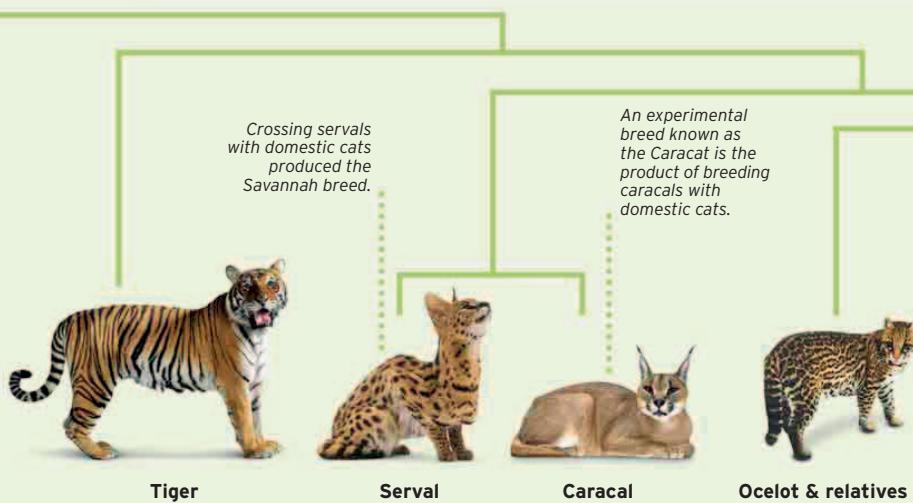
In the Near East, about 10,000 years ago, humans began growing cereal crops and storing grain for the first time. They found that rats and mice would get into their stores and eat the grain. However, the rodents themselves were eaten by small predators, such as the African wildcat. Soon a relationship between cats and humans developed: the cats had a ready supply of food in the rodents that

THE CAT FAMILY

■ This diagram shows the relationship between the domestic cat and some of the other members of the cat family—the Felidae—based on genetic evidence. The closer a cat is to the domestic cat on this diagram, the more similar their genetic makeup.

■ All Felidae are carnivores—they eat exclusively meat and could not survive on a plant-based diet.

■ Though they vary in size, most cats share some physical characteristics—they have lithe, muscular bodies, large eyes, and retractable claws, and most have tails that measure up to half of their body length.



humans attracted, and the humans gained a much-appreciated form of pest control that lived alongside them in their towns and villages.

Wild species of cats are naturally wary of humans, but over time natural selection favored those cats that were least scared of people and adaptable enough to change from being solitary hunters to living in close proximity to humans and other cats. By around 2000 BCE the cat had become fully domesticated and was living in the homes of the Ancient Egyptians as a much-loved pet that also kept rodents under control. From Egypt the domestic cat would eventually spread to homes in nations around the world.

Cat breeds

In the late 19th century the breeding and showing of cats began in earnest, and cat enthusiasts became known as "cat fanciers." Cat registries were established to set breed standards and to store the genealogies of purebred cats. Today, there are several international cat registries, and more than 100 different cat breeds, though not all registries recognize the same ones. Breeds are defined by characteristics such as body and head shape; coat color and pattern; eye shape and color; and temperament; as well as by unusual features such as hairlessness, short tails, and folded ears.

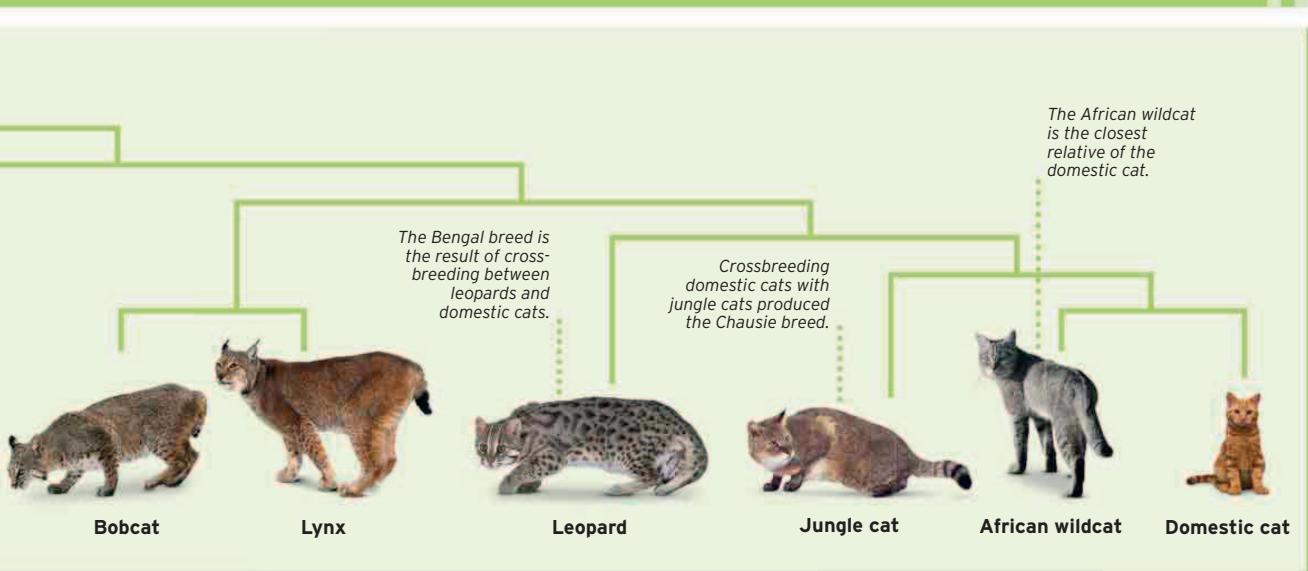
Purebred cats have been selectively bred over many generations to perfect the desired characteristics of their breed. However, it is still possible for two cats in the same litter to be classed as different breeds, depending on which features they inherit from their parents.



WILD BEHAVIOR

Domestic cats display many of the same instincts as their wild relatives. For example, they stretch frequently, to keep their muscles limber in case they need to sprint after prey or away from danger.

Early cat breeds were often natural breeds, typical of certain regions of the world. These include the Maine Coon (from the state of Maine) and the Turkish Van (from Turkey). Today, breeders understand how traits are inherited and use cats with novel characteristics to produce new breeds—for example, with curled ears. New breeds can also result from crossing domestic cats with wild relatives, such as the Bengal (part leopard) and Savannah (part serval). Most pet cats are randomly bred "moggies," without any defined breed.



The founder effect

Domestic cats spread around the world from Egypt, traveling with humans along trade routes on land and also aboard ships sailing to newly discovered lands, such as the Americas. These cats soon established isolated populations in new locations. If any of the pioneer cats in an area possessed an unusual trait, that characteristic stood a good chance of becoming common in future generations. In larger populations of mixed cats, these traits would usually disappear, especially if they caused disease or a disadvantage.

The genetic influence of these pioneering cats is known as the founder effect, and it explains why certain unusual traits still persist in some regions today. The best-known examples of the founder effect are the taillessness seen in the Manx cats of the Isle of Man and the polydactylism (a genetic mutation producing extra toes) that is common in cats along the East Coast of the US.



COAT LENGTH AND GENETICS

The length of a cat's coat is controlled by a gene—the most common type produces a short coat. This is dominant over the type that creates a long coat, so if a cat has a copy of each it will be shorthaired.

Cat genetics

Genes carry all the information necessary for life. They control not only the chemical processes in a cat's body, but also the information that dictates the cat's physical characteristics, such as eye color and shape, coat color, and coat length. Genes are found on structures called chromosomes, which are located in the nuclei of body cells. Domestic cats have 38 chromosomes—two sets of 19 corresponding pairs. One set of chromosomes is inherited from the father, and the other set from the mother. Because there are two sets of chromosomes, a cat has two copies of every gene (one from each parent), and some genes have variants that may produce different traits or characteristics.

If just one copy of a gene is needed for a trait to appear, that gene is called a "dominant" gene—for example, the gene for a tabby coat is dominant. If two copies of a gene are needed for

A CAT WITH MANY TOES

Cats with extra toes are called polydactyl cats. Polydactyl cats are common in breeds and populations along the East Coast.

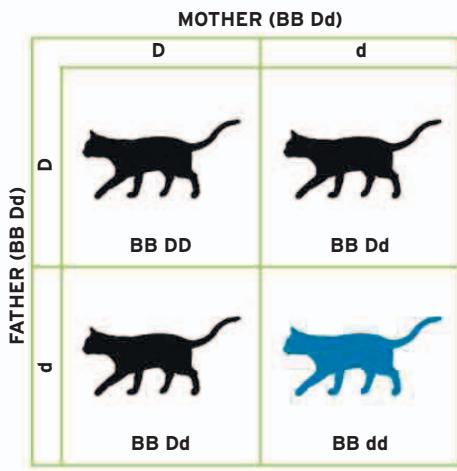


a trait to appear, the gene is called "recessive"—the gene for a longhaired coat is recessive. If a cat has both a dominant shorthair gene and a recessive longhair gene, the recessive longhair gene is masked. The cat will be a shorthair—there is no intermediate effect (i.e., mid-length hair).

Sometimes genes mutate—their structure changes—and they produce a different trait. Some of these mutations can then be passed down to future generations. By using cats with desirable genetic mutations, breeders can create new breeds of cats—for example, with curly hair. However, many serious diseases are also caused by genetic mutation, and focusing on breeding within a very narrow gene pool to promote specific traits can result in the appearance of new diseases and disorders (pp.244-5).

DOMINANT AND RECESSIVE GENES

Cats with dark coats have at least one copy of the dominant dense pigment gene "D," which produces hair packed with pigment. The recessive type of this pigment gene, "d," reduces the level of pigment, diluting the color of the cat's fur. So, for example, if two black-coated cats (both with two copies of the black-coat gene "B") each have one copy of the dense (D) pigment gene and one of the diluted (d) pigment gene, there is a one-in-four chance that they could produce a kitten with blue (diluted black) fur.





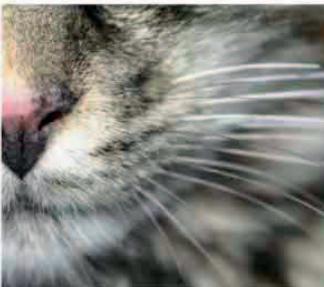
A CAT IN BLUE

A blue cat has two copies of the recessive dilution gene. Cats possessing two copies of the dominant dense form of the gene—or one dense and one dilution gene—will have black fur.

Cat anatomy

The feline body-plan is that of a predator. The skeleton, which evolved for speed and agility, has slender limbs, a flexible spine, and a narrow ribcage to protect the heart and lungs, both of which are adapted for short bursts of speed. The shoulder blades are not attached to the rest of the skeleton but held in place by muscles and ligaments, allowing the cat to extend its stride when running.

A domestic cat's brain is about 25 percent smaller than that of a wildcat. This is because the areas of a wildcat's brain involved in mapping a large territory are no longer needed by domestic cats,



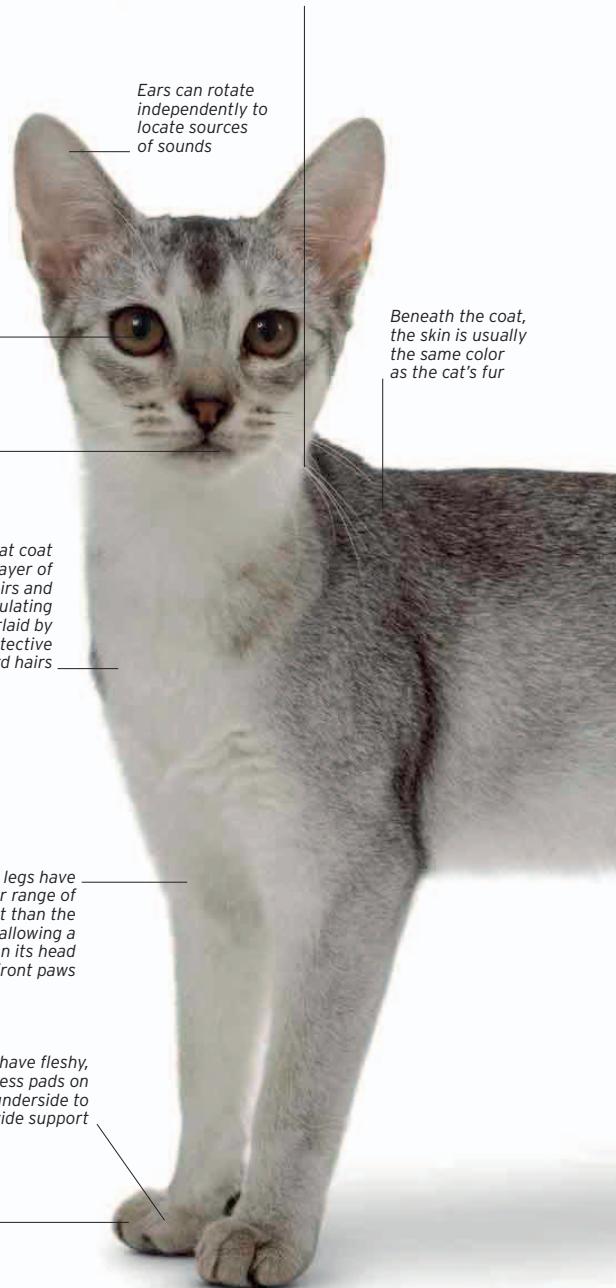
CAT'S WHISKERS

Whiskers are hairs that have been modified into touch sensors. They help cats to navigate in the dark and also to detect objects that are very close by.



EYES IN THE DARK

The large, wide-set eyes face forward for judging distances when hunting. Night vision is enhanced by the tapetum lucidum, a reflective layer behind the retina that bounces any light entering the eye back through the retina.



Ears can rotate independently to locate sources of sounds

Beneath the coat, the skin is usually the same color as the cat's fur



CARNIVORE TEETH

An adult cat has 30 teeth. The incisors are used for grasping and grooming, the canines for stabbing and gripping prey, and the carnassials (modified molars) at the side for cutting flesh.

A typical cat coat has an underlayer of soft, short hairs and mid-length insulating awn, overlaid by long, protective guard hairs



TOES AND CLAWS

Cats are digitigrade, which means that they walk on their toes. The toes have curved claws for scratching (which also sharpens them), fighting, and gripping. The claws are retractable: they can be slid back into sheaths for stealthy movement.

Front legs have greater range of movement than the hindlegs, allowing a cat to clean its head with its front paws

Paws have fleshy, hairless pads on their underside to provide support

which patrol much smaller ranges. Domestic cats are also a little smaller than their wild cousins.

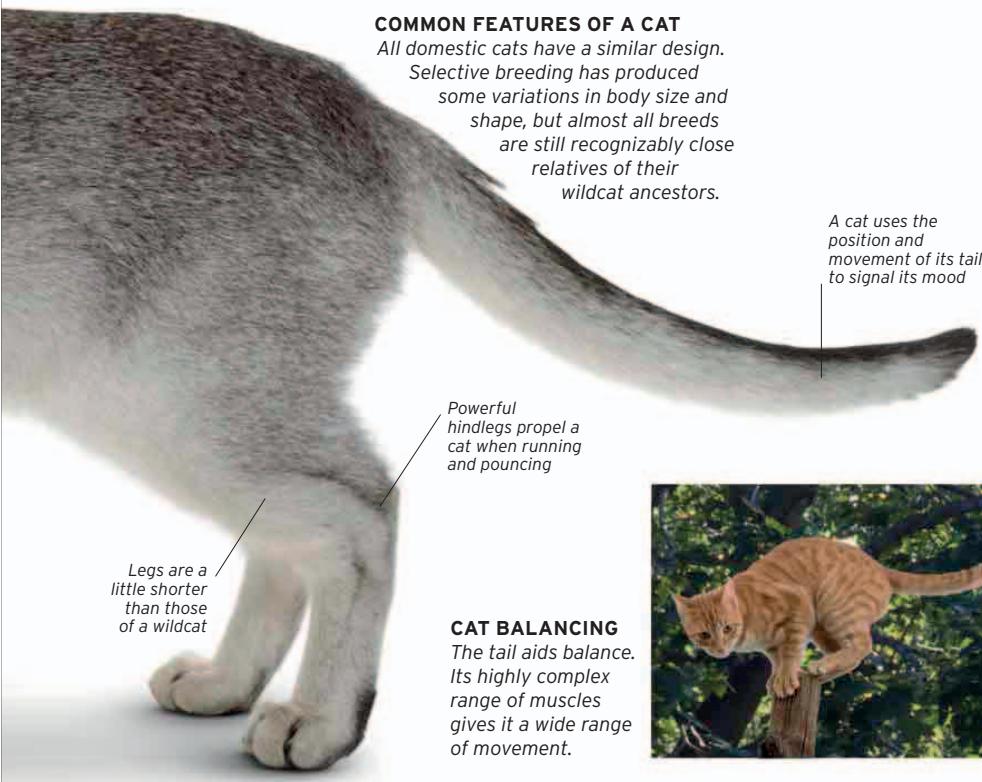
Being carnivores, cats have a relatively short intestinal tract, because it is easier to digest meat than plant matter. A domestic cat's tract is a little longer than that of a wildcat. This reflects dietary changes—primarily the cereal content in food scraps scavenged from humans over millennia.

Cats have scent-producing glands in the skin around the mouth and tail, and also on the paws. They mark their territory using these scents and by scratching surfaces.



PREDATORY NATURE

Cats have evolved into superb hunters: they have sharp senses to detect their prey, a lithe, athletic body capable of bursts of speed to chase it down, and ferocious claws and teeth to catch and kill it.



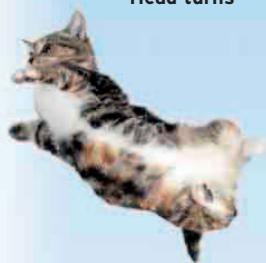
A cat's eyes are highly sensitive to small movements but their color vision is poor, since cats are primarily nocturnal animals. Cats have a wider range of hearing than humans, enabling them to detect the high-pitched squeaks of rodents. In addition to acute senses of taste and smell, cats have a sensory organ in the roof of the mouth—the vomeronasal, or Jacobson's, organ. To use this organ, cats contort their face (an action called the Flehmen response) as they pick up scents—usually those left by other cats. The several sets of whiskers on the face are highly sensitive to touch and air currents.

RIGHTING REFLEX

When a cat falls from a fence or tree, it has the innate ability—and amazing flexibility—to twist its body right-side up. As soon as it senses disorientation, the cat rotates its head, followed by its front legs, and finally the hindquarters. The soft pads of the feet and flexible joints help absorb the shock of landing. A fall or drop, however, can still prove dangerous to a cat.



Head turns



Front legs come around



Hindquarters rotate



Legs extend for landing

Body shapes

Eastern breeds, such as the Siamese, tend to have a slender and supple body with thin limbs and tail. This shape particularly suits a warm climate because it gives the body a large surface area, in relation to its volume, from which excess heat can disperse.

Western breeds, such as the British Shorthair and most longhairs, are suited to temperate and cool regions. They tend to have a thickset, or cobby, body with a stockier tail and limbs. In this instance, the shape minimizes the body's surface area and helps to reduce heat loss. Other breeds such as the Ragdoll, have a body shape somewhere between these two extremes.



Slender athletic body

Intermediate body



Cobby body

Head shapes

There are three basic head shapes found in cat breeds. Most cats, including the British, European, and American Shorthairs, resemble their wildcat relatives, having a round head with a wedge-shaped face. In certain breeds, including the Siamese and the Devon Rex, the face has a much more elongated, or extreme, wedge shape. Other breeds, such as the Persian, are described as doll-faced. In these breeds the cat's face is round with a flat nose, which sometimes causes breathing difficulties.



Rounded wedge face



Long wedge face



Rounded flat face (front)



Rounded flat face (side)

Tails

Most domestic cats have a long tail, although it is slightly shorter than that of their wild ancestors. The tail is used for balance and communication. In Eastern breeds the tail is often thin with an elastic quality described as whippy. The defining characteristic of breeds such as the American and Japanese Bobtails and the Manx, however, is a short, stumpy tail—sometimes curved or kinked—or even a total absence of one. Another breed, the American Ringtail, has an unusual-looking curl in its tail; this is due to the cat's stronger-than-normal tail muscles, rather than any skeletal deformity.



Long tail



Bob tail



Ring tail

Eye color and shape

Domestic cats have large, alluring eyes that come in a wide variety of orange, green, and blue tones. Some cats even have odd-colored eyes, usually with one blue eye and one green or orange. Eye shapes can vary too, according to the breed of cat. Some breeds—for example, the Chartreux and the Persian—have round eyes, while others, such as the Maine Coon, retain the slightly slanted eyes of their wild ancestors. In some breeds of Oriental cat, including the Siamese, the slant of the eyes is even more pronounced, producing an almondlike shape.



Almond-shaped and blue



Slanted and green



Round and gold



Round and odd-colored

Ear shapes

Almost all cat breeds have large, erect ears shaped like a half-cone, similar to those of their wildcat ancestors. In some breeds, such as the Siamese and Angora, the ear tips are pointed. Hair tufts at the tips, as in the Maine Coon, further accentuate the ears, so that they resemble those of a lynx. Other breeds, such as the British Shorthair and Abyssinian, have round-tipped ears. Two breeds have highly unusual ears caused by genetic mutations: the American Curl has ears that curl backward away from its face toward the rear of the skull; in the Scottish Fold, a fold in the ear cartilage bends the ears down toward the front of the head.



Pointed tips



Rounded tips



Curled



Folded

Coat types

Coats are generally made up of three types of hair: down, awn, and guard. Soft, wavy down and fine, mid-length awn form an insulating undercoat, while the longer, stiffer guard hairs form a protective outer coat. The lengths and proportions of these types of hair vary among breeds, and not all breeds have all three types. Most cats are shorthaired, like their wild ancestors. Long hair is caused by a recessive gene. In Persians the hair may reach up to 5in (12cm) long. Curly, or rexed, coats are caused by genetic mutations; there are now several rexed breeds, including the Cornish Rex and American Wirehair. There are also breeds, such as the Sphynx, with mutations that cause hairlessness.



Hairless



Curly coated



Short-coated



Long-coated

COAT COLORS AND PATTERNS

Cats come in a bewildering range of colors and coat patterns—there are endless combinations. Some breeds are defined specifically for their color, such as the blue-only Chartreux, and others for just one kind of coat pattern, such as the pointed Siamese. In many other breeds any combination of color and pattern is acceptable.

Coat color is produced by two forms of the pigment melanin: eumelanin (black and brown) and pheomelanin (red, orange, and yellow). Except for white hair, all colors—in solid and diluted forms—are derived from the varying amounts of these two pigments in the shafts of a cat's hair.

A cat's ancestral coat pattern is tabby. Selective breeding, however, has also created a wide range of other coat types, mostly produced by the expression of recessive genes. Popular patterns include solid-color coats, pointed coats,

smoke coats, and coats that have a mixture of colors, as seen in torties and bicolors.

White hair lacks pigment, and the white gene (*W*) is dominant over all other color-producing genes and coat patterns. Therefore, cats with colored and patterned coats have two recessive forms of the white gene (*ww*). Solid white is considered a Western color (see below).



White coat

Western colors

Coat colors traditionally found in European and American cats, such as British Shorthairs, Maine Coons, and Norwegian Forest Cats, are known as Western colors. Specifically, they are black and red, along with their respective diluted forms, blue and cream. Bicolored (a mixture of white patches and one of the Western colors) and solid-white coats are often described as Western too. Today, Western colors have a global presence, having been successfully introduced into Oriental cats. Burmese cats, for example, are often bred so that their coats bear Western reds and creams.



Black



Red



Blue



Cream



Eastern colors

Chocolate and cinnamon—and their respective diluted forms, lilac and fawn—are traditionally considered Eastern colors. These colors are thought to have originated in breeds such as the Siamese and the Persian. Nowadays, however, this separation of Eastern and Western colors is somewhat blurred, with cat colors having been transposed through breeding from one group of breeds to the other. All but the most conservative cat registries today accept Eastern colors in Western breeds, and vice versa. British Shorthairs, for example, are accepted in Eastern colors.



Chocolate



Cinnamon



Lilac



Fawn



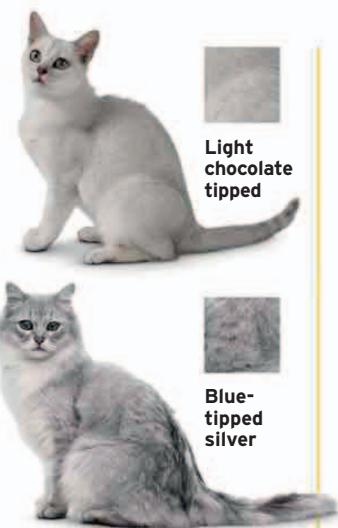
UNDERSTANDING COAT COLORS

Pigmentation in cat fur varies from an even distribution along the hair shaft, which produces a solid-color coat, to no pigment at all, which produces white fur. A solid coat's color is determined by the density of the pigment in its hairs. Diluted red, for example, becomes cream. If just the end of each hair has color, the coat is tipped, shaded, or smoke, depending on exactly how much of the shaft holds color. Ticked shafts with alternating dark and light bands give a tabby color called agouti.



Tipped fur

When just the very tip of each cat hair—about one-eighth of the overall length—is strongly pigmented, the effect is known as tipped, shell, or chinchilla. The rest of the hair's length is usually white (unpigmented), although in some breeds yellow or reddish colors have also been produced. Tipping is controlled by the interaction of several different genes. Some Burmillas, Persian Chinchillas, and Persian Cameos have tipped coats.



Shaded fur

In shaded coats the upper quarter of each hair shaft has color. This pattern is produced by the same genes responsible for tipped fur but in shaded cats the coat appears darker on the back, where the fur lies flat. The heavier degree of tipping in shaded fur produces a dramatic rippling effect as the cat moves. Shaded coats are accepted and sought after in many breeds, especially Persians.



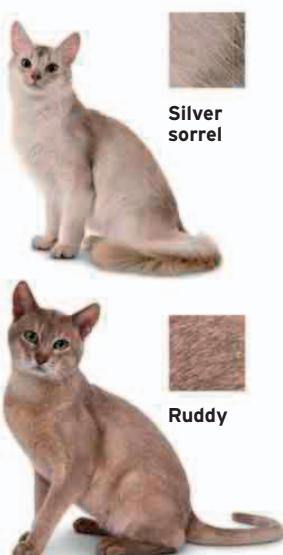
Smoke fur

About half of the hair shaft (the uppermost half) has color in smoke fur. When still, many smoke cats appear to have a solid coat with just a paler neck ruff, but when the cat moves, the lighter roots become more visible and the cat shimmers. Smokes are very popular and are found in many breeds, including the Manx, Exotic Shorthairs and Longhairs, Maine Coons, and Persians. Smoke kittens are often difficult to tell apart from solid kittens, since the smoke effect can take a few months to appear.



Ticked fur

In ticked coats the hair shafts have alternating pigmented and paler bands (see box, above). The tips of the hair shafts are always pigmented. Ticked fur is a characteristic of many wild cats and other mammals, and it provides good camouflage. Ticked, or agouti, hair makes up the lighter areas of tabby coats. A full, unpatterned agouti coat is a characteristic of Abyssinians and their longhaired relatives, Somalis. Abyssinians have 4 to 6 bands of color on each hair and Somalis up to 20.



Particolors

Particolored cats, or partis, have two or more definite colors in their coats. Partis include bicolor and tricolor cats and are found in many breeds, both shorthair and longhair. Partis also include torties (see below), with white spotting. Even a small amount of white counts as particoloring. When tortoiseshells have a high proportion of white fur, the pattern is described as calico, or tortie and white. Particolored cats are almost always female.



Particolor
Ragdoll



Particolor
British
Shorthair

Tortie colors

Torties, or tortoiseshells, have distinct or mingled patches of black (or chocolate or cinnamon) and red fur. Variations include the diluted forms of these colors: blue, lilac, fawn, and cream. The pattern usually only occurs in females; on rare occasions the pattern may occur in a male, possibly due to a chromosomal abnormality. Torties with tabby markings are known as patched tabbies, and these cats are classed as particolors (see above).



Oriental
Tortie



Asian
Tortie

Pointed

Cats with dark extremities and pale body fur are described as pointed. In Siamese and Persian Colorpoints this recessive characteristic is controlled by a heat-sensitive enzyme involved in producing hair pigment. The enzyme works only in the cooler extremities of a cat's body—hence the darker fur on the face, ears, paws, and tail. Other pointed patterns—such as the Van, in which color is restricted to the ears and tail—are a form of white spotting (see below).



Solid-pointed
Siamese



Turkish Van

White spotting

The gene responsible for white spotting on a cat's coat is dominant. It works by suppressing areas of colored fur to produce a coat that is bicoloored or tricolored. The effect can range from almost totally white cats and the Van pattern (see above), to cats with just one or a few white patches in which the white fur is limited to the face, throat (bib), belly, and paws (mittens).



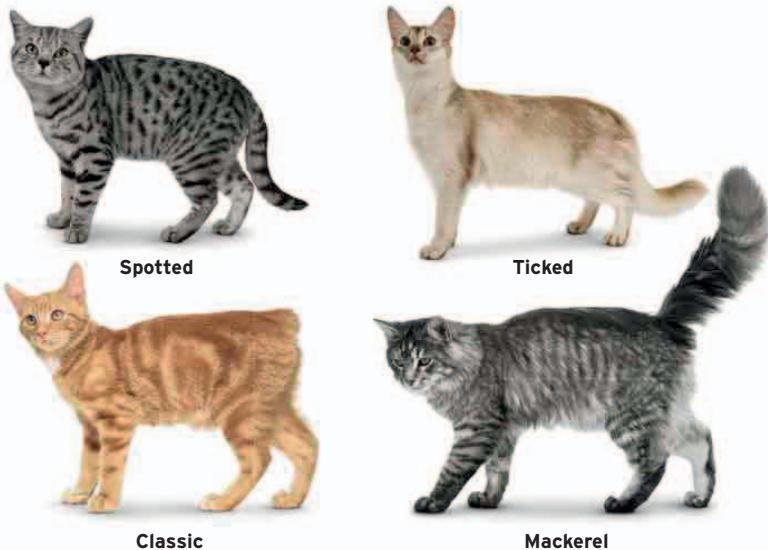
Non-pedigree
shorthair with white
bib and mittens



White-spotted
Maine Coon

Tabby colors

The ancestral pattern consists of swirls, stripes, or spots of solid fur—commonly black, brown, red (ginger), or silver (gray)—mixed with paler areas of ticked, or agouti, fur. It acts as natural camouflage for a cat—a definite advantage when hunting for food in the wild. The tabby pattern is a dominant characteristic and its various forms are still common not only in old breeds, such as the Maine Coon, but also in newer wild-looking hybrids, such as the Savannah. The Classic Tabby has a blotched or swirling pattern; the Mackerel Tabby has stripes, like a fishbone, running down its sides; and the Spotted Tabby has spots or rosettes. Tabbies have fine lines on their head (usually an “M”-shaped mark on the forehead) and barring on their tail and legs.



HOW TO USE THE BREED CATALOG

Catalog entries will help you choose which cat is right for you. They outline the main features, appearance, and temperament of each breed, and specify any relevant care tips. At-a-glance data panels detail the origins, weight, and the breed registries that recognize the cat, along with the range of coat colors and patterns and the required grooming regime.

BREED REGISTRIES

Abbreviations indicate which of the world's four major breed registries recognize this particular type of cat.

CFA The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.

FIFe Fédération Internationale Féline

GCCF The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

TICA The International Cat Association

GROOMING KEY

The comb symbol and blue bar indicate how frequently you will need to groom this breed of cat in order to maintain its coat in top condition.



Weekly



2–3 times a week



Daily

38 CATALOG OF BREEDS

SINGAPURA

THIS SMALLEST OF CAT BREEDS HAS A KITTEN TEMPERAMENT

The distinctive ticked coat of this little cat caught the eye of an American scientist, Hal Meadow, while he was working in Singapore in the 1970s. Meadow and his wife started a breeding program for the Singapura, which they carried out both in Singapore and the US. By the 1990s British breeders were also taking an interest in this cat. Singapuras are now known worldwide, although they are still very rare. Small in size but big in personality, these cats are prying and mischievous, happiest when exploring the world at a high level from a shelf or an owner's shoulder.

Place of origin	Singapore
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	CFA, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	4–9 lb (2–4 kg)
Grooming	Medium
Colors and patterns	Sepia agouti: seal brown ticking on ivory ground color.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CAT

Cats make rewarding, lovable pets, but owning one can require a lot of time and money. If you think you would like to own a cat, you will need to do some research to make sure you are ready for the responsibility. If your heart is set on owning a purebred cat, you will need to make sure you find a reputable breeder, though you may also be able to find a purebred in a rescue center.



A pet cat can live for up to 20 years

Are you ready to own a cat?

Owning a cat might seem like a good idea, but you should give the idea serious consideration before you buy or adopt one. Consider if a cat will fit into your lifestyle. It is unfair to a cat to be left alone for long periods; they may seem independent, but cats need human companionship. Neglected outdoor cats may wander off, while indoor cats can become bored and destructive. It is not a good idea to get a cat if anyone in your household is allergic to cats or becomes asthmatic around them. Think carefully too if you have young children since you will need to spend time teaching them how to handle a cat.

Cats also mean changes to your home; you'll need to be able to cope with furnishings covered with cat hair and the occasional half-eaten bird or mouse. You will also need to cat-proof your house, keep breakable items out of reach, and remove potential hazards such as houseplants that can be poisonous to cats (p.203). You will need to find somewhere to put your cat's litter box, and get used to changing it regularly.



THE BEST BREED FOR YOU

Cat breeds come in many different sizes, coat types, and personalities. Do your research and work out which breeds will best suit your lifestyle—longhaired cats such as Persians (above) make beautiful companions but require a lot of grooming.

Cats can be expensive, and you need to make sure you can afford to cover the costs. There will be an initial outlay for your kitten or cat, which can reach hundreds of dollars for a purebred. Advances in veterinary medicine and better understanding of a cat's diet mean that cats now live longer than they used to, even for as long as 20 years. The cost of owning a cat can add up to thousands of dollars over the course of its life. Pet insurance will help cover some veterinary costs, but probably not vaccinations, neutering, or dental treatment. You will also need to buy food, bedding, cat litter, and other accessories on a regular basis. If you go away, you will need to pay for your cat to stay in a boarding kennel, or for someone to look after him at your home.

Deciding on a breed

If you would like a purebred cat, make sure you do your research, so that you know about the breed's needs and characteristics. If you are unsure which breed to choose, you might want to consider size, coat type, and temperament. Breeds vary in size, between about 9–20 lb (5–9 kg). Big cats are unlikely to take kindly to an indoor life in a small apartment. If you want a longhaired breed, you will have to groom your cat every day, otherwise its fur will become matted; shorthaired cats generally need much less grooming (pp.228–31). Temperaments vary between breeds—Asian cats such as the Siamese and Ocicat tend to be active and vocal, while heavier-set breeds such as the British Shorthair and Persian are usually quieter and more laid back.

You should also think about what gender and age of cat will suit you. Male cats are usually bigger than females and may be more outgoing, but both make trouble-free pets once neutered. If you're worried about house-training a kitten, you could buy or rescue an adult cat. Finally, if there are stretches of the day when no one is at home, you might want to consider getting two cats, so that they can keep each other company.



NEW FAMILY MEMBER

Do plenty of research before you buy a cat or kitten, especially if you've never owned one before. A cat or kitten is a wonderful addition to the family, but can mean big changes in your routine.

Finding a breeder

Once you have decided which kind of cat breed you want, the best place to buy a purebred cat is from a reputable breeder. You can find cats in newspapers, online, or in store windows, but generally these vendors should be avoided because they are not usually cat experts. It is also inadvisable to buy a kitten from a pet store, since you will not be sure where the kittens have come from. Your local vet may be able to recommend a breeder to you, or you could find breeders from a cat club list, breed registry list, or at a cat show—many of the people who show cats also breed them or will be able to recommend a breeder.

At the breeders, make sure you ask lots of questions, so that you know you will get a healthy, well-adjusted cat (see right). The breeder should also ask you questions, to make sure that you are responsible enough to own a cat and can afford to look after it. You should research the going rate for kittens of the breed you would like. A higher cost can sometimes reflect top quality and better care and attention

10 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK A BREEDER

- How long have you been breeding cats?
- Can I have references from your vet and previous customers?
- What are the important characteristics of this breed—will the kitten be “show quality” or “pet quality”?
- Does this breed suffer from any inherited diseases, and has the kitten been screened for them?
- How much time will I need to spend grooming?
- Has the kitten been socialized—will it be OK to introduce him to children and other pets?
- Will the kitten have been vaccinated and wormed by the time he’s ready to be picked up?
- Have you registered the kitten with a registry, and may I have the printed pedigree?
- Can I have a written contract of sale, outlining both my and your (the breeder’s) rights and responsibilities, and including an agreement that the purchase is subject to a vet’s examination to check the kitten’s health?
- Will I be able to contact you if I need advice after I bring the kitten home?

MEETING THE FAMILY

Kittens that have been socialized from an early age should not be timid or aggressive when encountering new people.



put in by the breeder. Some breeders offer "pet quality" as well as "show quality" kittens. Pet quality cats are just as healthy as show cats but have minor physical defects for the breed standard, and should be considerably cheaper than show quality cats. The breeder may ask you to sign an agreement not to enter pet quality cats in shows or to breed from them in order to keep breeding lines "pure."

It is important to meet the litter of kittens before you decide to buy one of them. A good breeder will let you observe the kittens and how they interact with their littermates. You should also meet the mother and check her health. She will give you an indication of your kitten's adult size, appearance, and temperament. The breeder may also own the father—if so, ask to see him too. The breeder can also give you an idea of the life span of the particular breed.

The kitten you choose to take home with you should appear healthy and alert, with a good muscle tone and a clean coat free from pests such as fleas. His eyes should be bright, there should be no discharge from the eyes or nose, the ears should be free of wax, and the gums should be pink. Make sure your kitten has been (or will be) vaccinated, wormed, and screened for any genetic disorders that are known to occur in the breed. Take any certificates for these home with you if or when you buy a kitten. Avoid buying a kitten if it appears ill, if it has been kept in isolation away from the rest of its litter, if you think the kittens are being reared in substandard conditions, or if the breeder doesn't seem to know

A CAT WITH HISTORY

Many different types of cats end up in shelters. If you decide to give a home to a cat that is elderly or disabled, the rescue center will sometimes help you to pay for its ongoing health care.

much about the breed or cat health care. If you're not happy, you can visit another breeder. If all goes well, you should pick up your inoculated, housetrained, and socialized kitten when it is about 12 weeks old.



Rescue centers

If you would like to give a home to a purebred cat, one place you may not have thought of looking is in a rescue center, or shelter, for cats. Usually run on a nonprofit basis, rescue centers are staffed mostly by volunteers and funded by private donations and adoption fees. They take in stray, unwanted, and feral cats and try to find suitable homes for them.

Purebred cats can show up in rescue centers from time to time. Generally, these will be the more common breeds such as the Siamese, Maine Coon, or Persian—you are less likely to find an unusual breed.

After visiting a rescue center and meeting all the cats waiting for homes, you may decide to adopt a crossbreed rather than a purebred cat. More than 95 percent of all domestic cats are crossbreeds, and there are a large number of them housed in rescue shelters, each deserving of a loving home. Cat rescue centers are definitely worth investigating, especially if your preference is for a fully trained adult cat with an established personality.

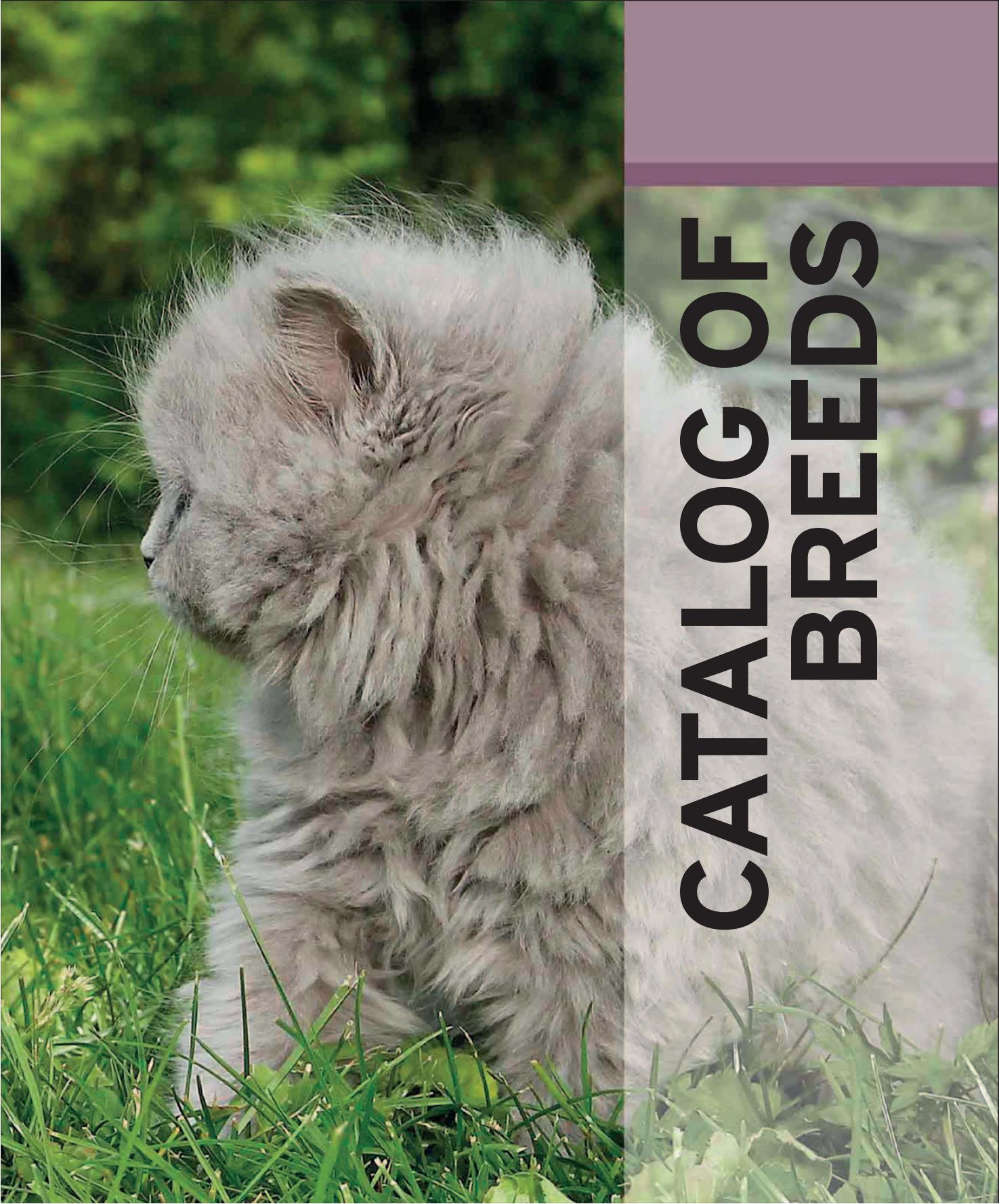
If you decide to adopt from a rescue shelter, a member of staff will visit your home to check that it's safe and suitable for a cat, and to make sure that you will make a good cat owner. You will be charged an adoption fee, which helps cover vet costs for rescue cats' health care, such as inoculations, blood tests, neutering, and microchipping.

RESCUE CATS

The staff at a rescue center will assess the character of each cat and can help match you with your perfect pet; you may even find a purebred cat in need of a home.





A close-up photograph of a light-colored, long-haired cat with a shaggy coat. The cat is sitting in a field of green grass, looking towards the left. The background is blurred, showing more of the grassy field.

CATALOG OF BREEDS



SNOW BENGAL

Bengal cats are the result of crossbreeding between domestic cats and the Asian leopard cat. This Snow Bengal also has some albinistic genes, which accounts for its pale coloring.

SHORTHAIRES

Most cats have short hair, whether they are large or small, wild or domestic. This is an evolutionary development that makes sense for a natural predator relying on stealth and the occasional burst of speed. A hunting cat is more efficient in a short coat because it can glide unhampered through dense terrain and move freely for a rapid pounce in a tight corner.



A short coat keeps a cat warm without overheating

Developing the shorthair

The first cats to be domesticated, possibly over 4,000 years ago, had short hair, and their sleek-coated look has been popular ever since. In a short coat, colors and patterns are clearly defined and the feline form appears to full advantage. Dozens of shorthaired breeds have been developed, but there are three main groups: British, American, and Oriental Shorthairs. The first two are essentially ordinary domestic cats refined by decades of breeding programs. They are sturdy, round-headed cats, with short, dense, double-layered coats. The strikingly different Oriental group have little to do with the East, being created in Europe through crosses with the Siamese. They have short, close-lying, fine coats with no woolly undercoat.

Other well-loved shorthaired cats include: the Burmese; the plush-furred Russian Blue, which has a very short undercoat that lifts the top guard hairs

away from the body; and the Exotic Shorthair, which combines unmistakably Persian looks with a shorter, more manageable coat.

Short hair is taken to extremes in several hairless breeds, including the Sphynx and the Peterbald. These cats are usually not totally hairless—most have a fine covering of body hair with the feel of suede. Another variety of short hair is seen in rexed cats, which have wavy or crimped coats. Among the best known of these are the Devon Rex and the Cornish Rex.

Easy maintenance

A great advantage for owners of shorthaired breeds is that the coat requires little grooming to keep it in good condition, while parasites and injuries are easy to see and treat. However, keeping



SIAMESE

The short, fine coat of the Siamese accentuates the elegant lines of this graceful, blue-eyed cat. Many different point colors have been developed, but the classic seal point remains a favorite.



ASIAN SOLID

The Asian group of shorthairs are moderate in build, being neither stocky nor as ultra slim as the Orientals.

EXOTIC SHORTHAI'R

A LOW-MAINTENANCE VERSION OF THE LONGHAIR'D PERSIAN CAT

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)

Grooming



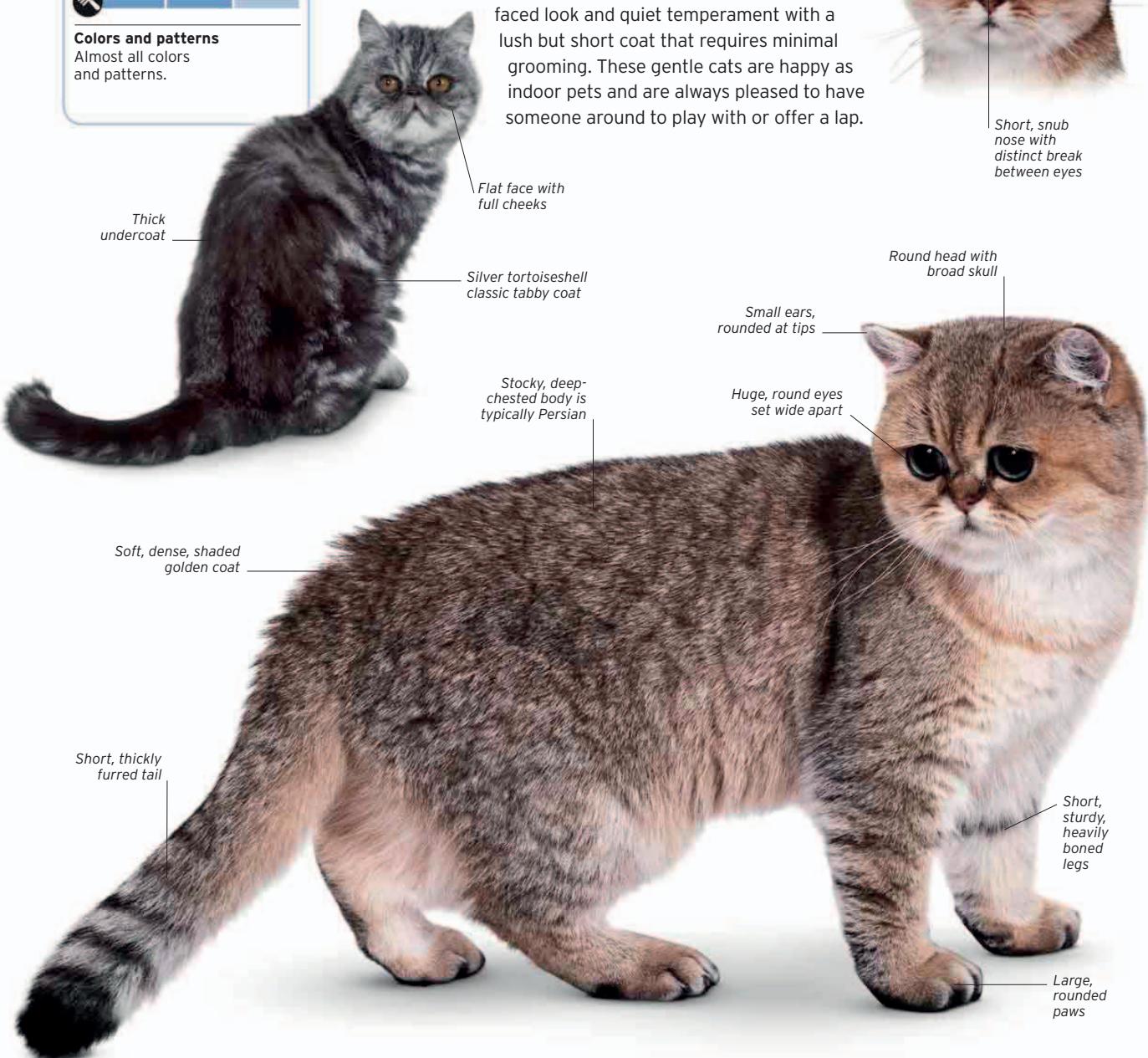
Colors and patterns

Almost all colors and patterns.

The first Exotics were bred in the US in the 1960s, and by the 1980s there was a popular British version as well. These cats were created through breeding programs that crossed the Persian (or Longhair) with shorthairs, including the Burmese (p.40), Abyssinian (p.83), British Shorthair (pp.68-77), and American Shorthair (p.61). Exotics combine the Persian's sweet, round-faced look and quiet temperament with a lush but short coat that requires minimal grooming. These gentle cats are happy as indoor pets and are always pleased to have someone around to play with or offer a lap.



Short, snub nose with distinct break between eyes



KHAOMANEE

AN EXTROVERTED AND INTELLIGENT BREED THAT IS EAGER TO DIVE INTO EVERYTHING

Place of origin Thailand

Date of origin 14th century

Breed registries GCCF, TICA

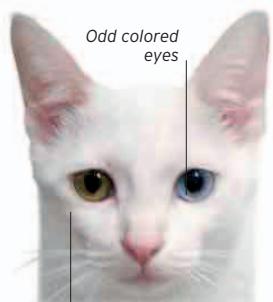
Weight range 6-12lb
(2.5-5.5kg)

Grooming



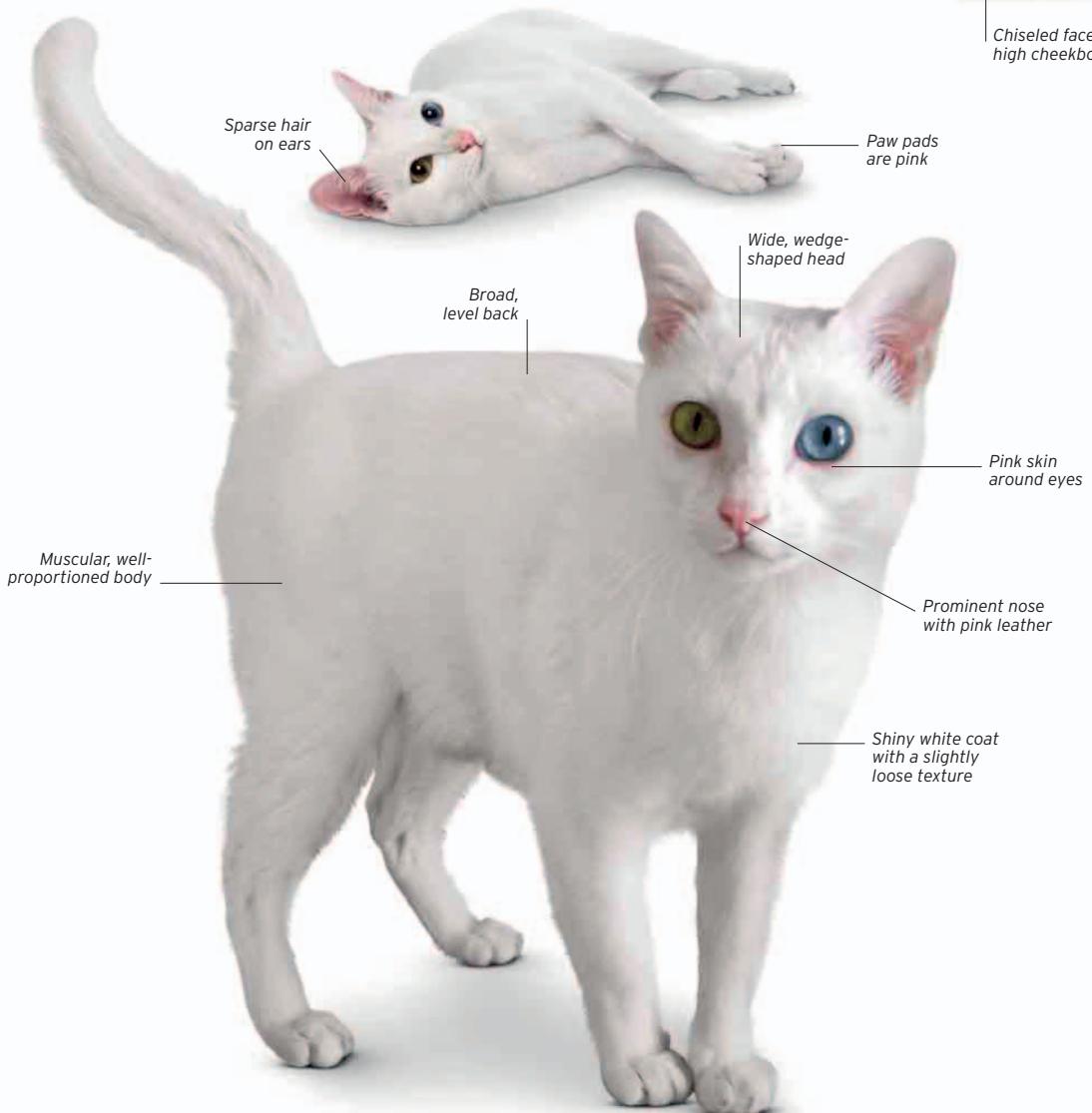
Colors and patterns
White only.

The “white jewel,” as the name translates, is a breed native to Thailand. Pure white cats, apparently of this type, are recorded in Thai history as early as the 14th century, but Khaomanees were not seen outside their native country until the late 20th century. Now they are attracting attention elsewhere, especially in the UK and the US. This aristocratic breed has a palette of eye colors: it may have eyes of the same color or of different colors, have eyes the same color but of varying shades, or even have eyes that are each bicolored. Khaomanees are bold, friendly, and sometimes loud-voiced.



Odd colored eyes

Chiseled face with high cheekbones



KORAT

THIS ENCHANTING AND AFFECTIONATE CAT HAS A LONG AND PROUD HISTORY

Place of origin Thailand

Date of origin c.12th-16th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFE, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-10lb (2.5-4.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Blue only.

Few cat breeds can truly be described as being of ancient origin, but the Korat from Thailand is one of them. It appears in a book titled *The Cat Book Poems*, which dates back to the Ayudhya period (1350-1767), in what was then Siam. Long prized in its native country as a symbol of good fortune, the Korat was virtually unknown in the West until the mid-20th century, when a breeding pair was sent to the US. This graceful, silvery blue cat makes a very special pet. Usually highly active, the Korat

has its peaceful moments too, and is gentle and affectionate with its owners. With heightened senses, the breed is easily startled by loud noises or abrupt handling.



CHINESE LI HUA

A GOOD FAMILY CAT THAT NEEDS ROOM TO ROAM

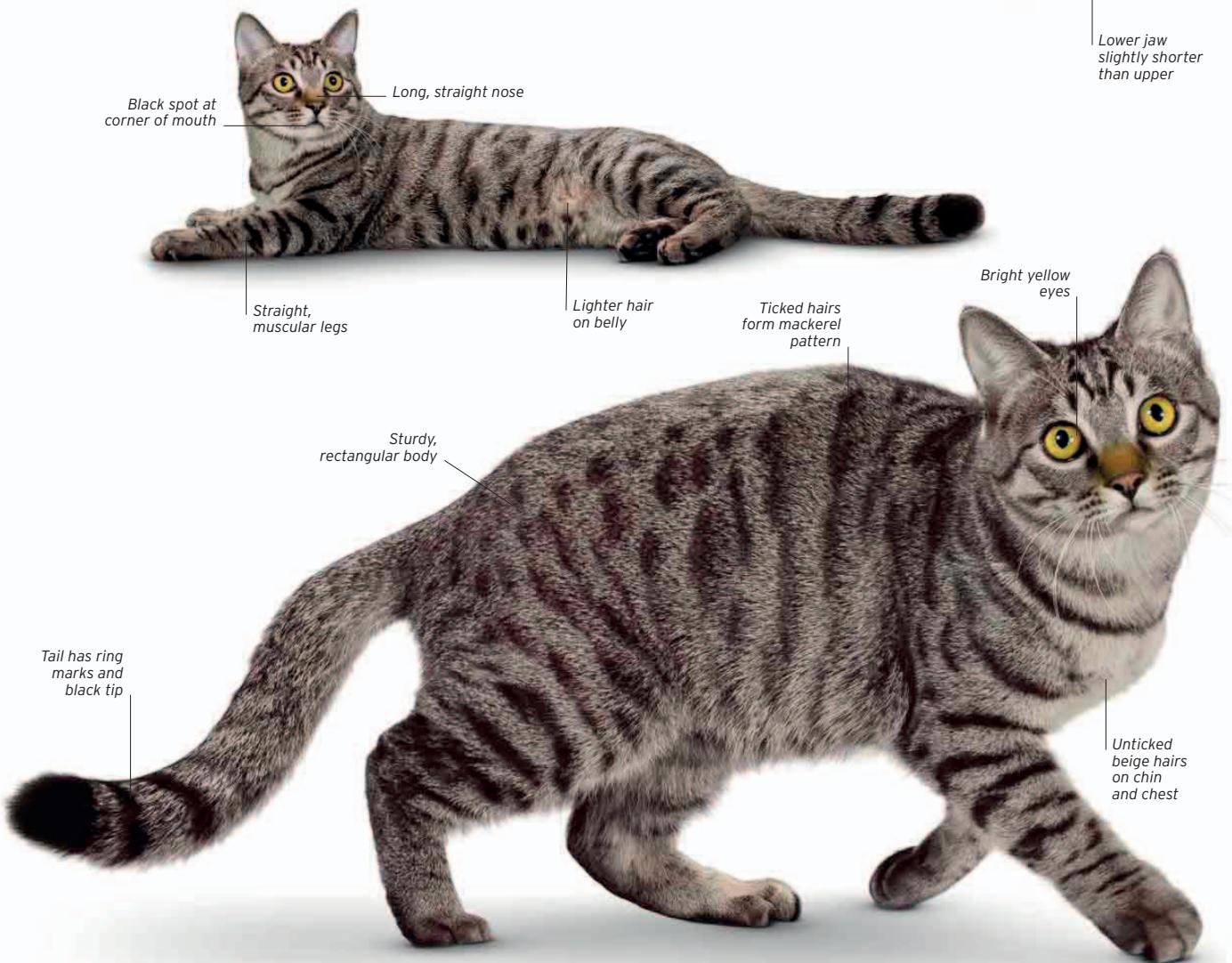
Place of origin	China
Date of origin	2000s
Breed registries	CFA
Weight range	9–11lb (4–5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Brown mackerel tabby only.

Cats fitting the description of the Li Hua, or Dragon Li as it is also called, appear to have been common in China for centuries. However, around the world this cat is a newcomer, recognized as an experimental breed only since 2003, although it is beginning to attract international interest. The Chinese Li Hua is a large cat with a muscular build and a beautifully marked tabby coat. Though not particularly demonstrative, it makes a friendly and faithful pet. This active cat, which has a reputation as a clever hunter, needs space to exercise and is not suited to a confined life in a small home.



Lower jaw
slightly shorter
than upper



ASIAN-BURMILLA

AN ENCHANTING COMPANION CAT WITH DELIGHTFUL LOOKS AND TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries FIFe,
GCCF

Weight range 9-15lb (4-7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Many shaded colors, including lilac, black, brown, blue, and tortoiseshell, with silver or golden ground color.

When the accidental mating of a lilac Burmese (p.39) with a Persian Chinchilla (p.140) in 1981 produced a litter of kittens with exceptionally beautiful coats, their owner was encouraged to experiment with further breeding. The result was the Burmilla, a cat of elegant Asian proportions, with large, appealing eyes and a delicately shaded or tipped coat; a longhaired version is also available. Although still uncommon, this charming and intelligent breed is becoming increasingly popular. It possesses a bit of the zany character of the Burmese, tempered by the quieter nature of the Chinchilla. The Burmilla enjoys games but also will settle on a lap for a peaceful snooze.



Large, expressive green eyes

Face and legs
may have
slight shading

Lilac shaded coat

Silky textured,
close-lying coat

Graceful, elegantly proportioned body

Medium-to-long,
slightly tapered tail

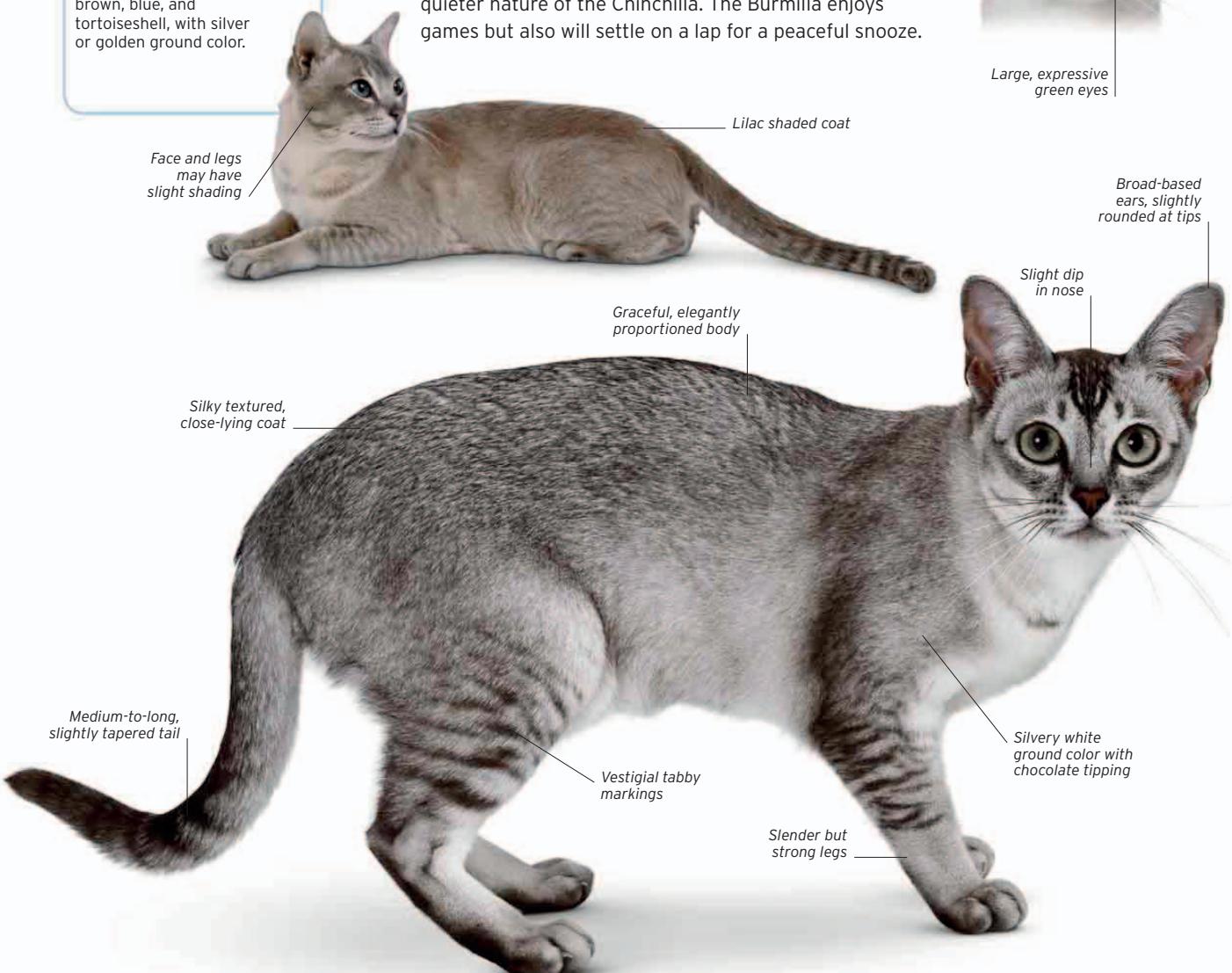
Vestigial tabby markings

Slender but strong legs

Slight dip in nose

Broad-based ears, slightly rounded at tips

Silvery white ground color with chocolate tipping



ASIAN-SMOKE

THIS PLAYFUL AND INTELLIGENT BREED IS VERY RESPONSIVE TO ATTENTION

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	GCCF
Weight range	9–15lb (4–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Any color topcoat, including tortoiseshell, with a silvery white undercoat.

Originally known as the Burmoire, this graceful cat is a cross between the Burmilla (opposite) and the Burmese (p.39). The Asian Smoke has one of the most attractive coats of all the Asian breeds: a deep, often solid color on top, the fur ripples apart when the cat moves or is stroked to reveal glimpses of a gleaming, silvery undercoat. An athletic, playful cat with an outgoing personality, the Asian Smoke is highly curious and loves to investigate everything. Asian Smokes are happy kept as indoor cats as long as they have plenty of human companionship, amusement, and affection.



ASIAN-SOLID AND TORTOISESHELL

LIVELY AND LOVING, THIS BREED IS VERY DEPENDENT ON COMPANY

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries GCCF

Weight range 9–15lb (4–7kg)

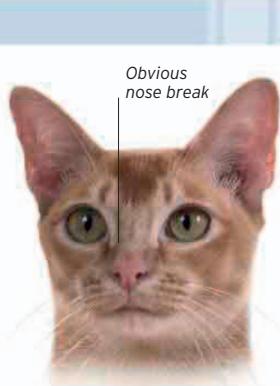
Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors and various tortoiseshells.

The result of experiments to create what is essentially a Burmese cat (p.39) with different coat colors, this British breed includes an all-black version known as the Bombay. The latter is easily confused with an American-bred black cat also called Bombay (p.36), which has a different breed history. The Asian Solid may be less inclined to be highly active in the household than its Burmese relative but can nevertheless make its presence known with an insistent voice when it wants attention, which is most of the time. This friendly, affectionate cat likes to follow its owner around with doglike devotion.



Kitten

Neat, oval paws

Medium-long tail
carried gracefully

Straight back from
shoulders to rump

Medium to large ears
with rounded tips

Pink nose
leather

Golden eyes
set wide apart

Hindlegs slightly
longer than
forelegs

Elegant, firmly
muscled body

Short, fine,
close-lying
red coat



ASIAN-TABBY

A SOCIALE CAT THAT IS EASY TO KEEP IN A FAMILY HOME

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	GCCF
Weight range	9–15lb (4–7kg)

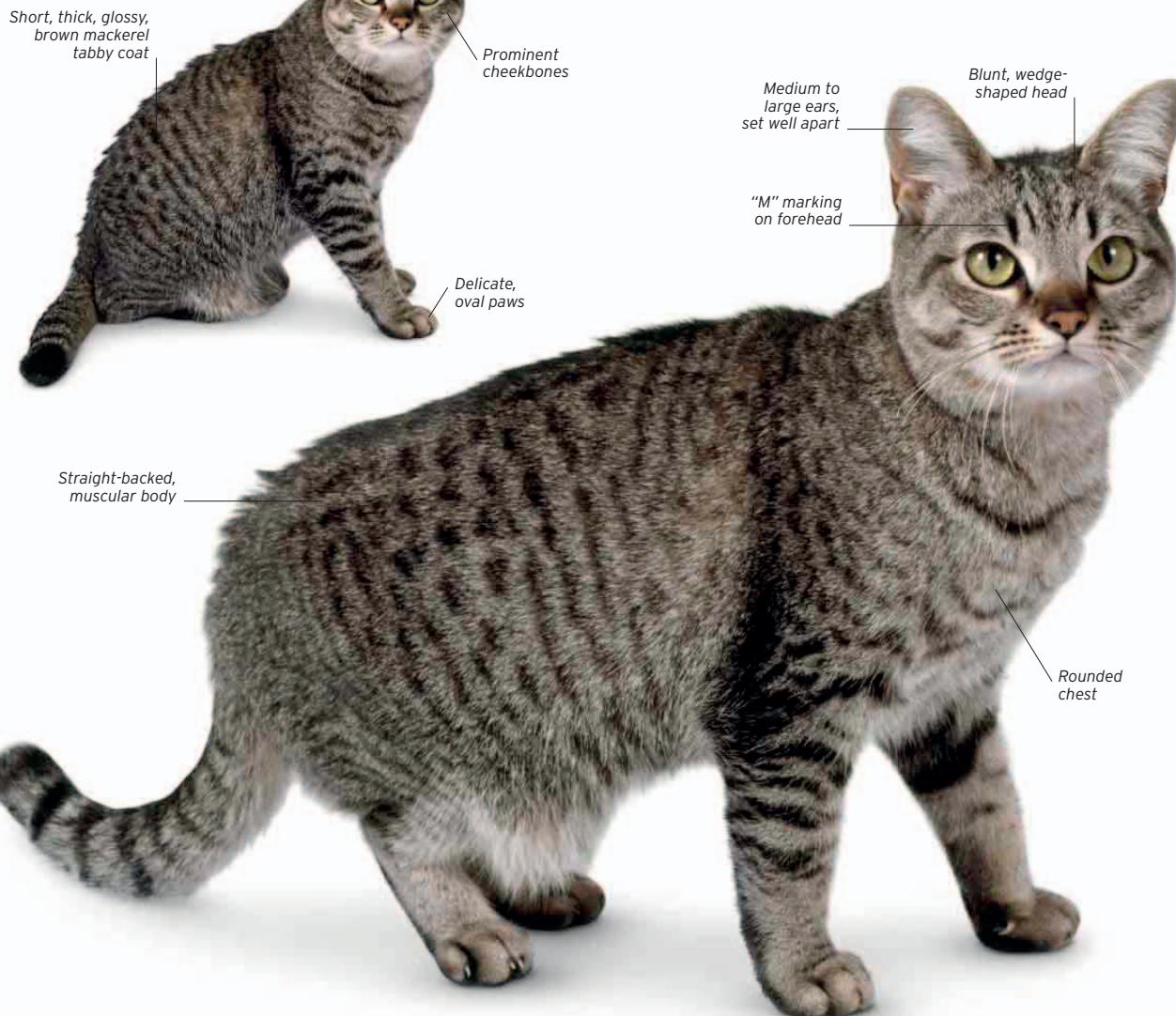
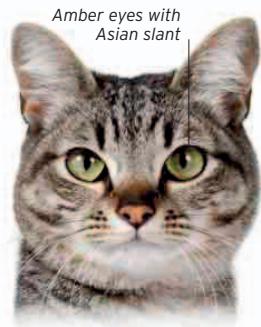
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Spotted, classic, mackerel, or ticked tabby patterns, in various colors.

This member of the Asian group of cats comes in four different tabby patterns: classic, mackerel, spotted, and ticked. The variety of stripes, swirls, rings, and spots occur in a wide range of beautiful colors. The most commonly seen pattern is the ticked tabby, in which each individual hair has contrasting bands of color. Like all its relations, the Asian Tabby has the graceful, muscular lines and extroverted personality of the Burmese cats (p.39) used in its development, blended with the quieter nature of the Persian Chinchilla (p.140). This breed makes a lovely family pet and is growing in popularity.



BOMBAY

THIS PINT-SIZED "BLACK PANTHER" HAS GLOSSY FUR AND COPPERY EYES

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1950s
Breed registries	TICA, CFA
Weight range	6-11lb (2.5-5kg)
Grooming	

 Colors and patterns
Black only.

Created specifically for its appearance, the Bombay is a cross between the American Burmese (p.40) and the American Shorthair (p.61). Round and shiny, this breed comes only in black. It may look like a panther but it is a true homebody, and few cats are more loving and sociable. Bombays want to be with their owners all the time, and are likely to mope if left alone for too long. Having inherited the inquisitive and playful nature of the Burmese, these cats are no couch potatoes. Bombays enjoy a game and are ready to be entertained. They get along well with children and other pets.



Wide-set eyes
are deep copper color





NOT SHY

The lithe and gleaming Bombay is a cat that feels confident in company. This breed is prepared to make overtures to anyone who is likely to provide entertainment or a lap to sit on.

SINGAPURA

THIS SMALLEST OF CAT BREEDS HAS A KITTENISH TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin Singapore

Date of origin 1970s

Breed registries CFA, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 4-9lb (2-4kg)

Grooming



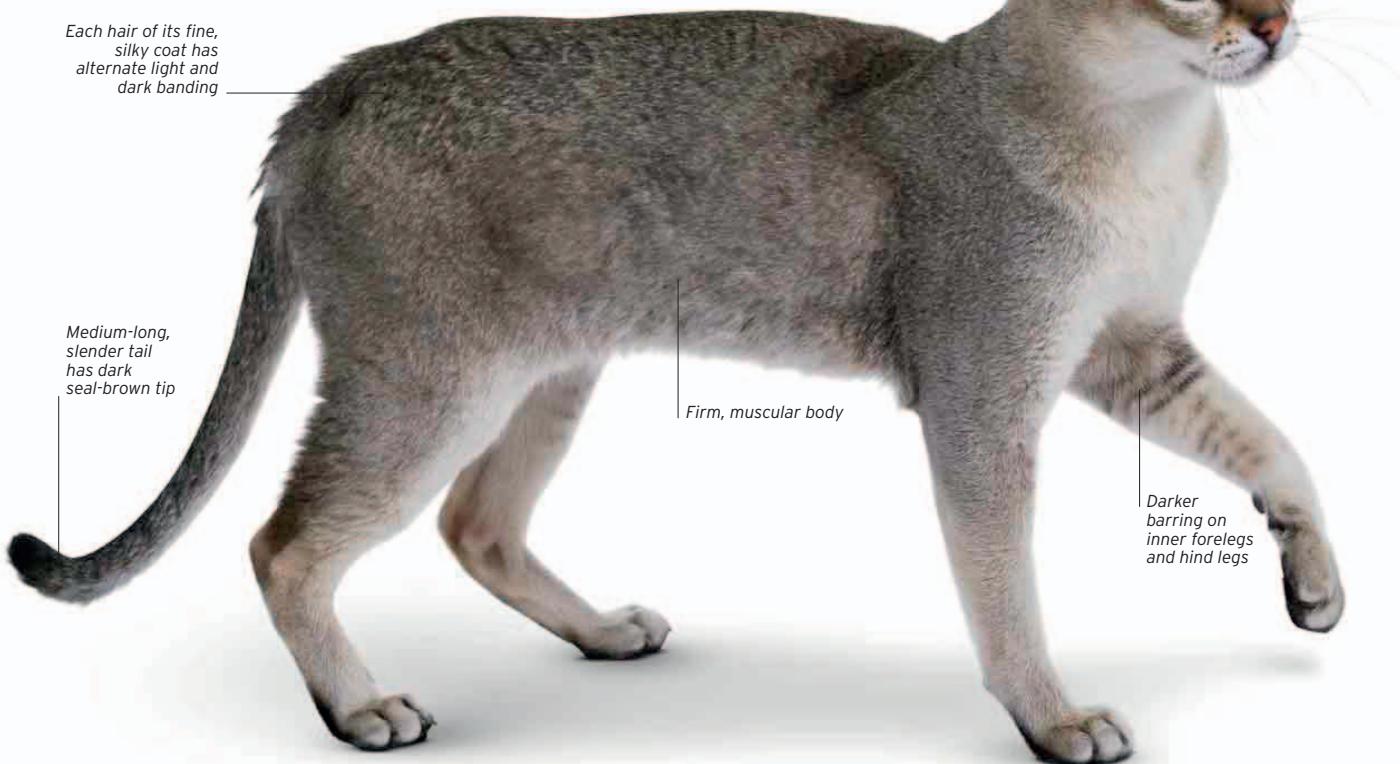
Colors and patterns

Sepia agouti: seal brown
ticking on ivory
ground color.

The distinctive ticked coat of this little cat caught the eye of an American scientist, Hal Meadow, while he was working in Singapore in the 1970s. Meadow and his wife started a breeding program for the Singapura, which they carried out both in Singapore and the US. By the 1990s British breeders were also taking an interest in this cat. Singapuras are now known worldwide, although they are still very rare. Small in size but big in personality, these cats are prying and mischievous, happiest when exploring the world at a high level from a shelf or an owner's shoulder.



Each hair of its fine,
silky coat has
alternate light and
dark banding



Dark facial
markings on
cheekbones

EUROPEAN BURMESE

THIS CAT IS CONFIDENT, INQUISITIVE, AND FULL OF CHARACTER

Place of origin Burma (Myanmar)

Date of origin 1930s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–14lb (3.5–6.5kg)

Grooming



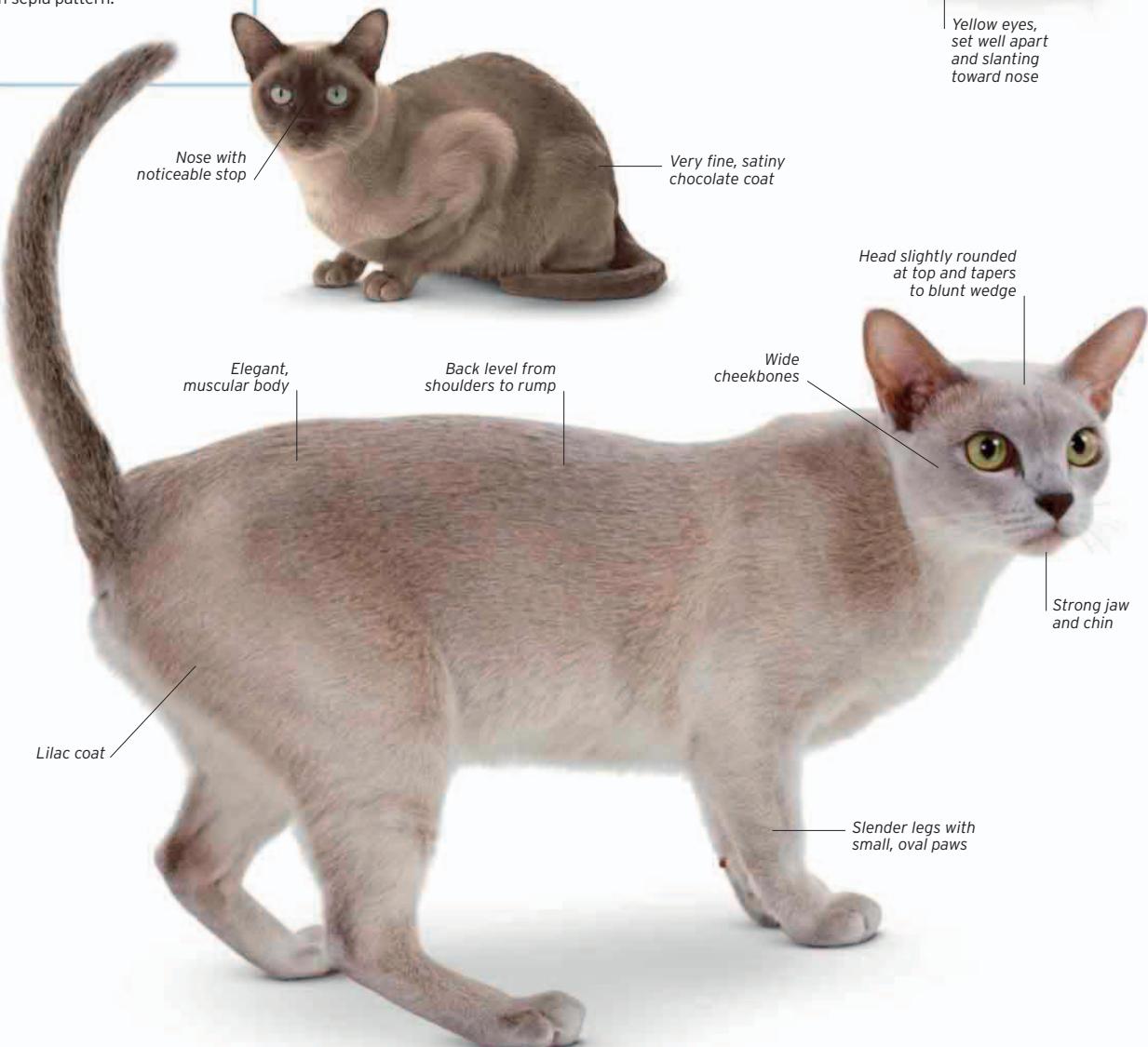
Colors and patterns

Solid and tortoiseshell colors include blue, brown, cream, lilac, and red. Always in sepia pattern.

This breed was first developed in the US in the 1930s, using a foundation cat introduced from Southeast Asia. In the late 1940s several Burmese cats were sent from the US to the UK, where the breed acquired a different look. The European Burmese is slightly longer in the head and body than its American counterpart, and comes in a greater variety of colors. This sweet-natured cat has plenty of affection to offer and needs to be a full member of a loving family. A Burmese is not well suited to a home where it will be left to its own devices for long periods.



Yellow eyes,
set well apart
and slanting
toward nose



AMERICAN BURMESE

ALWAYS CRAVING COMPANY, THIS CAT IS FUN-SEEKING AND INTERESTED IN EVERYTHING

Place of origin Possibly Burma (Myanmar)

Date of origin 1930s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 8-14lb
(3.5-6.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

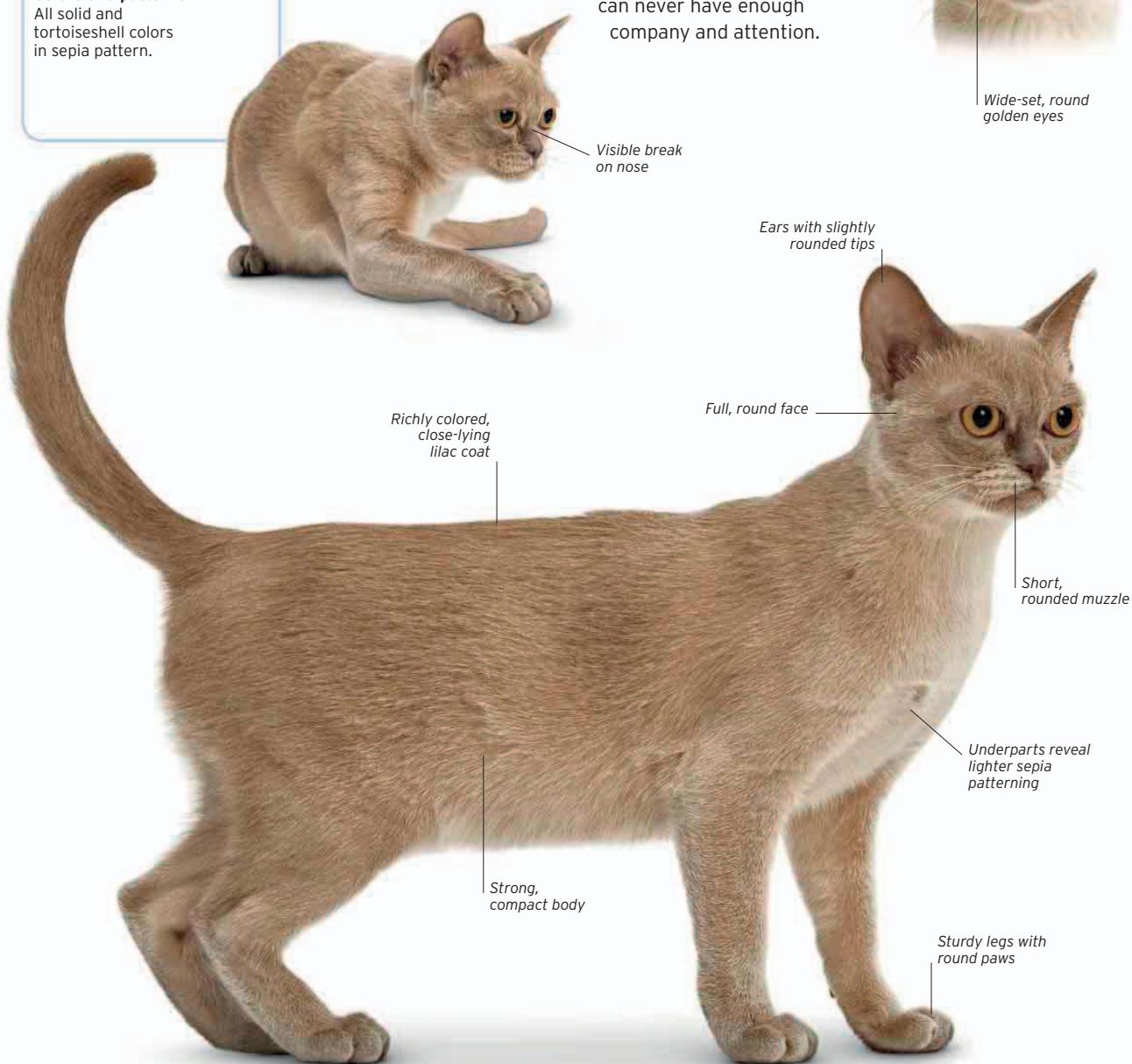
All solid and tortoiseshell colors in sepia pattern.

There are several conflicting accounts of how the Burmese cat came to the West. All that is known for certain is that a Southeast Asian cat of this type, belonging to a Dr. Thompson, appeared in the US in the 1930s and was used to found a new breed. The first recognized American Burmese cats were all a rich brown in color. Later, further colors were accepted, although not as many as in the European version of this breed, which also has a more Asian appearance. The Burmese is a lovely family pet that

can never have enough company and attention.



Wide-set, round golden eyes



MANDALAY

THIS GLOSSY-COATED BEAUTY WAS DEVELOPED FROM THE BURMESE CAT

Place of origin New Zealand

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries FIFe

Weight range 8-14lb (3.5-6.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Many solid colors and patterns, including tabby and tortoiseshell.

In the 1980s two breeders in New Zealand discovered independently that accidental matings between Burmese cats (p.39) and domestic cats produced promising kittens. From these litters, they both went on to develop what is now known as the Mandalay,

which has the same breed standard as the Burmese but a greater variety of coat colors. Sleek, glossy, and golden eyed, this lovely cat is best known in its native country. The Mandalay is very alert and active, and its lithe frame is packed with muscle. It is warmly affectionate toward its own family but inclined to be cautious with strangers.



Large amber eyes slant toward nose

Tail tapers very slightly to rounded tip

Strong, round chest

Top of head is slightly rounded

Back level from shoulders to rump

Wide jaw and firm chin

Short, black, satiny coat

Neat, oval paws

TONKINESE

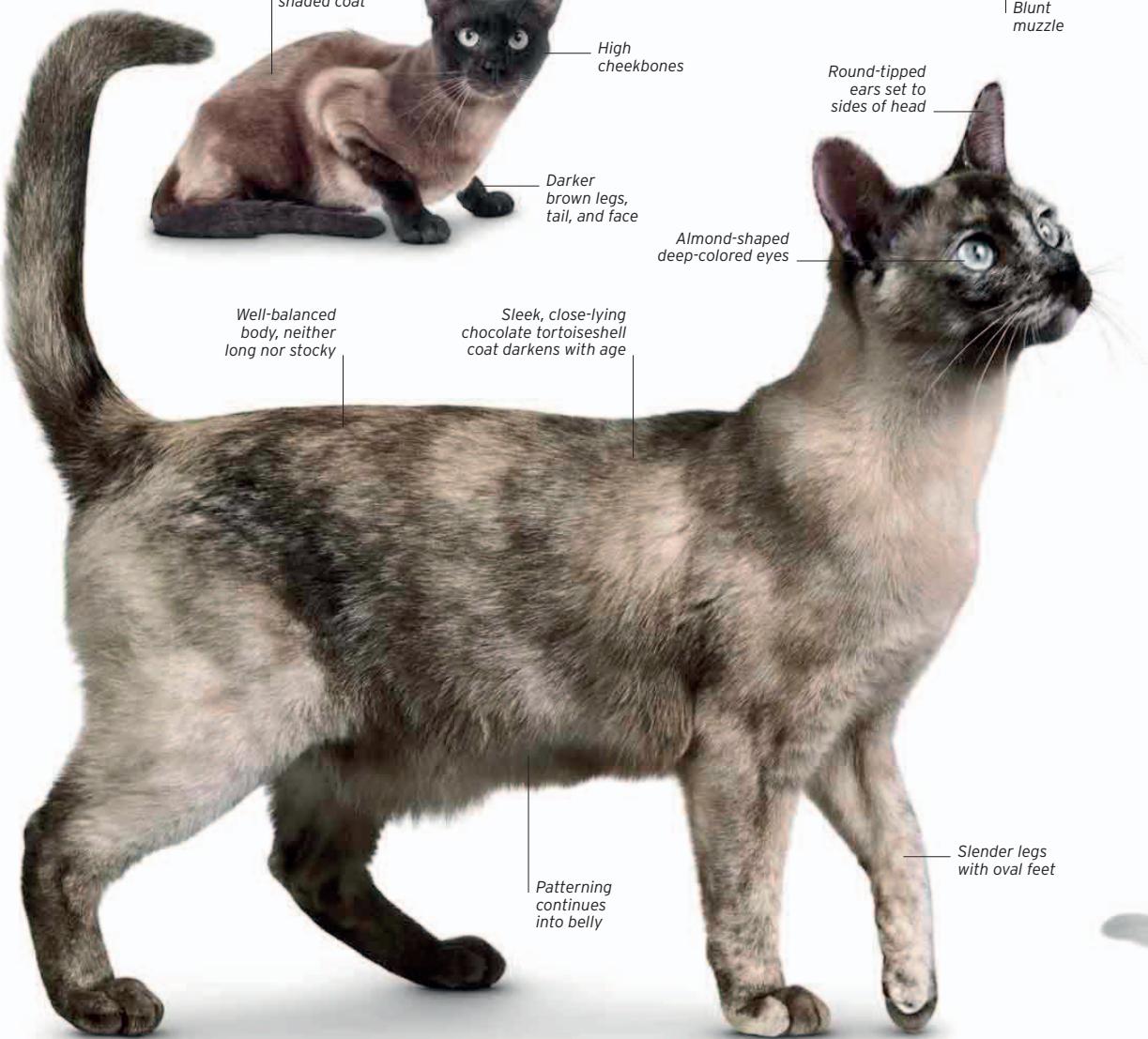
A CHIC AND SLEEK BUT STRONGLY MUSCLED CAT WITH PLENTY OF SUBSTANCE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1950s
Breed registries	CFA, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	6-12lb (2.5-5.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

All colors except cinnamon and fawn, in patterns including pointed, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

This hybrid cat, created by crossing the Burmese with the Siamese, blends the coloring of both breeds but has a more compact body than many cats of Asian ancestry. It has achieved considerable popularity both in the US, where it was created, and in the UK. The Tonkinese has an independent spirit and would rule the household if it could, but it also has a loving nature and is gratifyingly eager to climb on laps. Playing games, socializing with other pets, and welcoming strangers to the home are all things that the Tonkinese is good at.



ORIENTAL-WHITE

THIS DAINTY ARISTOCRATIC CAT HAS A SPARKLING WHITE COAT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-14lb (4-6.5kg)

Grooming

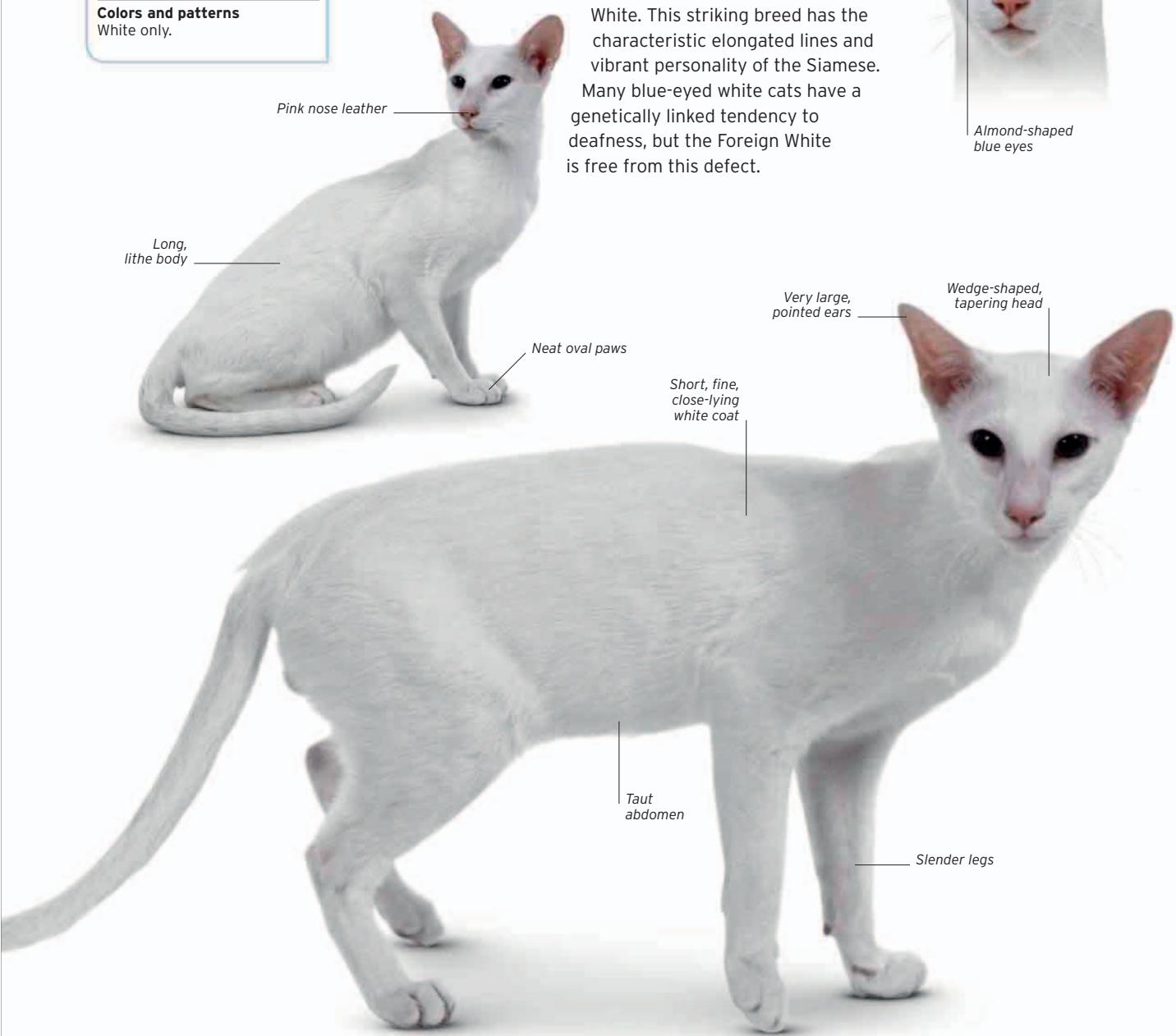


Colors and patterns

White only.

Development of this breed began in the 1950s, with crosses between the Siamese and white shorthaired cats. In the UK the first of these hybrids had either orange or blue eyes, but selective breeding produced cats with blue eyes only, which were given the name of Foreign White. In the US, either green or blue eyes are permitted, and the cat is regarded as a solid-colored variant of the Oriental Shorthair, known as the Oriental White. This striking breed has the characteristic elongated lines and vibrant personality of the Siamese.

Many blue-eyed white cats have a genetically linked tendency to deafness, but the Foreign White is free from this defect.



Almond-shaped blue eyes

ORIENTAL SOLID

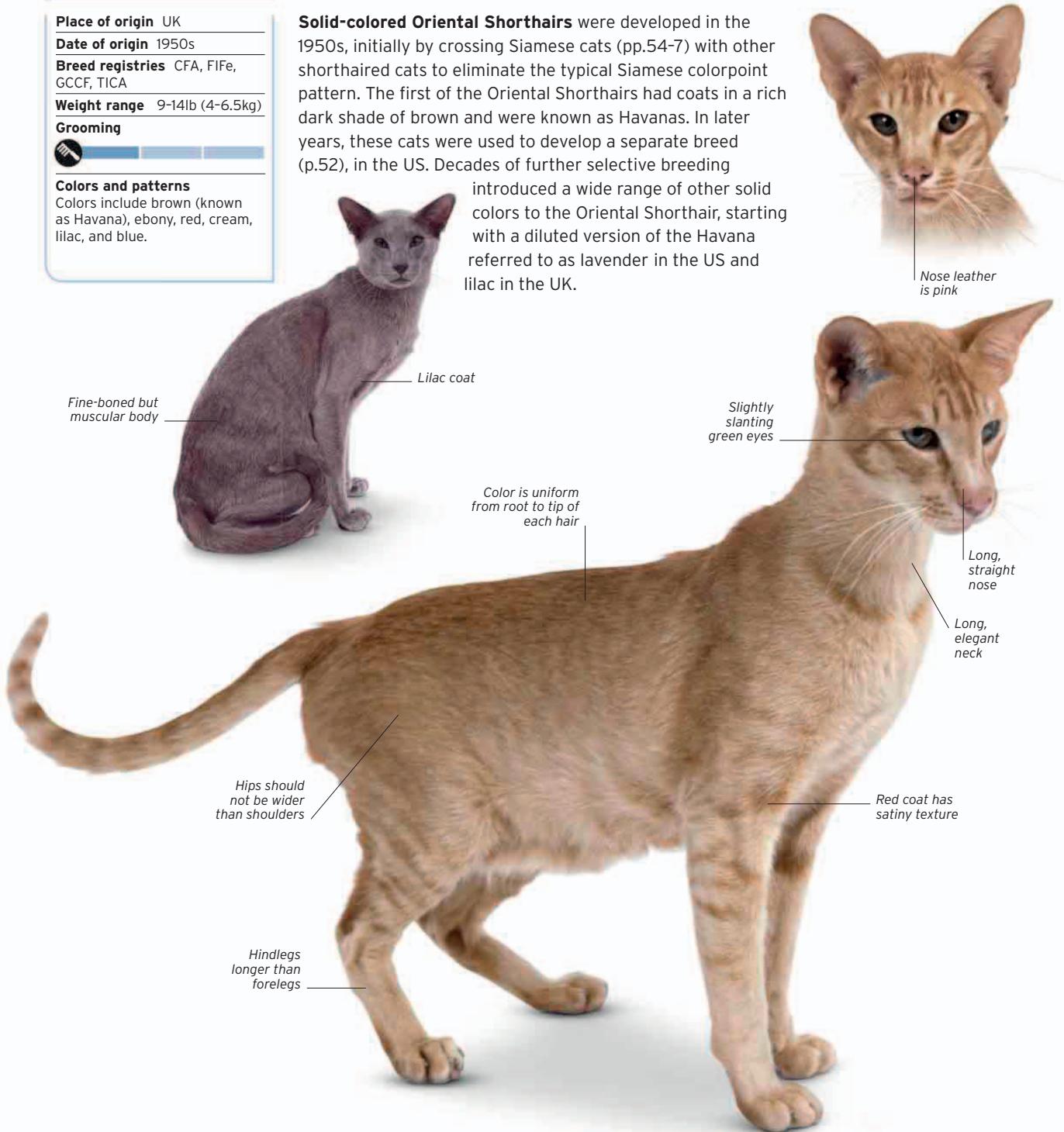
THIS CAT WAS BRED TO COMBINE SIAMESE LINES WITH TRADITIONAL SOLID COLORS

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1950s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9-14lb (4-6.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Colors include brown (known as Havana), ebony, red, cream, lilac, and blue.

Solid-colored Oriental Shorthairs were developed in the 1950s, initially by crossing Siamese cats (pp.54-7) with other shorthaired cats to eliminate the typical Siamese colorpoint pattern. The first of the Oriental Shorthairs had coats in a rich dark shade of brown and were known as Havanas. In later years, these cats were used to develop a separate breed (p.52), in the US. Decades of further selective breeding

introduced a wide range of other solid colors to the Oriental Shorthair, starting with a diluted version of the Havana referred to as lavender in the US and lilac in the UK.



ORIENTAL CINNAMON AND FAWN

THIS BEAUTIFUL CAT HAS TWO UNUSUAL COLOR VERSIONS

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9–14lb (4–6.5kg)

Grooming



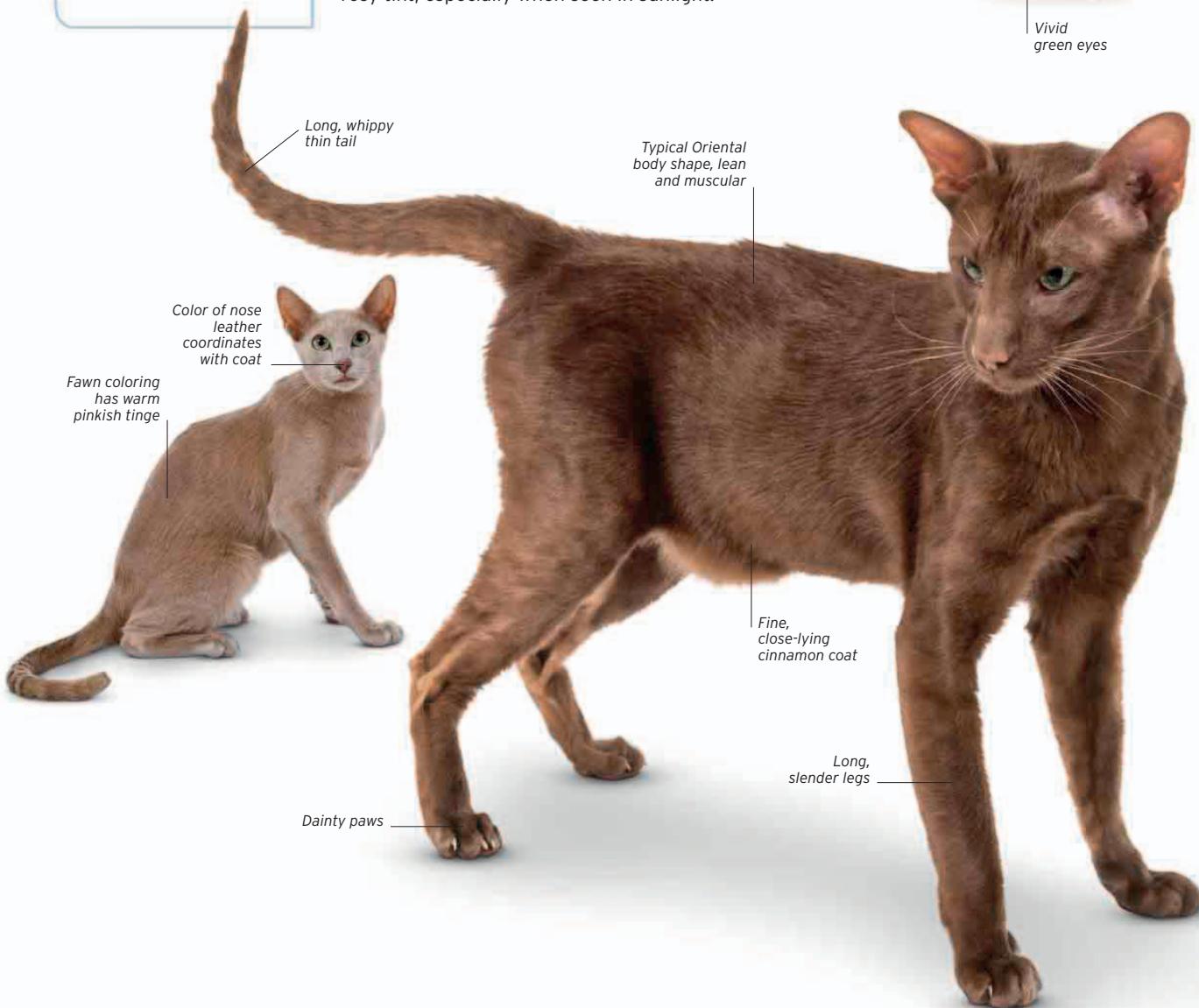
Colors and patterns

Cinnamon and fawn with no trace of white.

These variations of the Oriental Shorthair are rare because it has proved difficult for breeders to produce their subtle colors. The first Cinnamon was a kitten born in the 1960s to a male Abyssinian (p.83) and a female seal point Siamese (pp.54–5). The attractive and unusual shade of this kitten's coat—a lighter, reddish-tinged version of the rich brown Oriental solid-coloring known as Havana—inspired its breeder to develop a new line. Fawn Orientals, which were developed slightly later, are an even more diluted brown and their coats have a mushroom-pink or rosy tint, especially when seen in sunlight.



Vivid
green eyes



ORIENTAL-SMOKE

THIS STRIKING CAT IS NOT YET AS POPULAR AS OTHER ORIENTAL COLORS

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1970s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-14lb (4-6.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Any Oriental solid colors in tortoiseshell and parti-color patterns.

In 1971 a cross between a shaded silver hybrid cat and a red-point Siamese produced a litter of kittens in mixed colors. One kitten, which had the coat pattern known as smoke, inspired breeders to create a new look of Oriental. Each hair of a Smoke's coat has two color bands. The top band may be either a solid color—including blue, black, red, and chocolate—or tortoiseshell; beneath this, the hair is very pale or white for at least one-third of its length. The pale hair shows through the darker color and is particularly noticeable when the cat moves.



Vivid green eyes slant down toward nose



ORIENTAL-SHADED

A DELICATELY PATTERNED CAT WITH AN UNUSUAL AND SUBTLE BEAUTY

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9-14lb (4-6.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
All tabby patterns and colors, except white.

The chance mating between a chocolate-point Siamese (pp.54-5) and a Persian Chinchilla (p.140) produced a litter that included two kittens with shaded silver coats. This aroused breeders' interest and so began the slow progress toward a new range of Oriental cats. In a shaded Oriental, the coat is essentially a modified tabby pattern, in which the darker markings occur only on the upper ends of the hairs. These markings, which can appear as ticked, spotted, mackerel, or classic tabby patterns, may be quite pronounced in kittens, but as the cat matures the pattern becomes less distinct and in some cats is barely visible.



Long neck

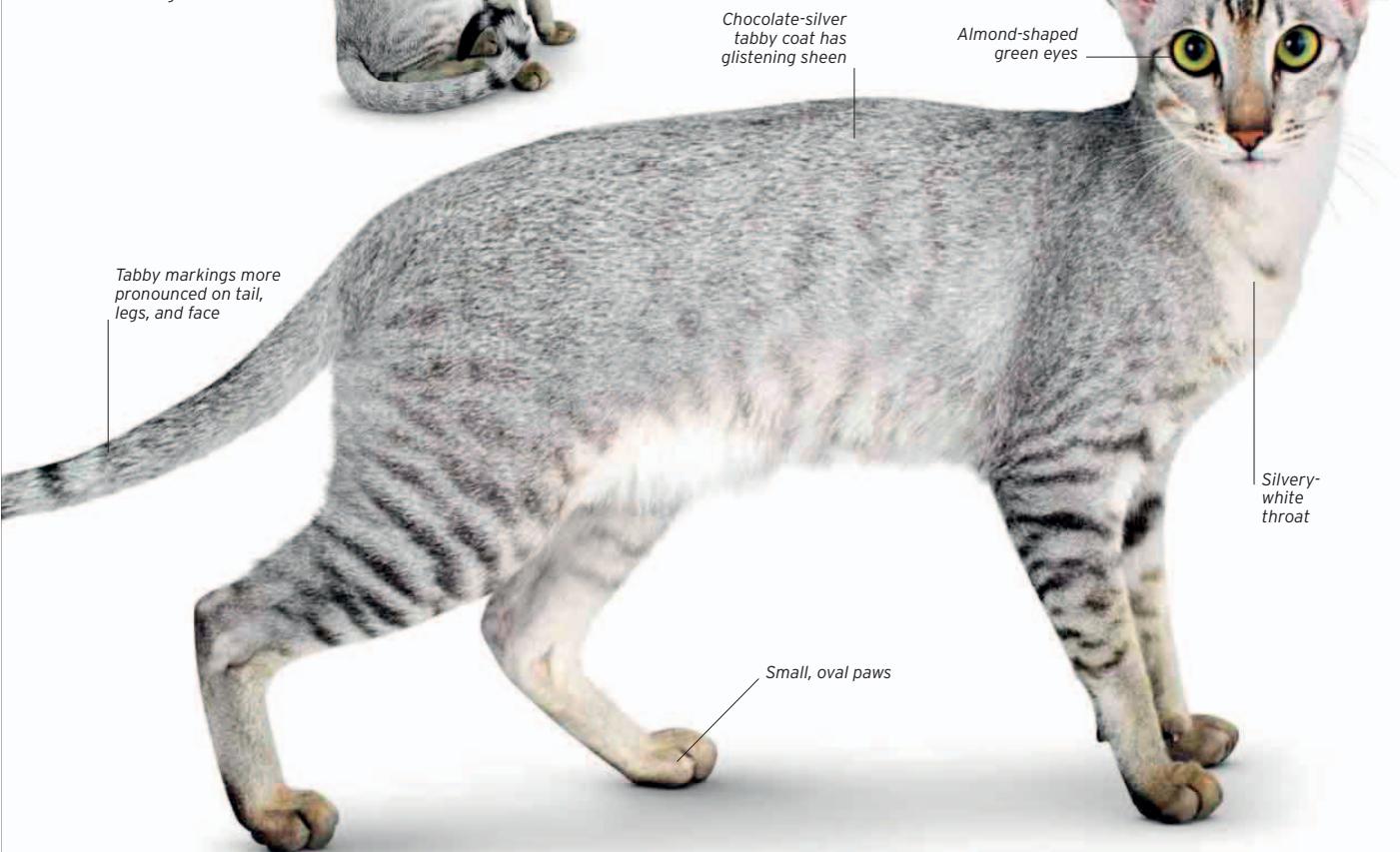


Wedge-shaped muzzle

Contrast between tipping and light ground color



Tabby markings more pronounced on tail, legs, and face



ORIENTAL STYLE

With its svelte body and striped or spotted coat, the Oriental Shorthair tabby has more than a touch of the jungle about it. All the traditional patterns and colors are accepted.



ORIENTAL-TABBY

THIS LIVELY CAT COMBINES STREAMLINED LOOKS WITH A RANGE OF BEAUTIFUL TABBY PATTERNS

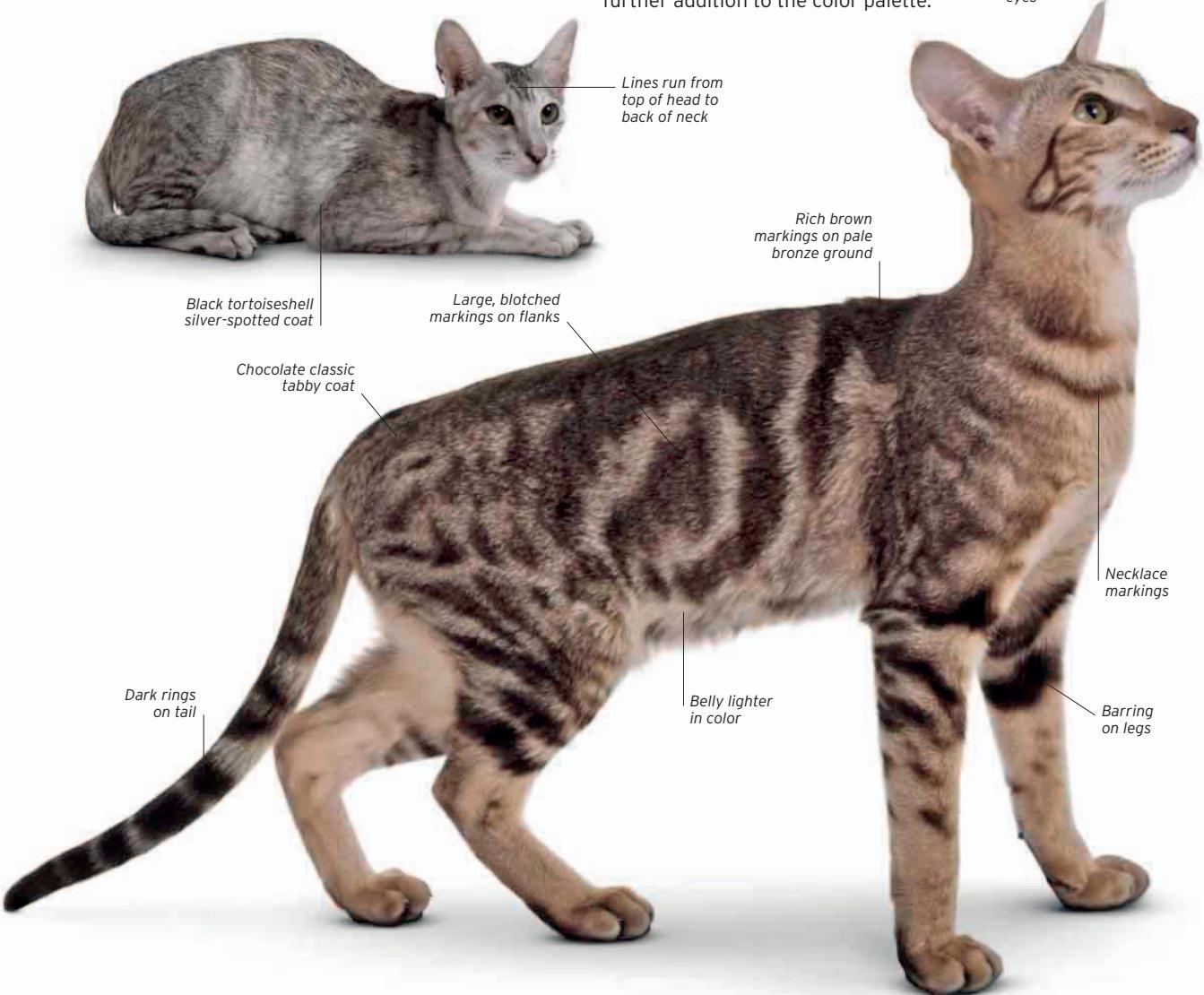
Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9-14lb (4-6.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
All colors and shades in tabby and patched-tabby patterns. Also with white.

Following the rising popularity of solid-colored Oriental Shorthairs, breeders turned their attention to producing a line of Oriental tabbies. Early attempts to introduce the tabby patterning to Orientals used crosses between non-pedigree tabbies and Siamese (pp.54-7). The first of these patterned Orientals, officially recognized in 1978, was a modern copy of the Siamese-type spotted tabbies believed to be the ancestors of today's domestic cats. By the 1980s Orientals with ticked, mackerel, and classic tabby patterning in a wide variety of colors had also been developed. The patched-tabby Oriental, typically with patches of red or cream, was a further addition to the color palette.



Green eyes



ORIENTAL-TORTIE

THE PATTERNED COAT GIVES THIS CAT A PATCHWORK LOOK

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-14lb (4-6.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Ground colors are black, blue, chocolate, lilac, fawn, cinnamon, and caramel; tortoiseshell pattern.

According to an illustrated manuscript, *The Cat Book Poems*, which may date back to the old kingdom of Siam (Thailand), tortie-(tortoiseshell) patterned Oriental cats have a long history. Development of the modern Oriental Tortie began in the 1960s, with matings between solid-colored Orientals (p.44) and red, tortie,

and cream point Siamese (pp.54-5). The breed eventually gained official recognition in the 1980s. The Tortie coat comes in several ground colors mingled with contrasting patches of cream, or red and cream, depending on the base color. Due to the distribution of tortoiseshell genes, torties are nearly always females; the rare males are usually sterile.



Head narrows to a fine muzzle



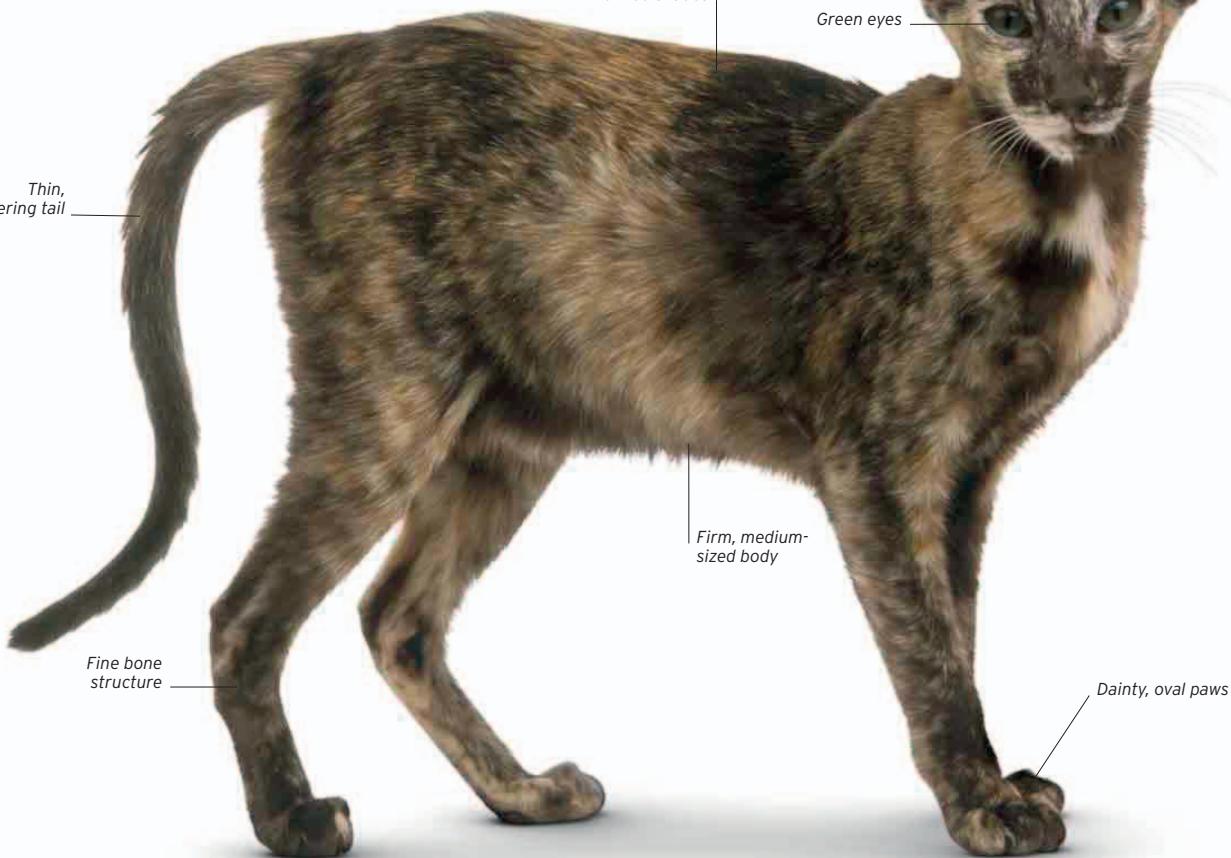
Random-patterned coat

Chocolate tortie coat is warm brown mixed with red shades



Green eyes

Thin, tapering tail



ORIENTAL-BICOLOR

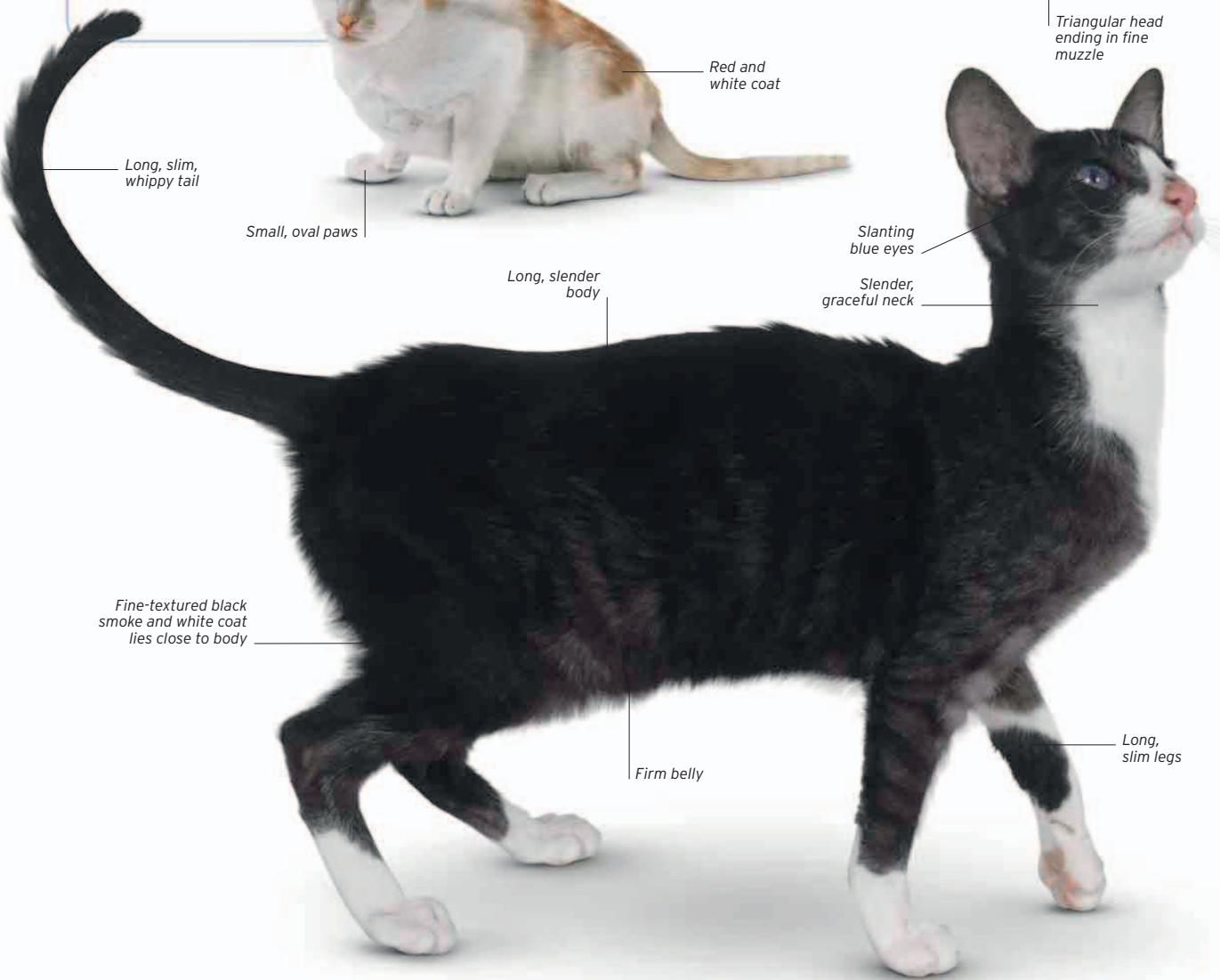
A LITHE AND SLENDER CAT WITH OFTEN DRAMATIC COLORING

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9-14lb (4-6.5kg)
Grooming	 

Colors and patterns

Various solid colors, shades, and patterns, including tabby, tortie, and some colorpoints, always with white areas.

Breeders in the US initially developed this exciting addition to the Oriental Shorthair group through crosses that included a Siamese (pp.54-7) and a bicolor American Shorthair (p.61). In Europe further programs experimented with other crosses to achieve the right look. The first Oriental Bicolor in the UK arrived in 2004. This striking cat comes in a wonderful range of colors splashed over the coat in an endless variety of patterns; there is even a colorpointed, or Siamese, version. The breed standard requires the white patching to cover at least a third of the cat and to include the legs, underside, and muzzle.



HAVANA

A PLAYFUL, CHARMING, AND GENTLE CAT THAT ENJOYS AN INDOOR LIFE

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 6-10lb
(2.5-4.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns
Rich brown and lilac.

A rare breed with a confusing background, the Havana (originally known as the Havana Brown) was developed originally to have two different looks, both with a rich brown coat. In the UK the cat was produced through crosses with the Siamese (pp.54-7) and domestic shorthairs. This version, which had the long, lean Siamese conformation, was eventually classified as a solid-colored Oriental Shorthair (p.44). In the US breeders did not use the Siamese, resulting in a cat with a rounder face and less elongated body (shown here). The stunning Havana is hard to ignore, but if it does not receive attention, it will certainly seek it. This affectionate cat likes to be close to people at all times.



THAI

THIS VOCAL CAT LOVES PEOPLE AND EXPECTS LOTS OF ATTENTION

Place of origin Europe

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 6-12lb
(2.5-5.5kg)

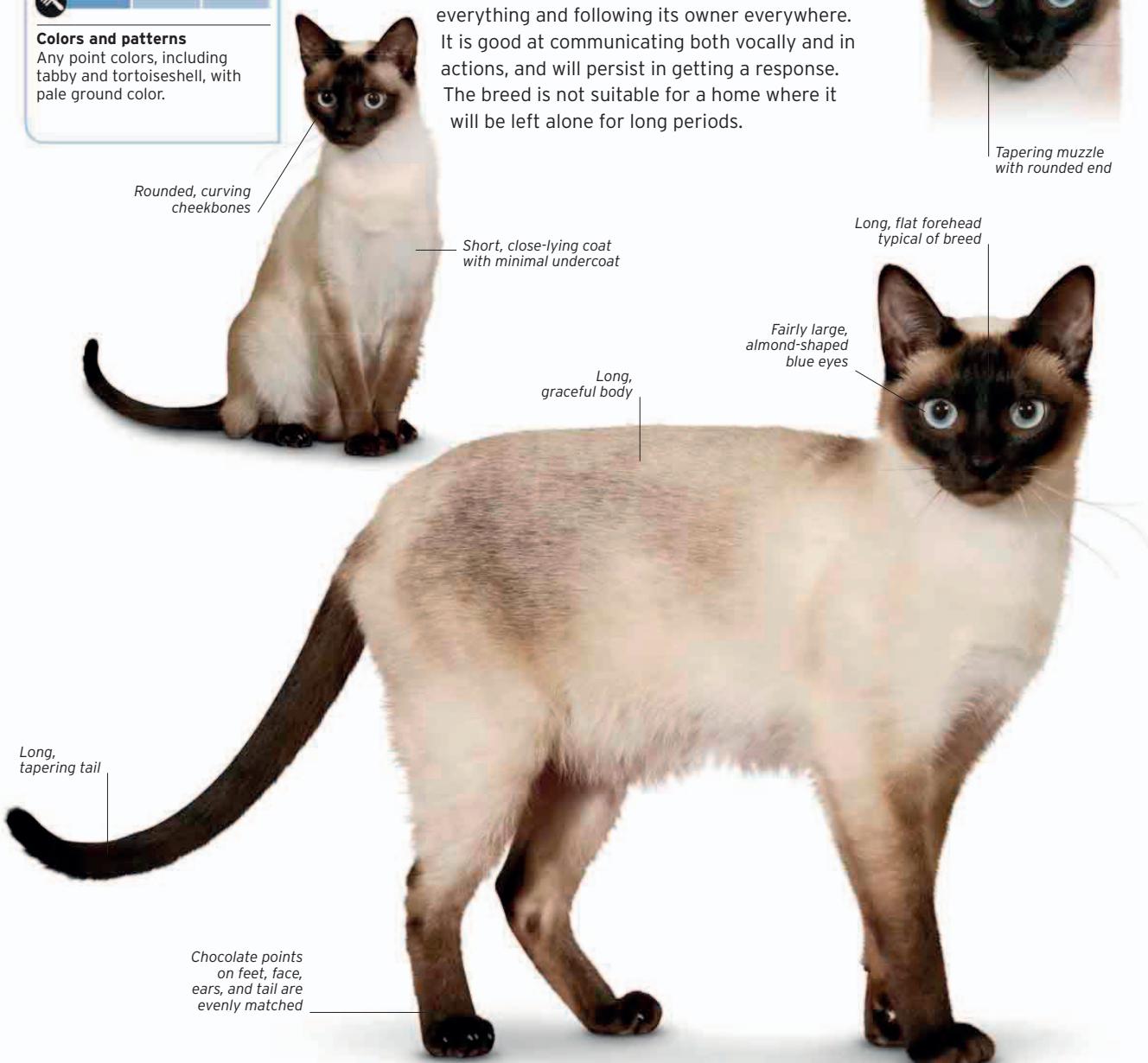
Grooming

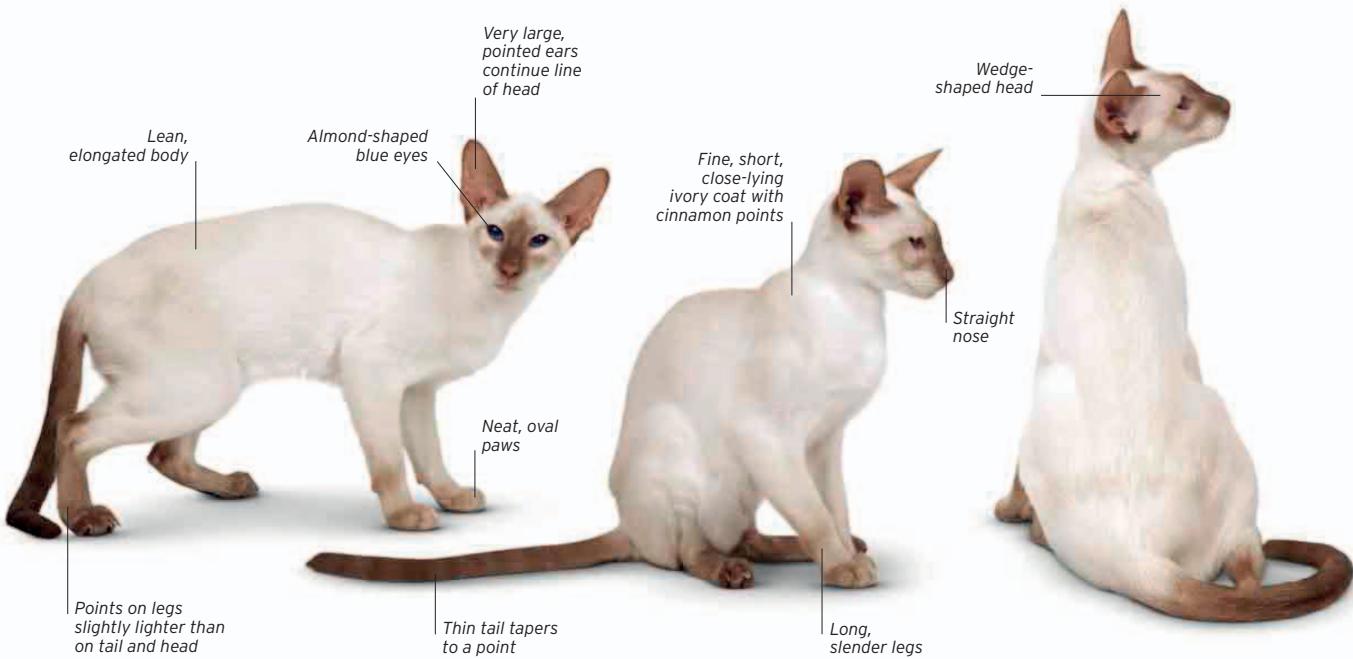


Colors and patterns

Any point colors, including tabby and tortoiseshell, with pale ground color.

Lithe and elegant, with points that come in many colors, the Thai was bred to resemble the traditional Siamese cat of the 1950s, before it began to develop a more extreme, elongated appearance. The defining feature of the Thai is its head, which has a long, flat forehead, rounded cheeks, and a tapering, wedge-shaped muzzle. This cat is very active and intelligent, investigating everything and following its owner everywhere. It is good at communicating both vocally and in actions, and will persist in getting a response. The breed is not suitable for a home where it will be left alone for long periods.





SIAMESE-SELF-POINTED

THIS INSTANTLY RECOGNIZABLE BREED IS UNIQUE IN LOOKS AND PERSONALITY

Place of origin Thailand (Siam)

Date of origin 14th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-12lb (2.5-5.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors in pointed patterns.

The history of the Siamese includes more myths and legends than hard facts, and the true tale of this Royal Cat of Siam is now lost in time. It is certainly thought to be a very old breed; a cat with dark points is pictured in *The Cat Book Poems*, a manuscript produced in Siam (now Thailand) that possibly dates back to the 14th century. The first Siamese cats definitely known in the West appeared at cat shows in London during the 1870s, and in that same decade a cat was sent from Bangkok to the US as a gift for the first lady.

In the breed's early years of development, on both sides of the Atlantic, all Siamese cats were seal points, and it was not until the 1930s that new colors—blue, chocolate, and lilac—were introduced, and later others were added. The appearance of the Siamese has also changed in other ways over the years. Traits such as crossed eyes and a kinked tail, which were once common in the Siamese, have been bred out and are now seen as

faults in terms of show standards. More controversially, modern breeding has taken the elongated body and narrow head of the Siamese to extremes, producing an ultra-lean and angular look. With a super-sized ego and a loud voice that it uses to demand attention, the Siamese is the most extroverted of all cats. This highly intelligent breed is full of fun and energy and makes a wonderful family pet, as ready to give affection as to receive it.

DEVELOPING COLOR POINTS

All Siamese kittens are born pure white. Their point colors emerge gradually, and should be recognizable by around eight weeks. The color may take a year or more to develop its full depth.





SIAMESE-TABBY-POINTED

THIS FRIENDLY BREED IS A STUNNING VARIATION OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CAT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-12lb
(2.5-5.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Many tabby point colors, including seal, blue, chocolate, lilac, red, cream, cinnamon, caramel, fawn, and apricot; also various patched tabby point colors.

A few Siamese cats with tabby points are mentioned in early 20th-century records, but selective development of this new variation did not begin until the 1960s. The first tabby point Siamese to attract the attention of breeders is said to have been a kitten born to a solid-point female Siamese as a result of an unplanned mating. It was some years before the Siamese Tabby-Pointed was recognized and officially named as a breed in the UK; in the US this cat is known as a Lynx Colorpoint. Originally, only seal tabbies appeared, but many other beautiful tabby colors have now been added to the breed standard.

Deep blue eyes

Nose leather pink with darker rim

Long, slender body

Dark-spotted whisker pads

Ears outlined in same color as mask

Ivory-colored body with chocolate points

Well-defined tabby stripes on mask, including typical tabby "M" mark

Tail has well-defined rings and solid-colored tip

Faint stripes on legs



SIAMESE-TORTIE-POINTED

MULTICOLORED POINTS ADD TO THE SPECIAL CHARM OF THIS SIAMESE

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-12lb
(2.5-5.5kg)

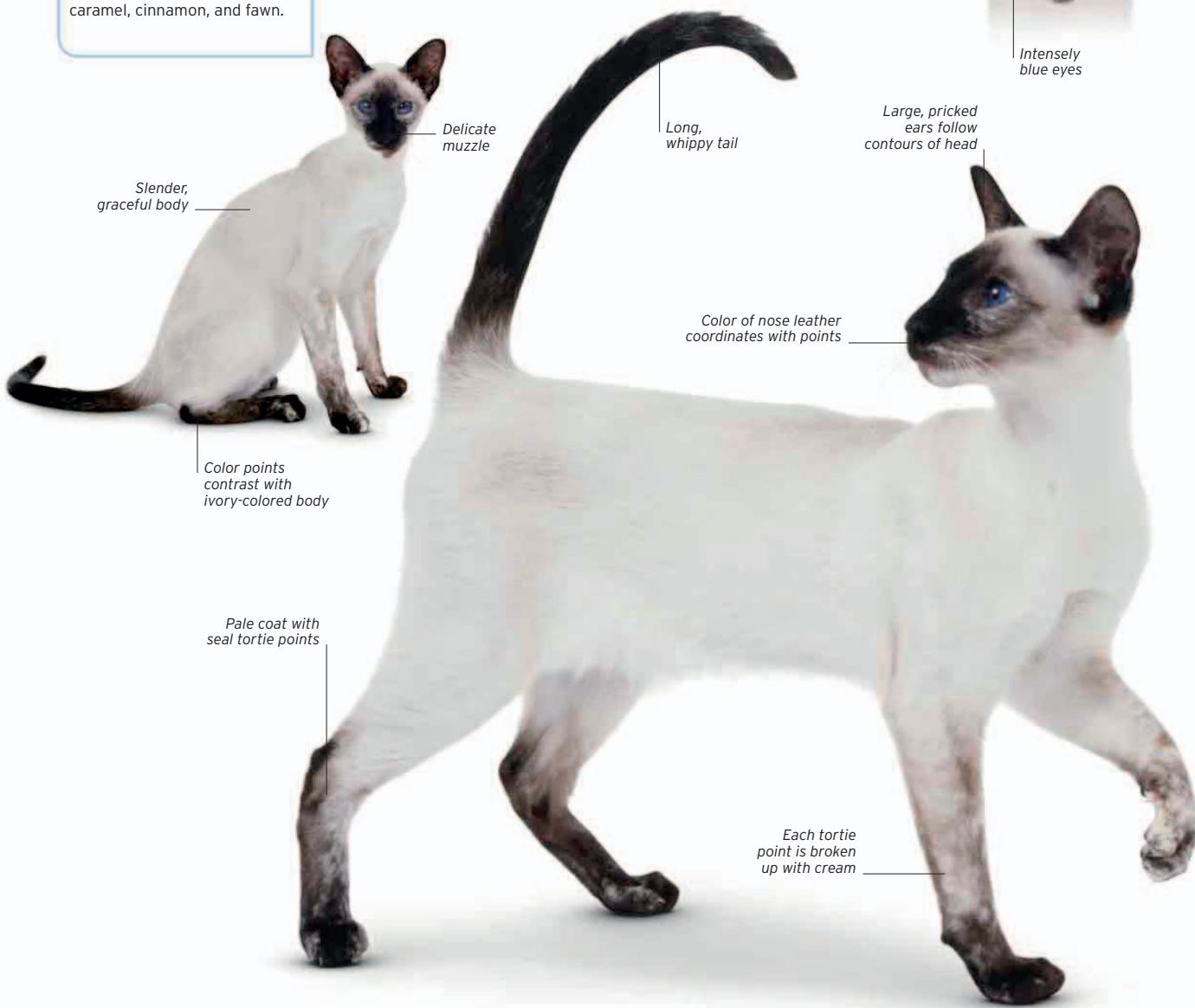
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Various tortie point colors:
seal, blue, chocolate, lilac,
caramel, cinnamon, and fawn.

Producing tortie (tortoiseshell) color points in the Siamese involves a complicated breeding process that introduces the gene for orange coloring. This gene causes random changes in solid colors such as seal, blue, or fawn, resulting in a mottled pattern in which shades of red, apricot, or cream are evident. In some variations there may be striping as well. In kittens the full mixture of colors emerges gradually and may take up to a year to develop fully. The Seal Tortie-Pointed was the first color to be granted official status as a Tortie Siamese in the UK in the late 1960s.



COLORPOINT SHORTHAI'R

A LOVING, PLAYFUL CAT WITH A LOOK-AT-ME ATTITUDE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1940s/1950s
Breed registries	CFA
Weight range	6–12lb (2.5–5.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Various solid, tabby, and lynx point colors.

Developed specifically for its beautiful color combinations, this breed was created during the 1940s and 50s, initially by crossing a Siamese with a red tabby American Shorthair (p.61). If not for its different range of colors, the Colorpoint Shorthair would be impossible to distinguish from the Siamese, since it possesses the same elongated body, slender head, oversized ears, and brilliant blue eyes as its relative. Intelligent, sociable, and highly vocal, this cat likes to be the center of attention. A Colorpoint Shorthair needs family life—the more fun going on, the better—and is not suitable for owners who are out of the home for long periods.

Long neck

Clearly defined mask covers entire face

Long, slender legs

Finely boned, elongated body

Short, fine, close-lying light coat with chocolate tabby points

Thin, tapering tail

Deep blue eyes

Long, tapering, wedge-shaped head

Very large, broad-based ears

Small, delicate paws



SEYCHELLOIS

THIS CAT IS NOT FOR OWNERS WHO LIKE A QUIET LIFE

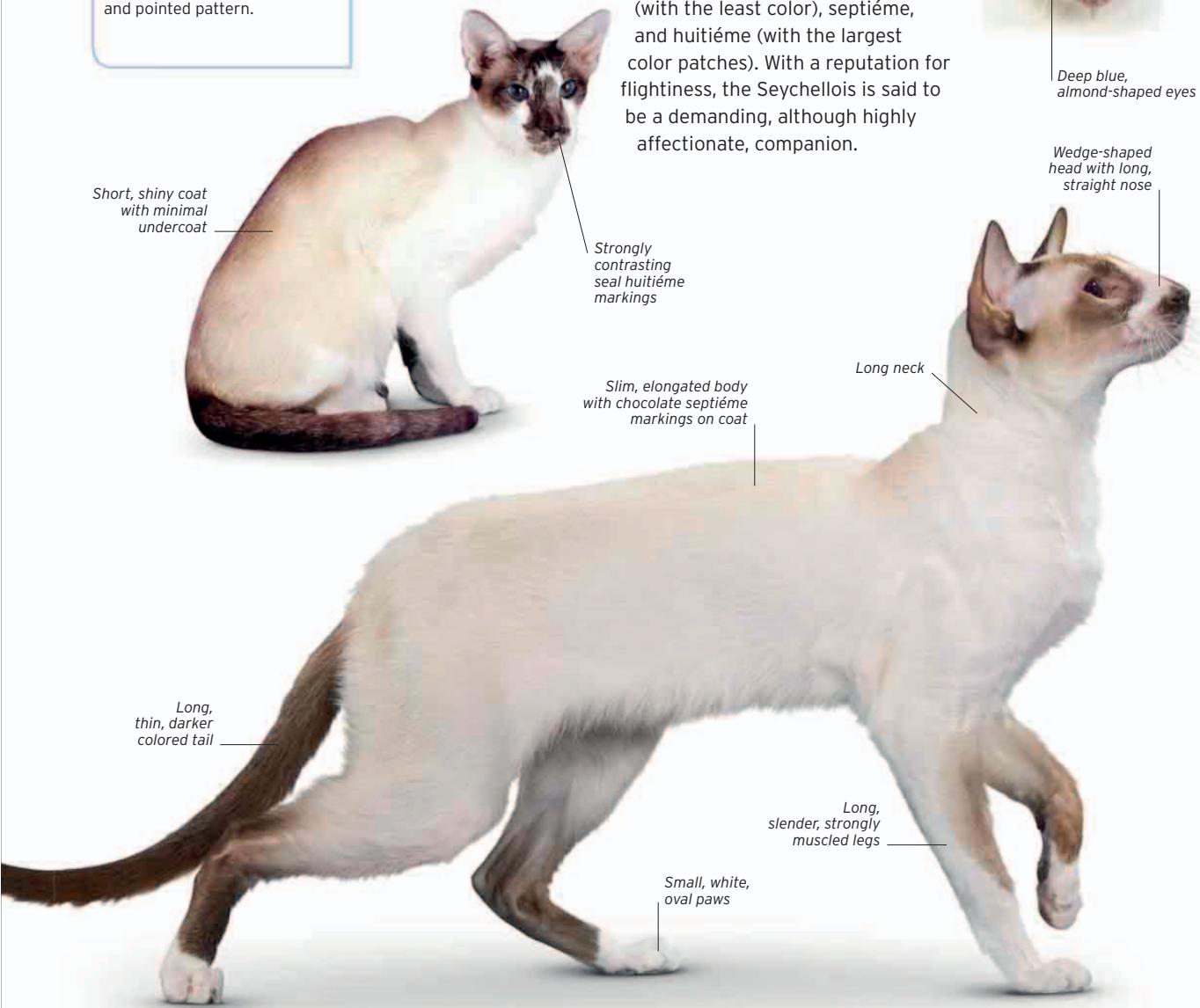
Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	FIFe, TICA
Weight range	9-14lb (4-6.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

White ground color with solid, tortie, and lynx contrast markings. Always in bicolor and pointed pattern.

This comparatively new breed, not yet recognized worldwide, was specially created in the UK to resemble the distinctively patterned cats found in the Seychelles. The first crosses were between a Siamese (pp.54-7) and a calico Persian (p.152); later, Oriental cats were added to the breeding program, and the mix produced a graceful, long-headed, big-eared cat in both shorthaired and longhaired versions. According to the extent of its dramatic color markings, the Seychellois is classified into three types, known as neuvième

(with the least color), septième, and huitième (with the largest color patches). With a reputation for flightiness, the Seychellois is said to be a demanding, although highly affectionate, companion.



SNOWSHOE

THIS WELL-NAMED COLORPOINTED CAT HAS DISTINCTIVE SPARKLING WHITE FEET

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries FIFe,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-12lb
(2.5-5.5kg)

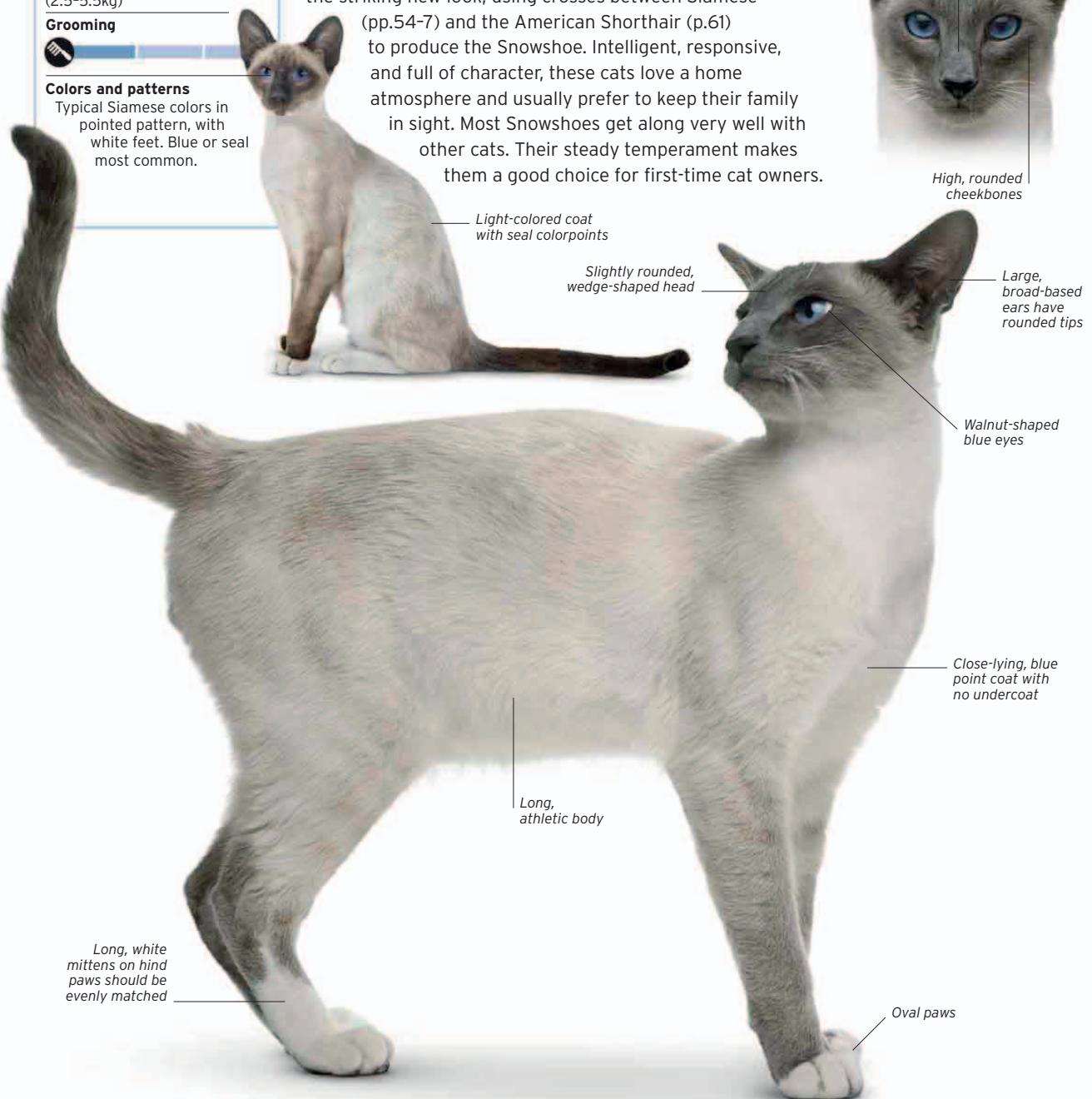
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Typical Siamese colors in pointed pattern, with white feet. Blue or seal most common.

The white feet that define the Snowshoe were originally a “mistake,” first seen in a litter of kittens born to a normal colorpoint Siamese. Their breeder, Dorothy Hinds-Daugherty of Philadelphia, liked them enough to develop the striking new look, using crosses between Siamese (pp.54-7) and the American Shorthair (p.61) to produce the Snowshoe. Intelligent, responsive, and full of character, these cats love a home atmosphere and usually prefer to keep their family in sight. Most Snowshoes get along very well with other cats. Their steady temperament makes them a good choice for first-time cat owners.



AMERICAN SHORTHAI'R

A ROBUST, EASY-CARE CAT THAT IS RECOGNIZED IN A HUGE RANGE OF COLORS

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1890s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming



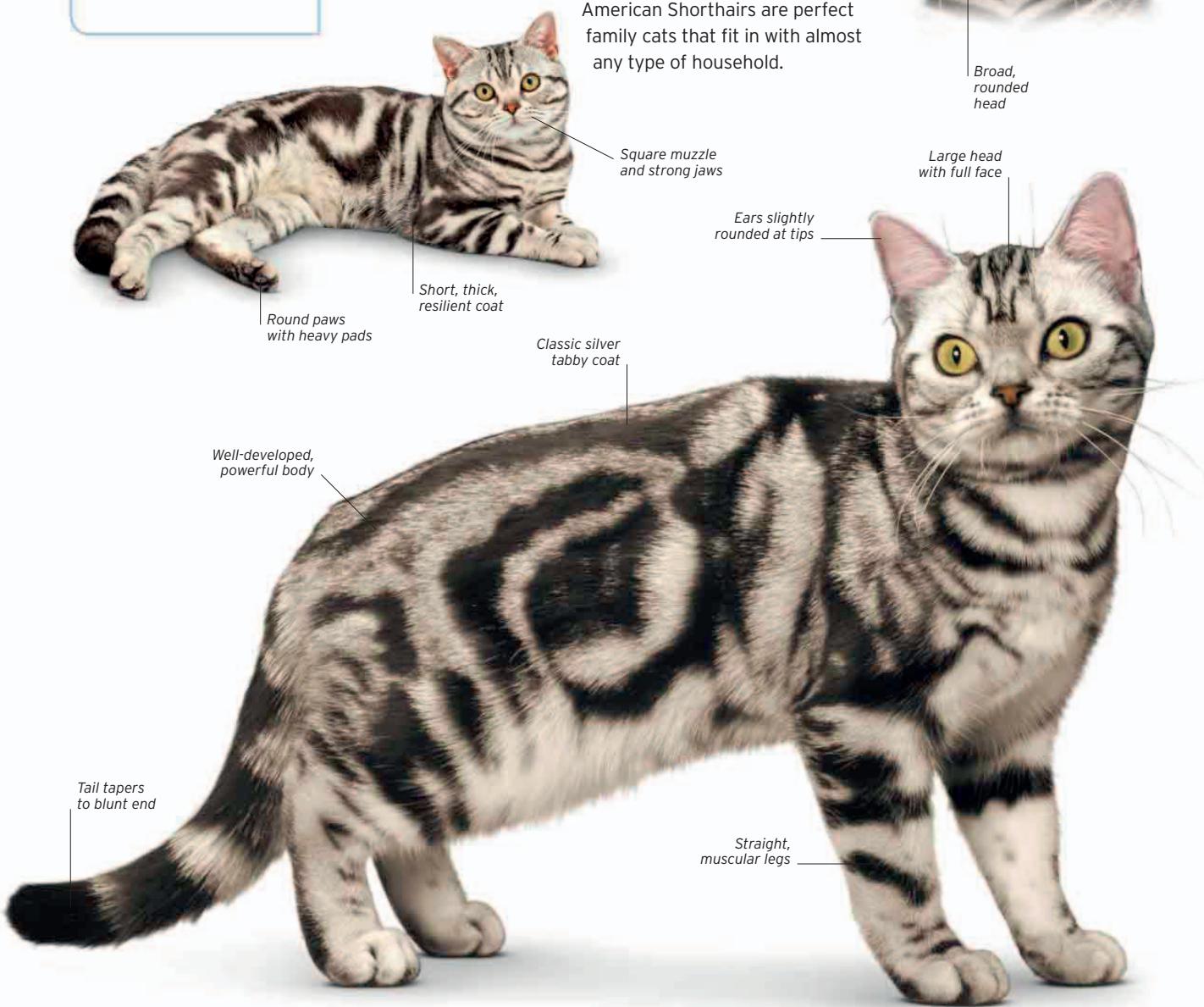
Colors and patterns

Most solid colors and shades; patterns include bicolor, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

The first domestic cats in the US are said to have arrived with the early pilgrims in the 1600s. Over the following centuries, sturdy, workmanlike cats spread all over America, most of them kept as efficient mousers rather than as house pets. But by the beginning of the 20th century, a more refined form of the barnyard hunter, known as the Domestic Shorthair, began to emerge. Careful breeding further improved the Domestic, and by the 1960s—now renamed the American Shorthair—it was attracting attention at pedigree cat shows. Healthy and hardy, American Shorthairs are perfect family cats that fit in with almost any type of household.



Broad,
rounded
head



INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

Either outdoor or indoor life suits the no-nonsense European Shorthair, a breed developed in Sweden. This young red tabby is fast growing into a typically robust and self-sufficient cat.





EUROPEAN SHORTHAI'R

A FINE DOMESTIC CAT WITH AN AIR OF QUALITY

Place of origin Sweden

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries FIFe

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

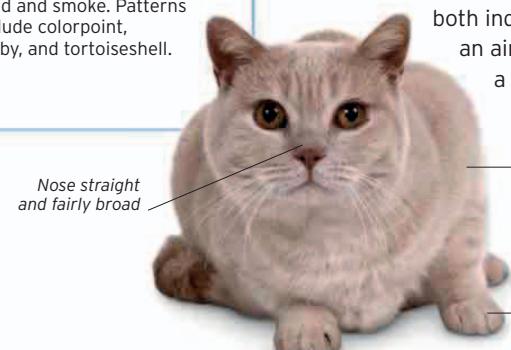
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Various colors and bicolors in solid and smoke. Patterns include colorpoint, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

At first glance, the European Shorthair looks very much like a typical house cat. Largely popular in Scandinavia, it was developed in Sweden from ordinary domestic cats, but careful breeding programs ensured that only the best foundation stock, selected for quality of color and conformation, were used. Unlike most cats of similar type, including the British Shorthair, this breed has not been outcrossed to other lines. Robust and sturdily built, the European Shorthair is a dependable pet that thrives both indoors and out. It is sociable but retains an air of independence and can be a little aloof with strangers.



Thick, springy,
cream-colored
coat

Firm, rounded
paws

Nose straight
and fairly broad

Medium-length,
well-muscled, and
sturdy body

Very dense coat
with blue shading

Tail thick
at base

Darkest blue
pointing
on tail



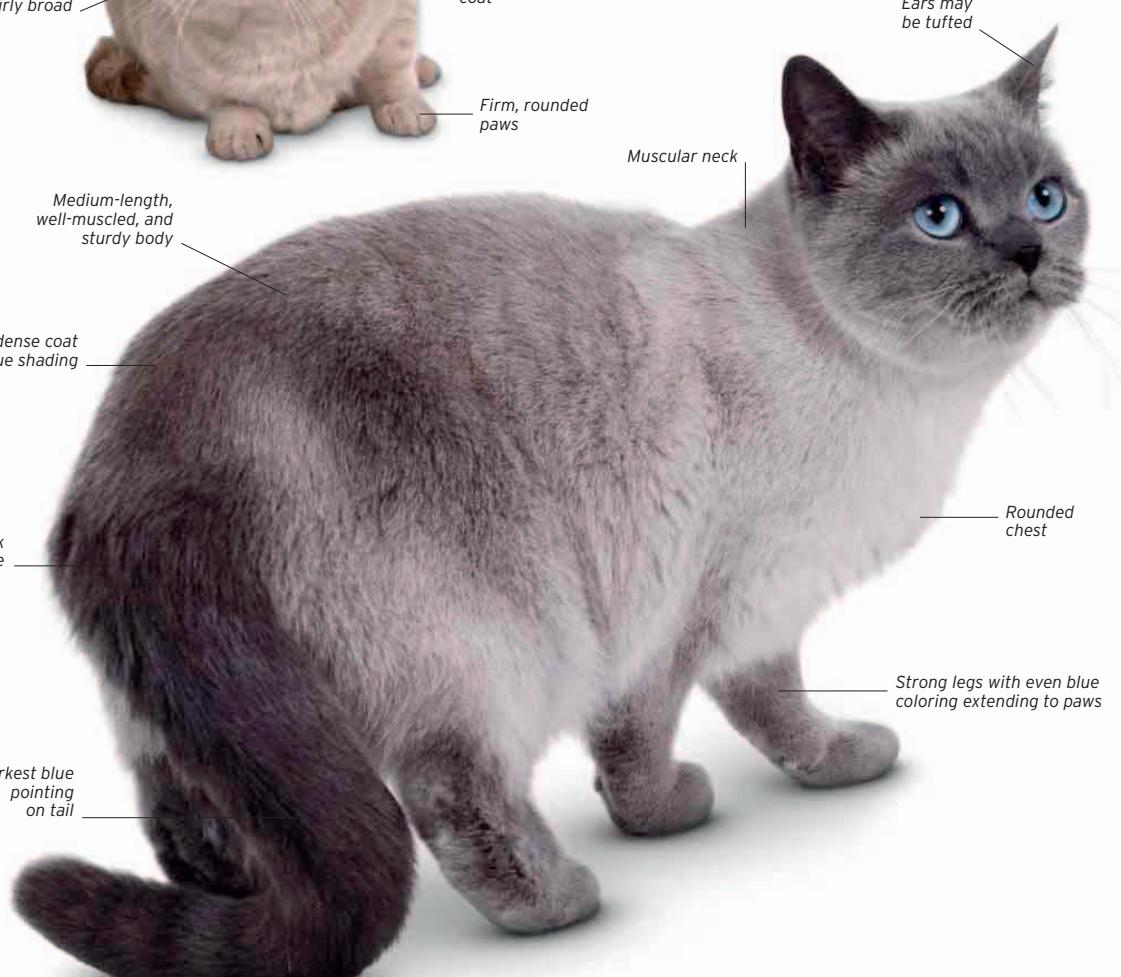
Blue eyes
Large, round face with
well-developed cheeks

Ears may
be tufted

Muscular neck

Rounded
chest

Strong legs with even blue
coloring extending to paws



CHARTREUX

A CHUNKY BUT AGILE BREED WITH A "SMILEY" EXPRESSION

Place of origin France

Date of origin Pre-18th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, TICA

Weight range 7-17lb (3-7.5kg)

Grooming

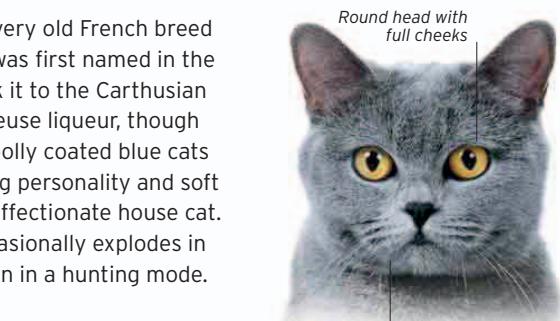


Colors and patterns

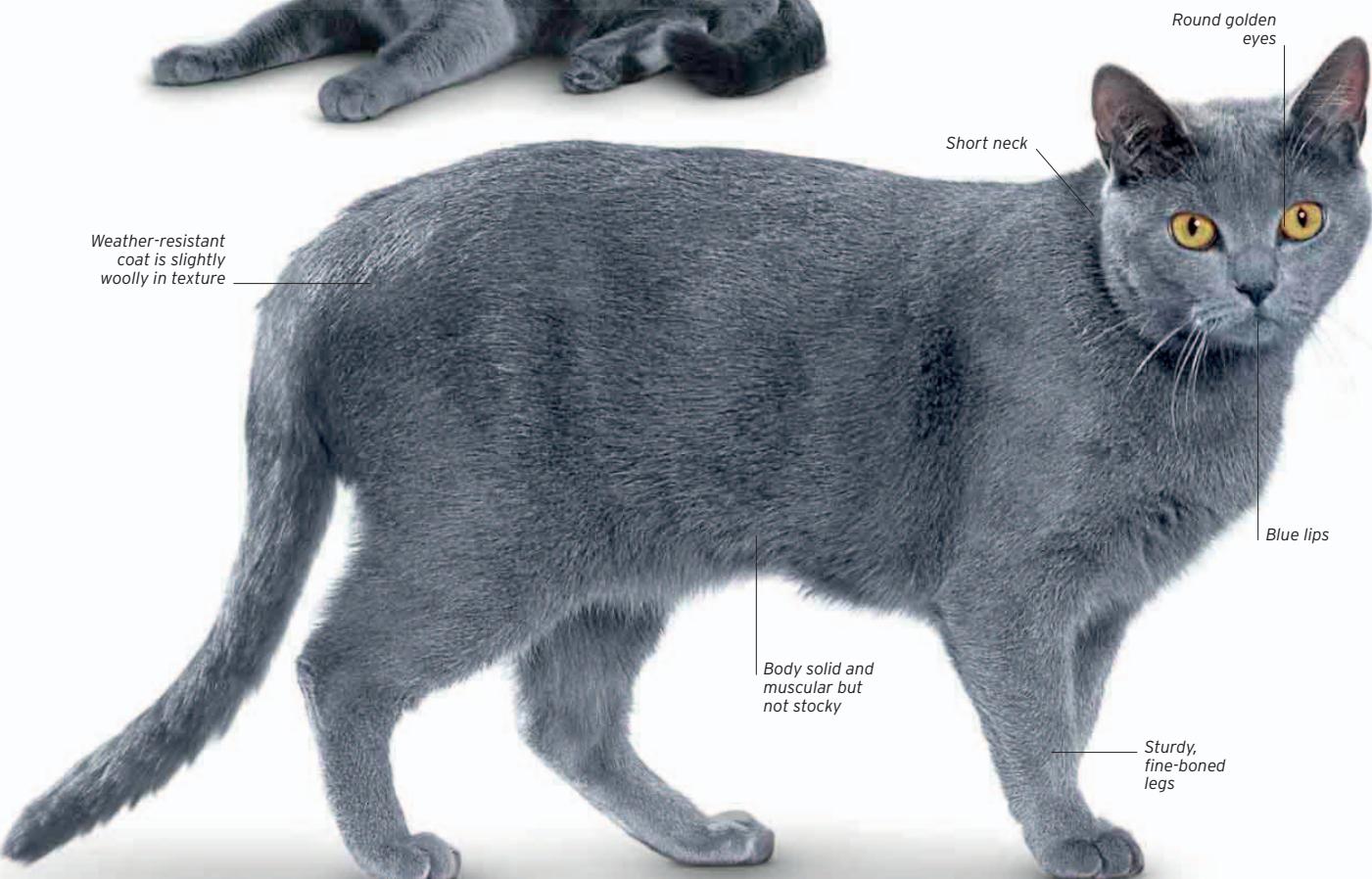
Blue-gray only.

Just how far back the history of this very old French breed goes is open to debate. The Chartreux was first named in the mid-18th century, and some legends link it to the Carthusian monks, makers of the renowned Chartreuse liqueur, though there is no proof that they ever kept woolly coated blue cats like this one. With its calm, undemanding personality and soft voice, this breed is an unobtrusive yet affectionate house cat.

It enjoys quiet play and occasionally explodes in a burst of extra energy when in a hunting mode.



Round head with full cheeks
Narrow, tapering muzzle with "smiling" expression



Weather-resistant coat is slightly woolly in texture

Body solid and muscular but not stocky

Round golden eyes

Blue lips

Sturdy, fine-boned legs

RUSSIAN BLUE

FRIENDLY BUT SELF-SUFFICIENT, THIS GRACEFUL CAT DOES NOT DEMAND MUCH ATTENTION

Place of origin Russia

Date of origin Pre-19th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, TICA

Weight range 7-12lb (3-5.5kg)

Grooming



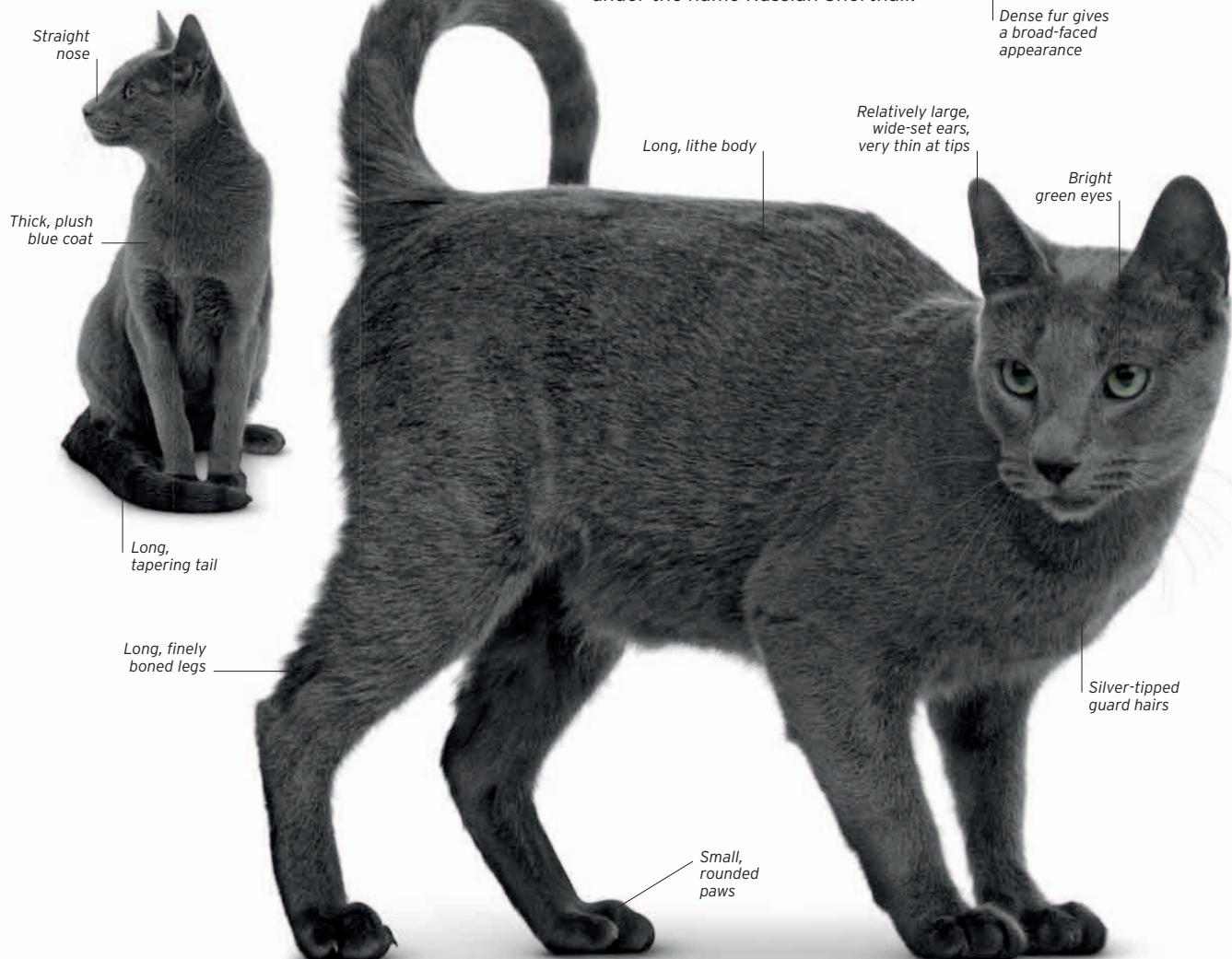
Colors and patterns

Blue of various shades.

The most widely accepted version of this breed's ancestry suggests that it originated around the Russian port of Archangel, just below the Arctic Circle. Supposedly brought to Europe by sailors, the Russian Blue was attracting interest in the UK well before the end of the 19th century, and had also appeared in North America by the early 20th century. With its gracious air and beautiful plush blue coat, it is not surprising that the Russian Blue is now highly popular. Reserved with strangers, this cat has an abundance of quiet affection to give its owners. Differently colored types of the breed have been developed under the name Russian Shorthair.



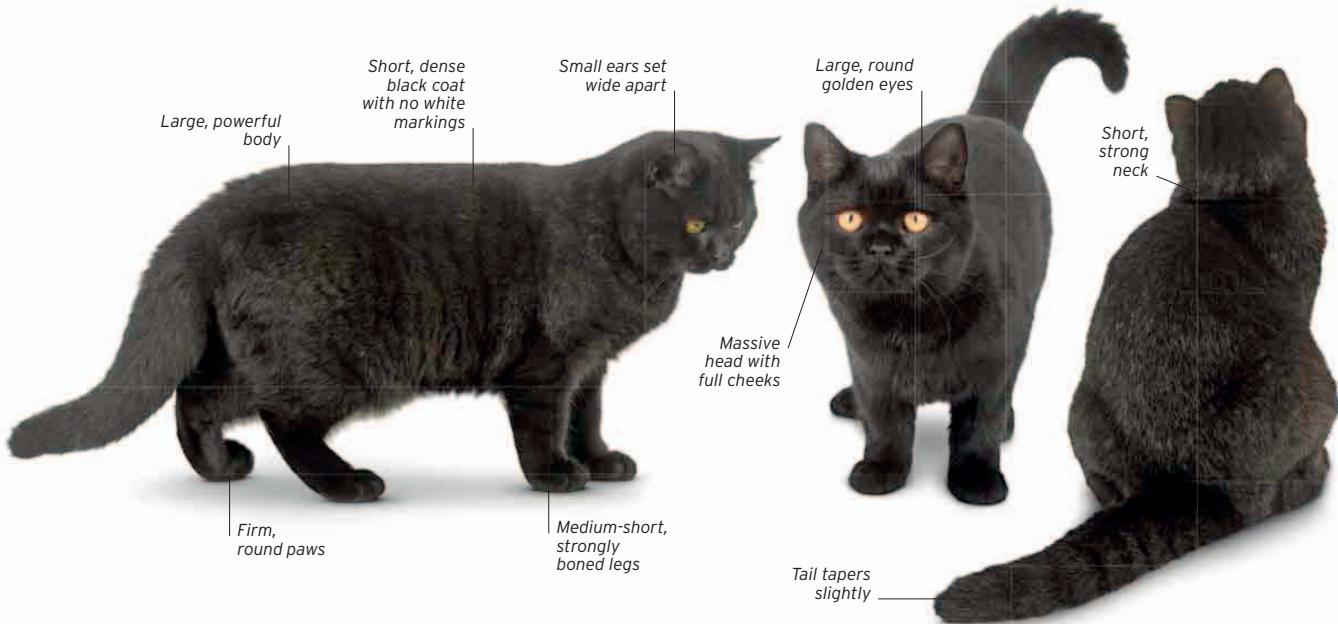
Dense fur gives a broad-faced appearance





PLUSH FUR

The Russian Blue's coat, with its rich pile and silvery sheen, is a distinguishing feature of the breed. This kitten is still at the cute stage, but as an adult he will combine grace with dignity.



BRITISH SHORTHAIR—SOLID

A CAT THAT COMBINES GOOD LOOKS WITH AN EASYGOING TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFE, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9–18lb (4–8kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors.

Originally developed from the best examples of ordinary British domestic cats, the British Shorthair was one of the first pedigree cats to appear in shows during the late 19th century. In the following decades the Shorthair was all but eclipsed by longhaired cats, particularly the Persian, but survived by a narrow margin to enjoy a revival from the mid-20th century onward.

A descendant of cats that worked for their living, keeping down vermin on farms and homesteads, the British Shorthair is now something of a blueprint for the perfect fireside cat. The breed is highly popular in Europe and is steadily gaining a following in the US, where it is less well-known.

Many decades of careful selection have produced a well-proportioned cat of superb quality. Powerfully built, the British Shorthair has a medium to large, tightly knit body carried on sturdy legs. The massive, round head, broad cheeks, and large, open eyes are characteristic features of the breed.

The British Shorthair has a short, dense coat that comes in a variety of colors and has a deep pile and firm texture.

In temperament, this cat is as calm and friendly as its chubby-cheeked, placid expression appears to suggest. It can be kept equally well as a town or country cat. Strong, but not athletic or hyperactive, a British Shorthair prefers to keep its paws on the ground and is perfectly happy to stay indoors and commandeer the sofa. However, it also enjoys time outside and readily uses the hunting skills that made its ancestors such an asset in the past.

Quietly affectionate, the Shorthair likes to stay near its owner. Although alert to what is going on in the household, this cat is not overdemanding of attention.

British Shorthairs generally have robust health and can be long-lived. They are easy to care for, since the thick coat does not mat or tangle and regular combing is all that is required to keep it in good condition.



BRITISH SHORTHAIR—COLORPOINTED

SIAMESE-TYPE COLORS ADD A NEW LOOK TO THIS TRADITIONAL BREED

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9–18lb (4–8kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Various point colors, including blue-cream, seal, red, chocolate, and lilac; also with lynx and tortie patterns.

The most recent of the British Shorthair variations, the Colorpoint was recognized only in 1991. This unusual cat is the result of experimental crossbreeding to produce a British Shorthair with the pointed coat pattern of the Siamese. Various attractive colors have been developed and, like the Siamese, all types have blue eyes, although the stocky build and round head typical of the Shorthair remain unchanged. Because of the similarities in name, the British Shorthair Colorpoint is sometimes confused with an Oriental-type American breed called the Colorpoint Shorthair (p.58).



BRITISH SHORTHAIR-BICOLOR

THIS HANDSOME CAT IS BOLDLY MARKED WITH COLOR PATCHES

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-18lb (4-8kg)

Grooming



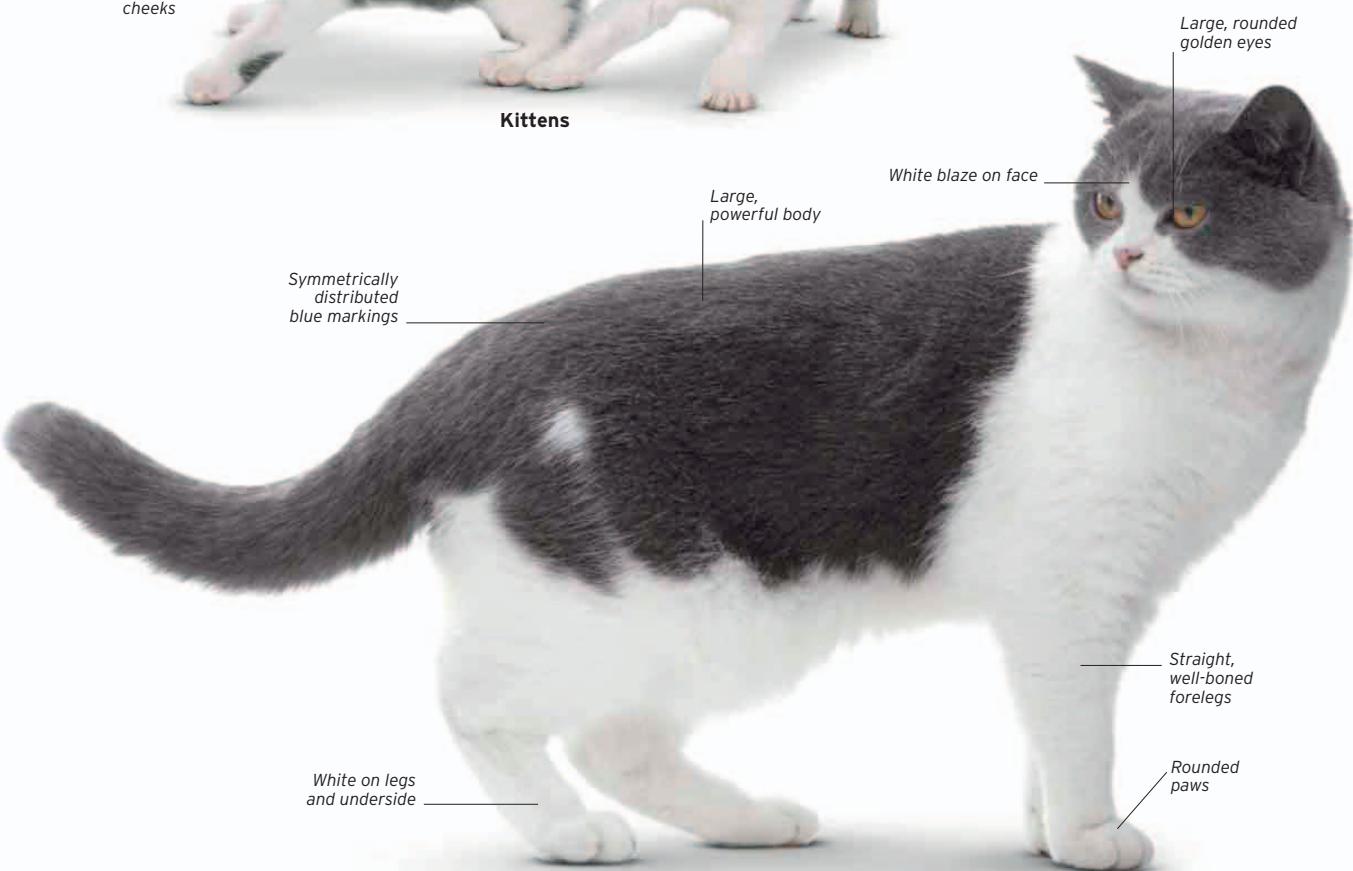
Colors and patterns

Black and white, blue and white, red and white, and cream and white.

Black and white British Shorthairs were much valued in the 19th century when this breed had its beginnings, but they were never common. The Bicolor as it is today, which comes in several combinations of white and another color, was not fully developed until the 1960s. At that time, almost impossibly high breeding standards required the color patches to be distributed over head and body with complete symmetry. The rules have since been relaxed, but the best Bicolors still have strikingly even markings.



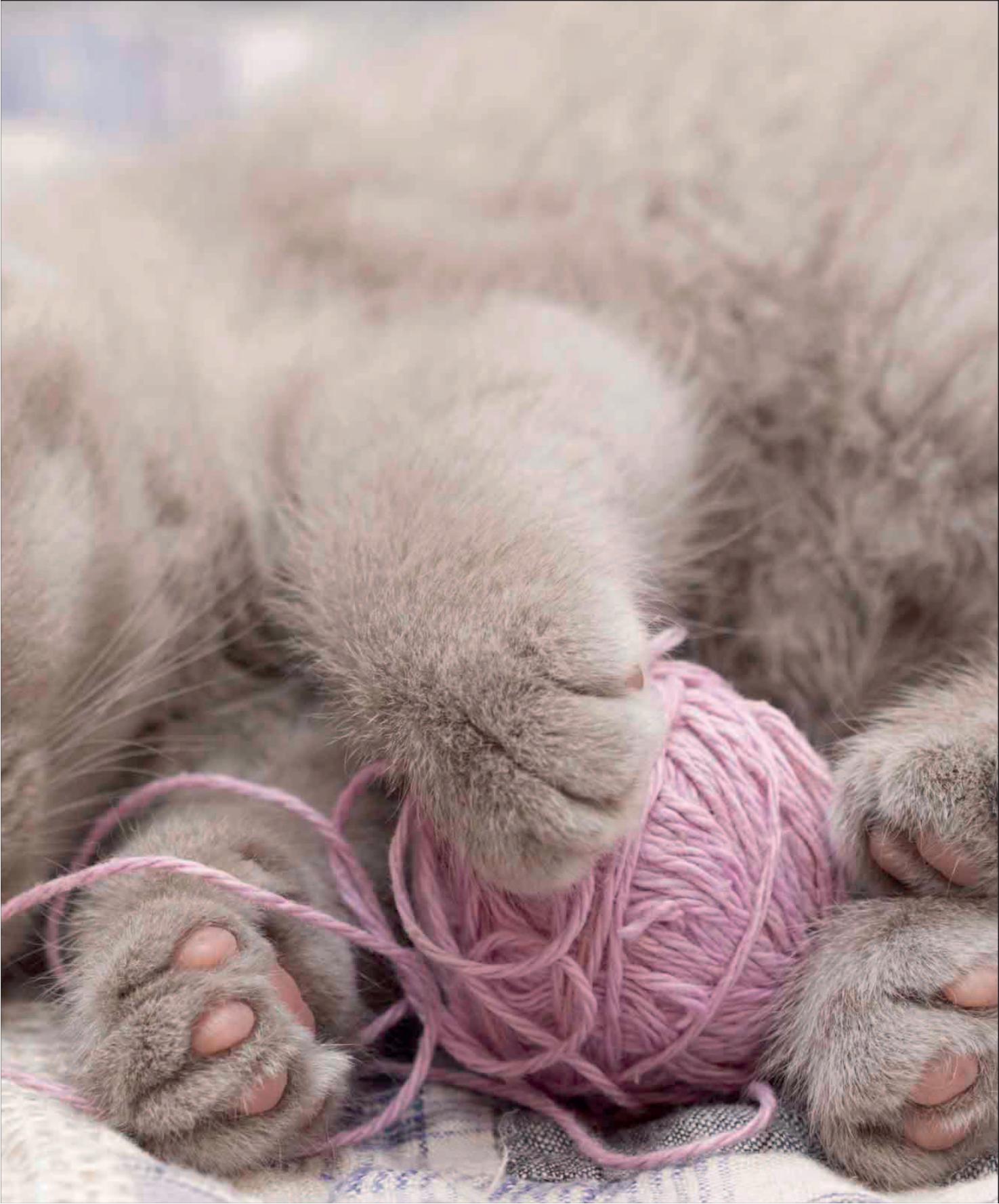
Kittens



CALM CHARACTER

This British Shorthair kitten, dozing off mid-game, already shows the rounded cheeks that are one of the breed's characteristics. Although amiable, the Shorthair enjoys its own company.





BRITISH SHORTHAIR—SMOKE

THIS BREED'S HIDDEN SILVER UNDERCOAT CREATES A DISTINCTIVE EFFECT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9–18lb (4–8kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Smoke pattern in all solid colors, and in tortoiseshell and pointed patterns.

A Smoke cat can look as though it is just one color, until it moves or its fur is parted to reveal a narrow silver band at the base of the hairs. This is the effect of the silver gene, which inhibits the development of color in the coat, and which British Shorthair Smokes inherited from the silver tabbies in their ancestry. Smoke coloration is even more subtly attractive in the tortoiseshell version, which has two colors in the topcoat.



BRITISH SHORTHAIR-TABBY

AN OLD FAVORITE THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN A VARIETY OF ATTRACTIVE COLORS

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-18lb (4-8kg)

Grooming

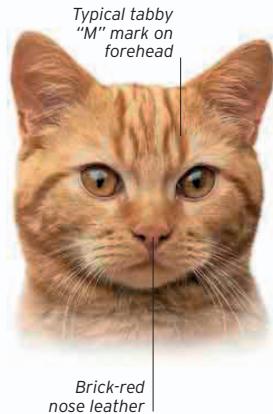


Colors and patterns

All traditional tabby patterns with many colors, including silver variations; patched tabby in various colors, including silver variations.

Although the British Shorthair is the most even-tempered of cats, this variation is a reminder of its wild tabby-patterned ancestors. Brown tabbies were among the first British Shorthairs to appear in cat shows in the 1870s, and red and silver versions became popular early on in the breed's history.

This cat now comes in a wide range of additional colors, with three traditional tabby patterns: classic (or blotched) tabby, with markings arranged in broad whorls; mackerel, with narrower markings; and spotted. In the patched tabby, the coat has a second ground color.



Vertical line runs down spine

Red classic tabby coat

Even, unbroken rings on tail

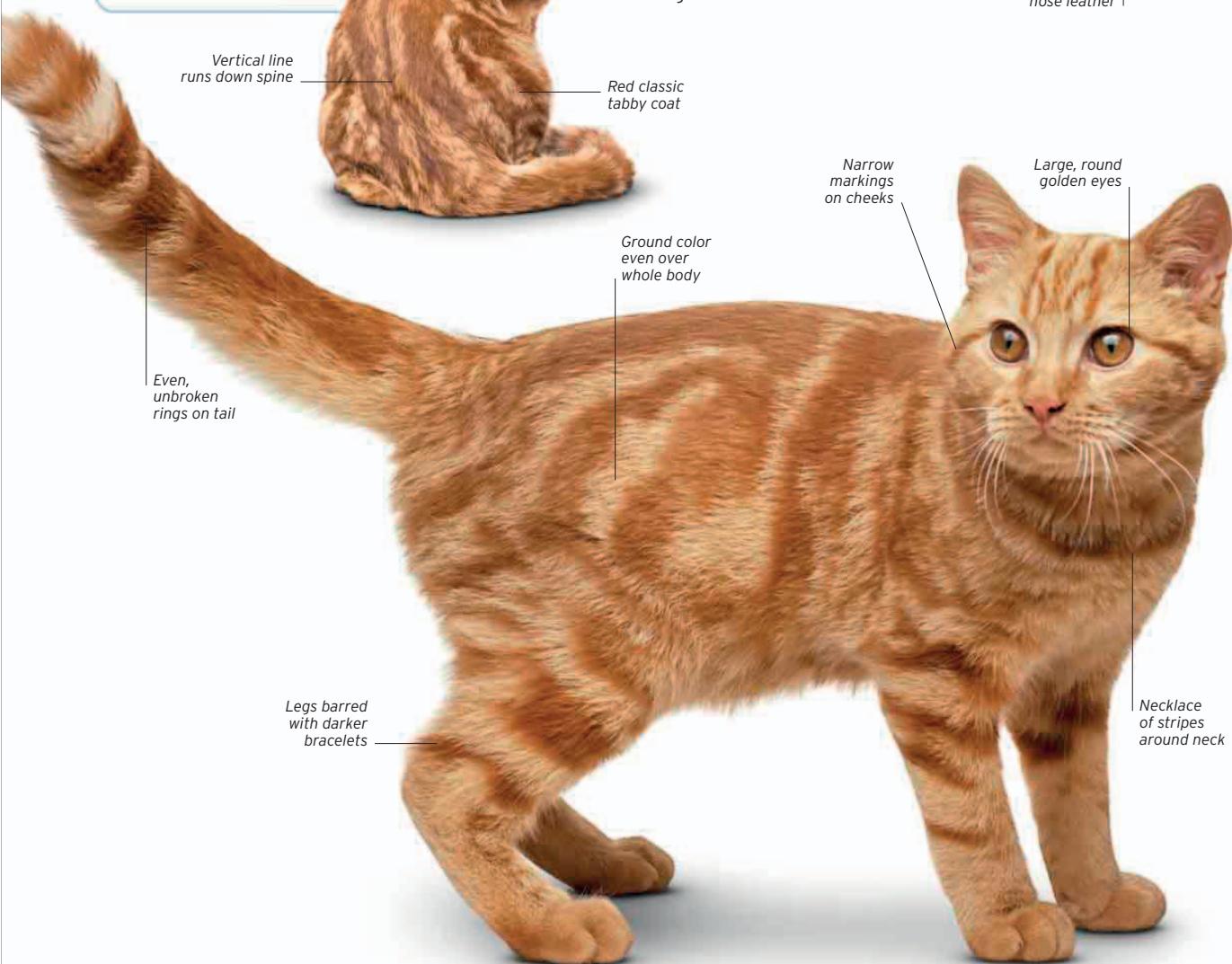
Ground color even over whole body

Narrow markings on cheeks

Large, round golden eyes

Legs barred with darker bracelets

Necklace of stripes around neck



BRITISH SHORTHAIR-TIPPED

A DELICATELY COLORED CAT WITH A SPARKLE TO ITS COAT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9–18lb (4–8kg)

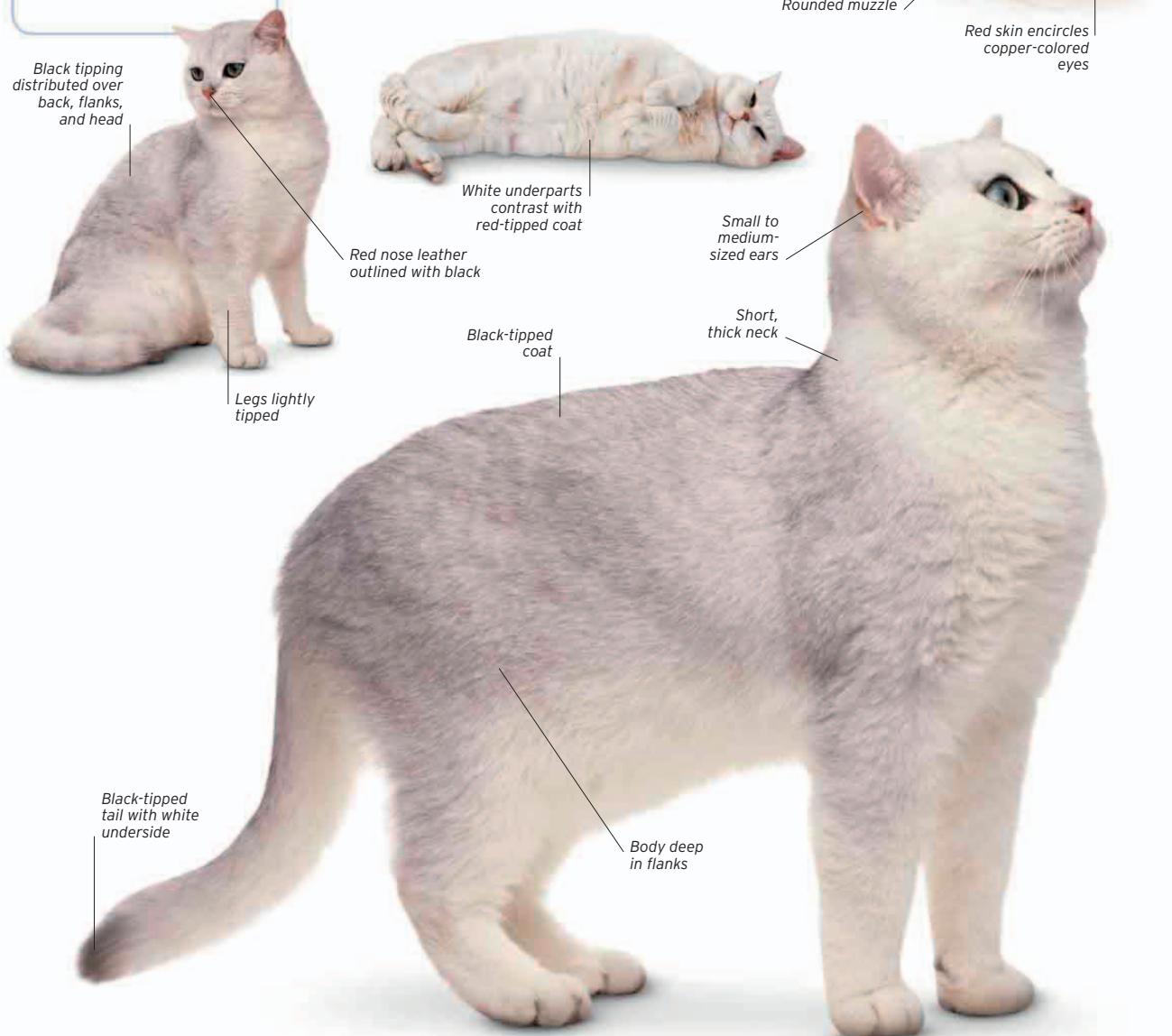
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Various, including black-tipped on white or golden undercoat; red-tipped on white undercoat.

In a tipped cat a pale undercoat is overlaid with what appears to be a light dusting of color. This effect is produced by the ends of the top hairs being colored to about one-eighth of their length. The Tipped British Shorthair—originally called the Chinchilla Shorthair—comes in various color forms. These include silver (white undercoat with black tipping), golden (warm golden or apricot undercoat with black tipping), and the rare Shell Cameo (white undercoat with red tipping), which is known as red in the UK.



BRITISH SHORTHAIR-TORTIE

MINGLED COLORS GIVE THIS CAT'S COAT AN UNUSUAL MARBLED APPEARANCE

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-18lb (4-8kg)

Grooming



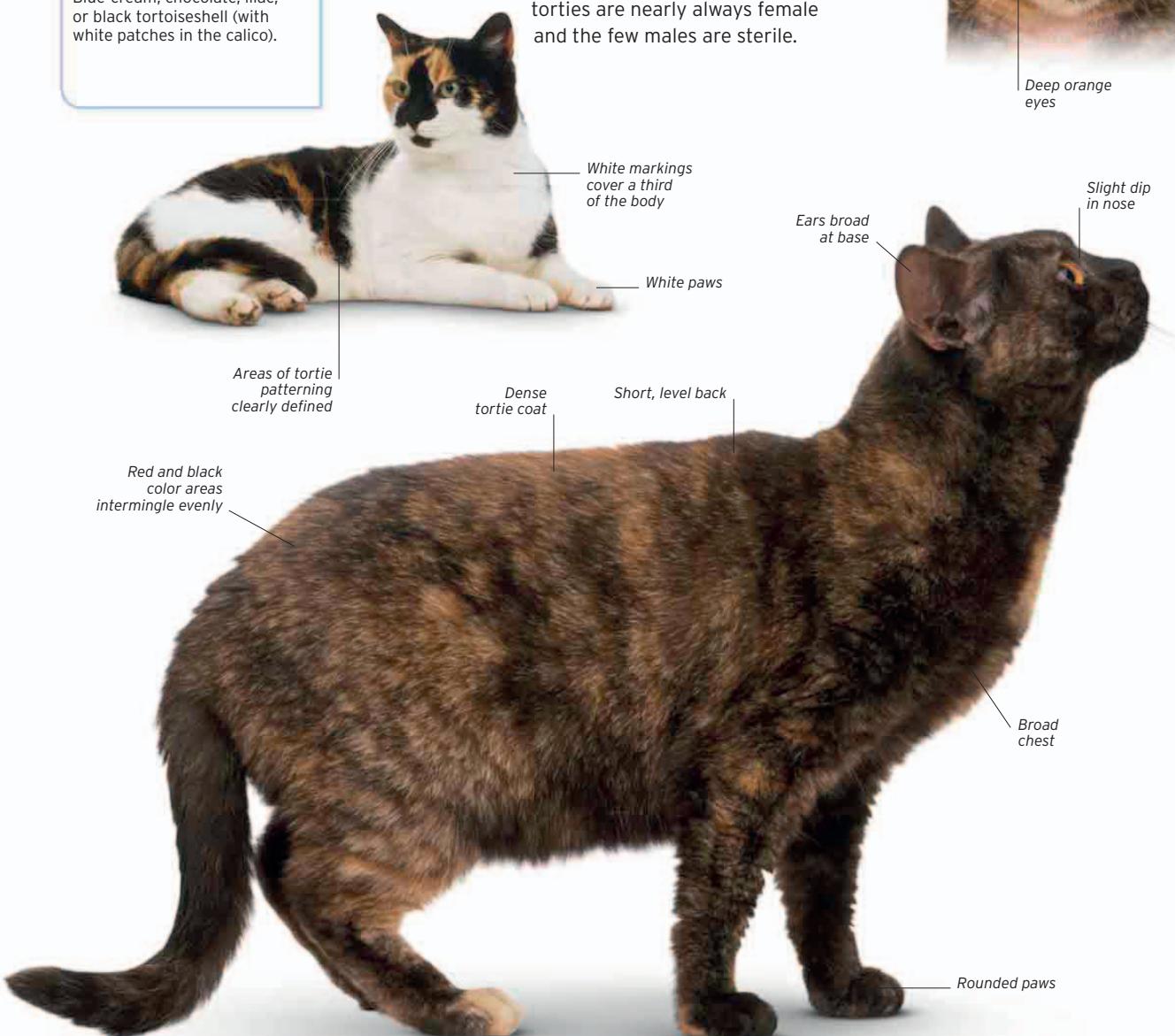
Colors and patterns

Blue-cream, chocolate, lilac, or black tortoiseshell (with white patches in the calico).

In a tortoiseshell (tortie), two coat colors are softly blended. There are many variations, but the most common is black mixed with red—the first tortie color to be developed in British Shorthairs. Blue-cream tortoiseshell, in which black is replaced by blue and red by cream, is another of the older colors, recognized since the 1950s. In the Calico (known as Tortie and White in the UK) the colors are more clearly defined as patches. For genetic reasons, torties are nearly always female and the few males are sterile.



Deep orange eyes



TURKISH SHORTHAI'R

A LITTLE-KNOWN BREED THAT IS AFFECTIONATE AND EASYGOING WITH PEOPLE

Place of origin Turkey

Date of origin pre-1700s

Breed registries None

Weight range 7–19lb (3–8.5kg)

Grooming



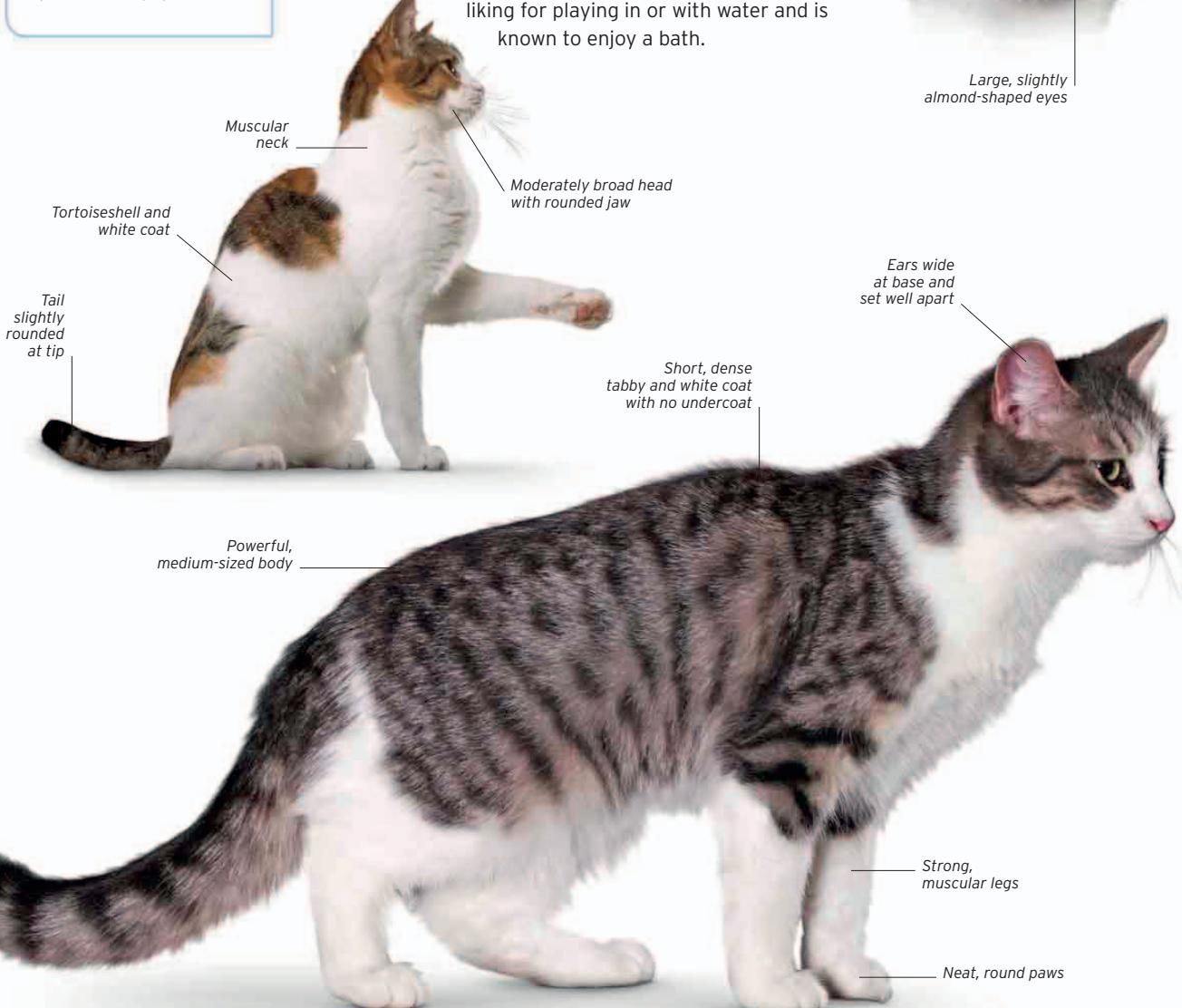
Colors and patterns

All colors except chocolate, cinnamon, lilac, and fawn, and all patterns except pointed.

The history of the Turkish Shorthair is uncertain, but this cat occurs naturally in various regions of Turkey and has probably existed there for a considerable time. Also known as the Anatolian or Anatoli, and the Anadolu Kedisi in Turkey, the breed is similar to the longer-haired Turkish Van cat (p.176), with which it is often confused. The Anatolian is rare even in its native country, but breeders, particularly in Germany and the Netherlands, are working to increase its numbers. This strong, agile cat has a great liking for playing in or with water and is known to enjoy a bath.



Large, slightly almond-shaped eyes

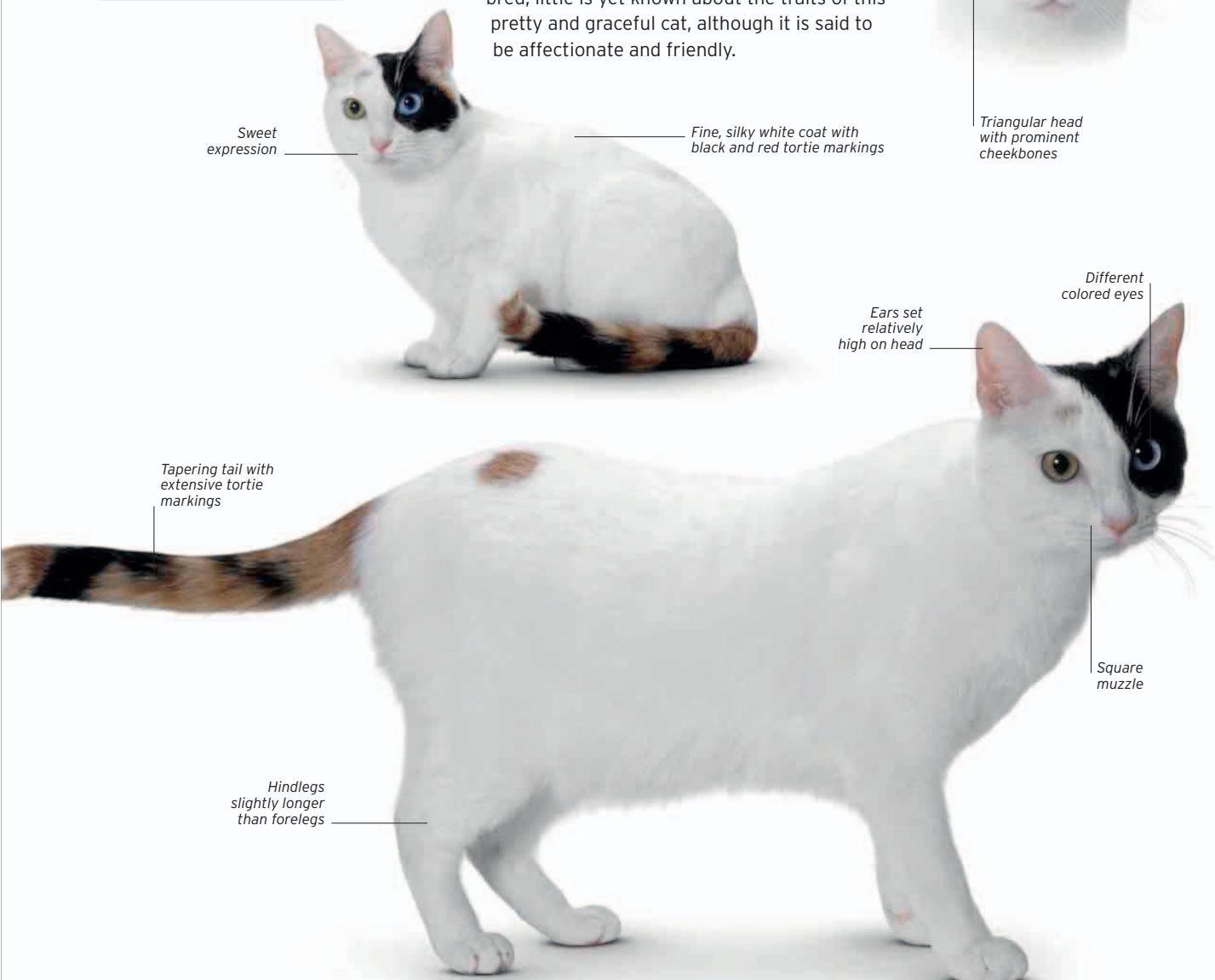


OJOS AZULES

THIS RARE AND ENIGMATIC BREED IS A NEWCOMER ON THE PEDIGREE CAT SCENE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	9-12lb (4-5.5kg)
Grooming	
Colors and patterns	All colors and patterns.

First discovered in New Mexico in 1984, the Ojos Azules (the name means blue eyes in Spanish) is one of the rarest cats in the world. The stunning eye color is particularly unusual in that it appears with any coat color or pattern, in one or both eyes, including in the longhaired version. Currently, geneticists are monitoring the development of the Ojos Azules, because serious health problems, including skull deformities, have come to light. Because so few have been bred, little is yet known about the traits of this pretty and graceful cat, although it is said to be affectionate and friendly.



EGYPTIAN MAU

STRIKINGLY PATTERNED, THIS IS THE ONLY NATURALLY SPOTTED DOMESTIC BREED

Place of origin	Egypt
Date of origin	1950s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	6-11lb (2.5-5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Bronze and silver in spotted tabby pattern. Black smoke has ghost tabby markings.

This cat bears a certain resemblance to the long-bodied, spotted cats seen in the tomb paintings of Ancient Egyptian pharaohs, but it cannot claim direct descent. The modern Egyptian Mau was developed by Natalie Troubetzkoy, a Russian princess in exile, who in 1956 imported several spotted Egyptian cats to the US from Italy. Here, the number of breeding cats remained small for many years, until new imports late in the 20th century reinvigorated the gene pool. Maus are affectionate cats but are also inclined to be sensitive and shy. They need thoughtful socializing at an early age and are probably best suited to an experienced cat owner. However, once a Mau bonds with its family, it stays devoted for life.





RARE BEAUTY

A silver Egyptian Mau stalks through long grass, huge green eyes fixed on a possible target. This stunning spotted cat, which comes in three recognized colors, is extremely rare.

ARABIAN MAU

A DESERT CAT THAT IS WELL ADAPTED TO HOME LIFE

Place of origin United Arab Emirates

Date of origin 2000s (modern breed)

Breed registries None

Weight range 7-15lb (3-7kg)

Grooming



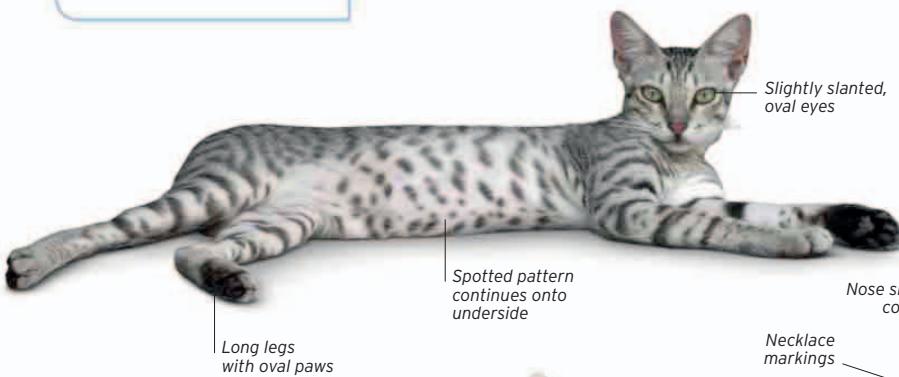
Colors and patterns

Various solid colors and patterns, including tabby and bicolor.

A breed native to the Arabian Peninsula, this cat was a desert dweller that migrated to city streets when human populations encroached on its habitat. In 2004 breeding programs to develop the Arabian Mau were started, with the aim of preserving the cat's original traits and natural hardiness. With its high energy levels and need for mental stimulation, this breed can be a handful and will not be content to spend much time lazing around. However, the Arabian Mau is both loyal and affectionate, and sympathetic owners usually find it a highly rewarding pet.



Prominent
whisker pads



Long legs
with oval paws

Spotted pattern
continues onto
underside

Slightly slanted,
oval eyes

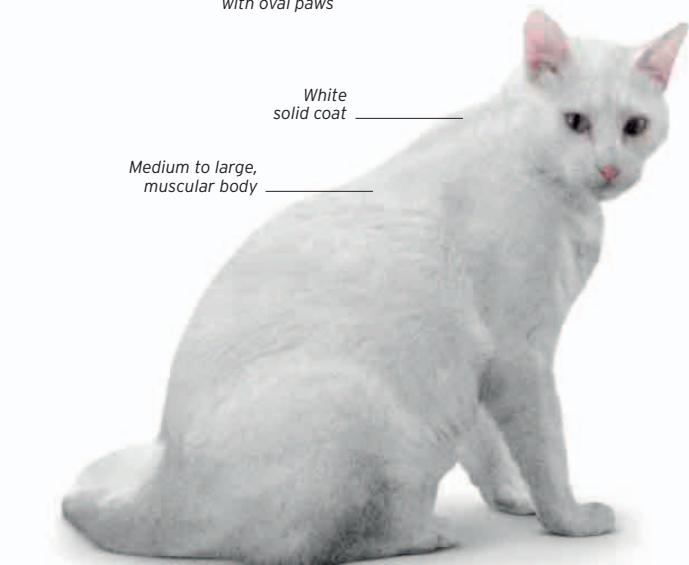
Large, pointed
ears

Nose slightly
concave

Necklace
markings

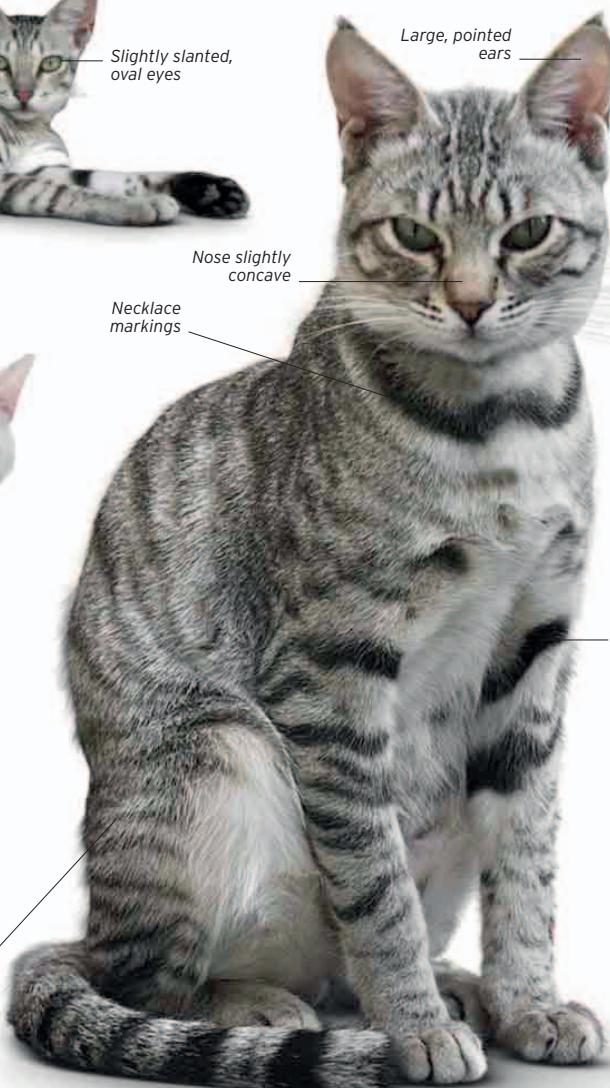
Banding
on legs

Single mackerel tabby
coat has firm texture



Medium to large,
muscular body

White
solid coat



ABYSSINIAN

THIS SLINKY, GRACEFUL CAT IS FULL OF ENERGY AND NEEDS SPACE TO PLAY AND EXPLORE

Place of origin Ethiopia

Date of origin 19th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 9-17lb (4-7.5kg)

Grooming

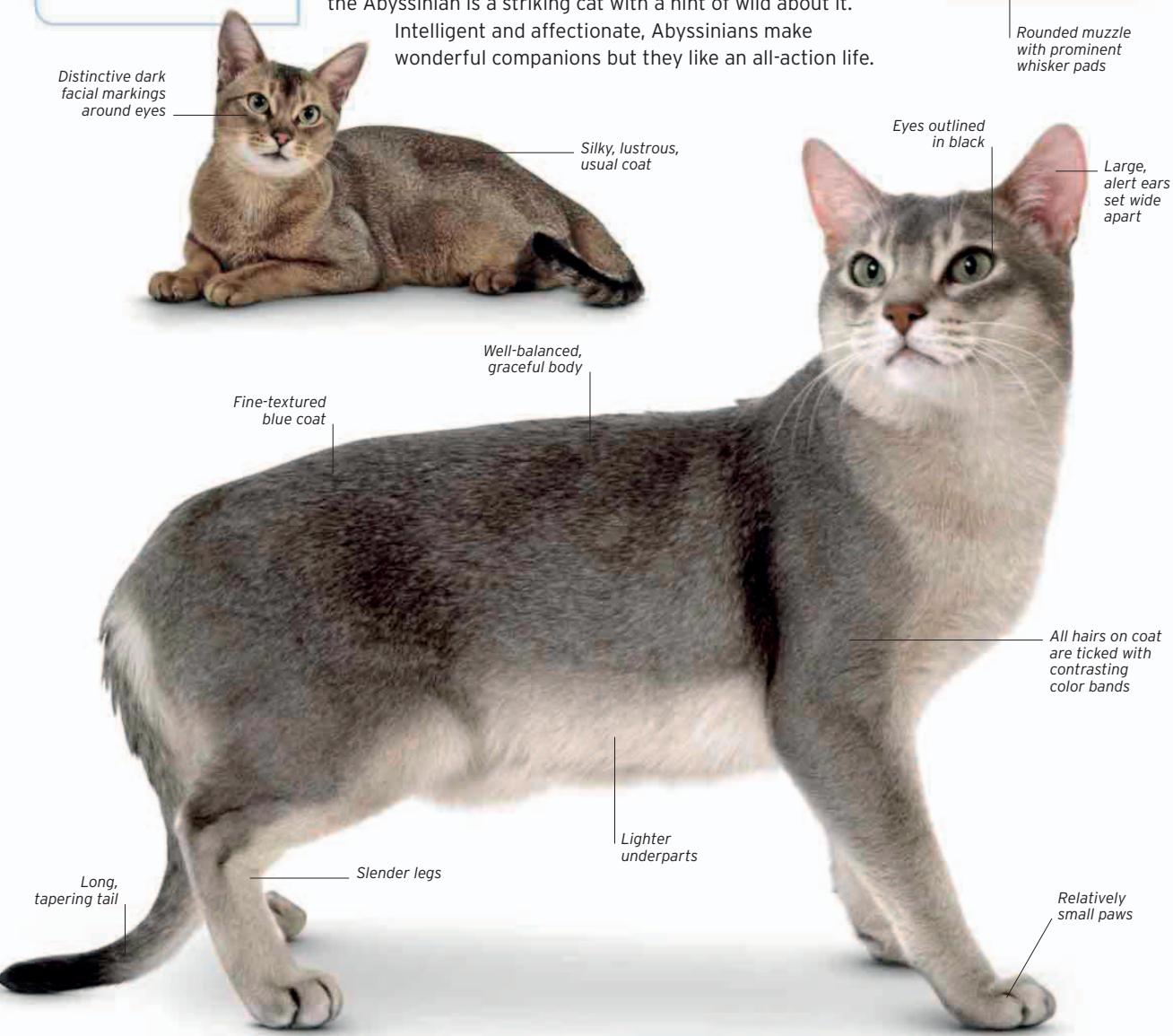


Colors and patterns

Several color forms, all with distinct ticking and facial markings.

There are various accounts of the Abyssinian's history, including the attractive but highly improbable story that it descends from the sacred cats of Ancient Egypt. A more plausible version suggests that its forerunners might have been brought back from Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) by British soldiers when the Abyssinian War ended in the late 1860s. What is certain is that the modern breed was developed in the UK, most likely by crossing the British Shorthair (pp.68-77) with a more unusual, and possibly imported, breed. With its athletic build, aristocratic bearing, and beautiful ticked coat, the Abyssinian is a striking cat with a hint of wild about it.

Intelligent and affectionate, Abyssinians make wonderful companions but they like an all-action life.



Rounded muzzle with prominent whisker pads





BRIGHT-EYED

All ears and eyes, even very young Abyssinians are alert and perpetually on the go. Almost everything engages the interest of these hyperintelligent cats that need plenty of regular stimulus.

AUSTRALIAN MIST

THIS AFFECTIONATE CAT HAS A STEADY TEMPERAMENT AND A DELICATELY BEAUTIFUL COAT

Place of origin Australia

Date of origin 1970s

Breed registries GCCF

Weight range 8-13lb (3.5-6kg)

Grooming



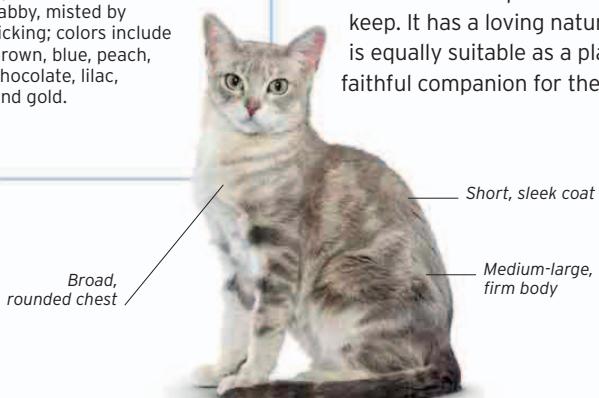
Colors and patterns

Spotted or marbled tabby, mottled by ticking; colors include brown, blue, peach, chocolate, lilac, and gold.

The first pedigree cat to be developed in Australia, this breed was created from crosses between Burmese (pp.39-40), Abyssinian (p.83), and Australian domestic shorthair cats. Formerly known as the Spotted Mist, it comes in a range of attractive spotted and marbled patterns and colors, all enhanced by ticking that produces a delicate misted effect. The Australian Mist is extremely popular in its native country and has earned a reputation as a particularly easy pet to keep. It has a loving nature, lives happily indoors, and is equally suitable as a playmate for children or a faithful companion for the less active owner.



Prominent
whisker pads



Broad,
rounded chest

Short, sleek coat

Medium-large,
firm body

Ears wide at
base and tilt
slightly forward

Broad, slightly
rounded head

Green eyes
with straight
upper lids

Nose broad
with slight dip

Blue marble
tabby coat



Long tail thick
in proportion
to body

Paler underparts

Broken necklace
markings

Neat oval paws

CEYLON

A FINE-BONED AND ELEGANT CAT WITH AN ATTRACTIVELY MARKED COAT

Place of origin Sri Lanka

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries None

Weight range 9-17lb (4-7.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Manila (black-ticked on sandy-gold ground color); various other markings and tickings, including blue, red, cream, and tortoiseshell.

Named after its native home (now Sri Lanka), the Ceylon was imported to Italy in the early 1980s, where the breed was developed. It is now found worldwide and, if not as widely known as other breeds, has achieved some popularity in Italy. With its beautiful ticked coat and sandy coloring, this cat is similar in appearance to the Abyssinian (p.83), though the two are not related. The Ceylon has a distinctive pattern on its forehead called the cobra mark, which is much valued. Breeders praise the cat's friendly nature and its responsiveness to attention.



Kitten



Well-defined stripes on legs



STRENGTH AND ELEGANCE

An Ocicat is a natural athlete, and the power in its graceful frame becomes evident when the cat is in motion. The sleek, spotted coat fits closely over smoothly gliding muscles.



OCICAT

AN ADAPTABLE AND CONFIDENT CAT THAT OFTEN RESPONDS WELL TO TRAINING

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-14lb (2.5-6.5kg)

Grooming



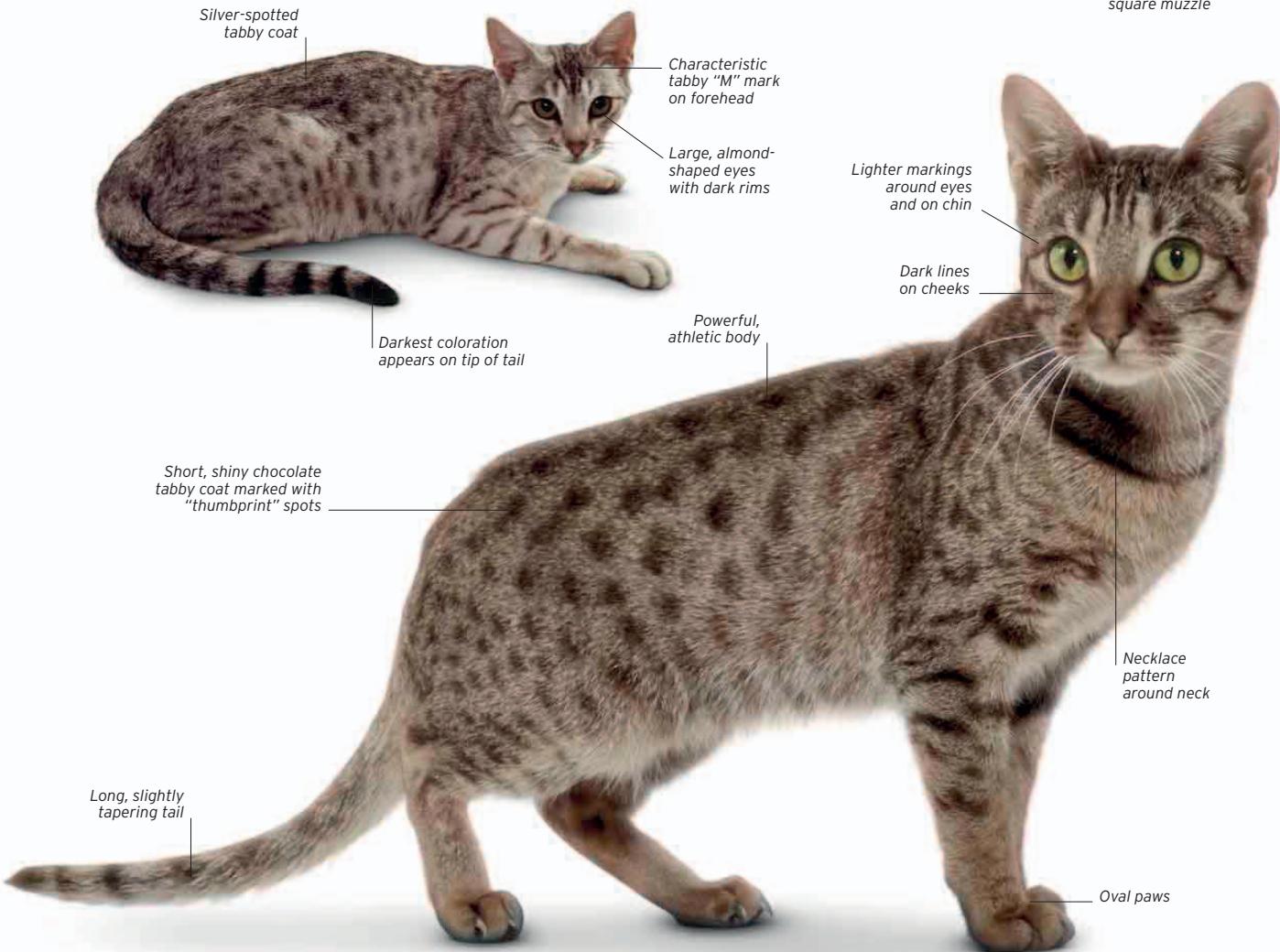
Colors and patterns

Black, brown, blue, lilac, and fawn in spotted tabby pattern.

Despite its name, this spotted beauty is not a cross between the domestic cat and the ocelot—the native jungle cat of South and Central America—but it looks as though it ought to be. The Ocicat was actually the surprise product of an attempt in 1964 to breed a Siamese (pp.54-7) with colorpoints that matched the ticked coat of the Abyssinian (p.83). The first spotted kitten that appeared was kept solely as a pet, but others produced later were used to create the new breed. The inclusion of American Shorthairs (p.61) in the Ocicat's development program introduced greater size and substance. Ocicats have a delightful temperament, love company, and are easy to manage.



Broad, slightly square muzzle



OCICAT CLASSIC

A LARGE, BEAUTIFULLY MARKED TABBY WITH AN EXOTIC DIFFERENCE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	GCCF
Weight range	6–14lb (2.5–6.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Classic tabby pattern
in various colors,
including silver.

A version of the Ocicat with markings in the classic tabby pattern rather than spots, this cat was recognized as a separate breed only comparatively recently, and is still not yet accepted as such by all breed authorities. The Ocicat Classic has the same history as its spotted cousin (pp.88–9), being a mixture of Siamese (pp.54–7), Abyssinian (pp.83–5), and American Shorthair (p.61). It is an energetic cat, with an enthusiasm for games and getting up onto high places. The breed has an excellent temperament and is highly sociable. An Ocicat Classic will not stay happy for long on its own, and is best-suited to a house full of people and action.



SOKOKE

THIS CAT HAS A PEACEFUL NATURE BUT IS POSSESSIVE OF HOME AND FAMILY

Place of origin Kenya

Date of origin 1970s (modern breed)

Breed registries FIFe, TICA

Weight range 8–14lb (3.5–6.5kg)

Grooming



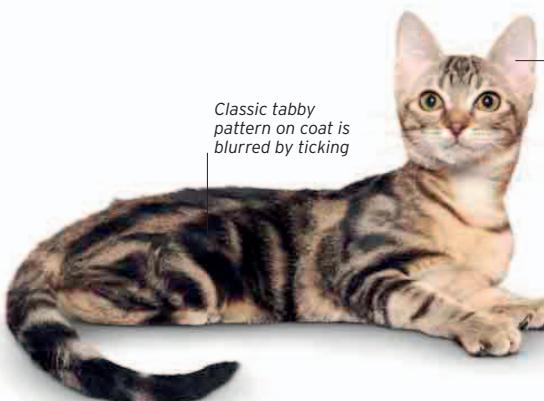
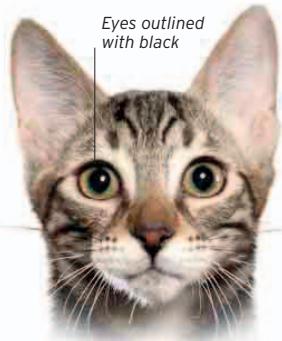
Colors and patterns

Ticked brown tabby only.



A native of the coastal Arabuko Sokoke Forest in Kenya, this spectacular tabby was discovered in the late 1970s, when a British Kenyan resident adopted two feral kittens with distinctive markings and used them for breeding. Sokokes were later imported to Europe and the US, and new bloodlines were introduced in the 21st century. The modern Sokoke

combines the traits of what are known as the Old and New Lines. These cats develop close family bonds, and some have a natural talent for communicating vocally with their owners. They remain fairly active beyond kittenhood and enjoy playing games.



CALIFORNIA SPANGLED

THIS CAT WITH EXOTIC JUNGLE LOOKS HAS A FAR FROM FIERCE PERSONALITY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	None
Weight range	9–15lb (4–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Spotted tabby; ground colors include silver, bronze, gold, red, blue, black, brown, charcoal, and white.

This designer cat is a miniature reproduction of wild cats such as the leopard and ocelot. It was created by a conservation enthusiast, Paul Casey, specifically to discourage the killing of wild animals for their fur. Casey reasoned that if people related spotted fur to their own pet cats, they would feel distaste for the destruction of wildlife in the name of fashion. The California Spangled was bred by using a variety of domestic cats, and has no wild cat species in its makeup. Hunting and playing are what this active cat enjoys most, but it is also sociable, affectionate, and easy to handle.



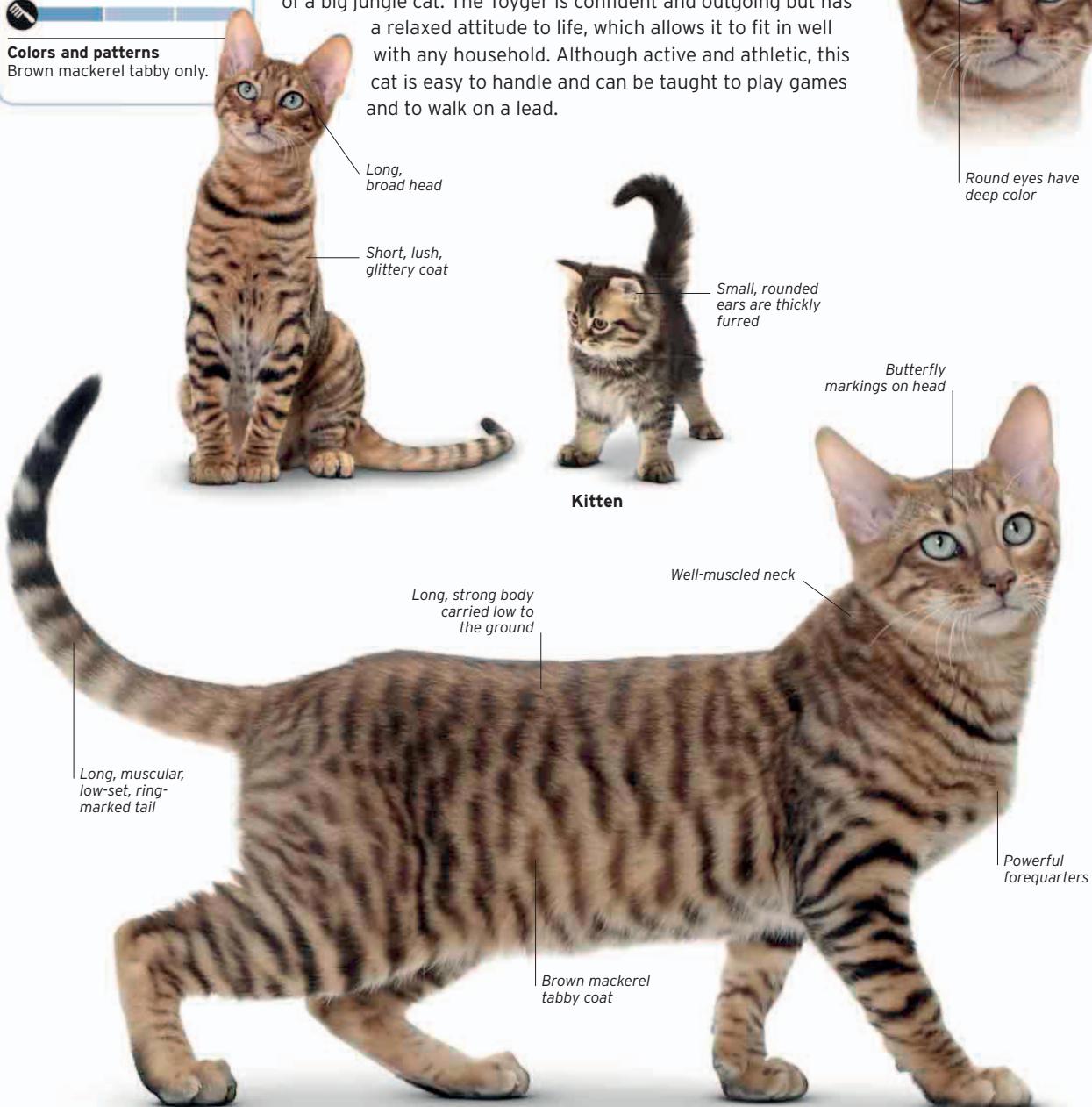
TOYGER

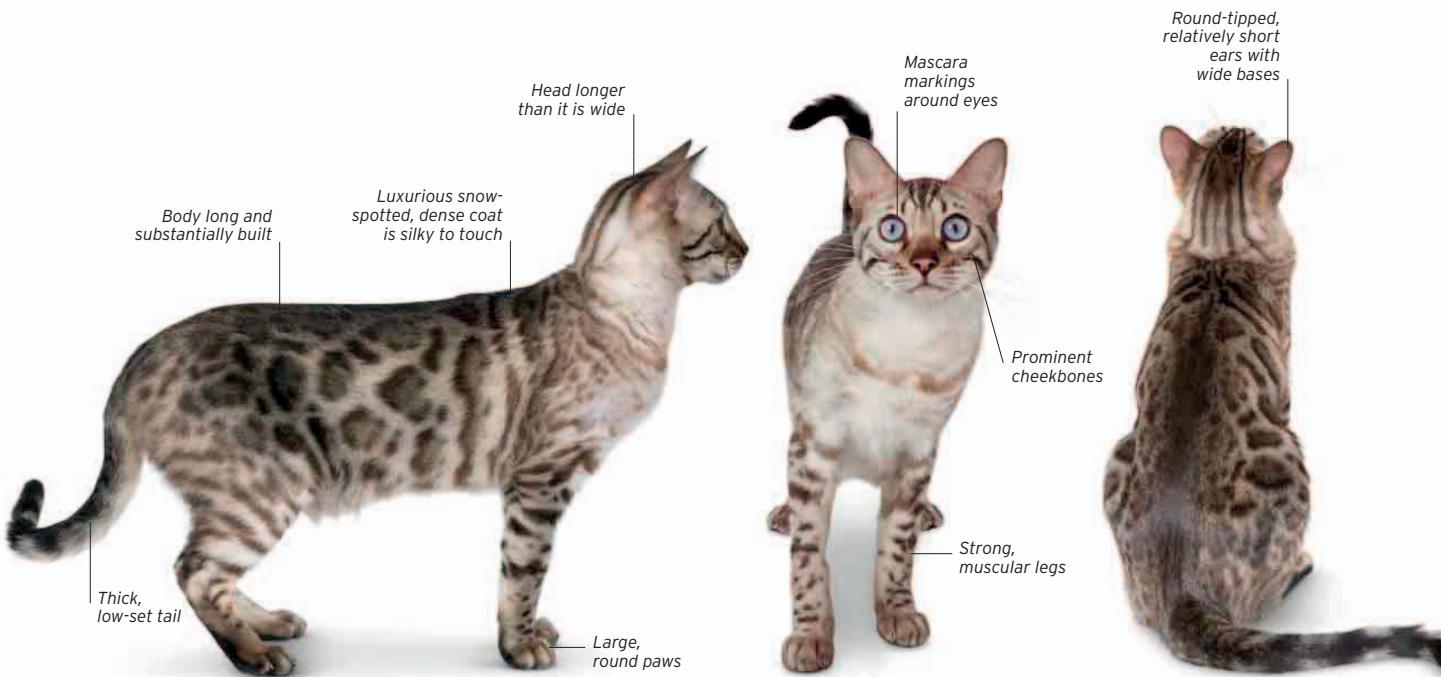
THIS COMPANIONABLE AND INTELLIGENT BREED IS A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER CAT

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1990s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	12-22lb (5.5-10kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Brown mackerel tabby only.

A breed developed in the 1990s by crossing a striped, shorthaired cat with a Bengal (pp.94-5), the Toyger has a tiger-marked coat with random vertical stripes that are quite distinct from any other tabby pattern. Well built and muscular, this unique "toy tiger" moves with the flowing power and grace of a big jungle cat. The Toyger is confident and outgoing but has a relaxed attitude to life, which allows it to fit in well with any household. Although active and athletic, this cat is easy to handle and can be taught to play games and to walk on a lead.





BENGAL

THIS CAT HAS A STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL SPOTTED COAT AND A VIBRANT PERSONALITY

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1970s

Breed registries FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 12–22lb (5.5–10kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Brown, blue, silver, and snow colors in spotted, marble classic, or lynx (tabby) pointed patterns.

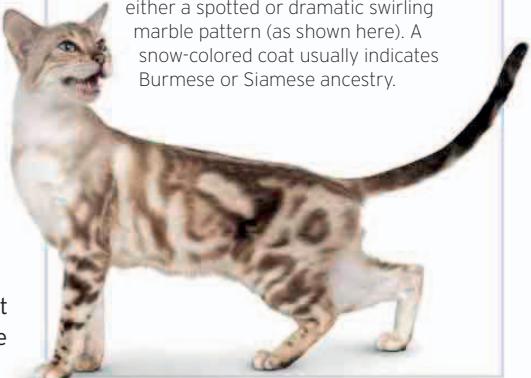
In the 1970s scientists crossed the small, wild Asian leopard cat with shorthaired domestic cats in an attempt to introduce the wild cat's natural immunity to feline leukemia into the pet population. The project failed, but the resulting hybrid caught the interest of several American fanciers. In a series of selective breeding programs, crosses were achieved between these hybrids and various pedigree domestic cats, including the Abyssinian (p.83), Bombay (p.36), British Shorthair (pp.68–77), and Egyptian Mau (p.80). The outcome was the Bengal, originally called the Leopardette, which was officially accepted as a new breed in the 1980s.

With its magnificently patterned coat and large, muscular frame, this cat brings more than a hint of the jungle into the living room. Despite its wild ancestry, there is nothing unsafe about the Bengal—it is delightfully affectionate—but it does have a lot of energy and is best suited to

an experienced cat owner. Friendly by nature, a Bengal always wants to be at the heart of its family, and needs company and both physical activity and mental stimulation. A bored Bengal will be unhappy and possibly destructive.

SNOW MARBLE CLASSIC TABBY

The Bengal's soft, short coat may be either a spotted or dramatic swirling marble pattern (as shown here). A snow-colored coat usually indicates Burmese or Siamese ancestry.





KANAANI

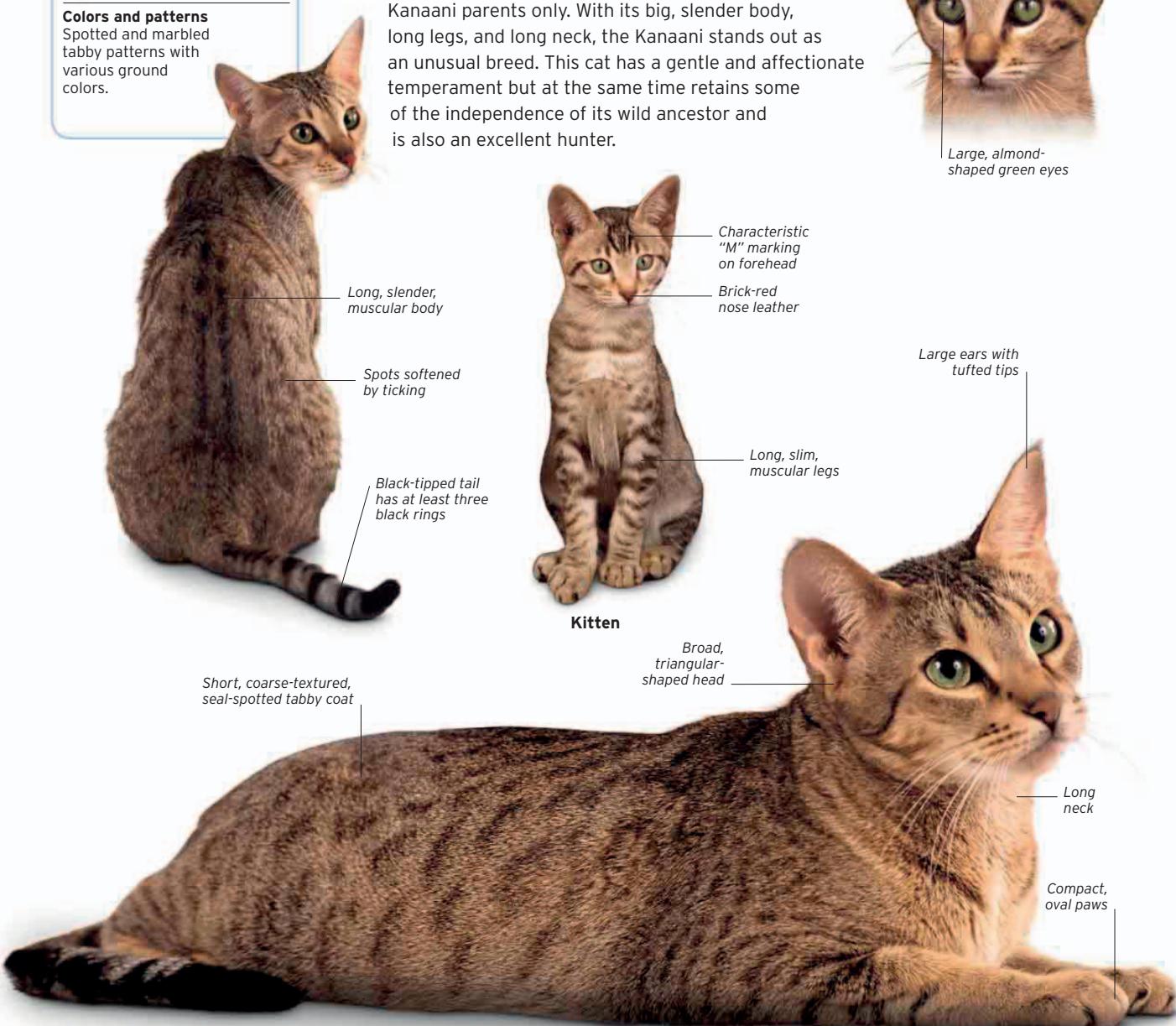
THIS RARE BREED LOOKS LIKE A WILD DESERT CAT BUT HAS AN AFFECTIONATE NATURE

Place of origin	Israel
Date of origin	2000s
Breed registries	None
Weight range	11-20lb (5-9kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Spotted and marbled tabby patterns with various ground colors.

Developed to have a close resemblance to the spotted African wildcat, the Kanaani is rare and many authorities do not yet accept it as a breed. Until 2010 the breeding program for this cat allowed crosses with the African wildcat, Bengal (pp.94-5) and Oriental Shorthair (pp.43-51)—provided all these had spotted coats. Since then, kittens must have

Kanaani parents only. With its big, slender body, long legs, and long neck, the Kanaani stands out as an unusual breed. This cat has a gentle and affectionate temperament but at the same time retains some of the independence of its wild ancestor and is also an excellent hunter.



SAVANNAH

THIS TALL, GRACEFUL CAT HAS A STRIKINGLY UNUSUAL APPEARANCE

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 12-22lb
(5.5-10kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Brown spotted tabby, black silver-spotted tabby, black, or black smoke. Ghost-spotting may be visible in black or black smoke.

One of the newest cat breeds, the Savannah was officially recognized only in 2012. It originated from the chance mating of a male serval, a wild cat of the African plains, with a domestic female cat. The Savannah has inherited many of the serval's physical characteristics—including a spotted coat, long legs, and huge, upright ears—but is perhaps best known for its personality. This adventurous and athletic cat is permanently on the lookout for amusement, which might include playing with water, exploring the contents of a cupboard, or opening doors. Since a Savannah can be quite demanding, the breed is not best suited to first-time cat owners.



SERENGETI

TALL AND ELEGANT, THIS BREED HAS A GENTLE BUT OUTGOING TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Black solid color; spotted tabby in any shade of brown or silver (silver ground color with black spots); and black smoke.

Designer-bred to resemble the serval—a small, leggy wild cat of the African grasslands—the Serengeti was created in California in the mid-1990s and is now also known in Europe and Australia. The result of crossing a Bengal (pp.94–5) with an Oriental (pp.43–51), this breed stands out among others with its long neck and legs, and upright stance. Most conspicuous are the Serengeti's exceptionally large ears,

which are the same length as its head. This agile cat enjoys climbing and exploring high places. It bonds closely with its owner and is an ideal companion for someone who spends a lot of time at home.



Long, lean, athletic body

Fine, dense silver-spotted tabby coat

Exceptionally large, wide-based ears with rounded tips

Head longer than broad



Distinct, widely spaced spots

Long neck in proportion to body

Very long legs

Dark tail tip

CHAUSIE

THIS SLENDER, SLINKY CAT HAS A CHARISMATIC AIR

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1990s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	12-22lb (5.5-10kg)
Grooming	 

Colors and patterns

Black solid and ticked tabby pattern in brown and grizzled black.

Although the wild jungle cat and the domestic cat could, and probably did, interbreed naturally in the past, the Chausie originated from hybrids created during the 1990s. Initially, the jungle cat was crossed with a variety of cats, but today, to maintain consistency of the Chausie's shape and coat color, only the Abyssinian (p.83) and certain domestic shorthairs are used. Like other hybrid cats, the Chausie is very active and enjoys exploring. It is intelligent and insatiably curious—a Chausie quickly becomes adept at opening doors to pry into cupboards. This cat

- requires an experienced owner who is able to spend plenty of time at home to provide companionship.



Ears have rounded tips

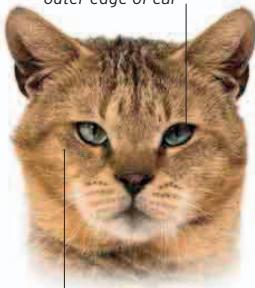
Round paws small in proportion to cat's size

Large, lean, well-muscled body

Brown-ticked coat

End of tail has tabby barring and dark tip

Eyes inclined to outer edge of ear



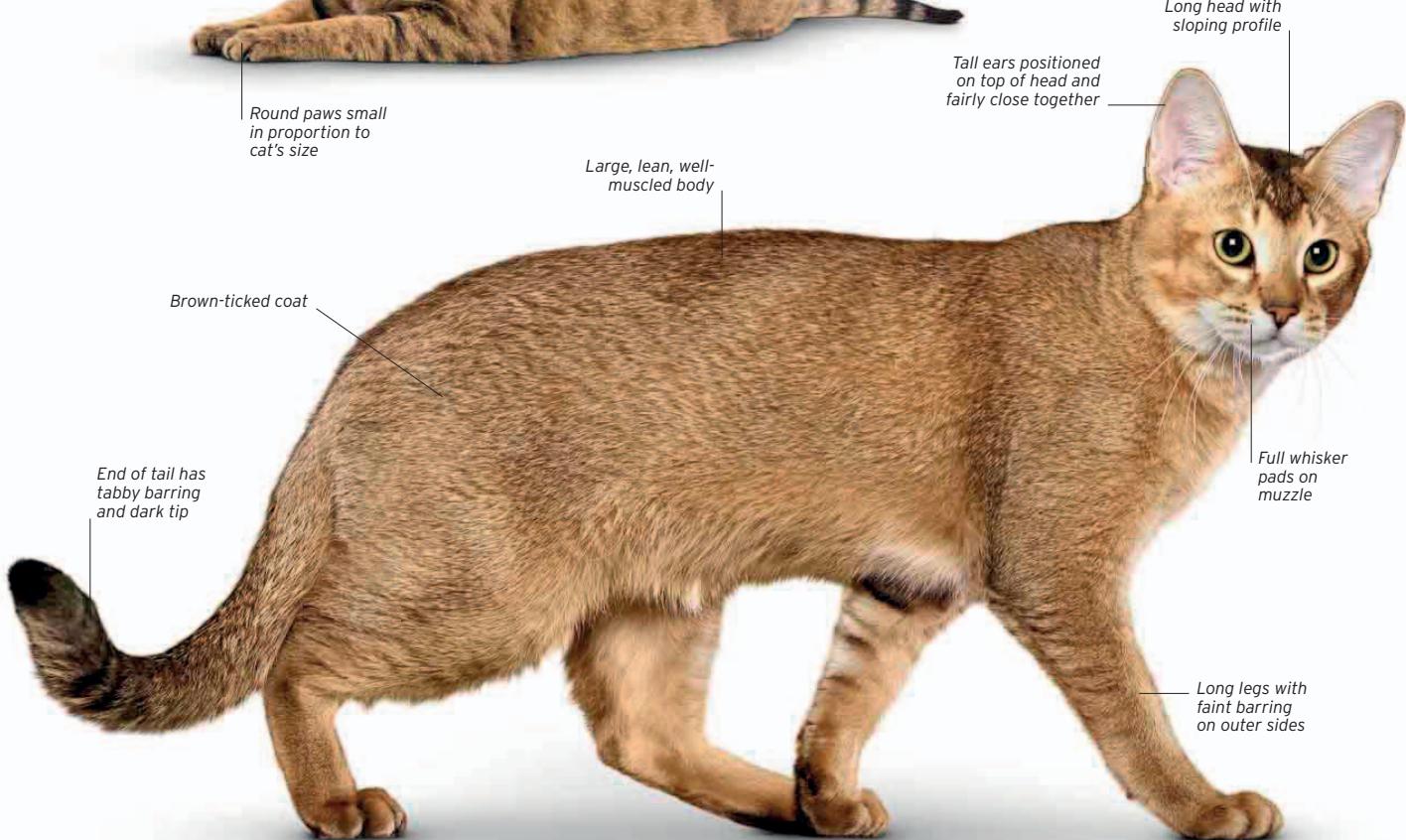
Long, high cheekbones

Long head with sloping profile

Tall ears positioned on top of head and fairly close together

Full whisker pads on muzzle

Long legs with faint barring on outer sides



HEALTHY BREEDING

Outcrosses to domestic shorthaired and longhaired cats are used in Munchkin breeding programs. This helps to keep the gene pool healthy but makes it harder to breed Munchkins true to type.



MUNCHKIN

FRIENDLY AND SWEET, THIS SHORT-LEGGED CAT IS HIGHLY SOCIALE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	6-9lb (2.5-4kg)

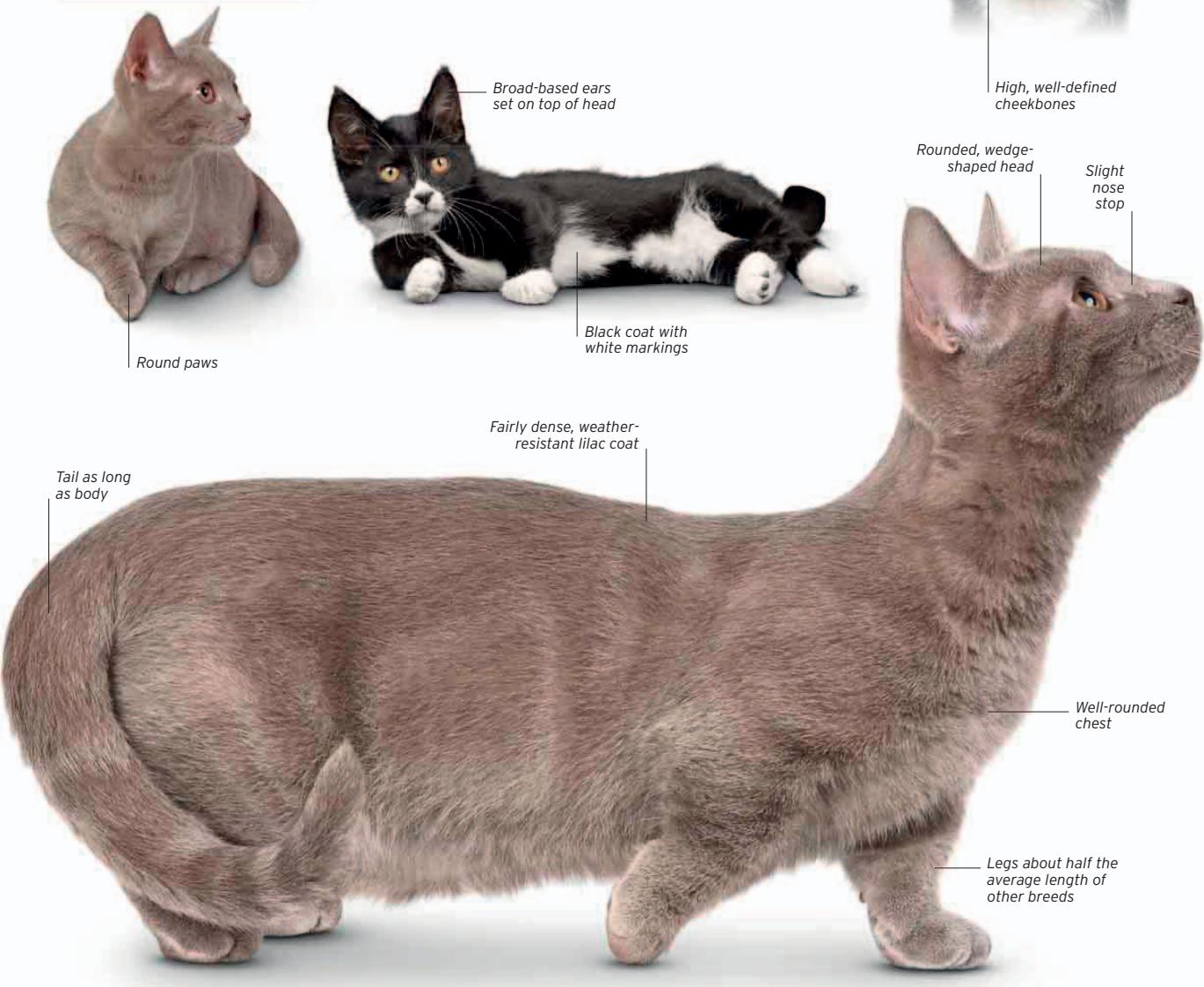
Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

The first Munchkins were bred in Louisiana, and although they are now achieving some popularity, in both shorthaired and longhaired versions (p.181), they are not accepted by many international breed organizations. The exceptionally short legs of the Munchkin, which arose as a random mutation, do not appear to affect speed of movement or longevity. This little cat may not have the jumping ability of its taller cousins, but it still manages to climb on furniture and is lively and playful. The Munchkin has been used to create other short-legged breeds such as the Minskin.



KINKALOW

THIS NEW AND RARE BREED IS SAID TO BE INTELLIGENT AND PLAYFUL

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1990s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	6–9lb (2.5–4kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Many colors and patterns, including tabby and tortoiseshell.

A designer dwarf cat, the Kinkalow was deliberately created in the 1990s by crossing the Munchkin (p.101) with the American Curl (p.109). This still experimental breed ideally should have the small, compact body and ultra-short legs of the Munchkin combined with the turned-back ears of the Curl. Not all Kinkalow litters inherit these extreme traits, however, which are due to genetic mutations, and some kittens are born with both normal-length legs and straight ears. The development of the Kinkalow and the establishment of its breed standard are ongoing projects. So far, this miniature cat appears to be free from specific health problems and unhampered by its short legs.



Pink nose leather



Soft, sleek black coat



Curled-back ears inherited from American Curl



Tail long in comparison with body

Short, compact body feels heavy for size

Silky red and black tortie coat

White chest

Forelegs particularly short

SKOOKUM

DESPITE BEING ONE OF THE SMALLEST OF ALL BREEDS, THIS CAT IS FULL OF CONFIDENCE

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries None

Weight range 6–9lb (2.5–4kg)

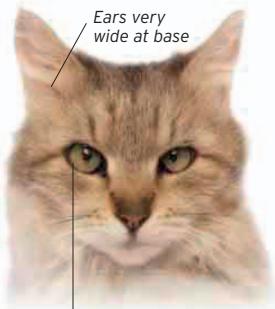
Grooming



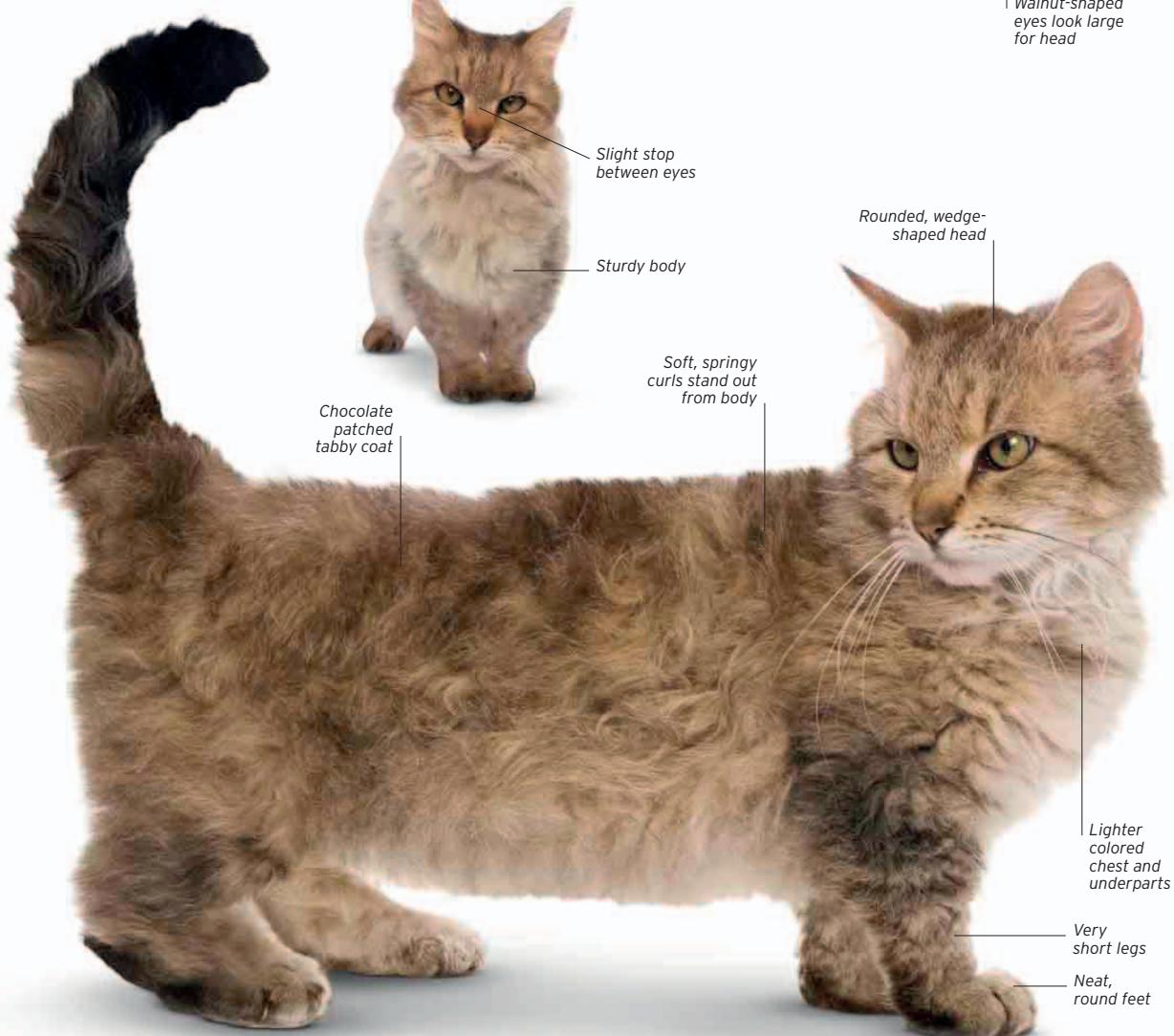
Colors and patterns

All colors and patterns.

As a cross between the Munchkin (p.101) and the LaPerm (p.123), this little cat has inherited two striking features: extremely short legs and a soft coat, either long or short, that stands away from its body in exuberant curls or waves. The curly coat is not generally prone to matting and is easy to groom. The Skookum has been developed in several countries, initially in the US, and also in the UK, Australia, and New Zealand. However, it is still rare and has not yet achieved universal recognition. This is an active, playful cat, able to run and jump just as well as longer-legged breeds.



Walnut-shaped eyes look large for head



LAMBKIN DWARF

THIS SWEET AND EASY-TO-KEEP CAT IS ACTIVE DESPITE HAVING VERY SHORT LEGS

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 5–9lb (2–4kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

This little-known hybrid dwarf cat is a cross between the short-legged Munchkin (p.101) and the curly coated Selkirk Rex (pp.124–5). It is sometimes known as the Nanus (meaning dwarf)

Rex. Still regarded as experimental, the Lambkin Dwarf is rare because it is extremely difficult to breed to type. In a single litter, some kittens may inherit both the mutant genes that pass on the short stature of one parent and the curly coat of the other, while other kittens may be short-legged and straight-haired, long-legged and straight-haired, or long-legged and curly-haired. These cats are reputed to have the docility of the Rex with a touch of the Munchkin's impishness.

Soft-textured coat

Very long tail

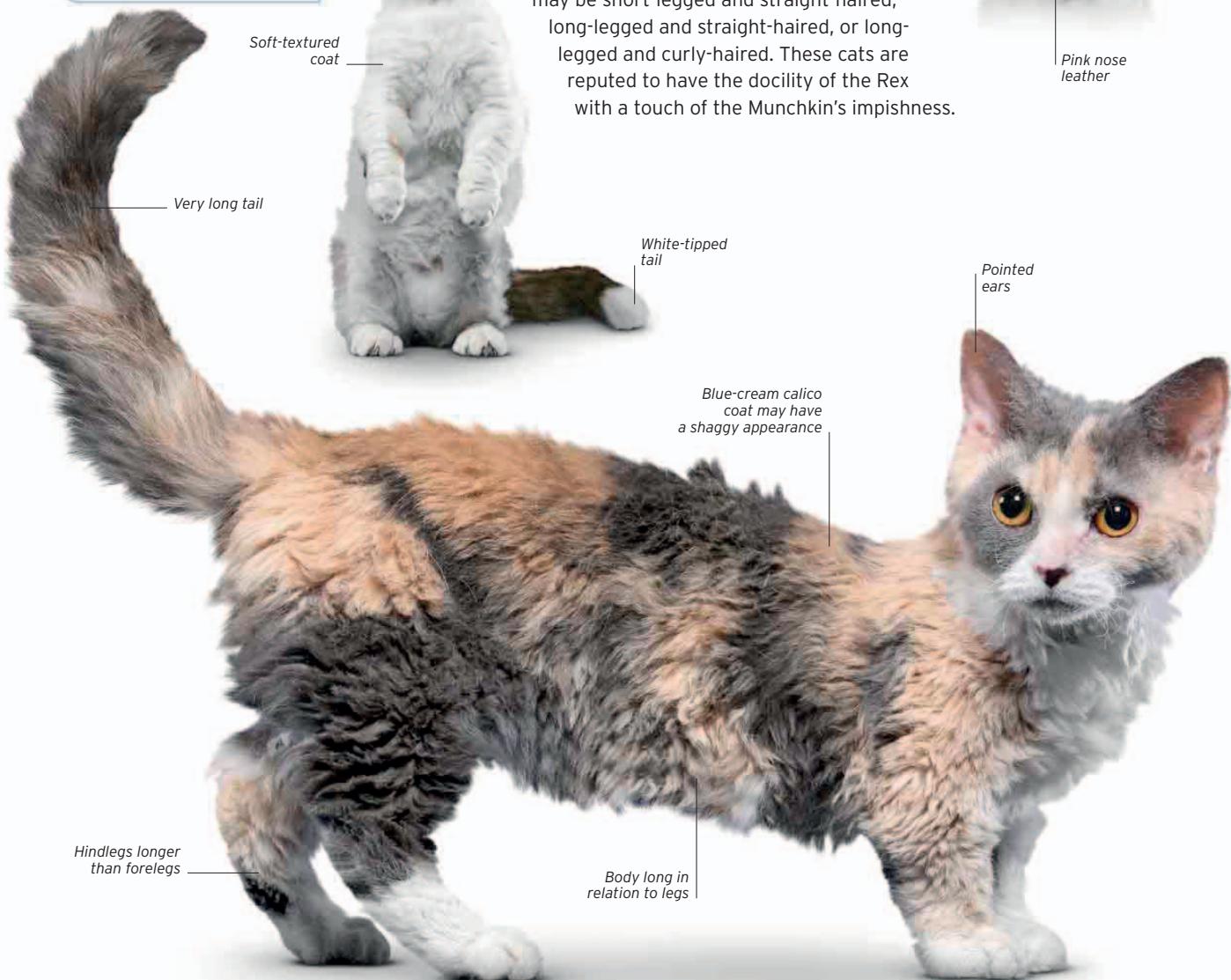
White-tipped tail

Pointed ears

Hindlegs longer than forelegs

Blue-cream calico coat may have a shaggy appearance

Body long in relation to legs



BAMBINO

AN AMUSING COMPANION WITH AN AFFECTIONATE, KITTENISH PERSONALITY

Place of origin US

Date of origin 2000s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 5–9lb (2–4kg)

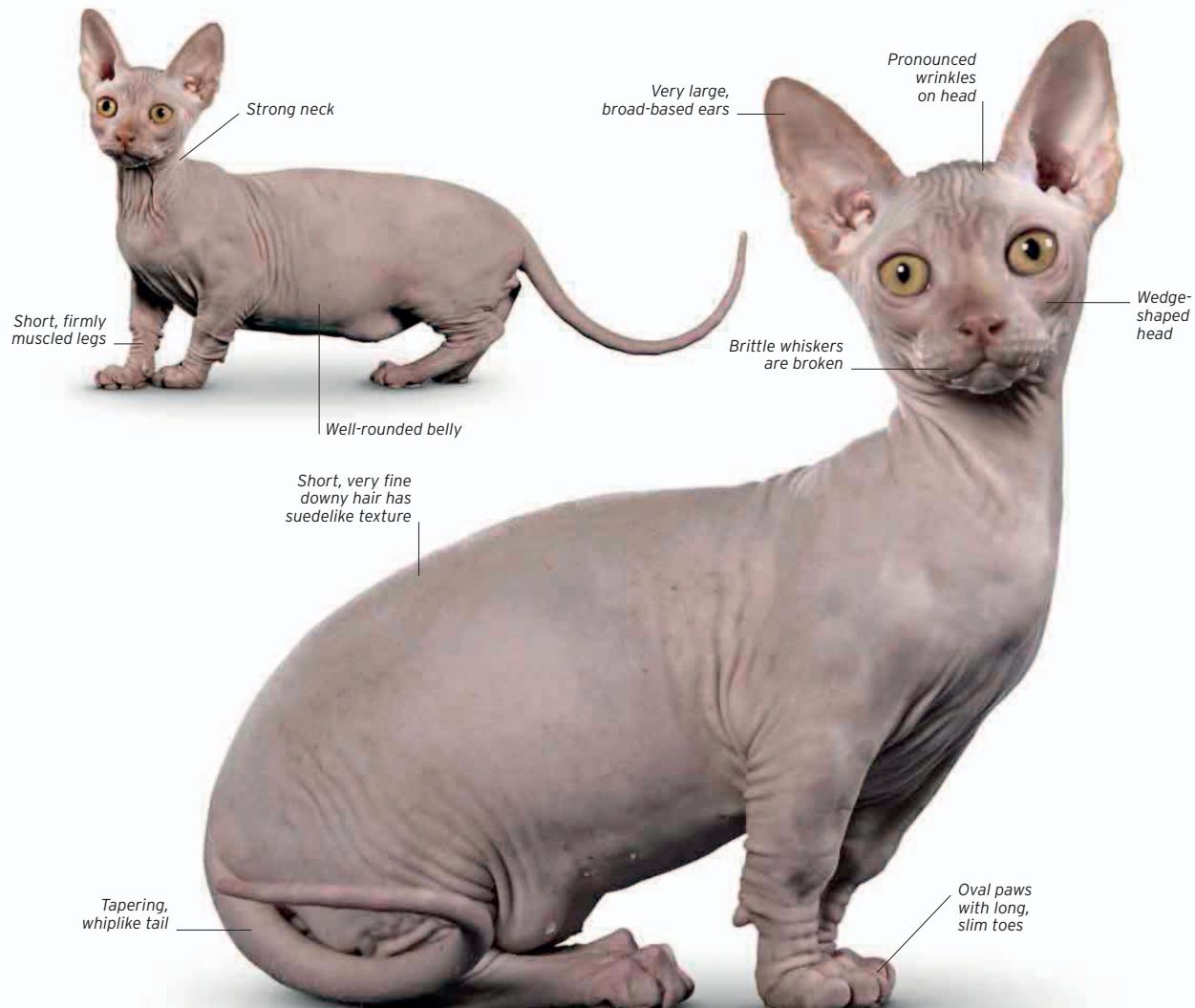
Grooming

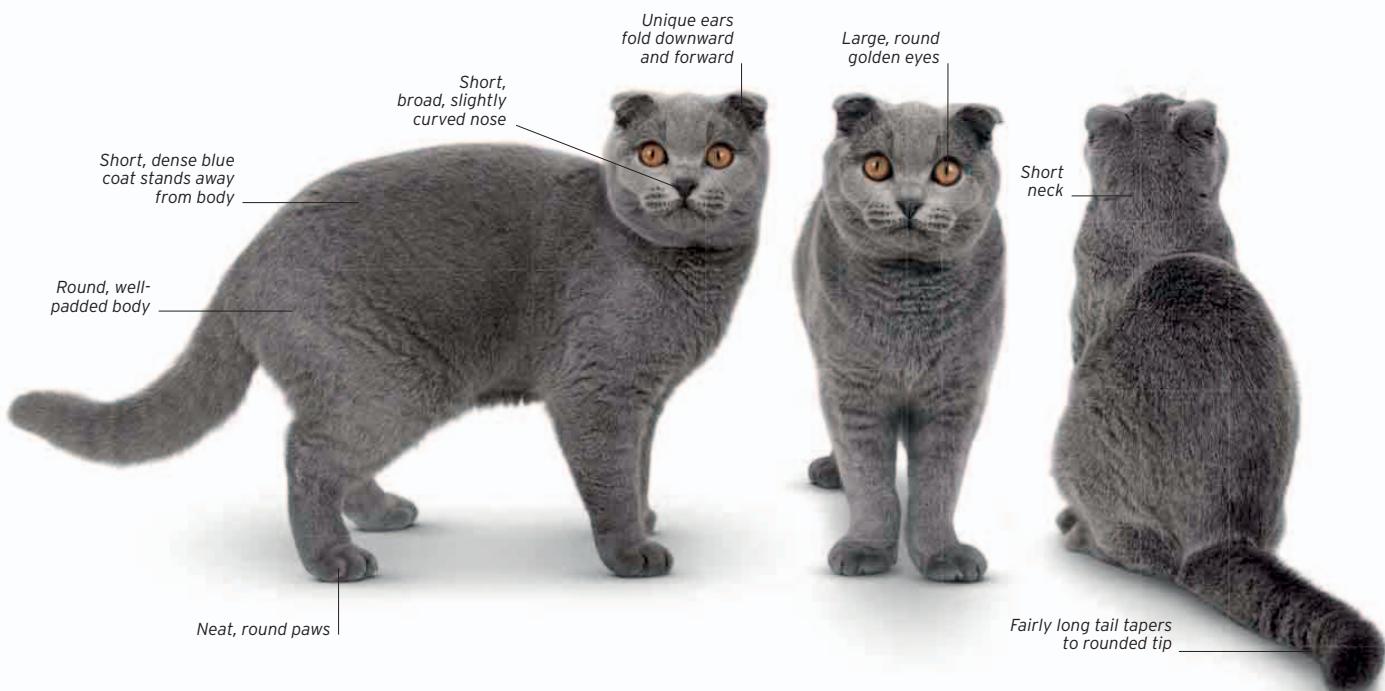


Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

This **21st-century experimental dwarf breed** is one of the most extraordinary of all designer cats. Developed as a hybrid of the Munchkin (p.101) and the hairless Sphynx (pp.118–19), the Bambino is extremely short-legged with a heavily wrinkled skin that looks entirely naked, although it is usually covered with very fine peach-fuzz hair. Despite its dainty appearance, this cat is strong and athletic, with firm muscles and a sturdy bone structure. However, the lack of fur means that the Bambino is vulnerable to strong sun and low temperatures, and must be kept as an indoor pet. Grooming should consist of regular bathing to prevent a buildup of natural skin oils.





SCOTTISH FOLD

A QUIET AND COMPANIONABLE CAT WITH UNIQUE FOLDED EARS

Place of origin UK/USA

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 6–13lb (2.5–6kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Most colors, shades, and patterns, including pointed, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

Due to a rare genetic mutation, the ears of this breed fold forward to fit like a cap over the skull, producing a unique round-headed look. The first Fold cat to be discovered was an all-white, long-haired female, known as Susie, that was born on a Scottish farm in the 1960s. At first, this cat and the folded-ear kittens she produced attracted only local interest, but then geneticists began taking notice, and some of Susie's descendants were sent to the US. Here, the breed was established, using crosses between Folds and British (pp.68–77) and American Shorthairs (p.61). During the development of the Scottish Fold, a long-coated version (p.183) also emerged.

These cats need careful breeding to avoid certain skeletal problems linked with the gene responsible for ear folding, and due to this risk, they do not meet with the approval of all breed authorities. Scottish Folds are always born with straight ears that, in kittens carrying the folded-ear gene, begin

to flatten forward within about three weeks. Cats that remain straight-eared are known as Scottish Straights (see box). The Scottish Fold is still something of a rarity, more likely to be seen at shows than as a house cat. However, the breed is known for its loyal nature, and Scottish Folds that do become pets adjust easily to any type of family, making quiet and affectionate companions.

SCOTTISH STRAIGHT

Apart from having upright ears, the Scottish Straight looks the same as the Fold. Straights are barred from shows, but it is hoped that they will soon be recognized as a separate breed.





HIGHLANDER

THIS ACTIVE AND PLAYFUL CAT PROVIDES PLENTY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Place of origin North America

Date of origin 2000s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 10-25lb
(4.5-11kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors in any tabby pattern, including colorpoints.

This recently developed breed, which also comes in a longhaired version (p.186), is still extremely rare. It has distinctive looks, with a big body, short tail, and dense coat. Most noticeable of all are the Highlander's large, curled ears; often thickly tufted, they add to the cat's air of wildness. Although not yet popular, the breed is beginning to earn recognition as a delightful house cat with a very special personality.

Highlanders are ready to love everyone and make devoted companions. They have an irrepressible sense of fun, always want to play, and are said to be easy to train.

Well-defined whisker pads

Large, round paws

Spots merge into stripes along top of back

Distinctive ears curl back loosely at tips, no more than 90 degrees

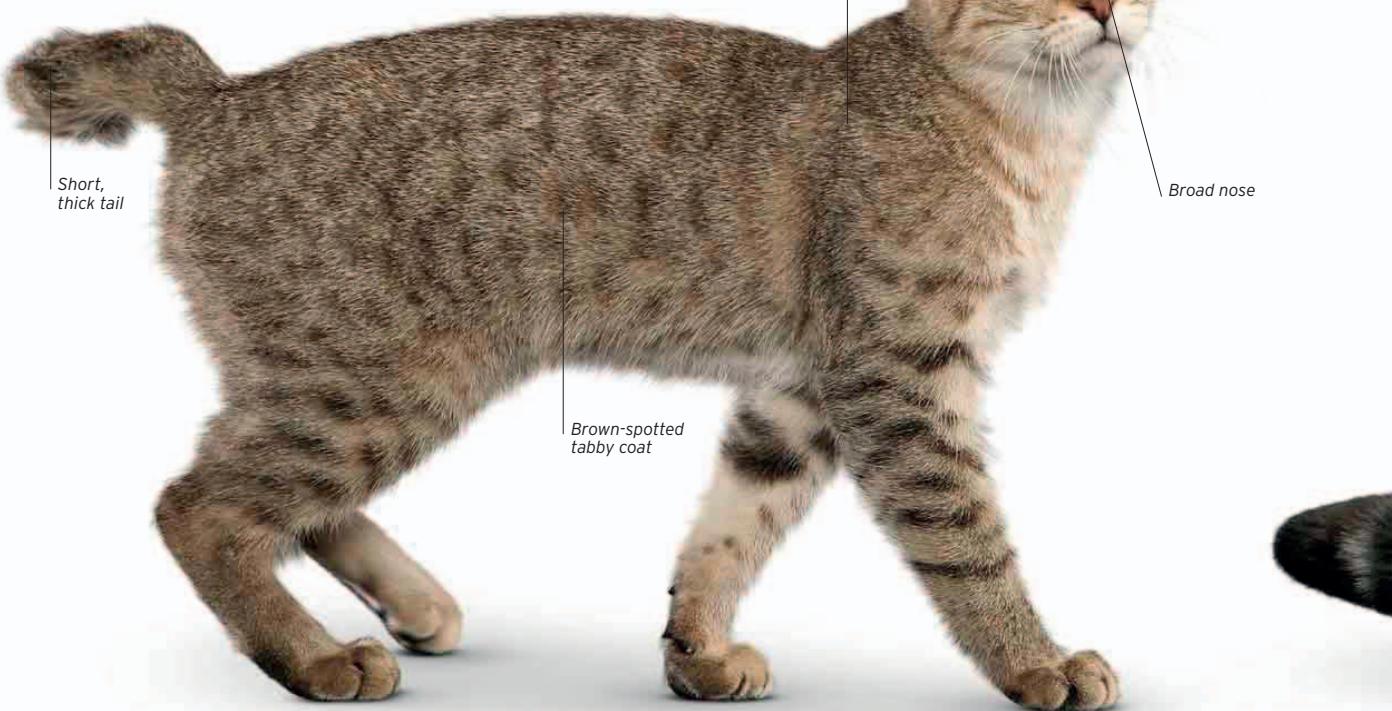
Large eyes set wide apart

Broad, well-muscled shoulders

Broad nose

Short, thick tail

Brown-spotted tabby coat



Wide muzzle

AMERICAN CURL

AN ELEGANT AND ENGAGING CAT THAT MAKES A LOVING COMPANION

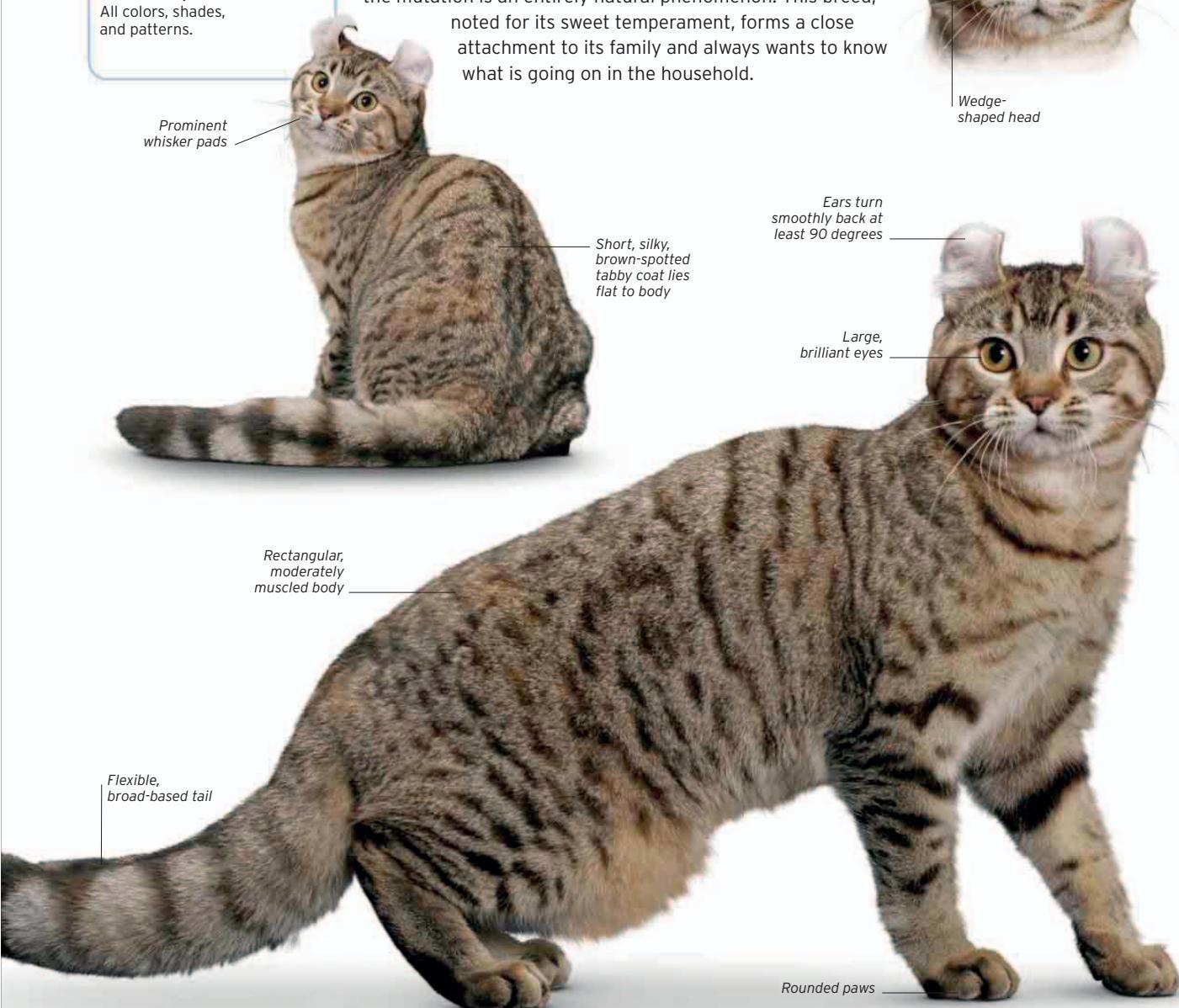
Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, TICA
Weight range	7-11lb (3-5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
All colors, shades, and patterns.

The first American Curls were longhaired (pp.184-5) like the founding female of the breed, which was discovered in California. The shorthaired version was developed later and is essentially the same cat in a different coat. Big-eyed and elegantly proportioned, the American Curl is extremely attractive to look at. The curled ears, which may appear within a week of birth, add a touch of designer chic, although the mutation is an entirely natural phenomenon. This breed, noted for its sweet temperament, forms a close attachment to its family and always wants to know what is going on in the household.



Wedge-shaped head



JAPANESE BOBTAIL

A CHARMING CAT WITH A BEAUTIFUL VOICE AND A UNIQUE POM-POM TAIL

Place of origin	Japan
Date of origin	c.17th century
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	6–9lb (2.5–4kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

All colors and patterns, including tabby (except ticked), tortoiseshell, and bicolor.

In its native Japan this cat is said to bring good luck and is a popular subject for ceramic figurines. The Japanese Bobtail was spotted in the 1960s by an American enthusiast, who sent a number of the cats to the US to begin a breeding program. This shorthaired version won recognition in the late 1970s, followed a decade or so later by the longhaired version (p.188). An attractive and beautifully proportioned cat, the Japanese

Bobtail is outgoing and intelligent. It has a charmingly melodious voice and fond owners like to claim that it talks, or even sings, to them.

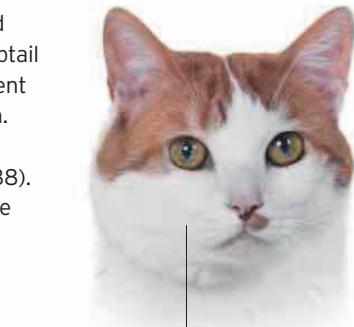


Muscular but slender, well-balanced body

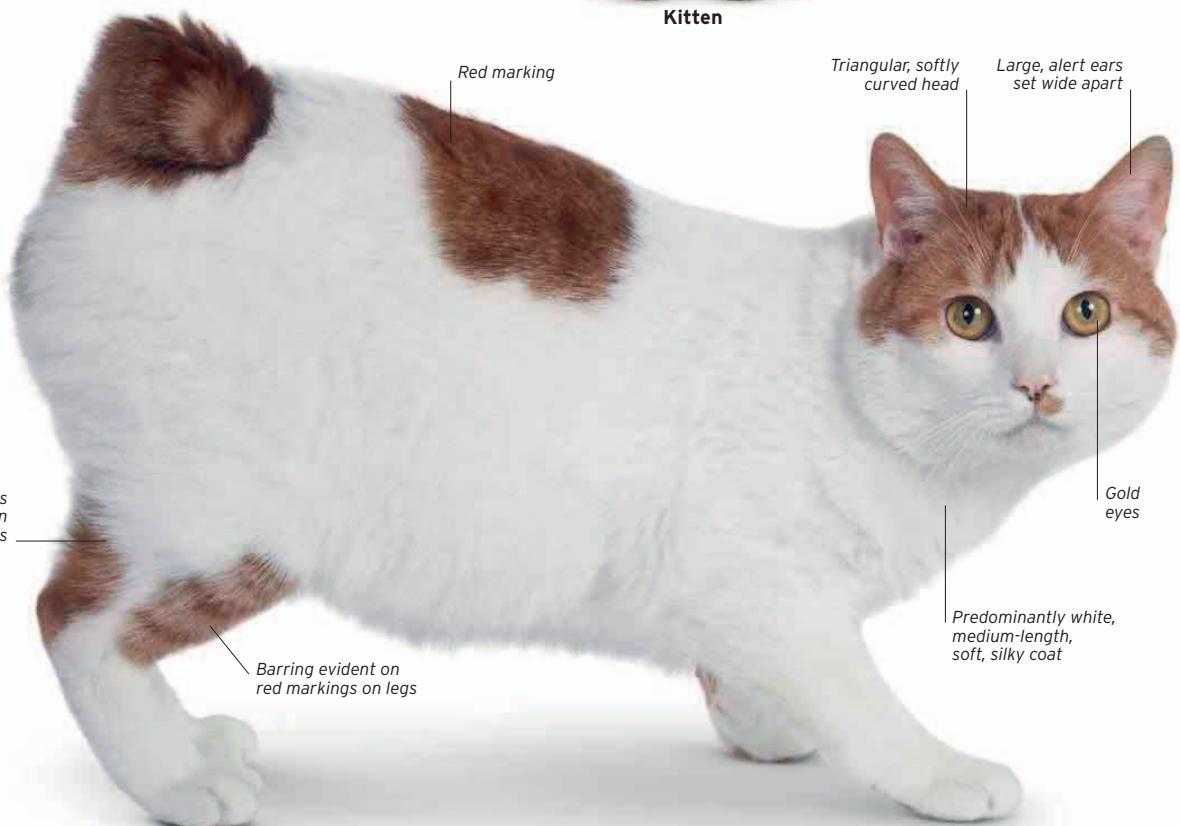
Oval paws



Kitten



Broad muzzle with obvious whisker pads



Triangular, softly curved head

Large, alert ears set wide apart

Gold eyes

Predominantly white, medium-length, soft, silky coat

Hindlegs longer than forelegs

Barring evident on red markings on legs

Red marking

KURILIAN BOBTAIL

THIS STURDY AND STRONG-LIMBED CAT HAS A QUIRKY TAIL

Place of origin Kuril Islands, North Pacific

Date of origin 20th century

Breed registries FIFe, TICA

Weight range 7–10lb (3–4.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Most solid colors and shades in bicolor, tortoiseshell, and tabby (except ticked) patterns.

Native to the Kuril Islands, which form a chain between the North Pacific and the Sea of Okhotsk, off Siberia, the Kurilian Bobtail first became popular as a domestic cat in mainland Russia during the 20th century. Since the 1990s this breed, in longhaired (p.189) as well as shorthaired versions, has also been appearing regularly at Russian cat shows but it is little known elsewhere. The curious tail is a natural mutation and differs from one cat to another; it always has a number of kinks and may curl or bend in almost any direction. Kurilian Bobtails are relaxed, sociable cats, and said to be superb mousers.

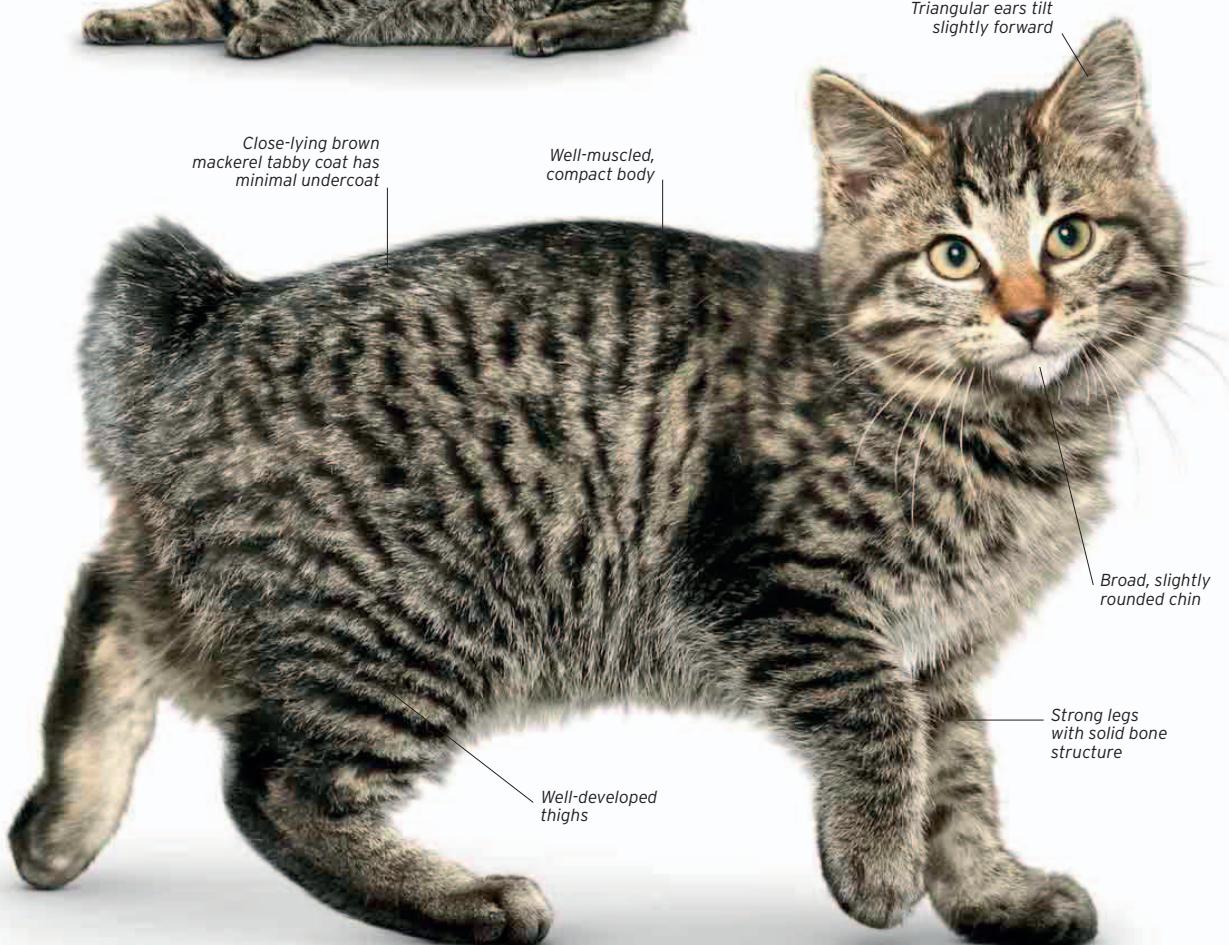


Slightly angled,
large eyes



Broad,
straight nose

Short, kinked tail at
least two vertebrae long



Close-lying brown
mackerel tabby coat has
minimal undercoat

Well-muscled,
compact body

Triangular ears tilt
slightly forward

Broad, slightly
rounded chin

Well-developed
thighs

Strong legs
with solid bone
structure

MEKONG BOBTAIL

THIS LITTLE-KNOWN BREED HAS AN ATTRACTIVE SIAMESE-POINTED COAT

Place of origin Southeast Asia

Date of origin Pre-20th century

Breed registries Other

Weight range 8–13lb (3.5–6kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Colorpoints as Siamese
(pp.54–7).

Named after the great Mekong River that flows through China, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, this short-tailed cat occurs naturally over a wide area of Southeast Asia. The Mekong Bobtail was developed as an experimental breed in Russia and has been recognized by some authorities since 2004, although worldwide it is not particularly well known. It is a strongly built cat with the brilliant blue eyes and colorpointed coat of a Siamese. The Mekong Bobtail is active and agile, and is good at jumping and climbing. It is said to be a quiet breed with a friendly, well-balanced personality.



Prominent
cheekbones

Short, glossy coat
with minimal
undercoat



Medium, broad-based ears

Large, almond-shaped,
bright blue eyes

Solidly built,
medium-size,
rectangular body

Short,
kinked tail



Hindlegs longer
than forelegs

Cream coat with
chocolate pointing

Legs slender
in comparison
with body

Oval paws

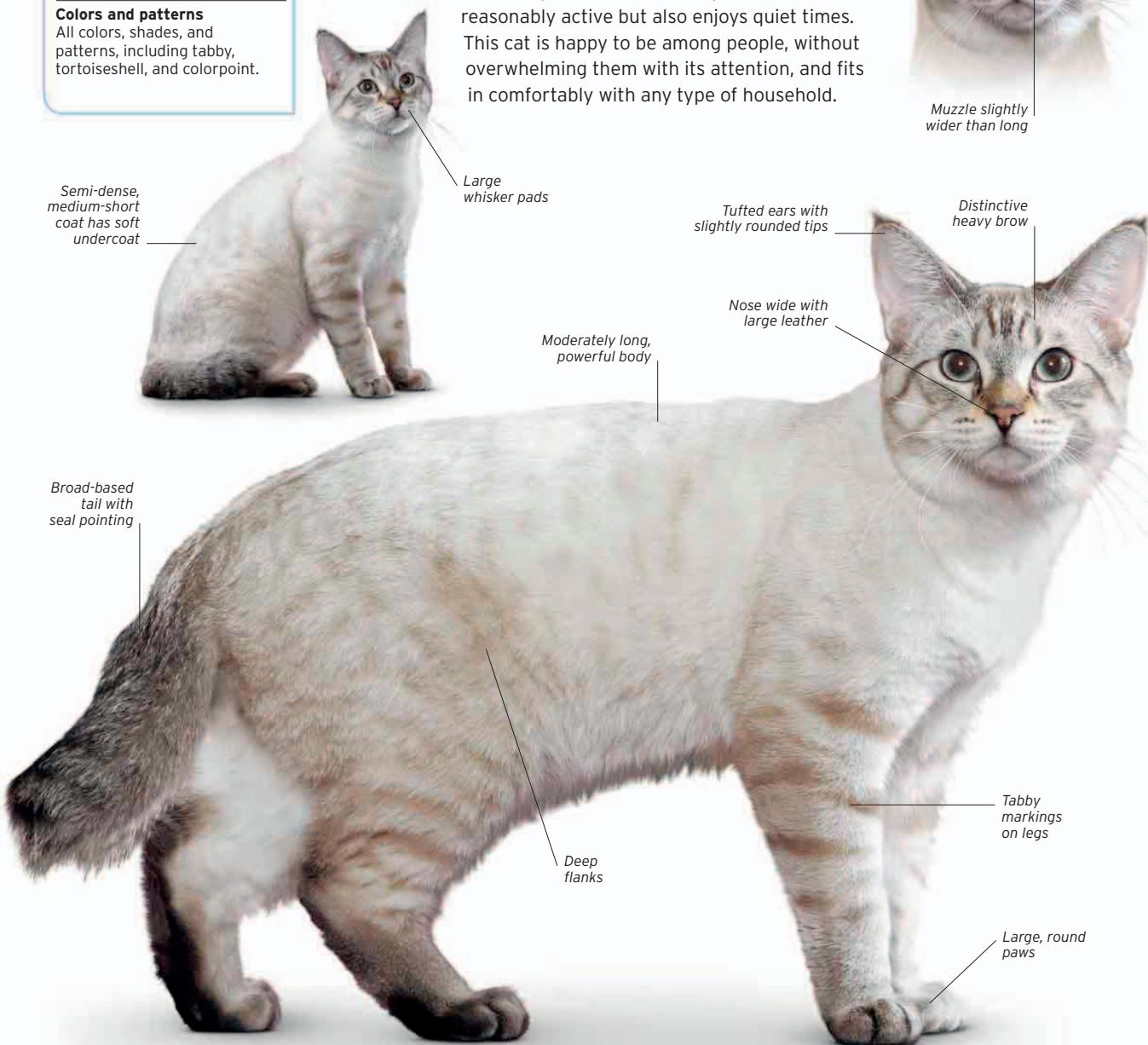
AMERICAN BOBTAIL

BIG AND BEAUTIFUL, THIS CAT IS AN EXCELLENT AND HIGHLY ADAPTABLE COMPANION

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	7-15lb (3-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
All colors, shades, and patterns, including tabby, tortoiseshell, and colorpoint.

The breeding of domestic bobtail cats native to the US has been reported several times since about the middle of the 20th century, but so far only this one has been fully recognized. There is also a longer-haired version (p.193), and both types have the naturally occurring shortened tail that gives the breed its name. The American Bobtail is a substantially built cat, with powerful muscles and large bones. It is intelligent, alert, and reasonably active but also enjoys quiet times. This cat is happy to be among people, without overwhelming them with its attention, and fits in comfortably with any type of household.



TAIL TYPES

Manx cats are classified according to tail length. Categories include "rumpy" (completely tailless); "stumpy" (the tail has from one to three vertebrae); and "longy" (the tail is almost normal length).



MANX

BEST KNOWN OF THE TAILLESS CATS, THIS BREED IS POPULAR FOR ITS QUIET CHARM

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	Pre-18th century
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-12lb (3.5-5.5kg)

Grooming	
-----------------	--

Colors and patterns
All colors, shades, and patterns, including tabby and tortoiseshell.

Few breeds have as many stories about their origins as the tailless Manx. Among the more nonsensical legends, this cat is supposed to have lost its tail in an accident on Noah's Ark. In reality, it is native to the Isle of Man, in the Irish Sea, and its lack of tail is a natural mutation. The Manx has interested cat

fanciers since the early 20th century and, together with its long-haired relation, the Cymric (p.192), is known worldwide. Breeding is carefully controlled to avoid the spinal problems sometimes associated with tailless cats. The Manx is gentle and calm, and can be trained to play "fetch" or walk on a lead.



Calico coat



PIXIEBOB

HEFTY AND MUSCULAR, THIS CAT LOOKS FIERCE BUT HAS A SWEET TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 9–18lb (4–8kg)

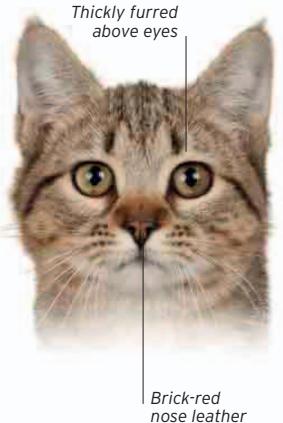
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Brown spotted tabby only.

Like the mountain bobcat from which it derives its name, the Pixiebob has a thick coat, tufted ears, a pointed face, and a powerful body, and moves with loose-limbed grace. A common feature of this breed—which, unusually, is accepted in the breed standard—is the occurrence of extra toes (polydactylism) on one or more paws. Both the Pixiebob shorthair and a longhaired variant (pp.190–1) have richly colored, spotted coats that complete the illusion of a wild cat. Despite appearances, the Pixiebob is entirely domestic in character, loves family life, clings to its owners, plays with children, and good-naturedly accepts other pets.



Short coat has
woolly texture
and stands away
from body

Brown spotted
tabby coat

Short bob tail

Deep flanks

Well-muscled
body

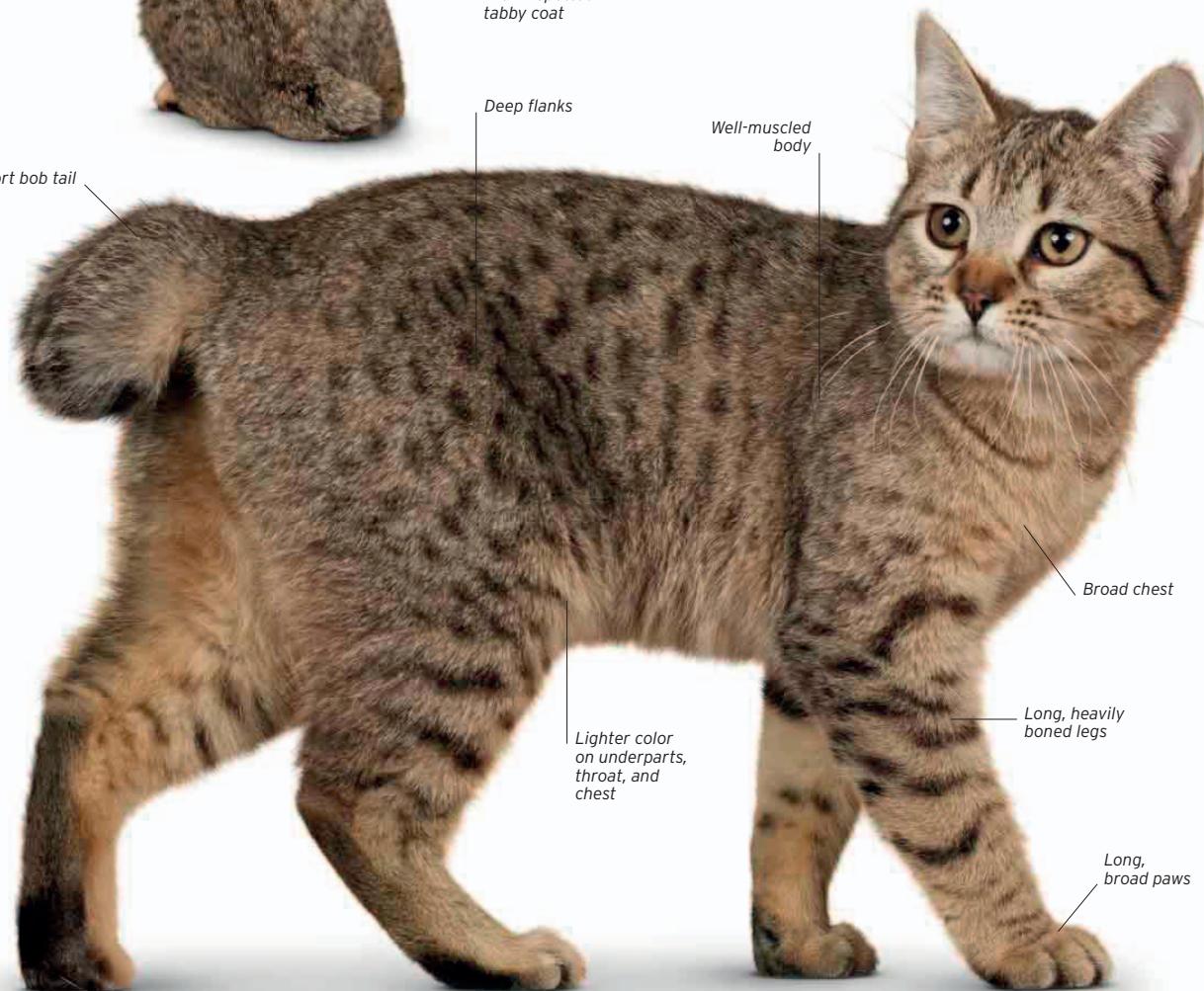
Brick-red
nose leather

Broad chest

Lighter color
on underparts,
throat, and
chest

Long, heavily
boned legs

Long,
broad paws



AMERICAN RINGTAIL

A WELL-BUILT AND PLUSH-COATED CAT WITH A TWIST IN ITS TAIL

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 7-15lb (3-7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

Flexible tail carried in a ring over back

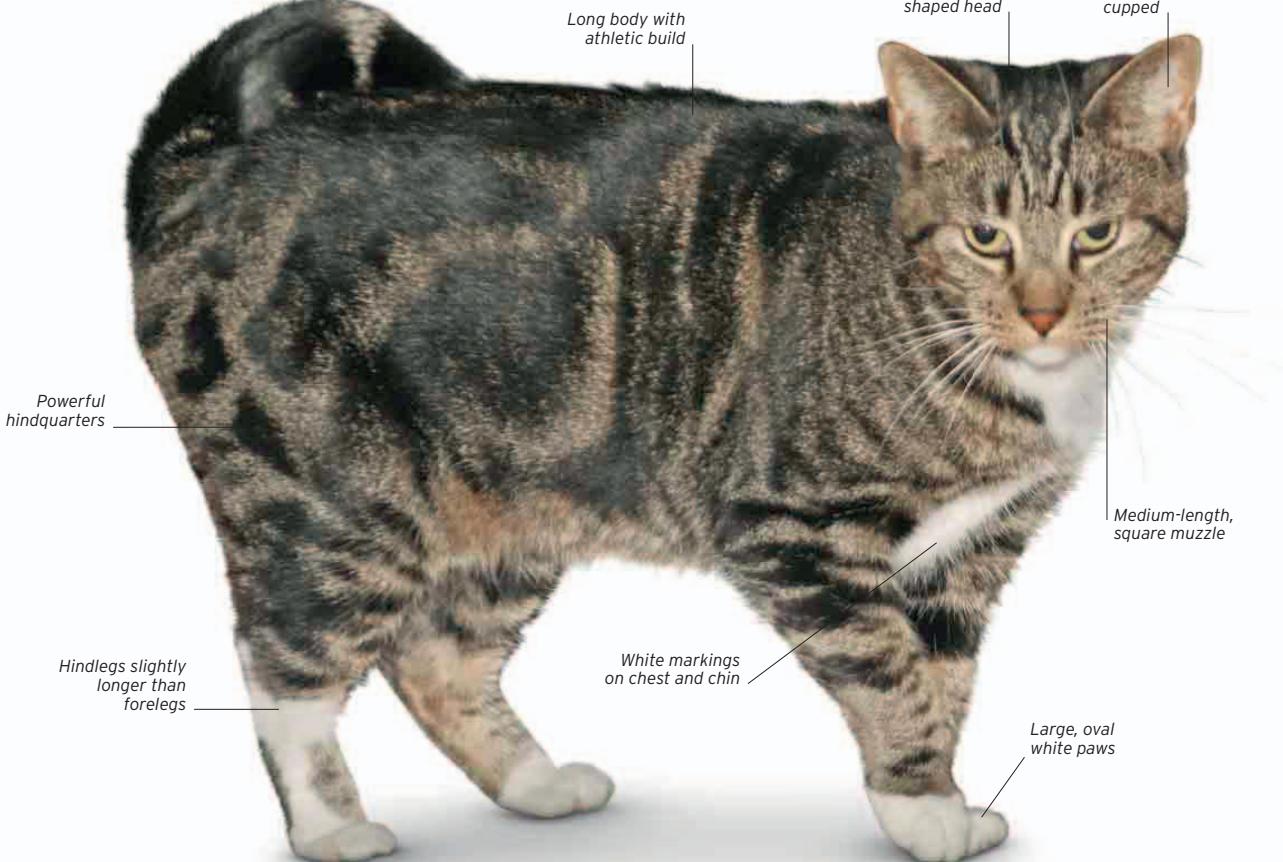


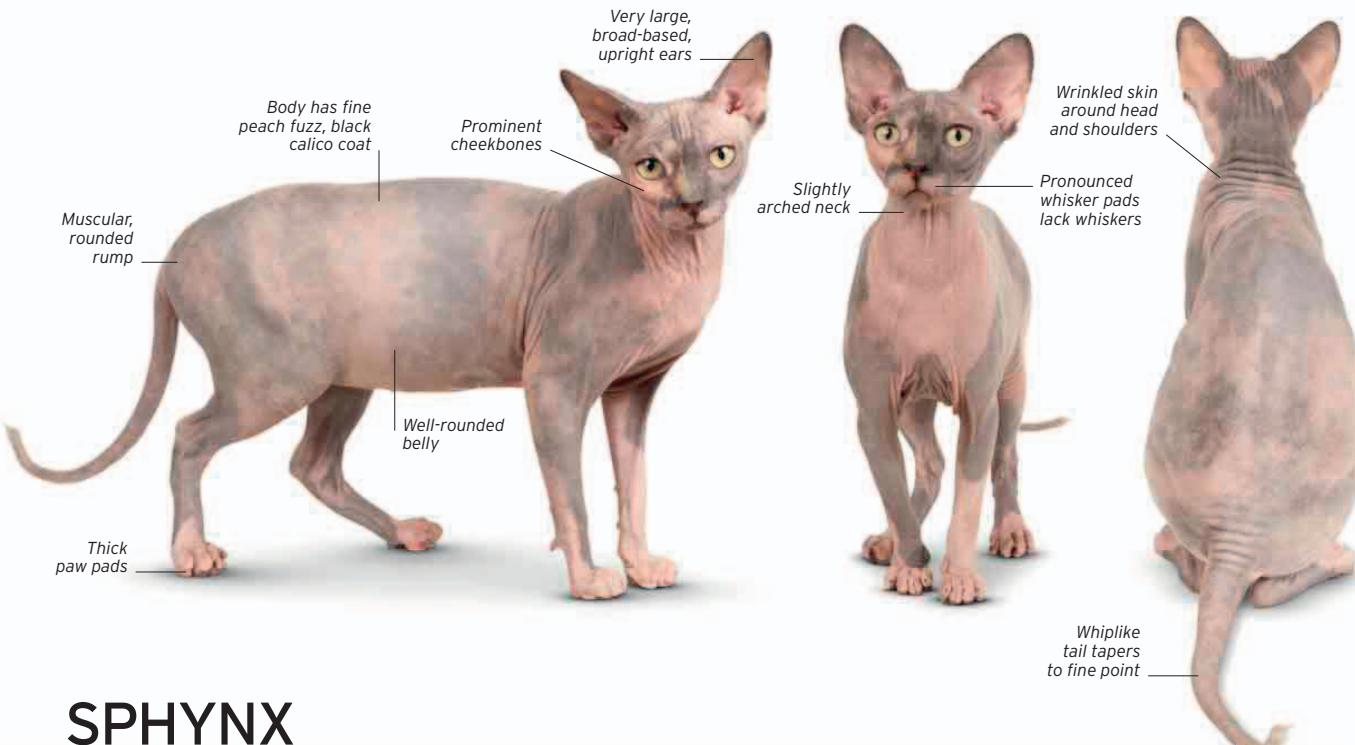
Soft, dense brown classic tabby coat with plush texture

No other cat possesses this breed's unique tail, which is carried in a flexible curl over the back or flank. The American Ringtail was discovered by chance in California and, so far, its development has included the introduction of Oriental-type lines. These cats are still few and far between, but interest among breeders is gradually increasing. There is also a longhaired version. Ringtails love games, climbing, and nosing around anything that appeals to their strong sense of curiosity. The soft trilling sounds that they make gave them their original name of Ringtail Sing-a-Ling.



Large almond-shaped eyes





SPHYNX

THIS HAIRLESS CAT HAS AN ENDEARINGLY IMPISH CHARACTER

Place of origin Canada

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFE, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

Probably the best known of the hairless cats that have appeared around the world, the Sphynx originated in Canada, and was named for its supposed resemblance to the Ancient Egyptian sculpture of the mythical Sphinx. The cat's hairlessness is a natural mutation, and interest in its development dates from the birth of a hairless male kitten produced by a short-coated farm cat in Ontario in 1966. This kitten, along with other hairless kittens that appeared over the following decade, was used to found the breed.

Although hairlessness is commonly accompanied by other mutations, careful selective breeding, including outcrosses to Devon Rex (pp.128–9) and Cornish Rex (pp.126–7) cats, has ensured that the Sphynx is relatively free of genetic problems. Sphynx cats are not completely bald—most have a coating of fine, suedelike fuzz on their bodies and often a little thin hair on their head, tail, and paws. Undeniably an extraordinary looking cat—with its enormous

ears, wrinkled skin, and rounded belly—the Sphynx does not appeal to everyone but its delightfully sociable and loving nature has created more than a few converts. It is easy to live with but needs to be kept indoors and protected from temperature extremes. Lack of a normal coat also means that excess body oils cannot be absorbed, so regular washing is required. Cats used to baths from an early age are unlikely to object.

WRINKLY SKIN

The Sphynx's wrinkled skin is not unique to the breed—all cats are the same under their fur. Sphynx kittens are wrinkly all over; adults have wrinkles mainly on the shoulders and head.





DONSKOY

A CAT WITH OTHERWORLDLY LOOKS BUT A LOVABLE NATURE

Place of origin Russia

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries FIFe, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming

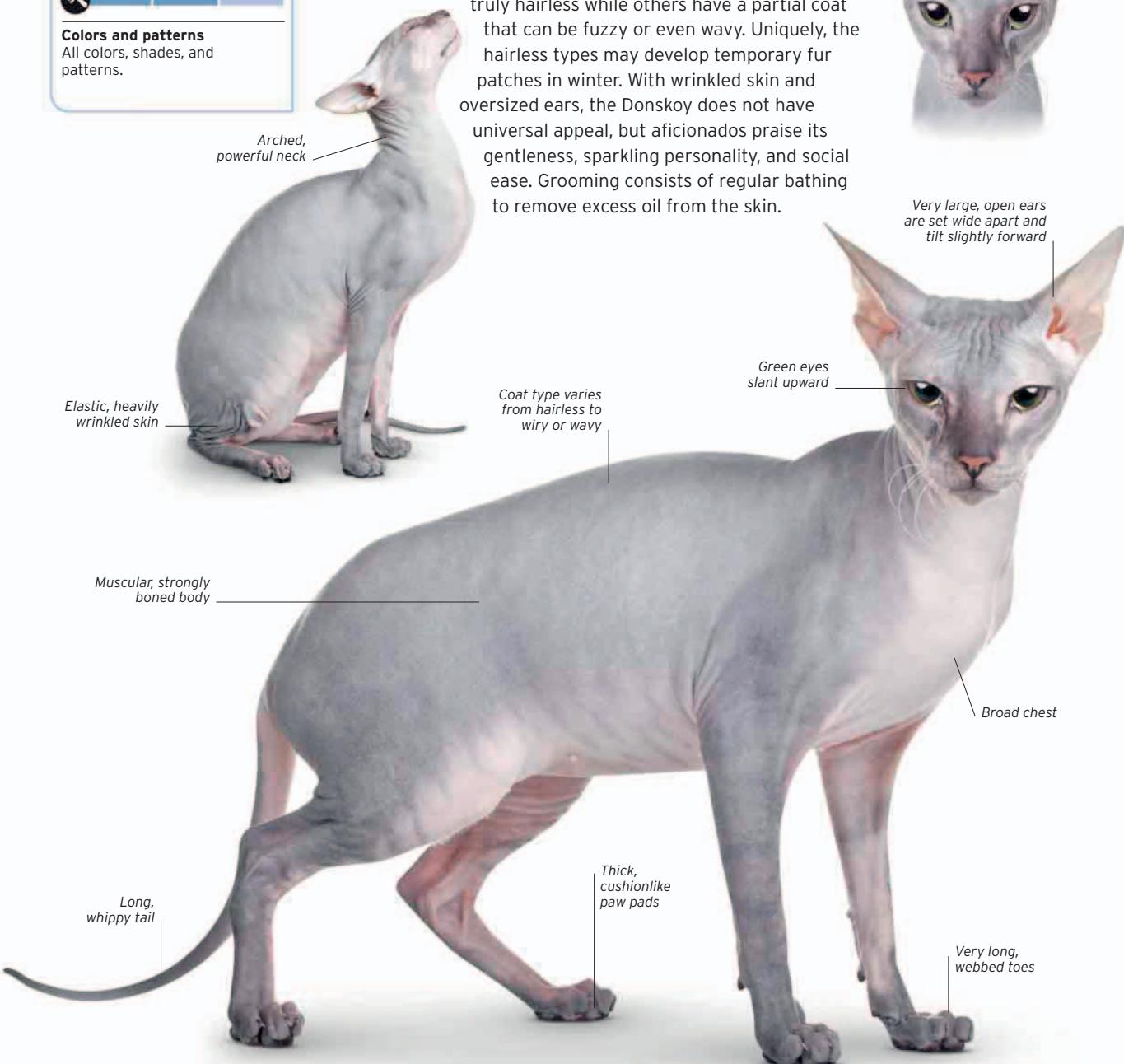


Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

The founder of this breed (also known as the Don Sphynx) was an ill-treated kitten rescued from the streets in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don. This stray lost its apparently normal coat as it matured, and produced offspring with the same mutation. Various coat types occur in the Donskoy—some individuals are

truly hairless while others have a partial coat that can be fuzzy or even wavy. Uniquely, the hairless types may develop temporary fur patches in winter. With wrinkled skin and oversized ears, the Donskoy does not have universal appeal, but aficionados praise its gentleness, sparkling personality, and social ease. Grooming consists of regular bathing to remove excess oil from the skin.



PETERBALD

AN ELEGANT, GRACEFUL BREED WITH A VARIETY OF COAT TYPES

Place of origin Russia

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries FIFe, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb
(3.5–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

Originating in Russia, the Peterbald is a fairly new breed created by crossing the Oriental Shorthair (pp.43–51) with the Donskoy (left). This cat is highly variable, and may be completely hairless, covered with a fine soft down, or possess a dense, stiff coat with a brushlike texture.

Kittens born with a coat may become hairless as they mature, sometimes retaining downy-coated points. The Peterbald has a pleasant temperament and makes a good family cat. Hairless or very thin-coated varieties need protection from the elements and are probably best kept indoors. The skin of hairless types may have a sticky feel and needs regular bathing.



Long, triangular head with high cheekbones

Firm, graceful body

Blunt muzzle

Long, fine-boned legs

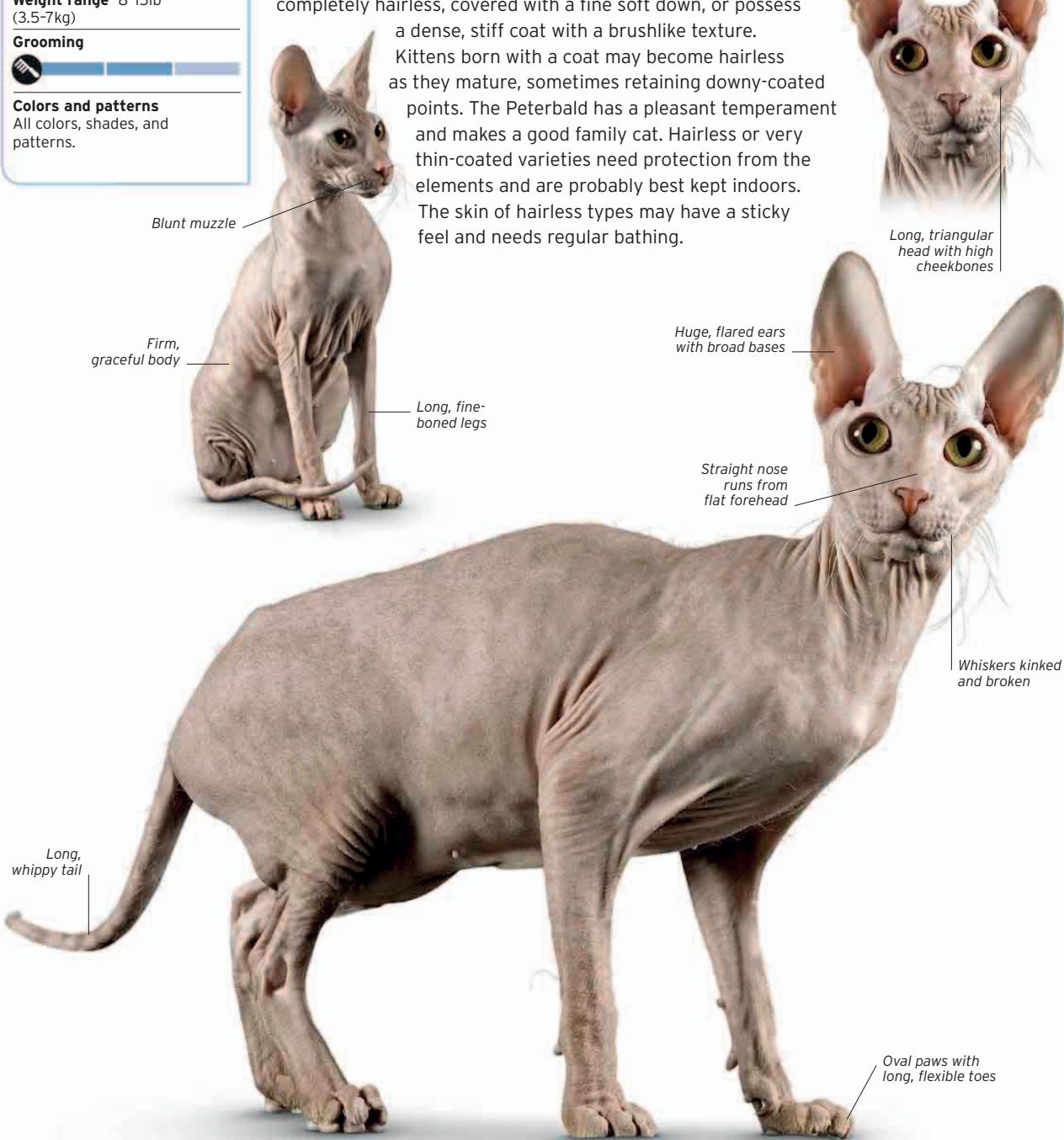
Huge, flared ears with broad bases

Straight nose runs from flat forehead

Whiskers kinked and broken

Long, whippy tail

Oval paws with long, flexible toes



URAL REX

THIS UNUSUAL-LOOKING REX BREED IS NOT YET WIDELY KNOWN

Place of origin	Russia
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	Other
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

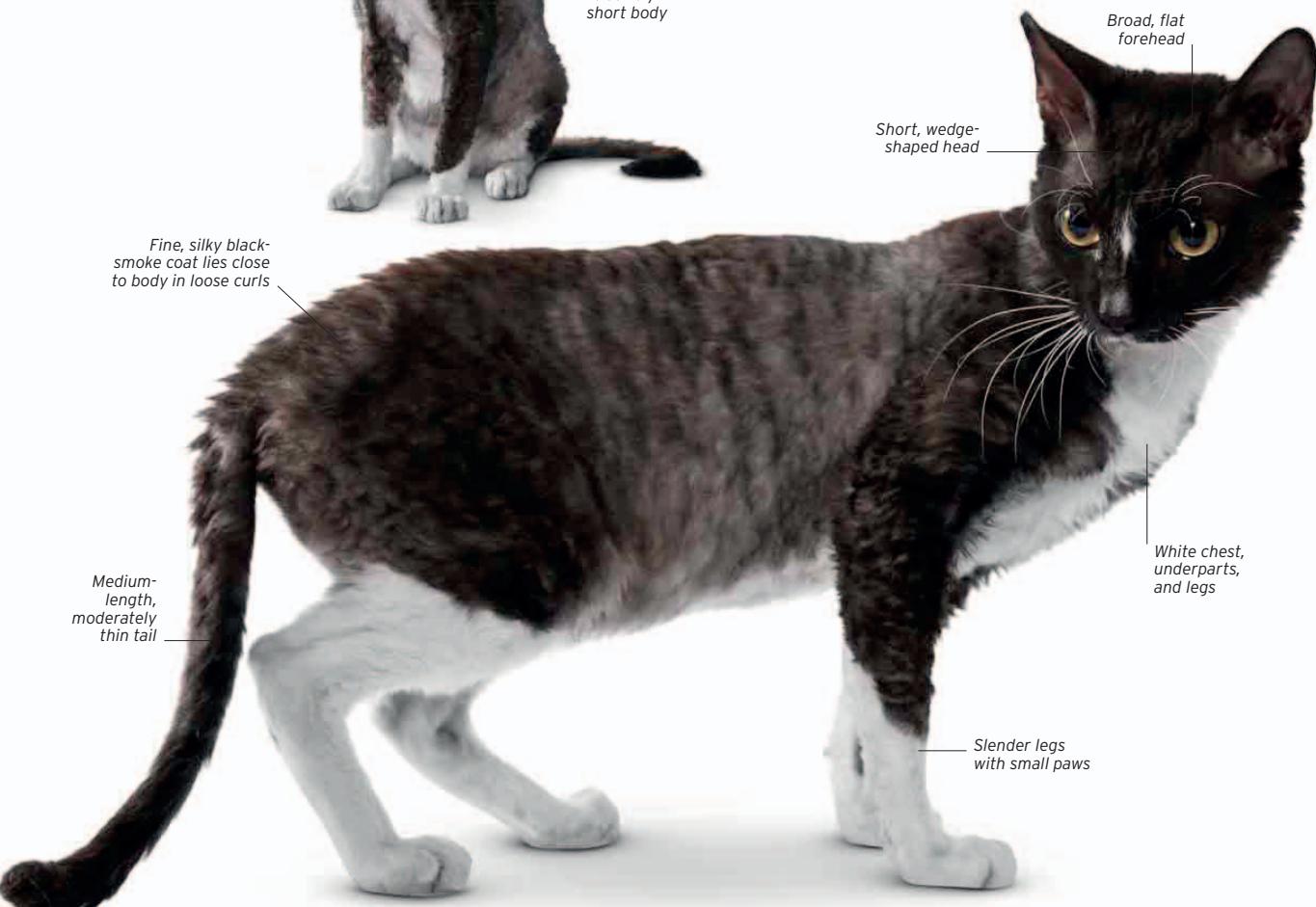
Colors and patterns
Various colors and patterns, including tabby.

Large, oval eyes set wide apart



Slim, muscular, relatively short body

Fine, silky black-smoke coat lies close to body in loose curls



Medium-length, moderately thin tail

Short, wedge-shaped head

White chest, underparts, and legs



Upright ears set high on head

Prominent cheekbones

Slender legs with small paws

The first of these wavy-coated cats was born near Yekaterinburg, a major Russian city set in the foothills of the Ural Mountains. Carefully developed over three decades, the Ural Rex is very popular among cat fanciers in Russia and is also now being bred in Germany. This breed's fine, dense, double coat may be short or semi-long; the distinctive, close-lying waves, which have an elastic quality, can take up to two years to develop fully. Grooming is not difficult but must be carried out regularly. The Ural Rex is described as a quiet and good-natured cat that makes an excellent household companion.

LAPERM

A BRIGHT AND INQUISITIVE CAT WITH A KITTENISH ENERGY THAT LASTS INTO ADULTHOOD

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries CFA,
GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8-12lb
(3.5-5.5kg)

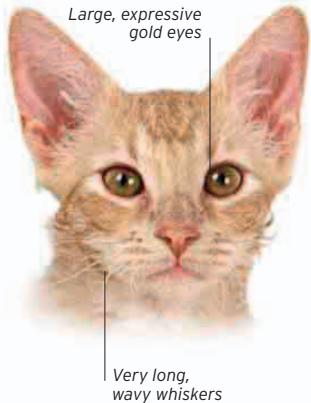
Grooming



Colors and patterns

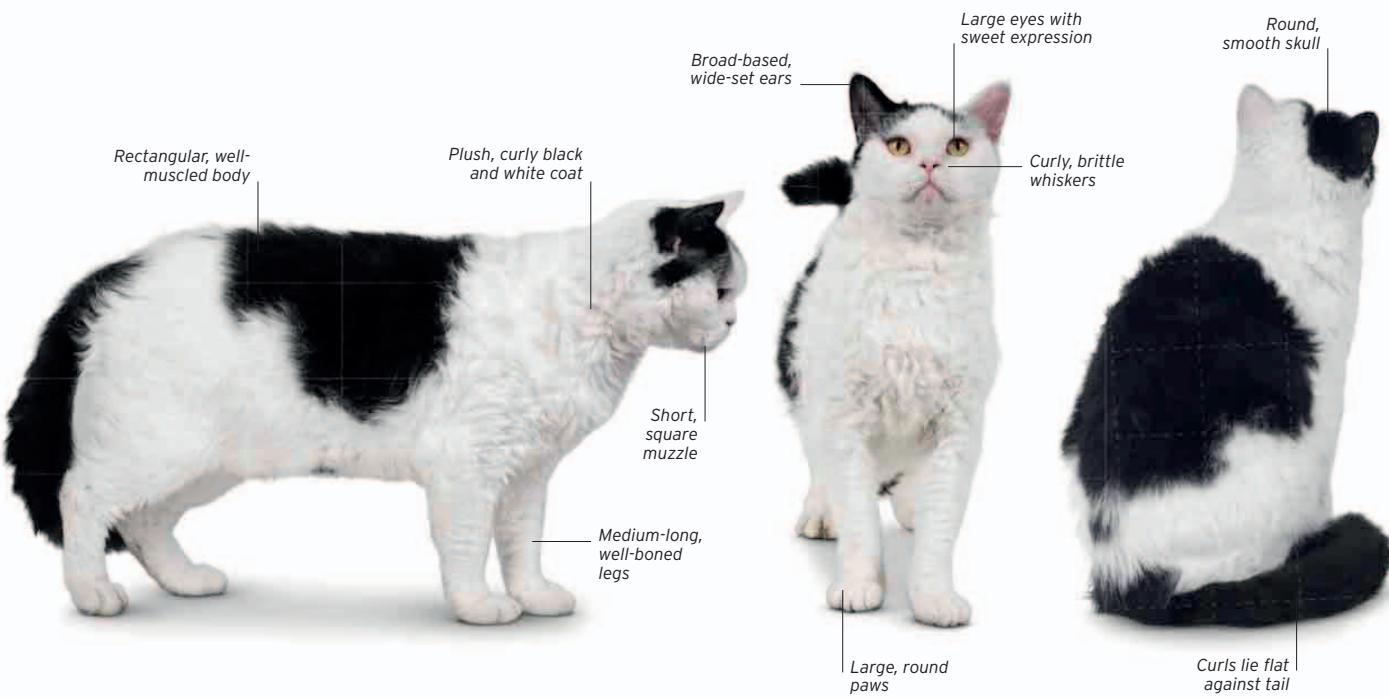
All colors, shades, and patterns, including colorpoint.

This rex-coated breed originated on a farm in Oregon and was later developed into both shorthaired and longhaired (pp.196-7) versions. The LaPerm has a highly strokable coat that may be either wavy or curly and has a light, springy texture. Outgoing and not shy about asking for attention, this cat makes a loving and lively pet. LaPerms adapt themselves easily to homes of all types and become deeply attached to their owners. They need company and should not be left alone for too long. Gentle combing or the occasional shampoo and towel dry are recommended as the best ways of maintaining the coat.



Kittens





SELKIRK REX

A HAPPY TEDDY BEAR OF A CAT THAT ENJOYS A LOT OF COMPANY

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries CFA, TICA

Weight range 7–11lb (3–5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

This cat takes its name from the Selkirk Mountains near its place of origin in Montana. Created in the late 1980s, the breed had its beginnings in an animal rescue center, where a curly coated kitten appeared among an otherwise straight-coated litter born to a feral cat. This kitten became the founding female of the Selkirk Rex. As the breed was developed, planned matings with pedigree cats produced both the Selkirk Rex shorthair and a longer-coated type (p.194) that was the result of crosses with Persians. Straight-coated variants are common in litters of both types.

The dense, soft coat of the Selkirk Rex falls into random curls or waves, rather than in the neat lines sometimes seen in other rex breeds. A greater degree of curl often occurs around the neck and belly. The whiskers are sparse and curly, and tend to snap off easily.

Grooming a Selkirk Rex is not difficult but a light touch is advisable, because overly vigorous brushing can flatten out the curls.

Though calm and tolerant, this cat is far from staid and loves a hug. Selkirks stay kittenish for years and always enjoy games.

GOING CURLY

The curls of a Selkirk Rex can take up to two years to develop fully. Kittens are born with curly coats that usually straighten out for a few months before starting to turn curly again when the cat is about eight months old.





GROWING A FULL COAT

All Cornish Rex kittens are born with wavy coats, but some of them lose this for a few weeks and have a temporary, suedelike covering. By three months, the waves should be nearly fully formed.



CORNISH REX

THIS ATHLETIC CAT HAS CURLS FROM WHISKERS TO TAIL

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6–9lb (2.5–4kg)

Grooming



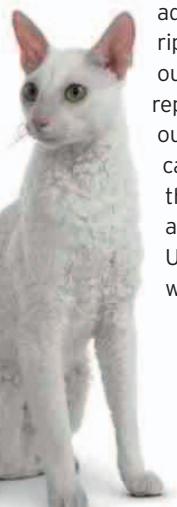
Colors and patterns

All solid and shaded colors and patterns, including tabby, tortoiseshell, colorpoint, and bicolor.

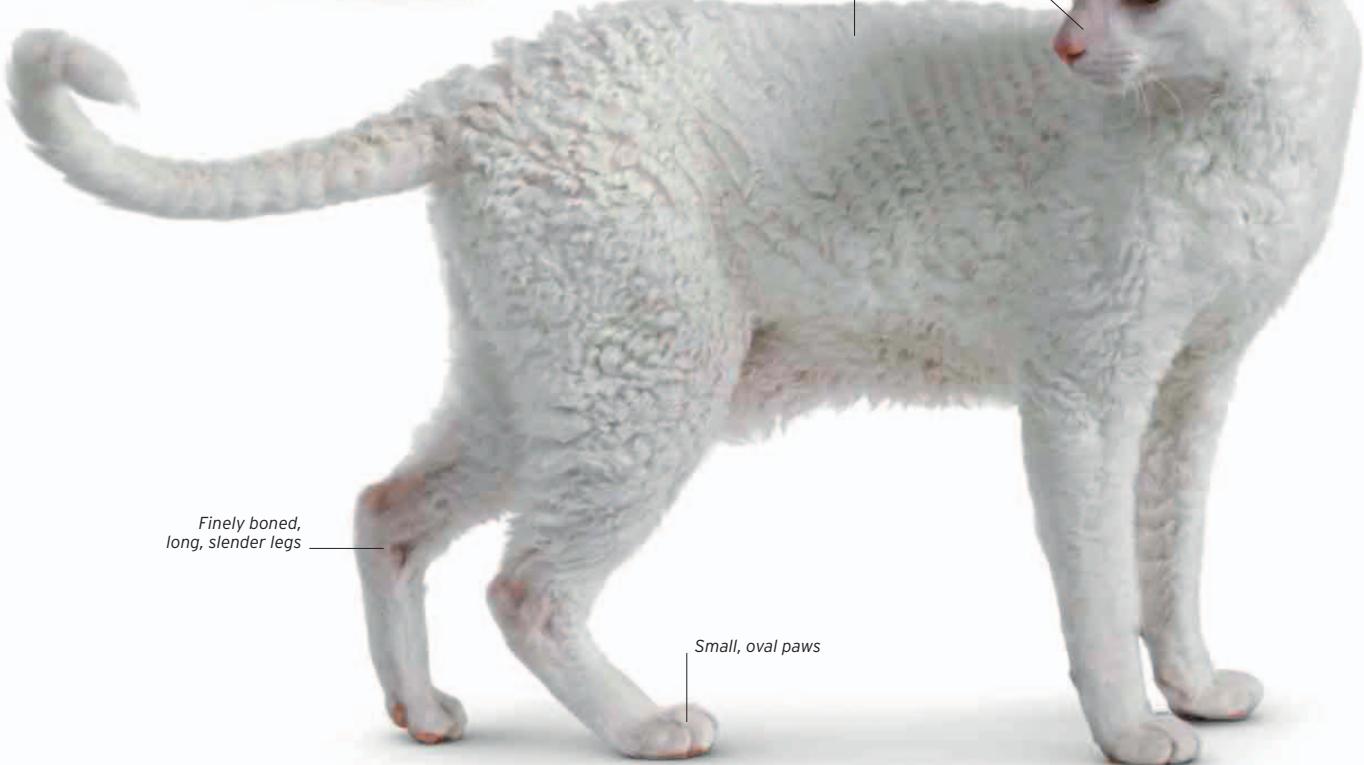
The founder of this svelte breed was a wavy-coated male cat born in a Cornish farmhouse. Descendants of this original sire were crossed with other breeds—including the Siamese (pp.54–7), Russian Blue (p.66), and American (p.61) and British Shorthairs (pp.68–77)—improving the stamina and genetic diversity of the Cornish Rex, and

adding a wide variety of colors. With its super fine, rippled coat and streamlined body, this cat stands out from all the rest. It is an extrovert with a large repertoire of amusing antics and a kittenish outlook on life, but turns into an affectionate lap cat when play is over. Because of its thin coat, this breed is vulnerable to temperature extremes and should be groomed with a light touch. In the US it has developed differently and has a more wedge-shaped head.

Slim, elongated, well-muscled body

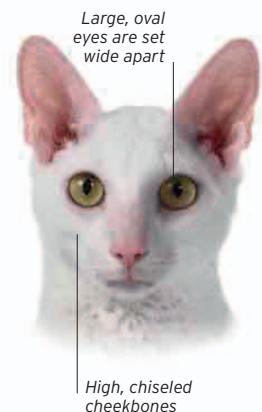


Short, fine, white coat forms tight, uniform waves



Finely boned, long, slender legs

Small, oval paws



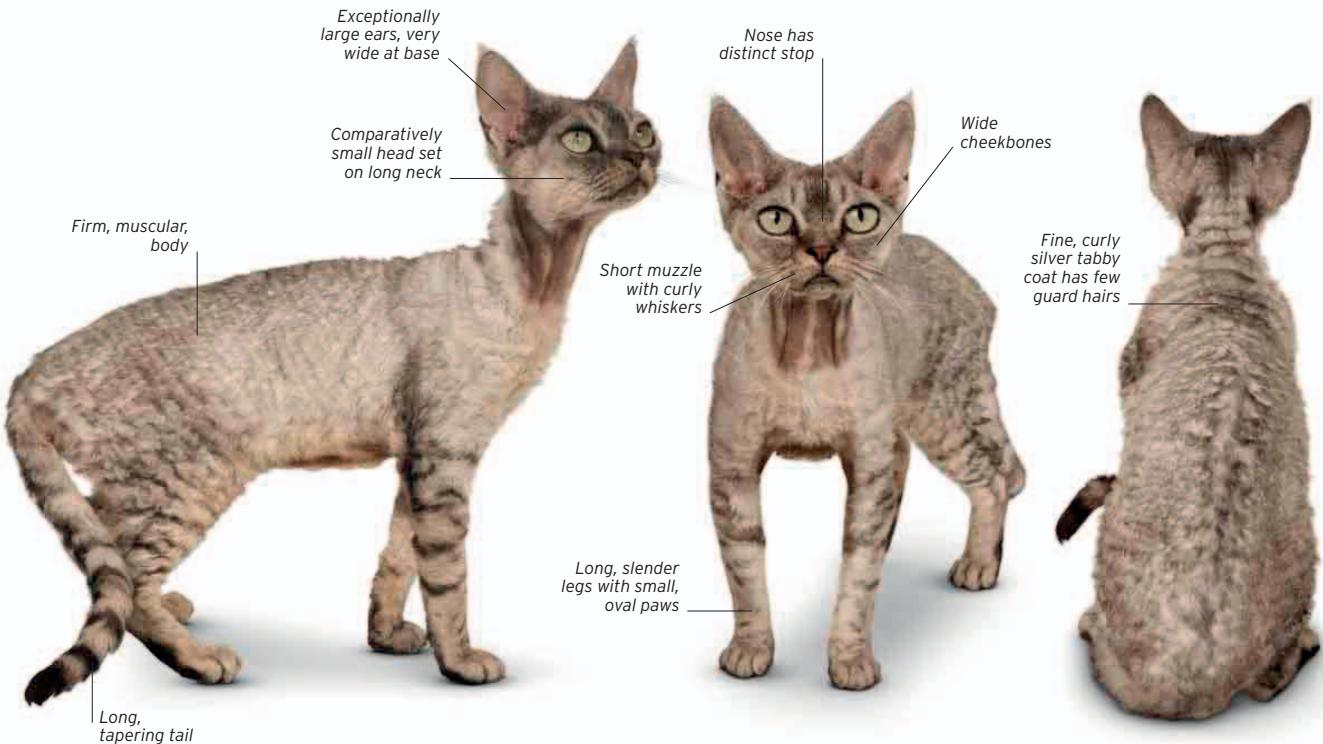
Large, oval eyes are set wide apart
High, chiseled cheekbones

Fairly small, wedge-shaped head

Straight nose



Outer ear is hairless



DEVON REX

NICKNAMED THE PIXIE CAT, THIS MISCHIEVOUS BREED HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF ENERGY

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6–9lb (2.5–4kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

A **curly coated feral tom** and an adopted stray tortoiseshell were the founders of this highly specialized breed, which originated in Buckfastleigh, Devon, UK. A litter produced by this unlikely pair included a curly coated kitten, which was used in the first program to develop the breed. To begin with, it was assumed that this new Devonian line could be crossed with the Cornish Rex (p.127), another wavy-coated breed discovered a short distance away and a few years earlier. When only normal-coated kittens resulted from the matings, it was realized that two different recessive genes, arising in surprisingly close geographical proximity, had produced slightly different rexed coats.

The coat of the Devon Rex is fine and very short, with few guard hairs. Ideally, the waves should be loose and distributed

evenly over the body, but the degree of wave or curl varies from cat to cat and may alter with seasonal shedding of hair or as a cat matures. The whiskers are crinkly and tend to be brittle, breaking off before reaching full length. Because of their thin coats, these cats can seem warmer to the touch than most breeds, but they easily become chilled and need a draft-proof accommodation. A Devon Rex's coat usually needs little more than a wipe-down to keep it in good condition; these cats will also tolerate gentle bathing, provided they are introduced to water when they are young kittens.

Despite its slender, leggy appearance, the Devon Rex is far from fragile, and possesses boundless energy for playing games and scaling heights. This cat adores attention and is not suitable for a family that will be away from the home all day.



GERMAN REX

A CAT THAT NEEDS PLENTY OF QUALITY TIME WITH ITS HUMAN FAMILY

Place of origin Germany

Date of origin 1940s

Breed registries FIFe

Weight range 6-10lb
(2.5-4.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.



Kittens



A feral cat adopted in Berlin just after the end of World War II was the founding female of this breed. As the German Rex was developed, cats were imported to other parts of Europe and to the US. The wavy coat of this cat arises through the same mutant gene that appears in the Cornish Rex (p.127), which for some years was included in German Rex breeding programs; in some countries the two breeds are not recognized as separate. A good-natured and friendly cat, the German Rex will play with anyone but also likes quiet times staying close to its owners. Since the short coat does not absorb natural oils efficiently, regular bathing is necessary.



AMERICAN WIREHAIR

THIS VERSATILE, FRIENDLY CAT IS HAPPY INDOORS OR OUTDOORS AND WITH FAMILIES OF ALL AGES

Place of origin	USA
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	 

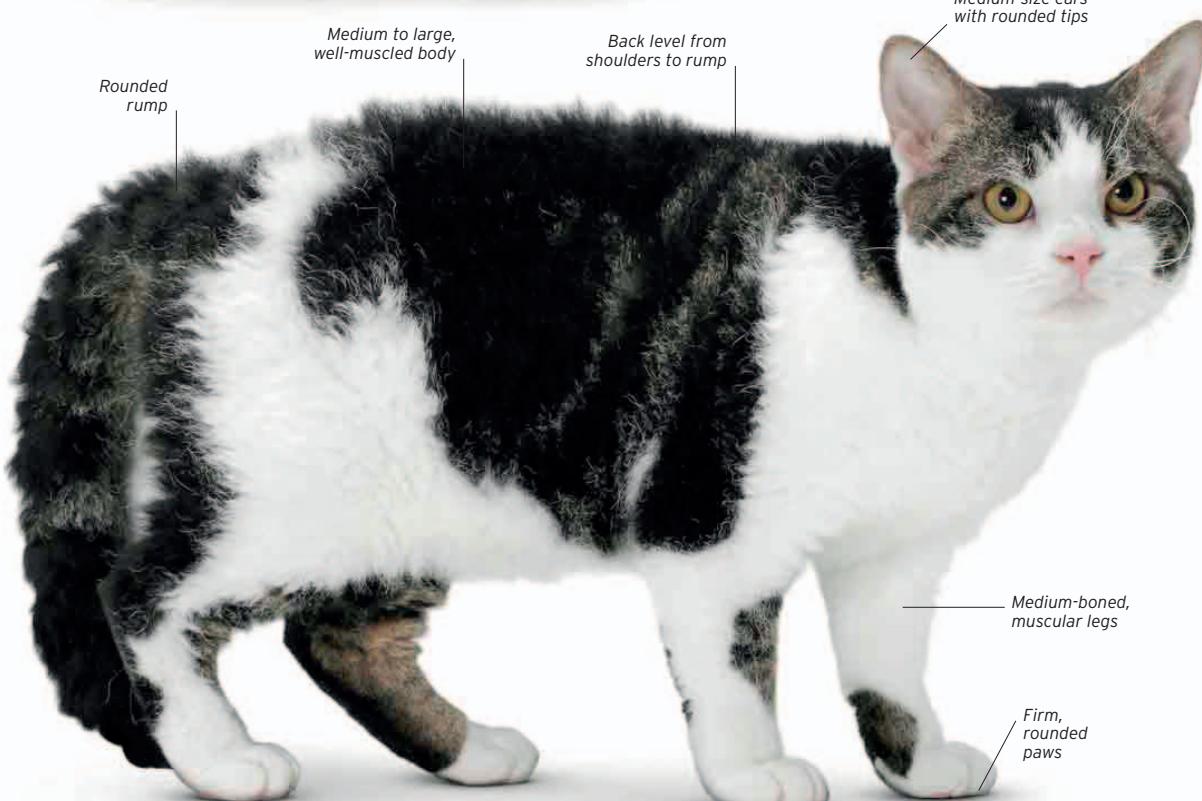
Colors and patterns

Variety of solid colors and shades in various patterns, including bicolor, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

In New York State, in 1966, a wire-haired kitten appeared in a litter born to two domestic cats with normal coats. This was the founder of the American Wirehair breed, which was later developed by using American Shorthairs (p.61). The genetic mutation that produced the distinctive coat is not known to have occurred anywhere outside the US. In a Wirehair, each hair is crimped and bends over or forms a hook at the end, resulting in a coarse, springy texture that has been likened to steel wool. In some cats the coat can be brittle, so grooming—preferably by bathing—should be gentle to avoid damage.



Dense, springy brown classic tabby and white coat with crimped hairs and coarse texture



Medium-size ears with rounded tips

Medium-boned, muscular legs

Firm, rounded paws

HOUSE CAT-SHORTHAIR

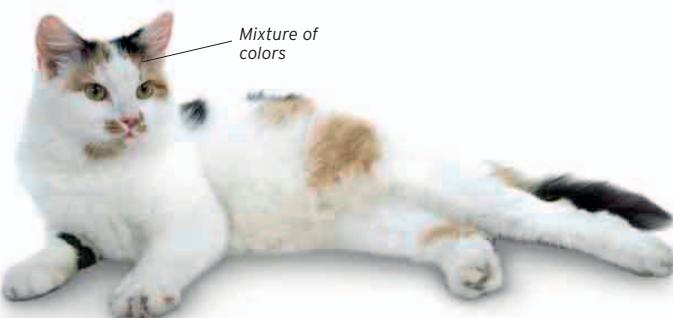
THESE HARDY CATS MAKE EXCELLENT, EASY-TO-KEEP PETS

The first domestic cats had short coats, and the type still predominates wherever in the world cats are kept as house pets. Random-bred shorthairs occur in nearly every possible color permutation, with tabbies, torties, and traditional solid colors being the most common. The majority of these cats are solidly in the middle range when it comes to body shape. Selective breeding, which has created some extreme lines, has largely bypassed the shorthaired house cat, although occasionally a hint of, for example, the lean Oriental shape suggests an out-of-the-ordinary parentage.



BLUE AND WHITE

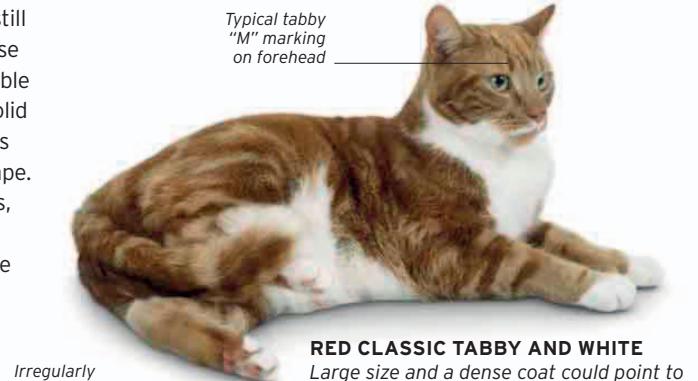
In house cats white markings are rarely as symmetrical as those considered desirable in pedigrees. However, a solid color splashed with white is always striking, and a random effect adds individual charm.



CALICO

Tortoiseshell, or tortie, patterning occurs in many color forms, black and red being the traditional combination. A calico, tortie with white areas over more than half its body, is known as a tortie and white cat in the UK.

Irregularly spaced ring markings on tail



RED CLASSIC TABBY AND WHITE

Large size and a dense coat could point to British or American Shorthair in the history of this handsome cat. However, his green eyes may be part of a different inheritance.



BROWN TABBY

The broken stripes on this cat are, in fact, intermediate between mackerel and spotted tabby patterns. Tabby markings often occur in domestic cats and show up well on short coats.



BLUE MACKEREL TABBY AND WHITE

While tabbies with white markings are very common, the blue variation would be a lucky find in a random-bred cat. This one's markings are indistinct against the background color.



CHARACTER COUNTS

Inevitably, looks attract when it comes to choosing a cat as a companion. However, the majority of owners value a pet's personality over perfect coloring or conformity to a breed standard.



RAGDOLL

One of the largest pedigree cats, the semi-longhaired Ragdoll was developed in the 1960s. This spectacular breed comes in several dramatic patterns, all with bright blue eyes.

LONGHAIRS

It is thought that long hair in domestic cats arose as a natural genetic mutation, most likely in response to cold climates. Where this advantageous gene was passed on among cats living in isolated areas, such as mountain regions, longhaired populations would have arisen. Wild cats with long coats are a rarity and have no role in the ancestry of domestic longhairs.



The curly coated Selkirk Rex longhair is an unusual variation

Types of longhair

The first longhaired cats seen in Western Europe arrived some time in the 16th century. These were the Angoras, a slender, silky-coated Turkish breed that enjoyed a certain popularity until they were usurped by a new type of longhair, the Persian, in the 19th century. Sturdier than the Angoras, Persians had longer, thicker fur, immense tails, and round faces. By the end of the 19th century they were the longhair of choice for cat lovers. The Angora vanished, not to be seen again until the breed was re-created by enthusiasts in the 1960s (p.159).

The Persian remains a steady favorite, but since the 20th century other longhairs have been attracting attention. These include cats described as semi-longhaired, which have medium-long coats but a less dense, fluffy undercoat than the Persian. One of the most magnificent of the semi-longhairs is the Maine Coon,



native to North America. Huge and handsome, this breed has a shaggy look due to the variable length of the hair in its topcoat. Almost equally striking is the big blue-eyed Ragdoll, while the brush-tailed Somali has the graceful lines of the Abyssinian cat from which it was developed. More in the style of the original Angoras is the beautiful Balinese—a semi-longhair version of the Siamese—which has silky, flowing, close-lying fur.

Striving for yet more variety, breeders have crossed longhairs with some of the more unusual shorthairs. Bobtails, curled-ear and folded-ear breeds, the wavy-coated Selkirk Rex, and the LaPerm with its fleecelike curly fur are all now found with luxuriantly long coats.

Grooming longhairs

Many longhaired cats shed their coats heavily, especially in the warmer seasons, when they can have a much sleeker

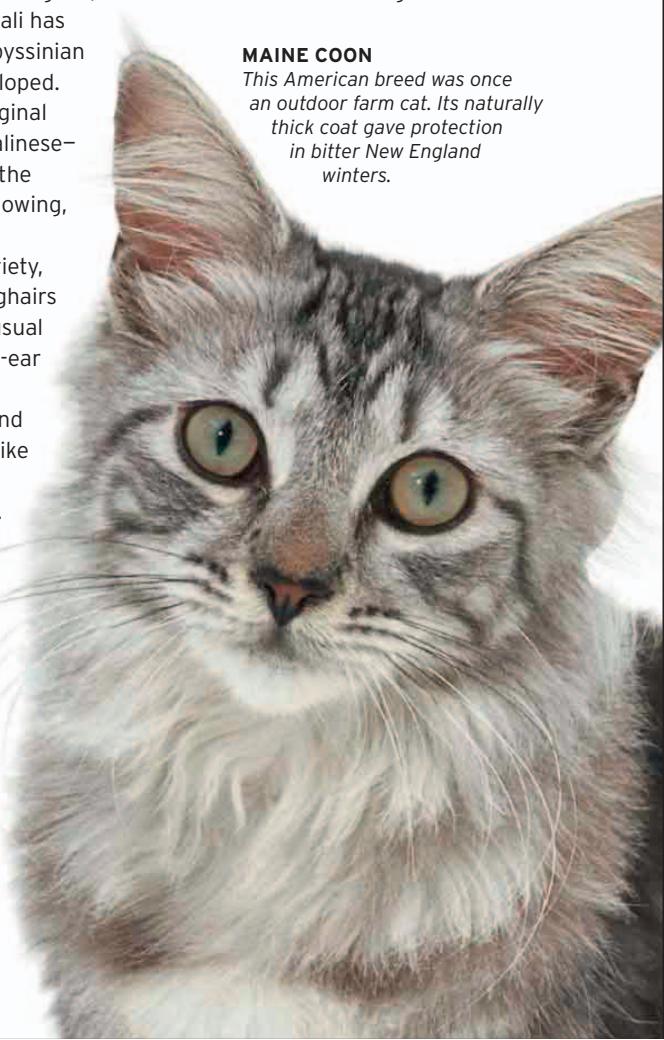
PERSIAN

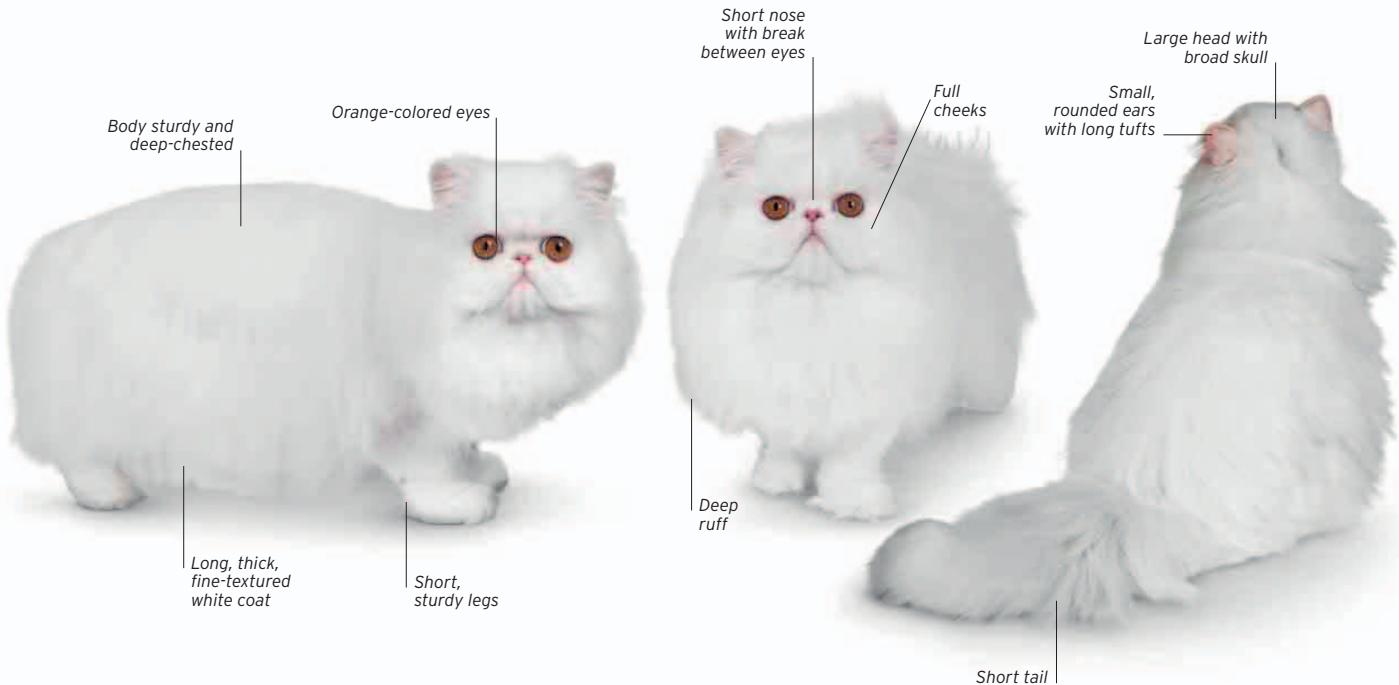
For more than a hundred years the extravagantly coated Persian has been the most popular longhair.

appearance. Frequent grooming—a daily session may be needed in some breeds—keeps loose hairs to a minimum and prevents the thick undercoat from matting.

MAINE COON

This American breed was once an outdoor farm cat. Its naturally thick coat gave protection in bitter New England winters.





PERSIAN-SOLID

THIS CHARMING CAT IS THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE WORLD'S FAVORITE LONGHAIR

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	
Colors and patterns	Black, white, blue, red, cream, chocolate, and lilac.

By the end of the 19th century, when pedigree cat shows were starting to attract worldwide interest, the Persian (sometimes referred to as the Longhair) was already very popular in the US and the UK. This luxuriously coated cat came to the show benches after a long but obscure history in Europe, and it is not known whether the true ancestors of the breed did, in fact, originate in Persia (Iran). The first recognized Persians were solid-colored, that is, they had coats of one solid color.

The earliest known examples of the breed were pure white, often with blue eyes—a color combination commonly associated with deafness unless breeding is carefully managed. Cross-breeding with solid Persians in other colors produced orange eyes, and white Persians with orange, blue, or different-colored eyes (one of each color) became accepted. Queen Victoria can be given credit for making blue Persians popular—they were her favorite cats—and

black and red were other early solid colors. Since about the 1920s onward, further solid-colored varieties have been developed, including cream, chocolate, and lilac.

Characteristically, a Persian has a round head with a flat face, snub nose, and large, round, appealing eyes. The body is compact and sturdily built, and the legs are short and strong. The magnificently thick, long coat is a major commitment for the owner of a Persian. Daily grooming is a must to prevent the fur from tangling or developing impenetrable mats that are hard to remove.

Persians are renowned for their gentle, affectionate temperament and home-loving personality. These are definitely not action cats, although they can be charmingly playful if offered a toy.

The flattened features of the Persian, overemphasized in modern breeding programs, have led to health issues. Breathing difficulties and problems with the tear ducts are common in this cat.



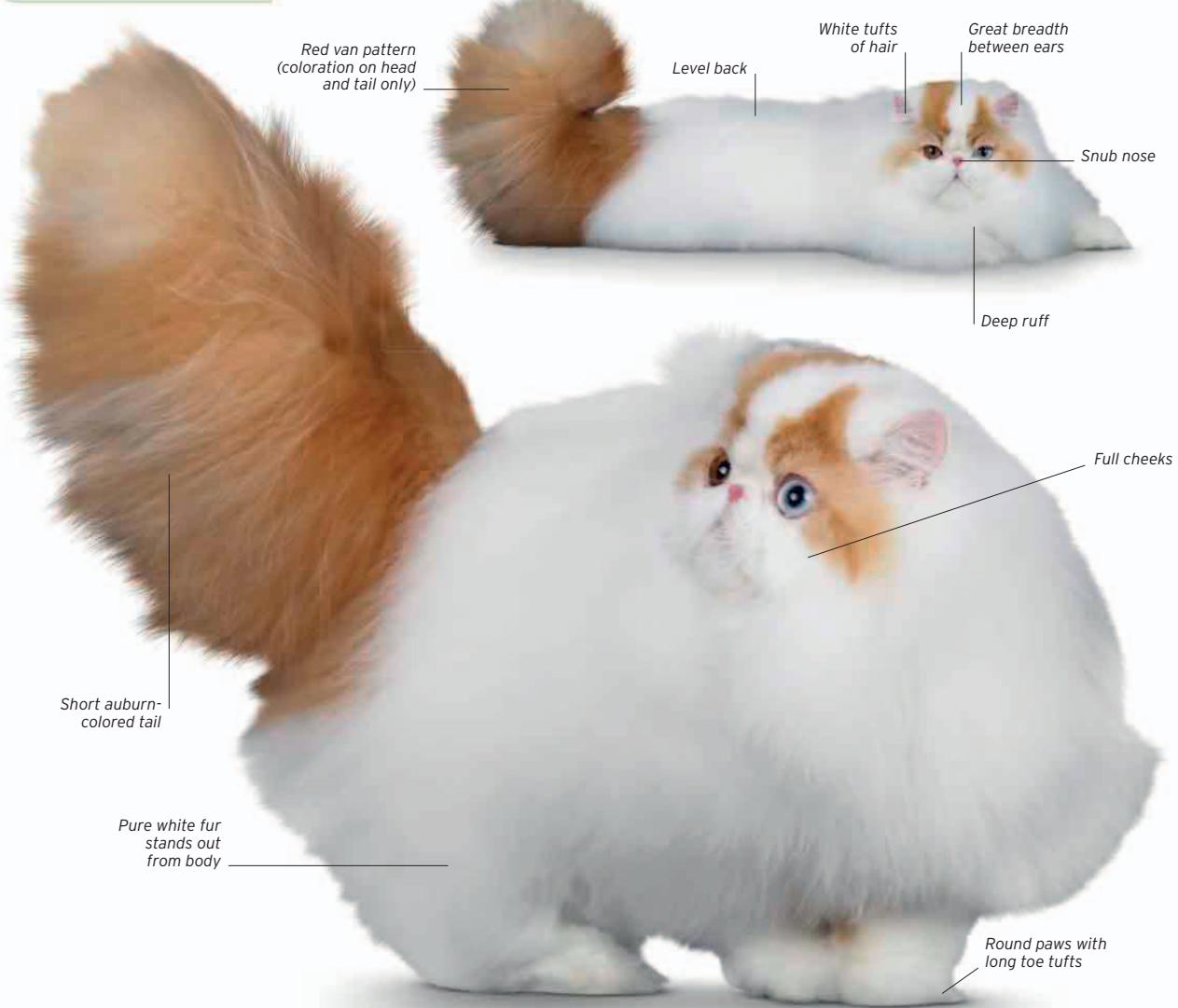
PERSIAN-BLUE- AND ODD-EYED BICOLOR

THESE UNCOMMON PERSIANS ARE HARD TO FIND BUT THEIR POPULARITY IS ON THE RISE

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1900s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
White with various solid colors, including black, red, blue, cream, chocolate, and lilac.

Accepted in the cat fancy world only since the late 1990s, the Blue- and Odd-eyed Bicolor and Tricolor are variations of the Persian Bicolor (p.154). The Odd-eyed is less common than the Blue-eyed, although its enchantingly different look is increasing in popularity. In this cat one eye is blue and the other copper, with both eyes equally brilliant in color. The mismatch is difficult to produce, since mating between two odd-eyed cats does not guarantee a litter of odd-eyed kittens.



PERSIAN-CAMEO

THIS BREED HAS SOFTLY BLENDED COLORS IN A RIPPLING COAT

Place of origin US, Australia, and New Zealand

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Red, cream, black, blue, lilac, and chocolate solid colors and tortoiseshell patterns.

Regarded by many cat fanciers as the most glamorous of all the Persian colors, this version was developed in the 1950s by crossing Smoke (p.148) and Tortoiseshell (p.152) longhairs. The fur of a Cameo is white with color, most often a shade of red, carried at the ends of the hair shafts to varying degrees.

In the “tipped” variety, the color appears only at the very tip of each hair, but extends to up to a third of the hair shaft in “shaded” cats. Cameo gives the effect, especially as the cat moves, of changing hues.



Deep copper eyes

Pink nose leather

Shading on legs

Cream shaded cameo coat

Pale inner ear tufts

Darker markings on face

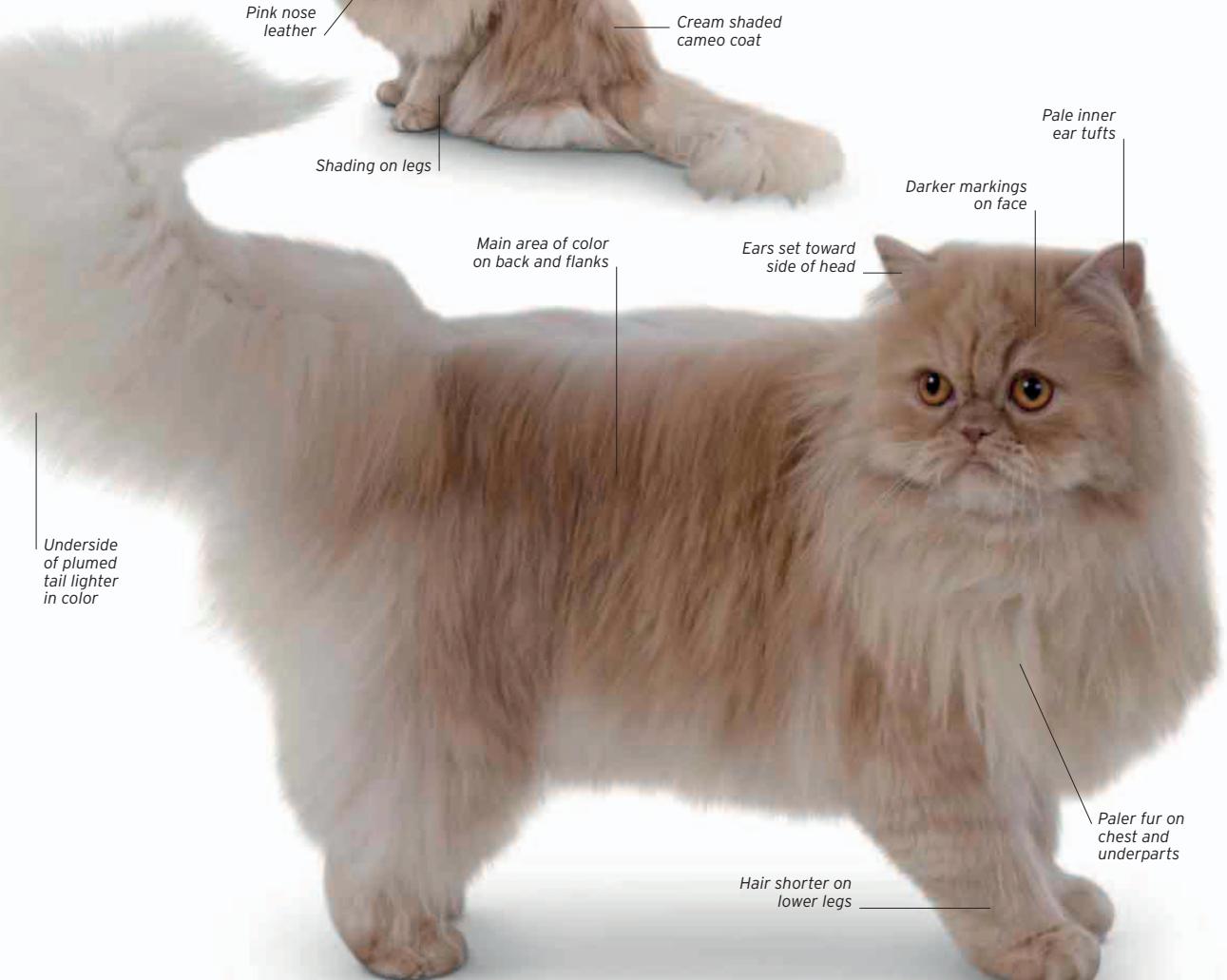
Main area of color on back and flanks

Ears set toward side of head

Underside of plumed tail lighter in color

Hair shorter on lower legs

Paler fur on chest and underparts



PERSIAN-CHINCHILLA

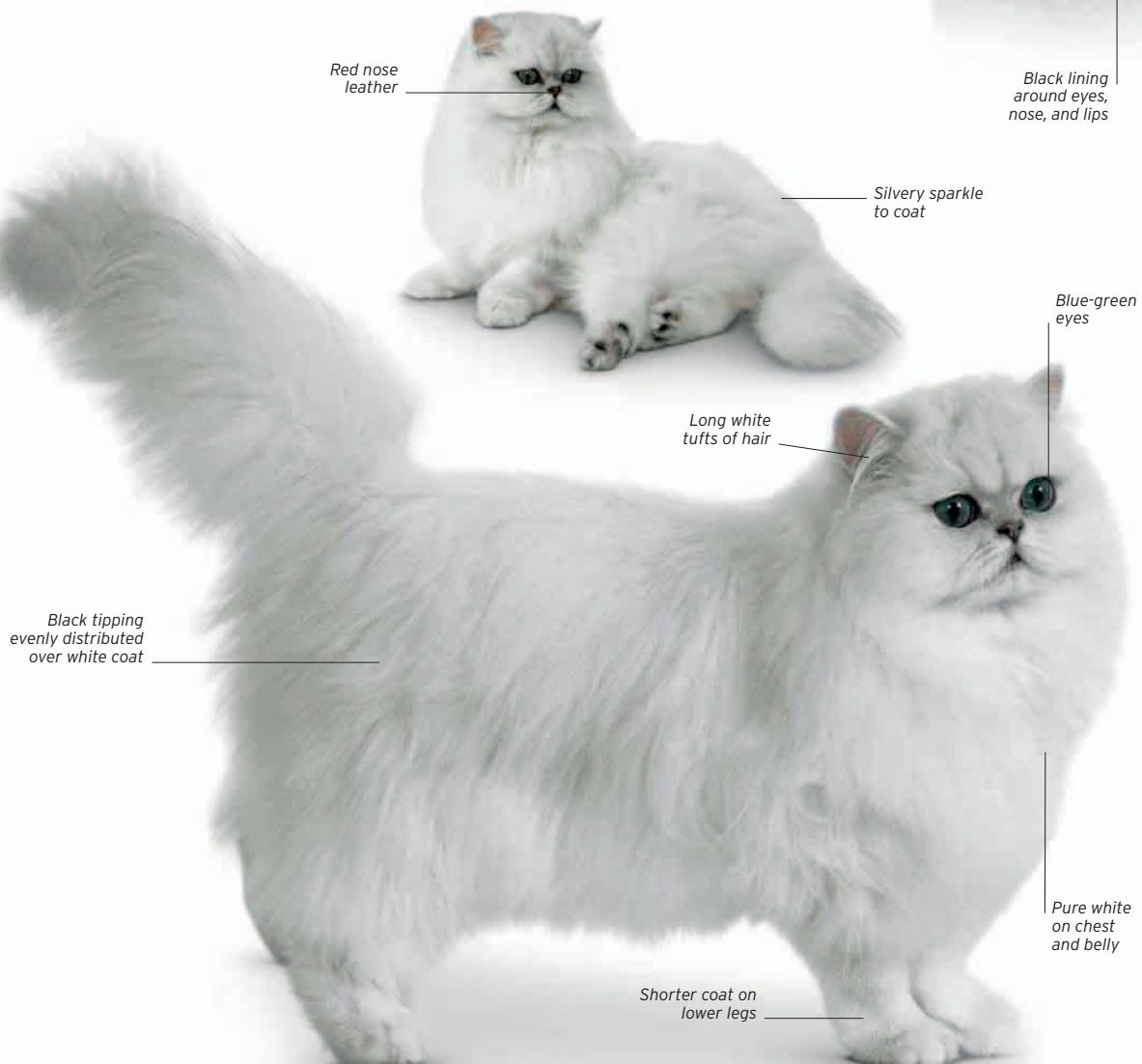
THIS SILVERY-COATED BREED HAS MOVIE-STAR LOOKS

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1880s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
White, tipped with black.

The first Chinchilla appeared in the 1880s, but it was the

James Bond series of films, starting in the 1960s, that brought this cat fame when it was seen on screen as the pet of the super-spy's archenemy, Blofeld. Chinchillas have a shimmering, silvery-white coat in which each hair is tipped with black. The breed's name derives from the likeness of its coat coloration to that of a small South American rodent called the chinchilla, once a victim of the fashion trade for its beautiful, soft fur.



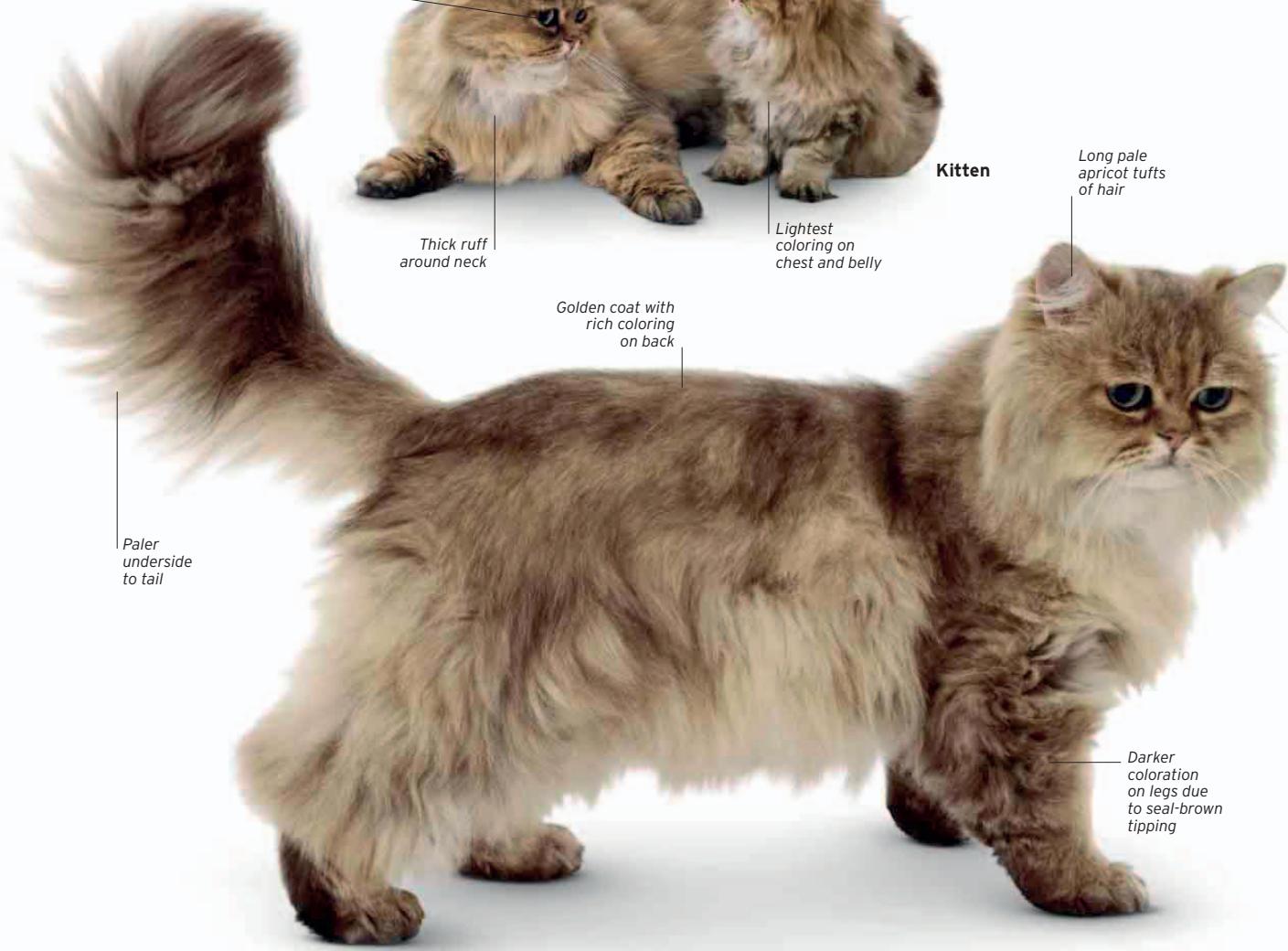
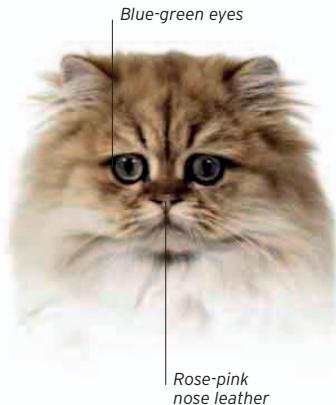
PERSIAN-GOLDEN

ONCE REGARDED AS THE WRONG COLOR, THIS CAT IS NOW A MUCH-PRIZED PET

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1920s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Apricot to golden with seal-brown or black tipping.

Recognized as a new breed in the US since the 1970s, this cat has a gloriously colored coat of rich apricot to golden fur that is widely admired. Yet the first Golden Persians, which appeared in the 1920s in litters born to Chinchillas (opposite), were regarded as rejects as far as the pedigree cat world was concerned. They were known generally as brownies, and, though barred from the show bench, made appealing pets. Later, breeders saw the potential of Goldens and worked to develop this lovely Persian variation.



PERSIAN—PEWTER

THIS STRIKING, COPPER-EYED CAT HAS AN ATTRACTIVELY TIPPED COAT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1900s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming

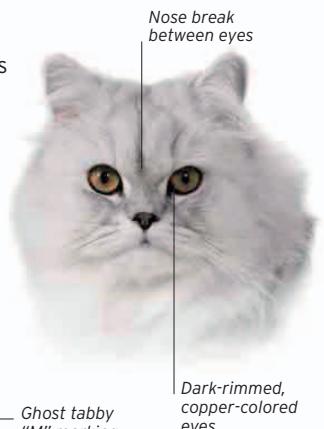


Colors and patterns

Very pale with black or blue tipping.

Years of careful breeding

, at first using crosses with Persian Chinchillas (p.140), produced the two current variations of Pewter. These cats, originally referred to as Blue Chinchillas, have pale, almost white, coats with blue- or black-tipped hair. This coloration gives the effect of a mantle extending from the top of the head and down the back. Pewter kittens are born with traditional tabby markings, which gradually fade in intensity but are still retained to some degree in adult cats. The very special look of this breed is enhanced by its characteristic deep orange to copper-colored eyes.



Darkest tipping on back and flanks

Very pale chest

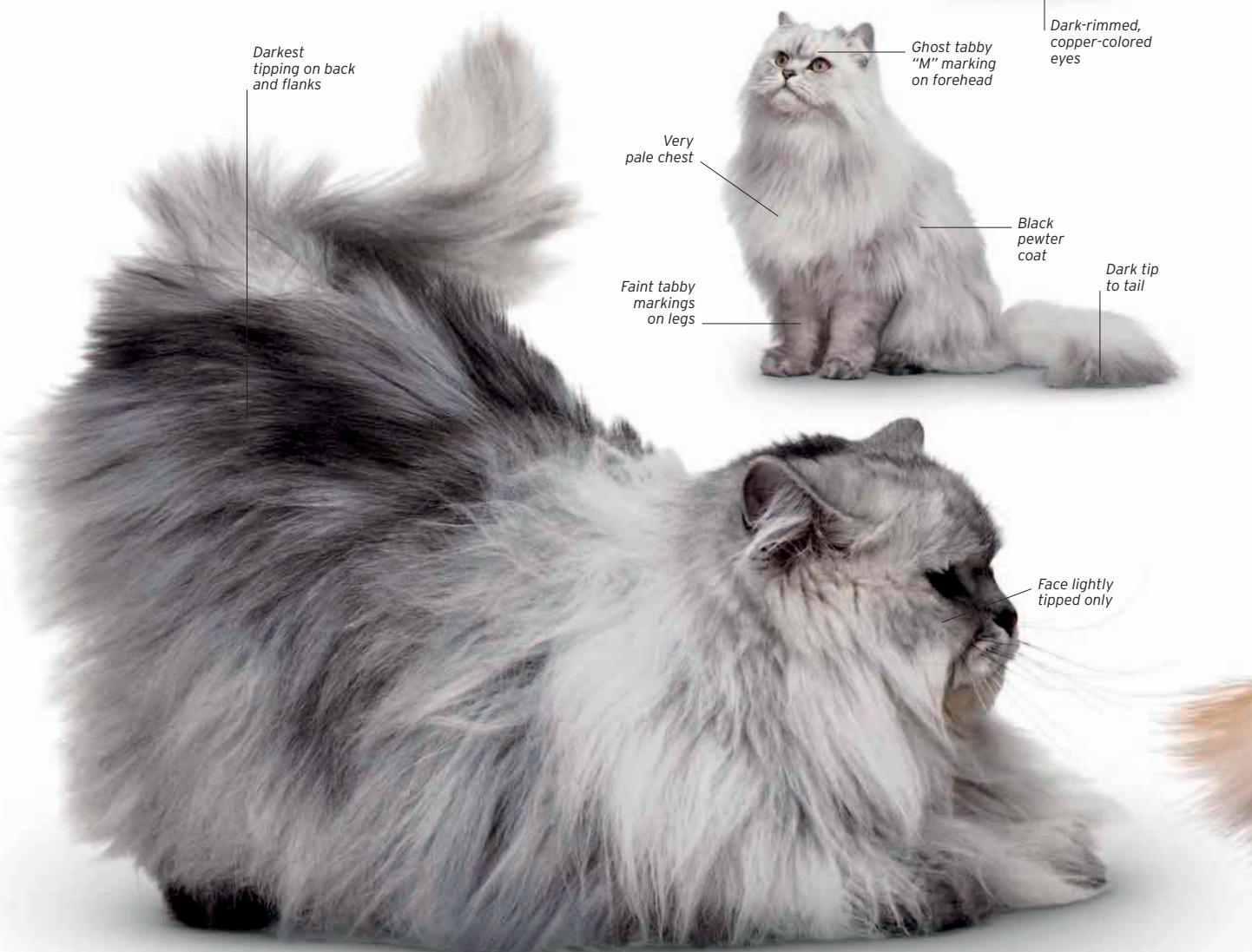
Faint tabby markings on legs

Ghost tabby "M" marking on forehead

Black pewter coat

Dark tip to tail

Face lightly tipped only



PERSIAN-CAMEO BICOLOR

THIS LOVELY BREED IS TRULY A PERSIAN OF MANY COLORS

Place of origin US, New Zealand, and Australia

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

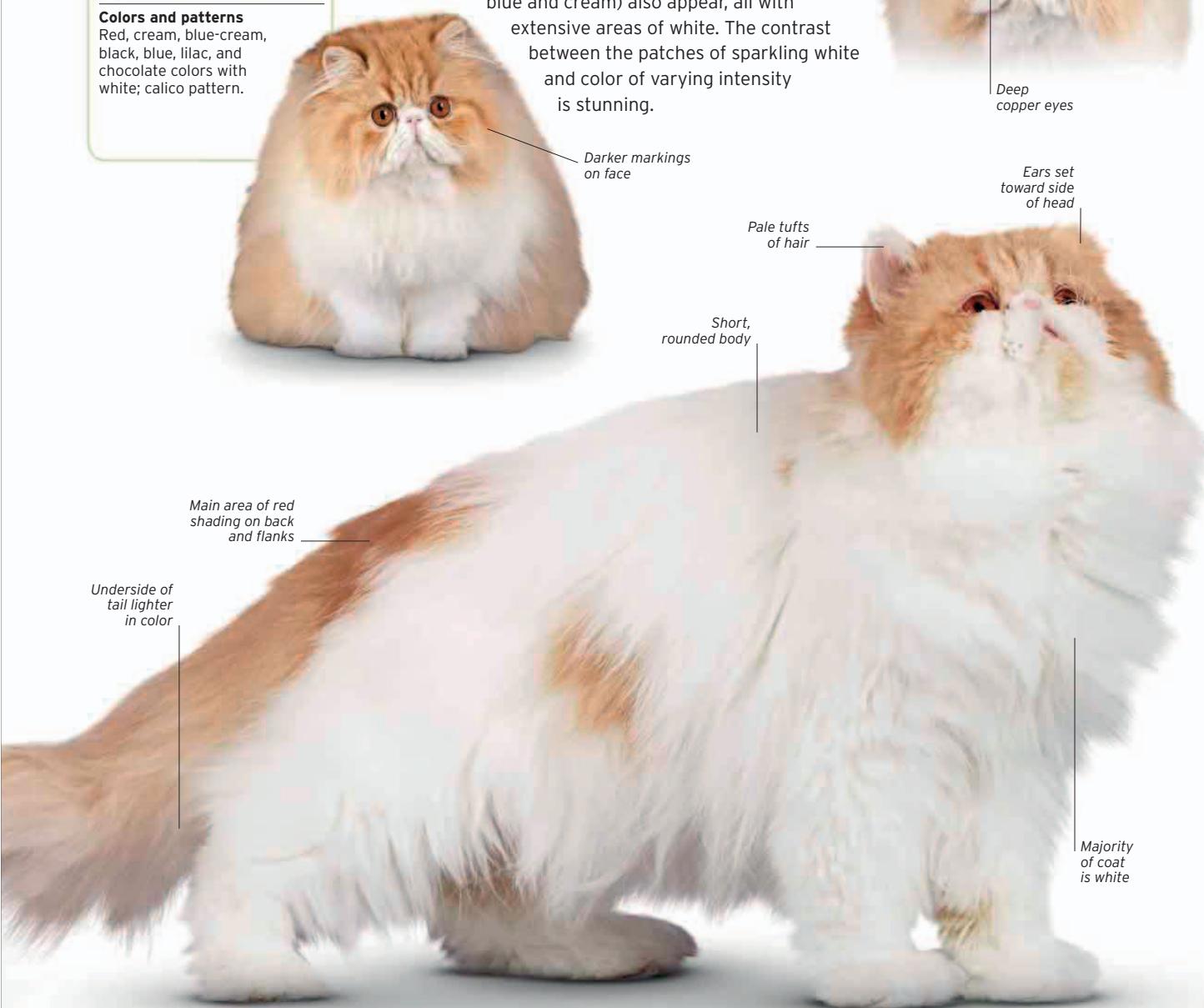
Grooming



Colors and patterns

Red, cream, blue-cream, black, blue, lilac, and chocolate colors with white; calico pattern.

The color combinations of this version of the Cameo (p.139) are almost endless. As well as the shading and tipping that characterize the Cameo coat, in which the hair shafts are colored only part way along their length, the addition of both bicolor and tricolor patterns make this breed seem like many different cats. Shades of red are common, but black, blue, chocolate, cream, and tortoiseshell (black and red, or blue and cream) also appear, all with extensive areas of white. The contrast between the patches of sparkling white and color of varying intensity is stunning.



ASSORTED COLORS

Persian cats come in nearly every color imaginable. When the breed first became popular in the 19th century, only solid colors were seen, but enthusiasts have been creating new shades ever since.





PERSIAN-SHADED SILVER

AN EXQUISITELY COLORED CAT WITH LUMINOUS BLUE-GREEN EYES

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1800s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8-15lb (3.5-7kg)

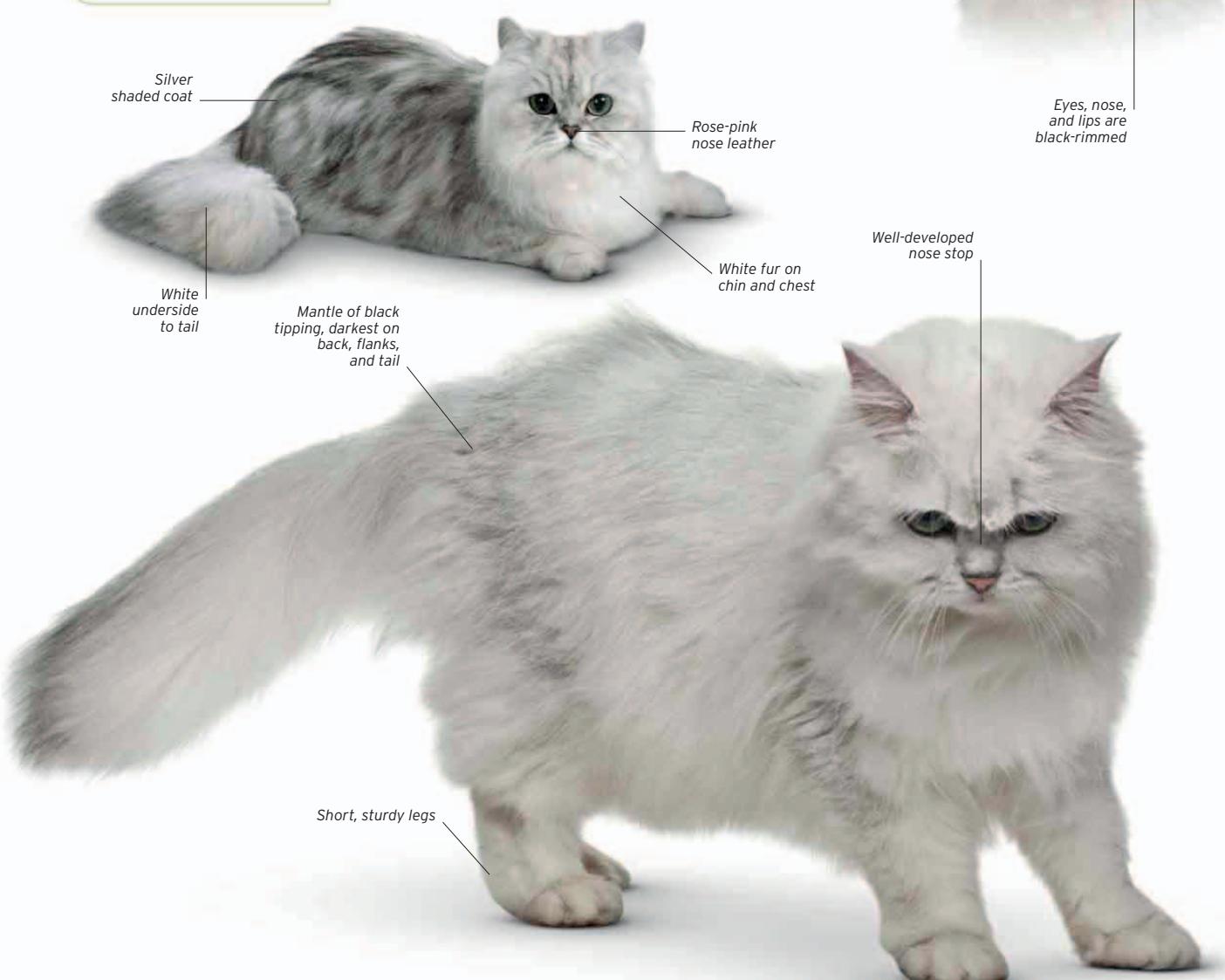
Grooming



Colors and patterns

White with black tipping.

This Persian bears some resemblance to the Chinchilla (p.140), both breeds having white coats tipped on the ends of the hairs with a darker color. At one time, these cats were described as silvers. However, over decades of development from the 20th century onward, Chinchillas have become paler and the Shaded Silver can now usually be distinguished by having the darker coloring of the two. In particular, breeders of Shaded Silvers strive to achieve the characteristic dark mantle that falls over the back.



PERSIAN-SILVER TABBY

THIS CAT IS A SILKY, SILVERY-COATED VERSION OF THE TRADITIONAL TABBY

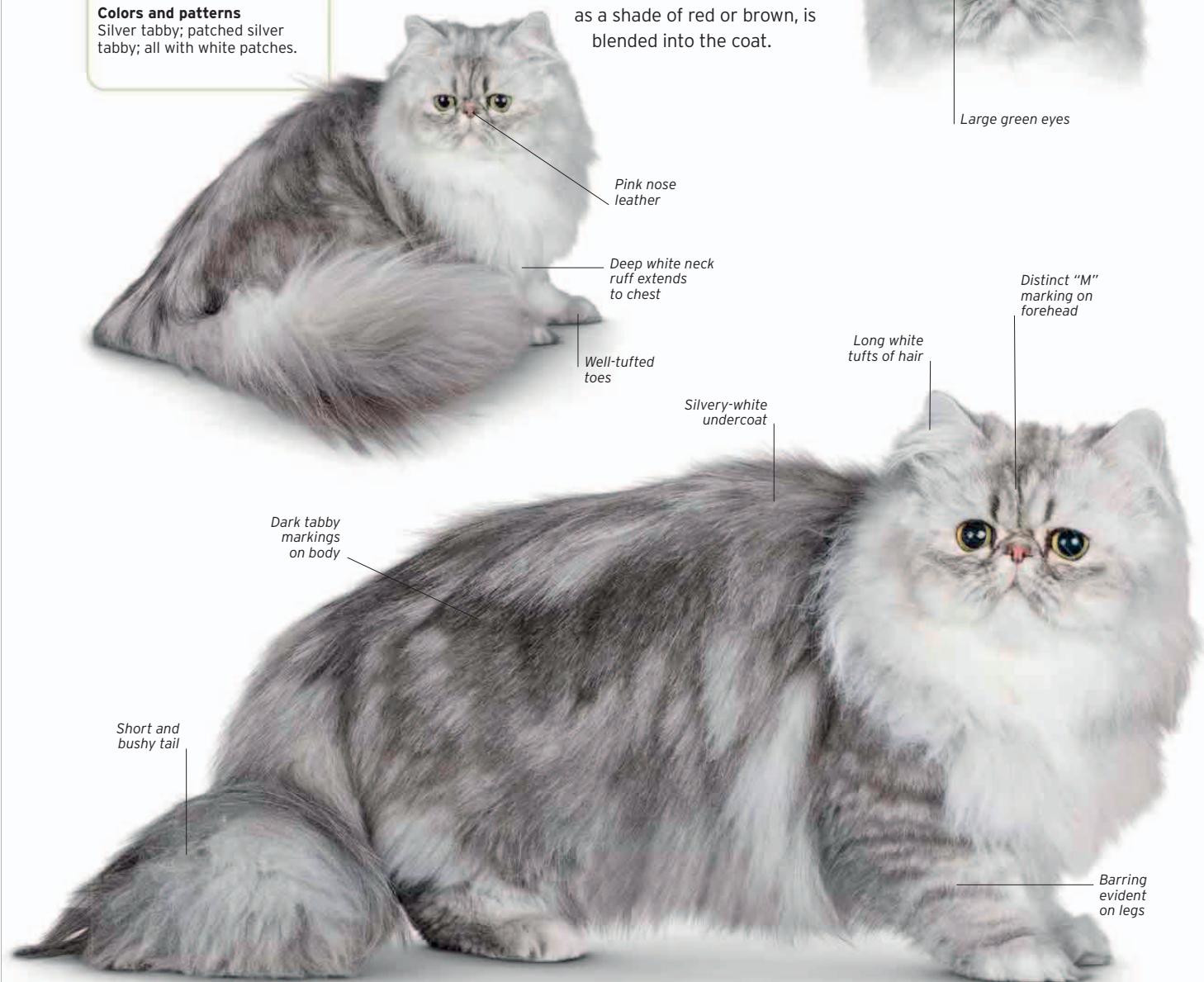
Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Silver tabby; patched silver tabby; all with white patches.

Some of the most delicately colored Persians of all are the Silver Tabbies. These cats have well-defined tabby coat patterns, but the warm coppery ground colors of the traditional tabby are replaced by a silvery- or bluish-white undercoat. Bicolor Silver Tabby cats have clear white areas, preferably as a minimum on the muzzle, chest, underparts, and sometimes legs. In the Tricolors a further color, such as a shade of red or brown, is blended into the coat.



Large green eyes



PERSIAN-SMOKE

THIS RARE-COLORED BREED HAS BEEN SAVED FROM THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1860s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

White deeply tipped with color, including black, blue, cream, and red, and in tortoiseshell patterns.



Full white frill on
black smoke coat

Typical cobby
Persian body



Dark blue mask
and ears

Black nose
leather

Legs are
solid color

Short, bushy tail



White undercoat,
more apparent
in motion

Blue smoke coat

Ears set
far apart

Lighter
underparts

PERSIAN-SMOKE BICOLOR

BEAUTIFULLY BLENDED COLORS MAKE THIS CAT ONE OF THE PRETTIEST PERSIANS

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1900s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, FICA

Weight range 8-15lb (3.5-7kg)

Grooming

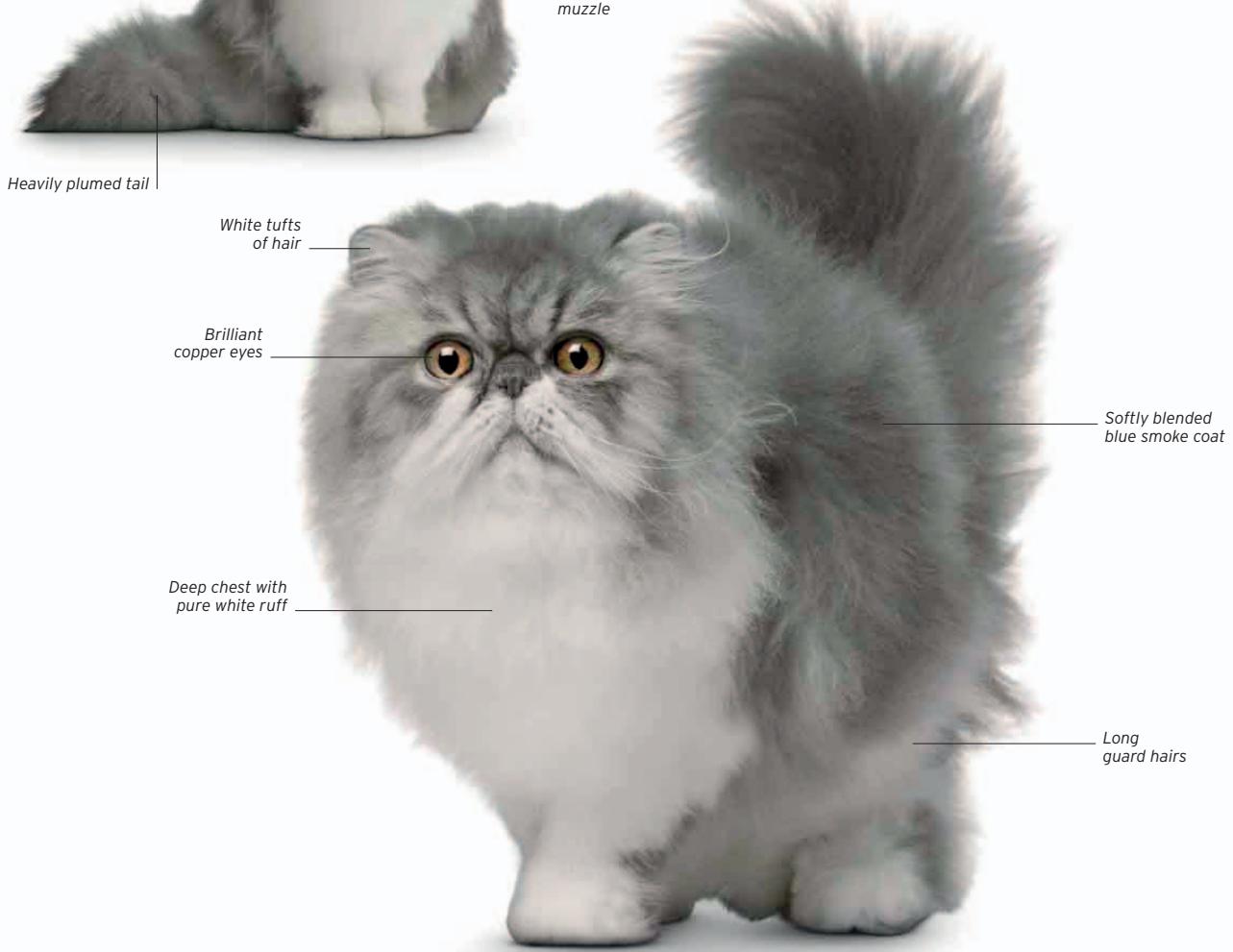
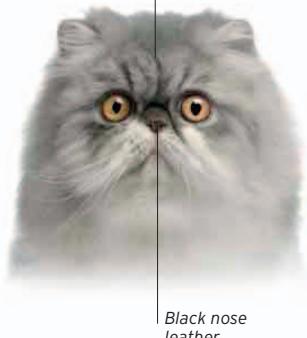


Colors and patterns

White with smoke colors, including blue, black, red, chocolate, lilac, and various tortoiseshells.

This multi-hued breed has a coat combining areas of white with various smoke colors, in which each hair is colored for most of its length but is white at the base. Smoke produces greater depth of color than in shaded or tipped coats, and the pale base may not be apparent until the cat moves. Bicolored Smoke Persians can have areas of black, blue, chocolate, lilac, and red smoke with white, while the Tricolors include several tortoiseshell smokes, such as blue and cream tortie.

Extensive color patches on head



PERSIAN-TABBY AND PATCHED TABBY

THIS GENTLE CAT HAS BEEN BRED IN A RICH VARIETY OF COLORS AND PATTERNS

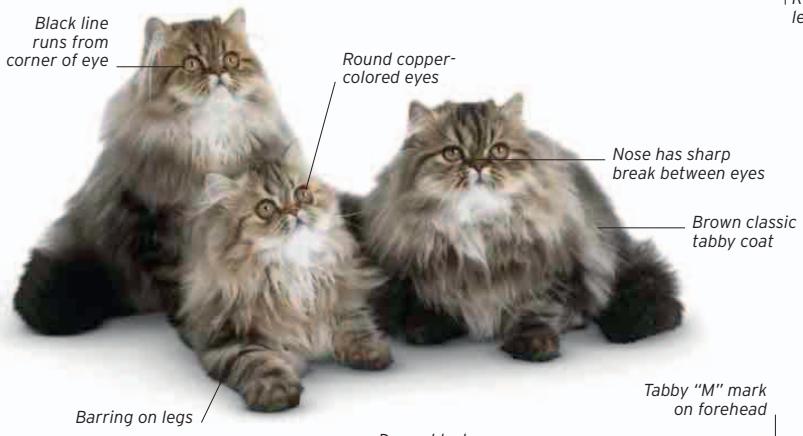
Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
Many colors also with silver tipping in tabby and patched-tabby patterns.

The tabbies have a longer history than many of the other Persians. Brown tabbies appeared in some of the earliest cat shows in the UK in the 1870s, and one of the first purebred cat fancy clubs was established to promote the breed. Since those days, the Persian Tabby has been developed in several colors, and three pattern types are accepted: classic (or blotched), mackerel (with narrow streaks), and spotted. In Patched Tabbies (sometimes known as tortie tabbies) the tabby markings overlay a bicolored ground coat.



Red nose leather



Full,
brushlike tail

Short, sturdy
legs with large,
round paws

Necklace
markings on
upper chest

Tabby "M" mark
on forehead

Dense black
markings on body

Barring on legs

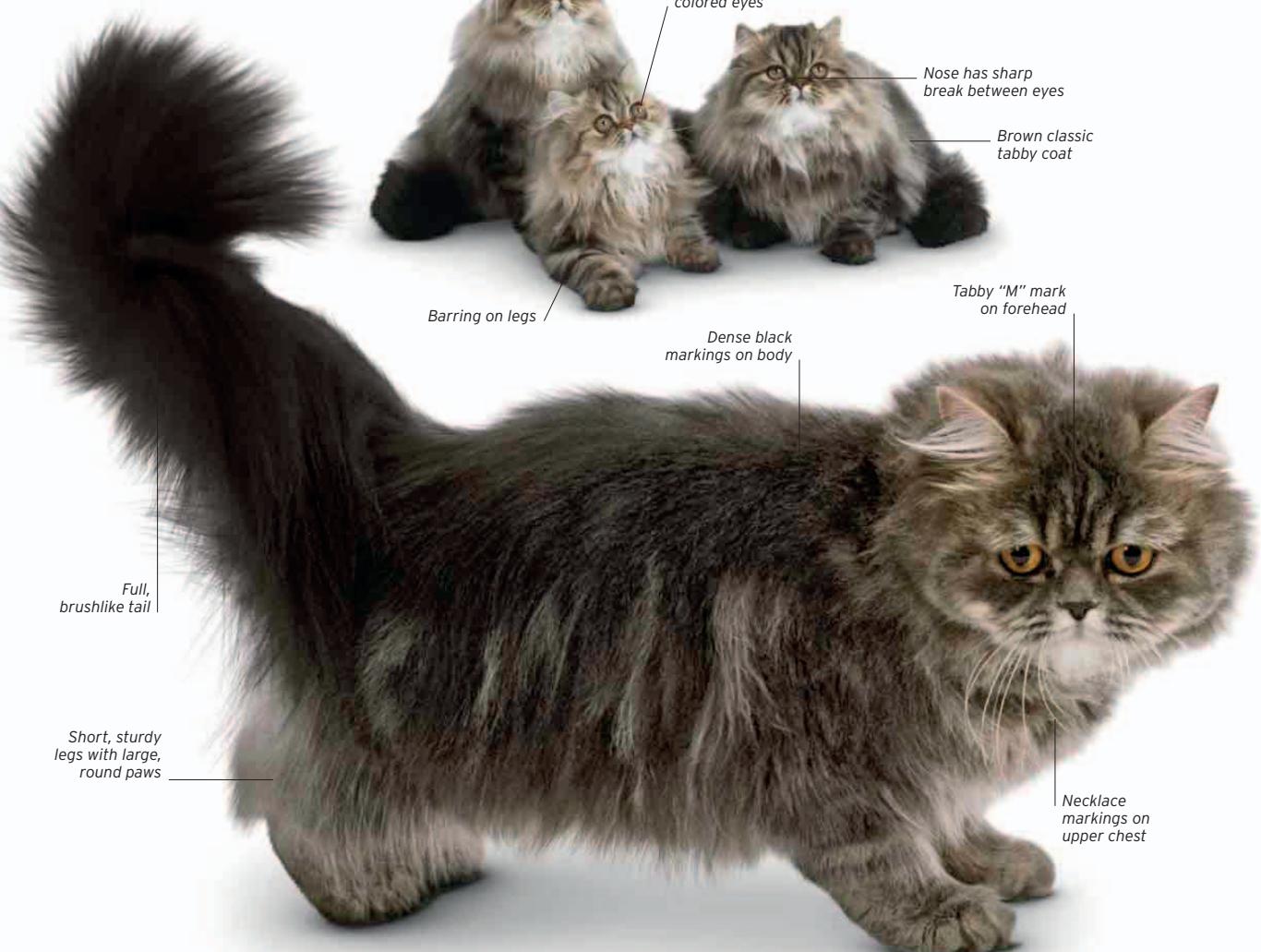
Brown classic
tabby coat

Nose has sharp
break between eyes

Round copper-
colored eyes

Black line
runs from
corner of eye

Full,
brushlike tail



PERSIAN-TABBY BICOLOR

A BREED WITH RICH TABBY COLORING HIGHLIGHTED BY WHITE PATCHES

Place of origin UK

Date of origin Post 1900

Breed registries CFA, FIFE, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 8–15lb (3.5–7kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Classic and mackerel tabby pattern, in various colors with white.

This lovely variation of the Persian combines sparkling white with the warm colors of the tabby. Two types of markings are accepted: classic tabby (sometimes called blotched tabby), in which the markings appear as large, smudged areas; and mackerel tabby, which is marked with thinner dark streaks or stripes. Tabby Bicolor and Tricolor Persians were first given championship status in the 1980s, and their beautiful markings, softly blurred by the lush coat, have made them strong favorites with cat breeders and owners.

White muzzle and chest

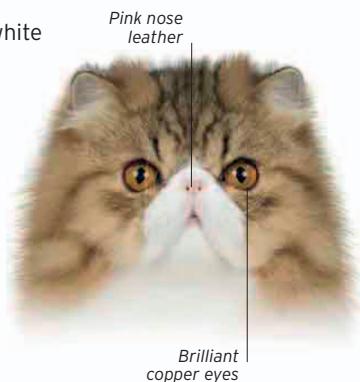
White mittens on paws

Tricolor with soft classic tabby markings

Body set low on legs

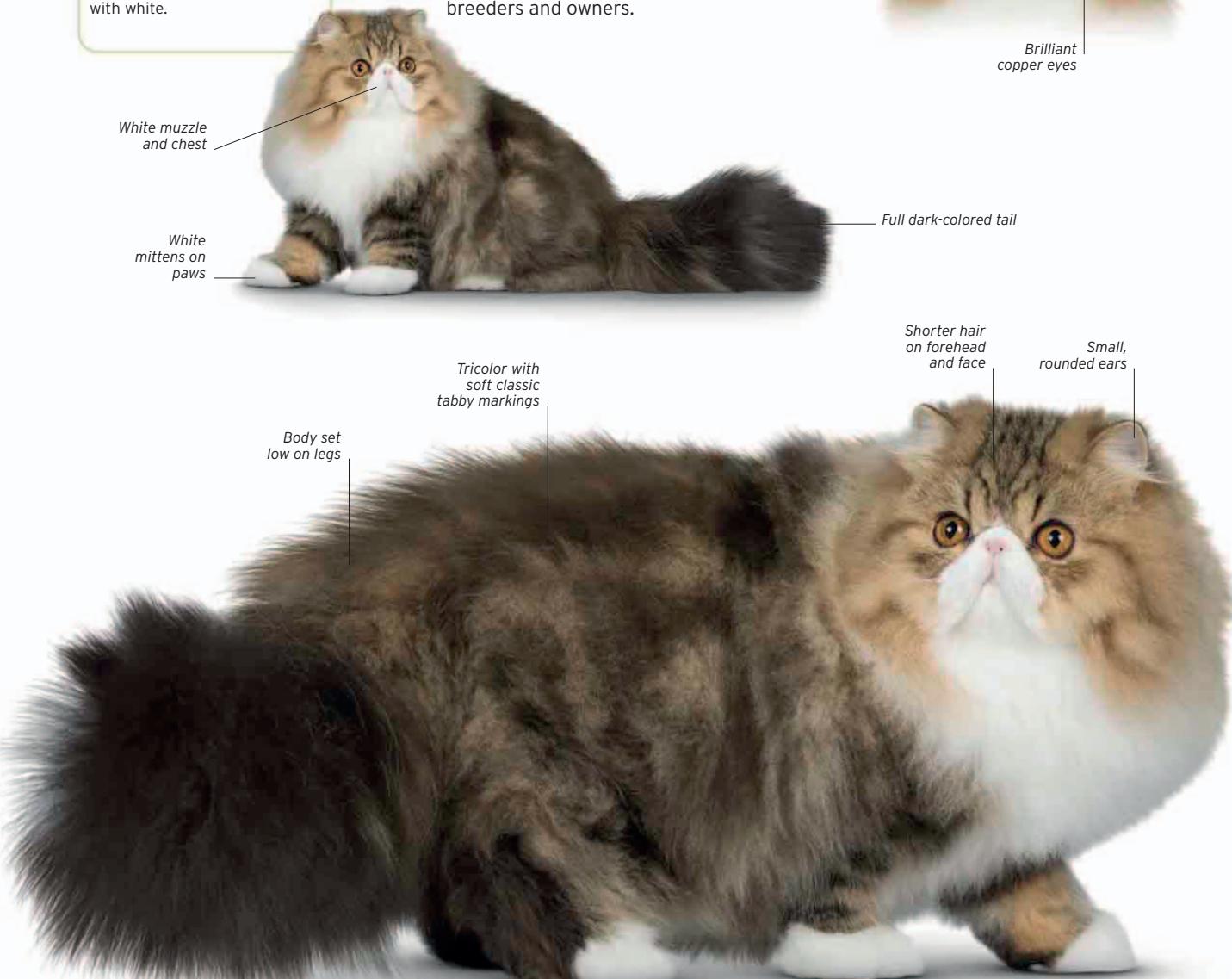
Shorter hair on forehead and face

Small, rounded ears



Pink nose leather
Brilliant copper eyes

Full dark-colored tail



PERSIAN-TORTIE AND CALICO

THESE PERSIANS WITH POPULAR COLORS ARE NOT ALWAYS EASY TO OBTAIN

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1880s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	3.5-7kg (8-15lb)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Tortoiseshell (black and red), chocolate tortoiseshell, lilac-cream, and blue-cream; also with white patches.

Tortoiseshell cats—frequently called torties—have a coat that is a mixture of two colors, giving a mottled appearance. Persian Torties have been known since the late 19th century, but they have always been difficult to breed consistently. Their genetic make-up means that nearly all cats with tortie coloring are females and the few males that do occur are sterile. There is a tricolored version of this Persian, the Calico (known as Tortie and White in the UK).





PAINTBOX PATTERN

A splash of red tabby added to black and white creates a vivid mix of colors. Calico (also known as tortie and white) is particularly dramatic when seen on the long, silky hair of a Persian.

PERSIAN-BICOLOR

A LONGHAIR WITH BOLD COLOR PATCHES FOR EXTRA GLAMOUR

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

White with various solid colors, including black, red, blue, cream, chocolate, and lilac, and with tortoiseshell patterns.

Up until the 1960s bicolor Persians were of little interest to breeders, and were considered suitable only as pets. Today, they are challenging the solid colors in popularity on the show benches. One of the first bicolors to be recognized was black and white, once referred to as magpie; now many other solid colors combined with white are accepted. In producing bicolor and calico cats, breeders aim for clearly defined, symmetrical markings—an ideal that is difficult to achieve.



HIMALAYAN

THIS CAT HAS SHOW-STOPPING LOOKS AND A PEACEFUL TEMPERAMENT

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1930s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)

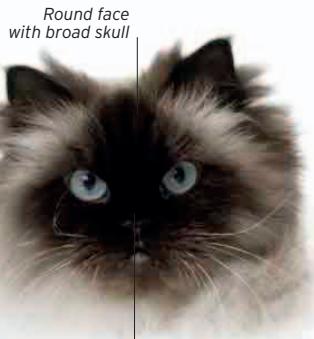
Grooming



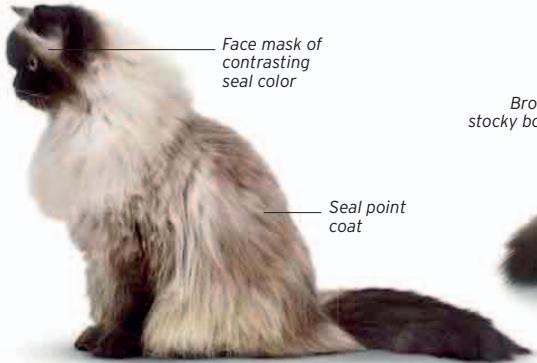
Colors and patterns

Solid, colored, and tortie and lynx patterned points.

Known as the Persian-Colorpoint in the UK, the Himalayan is the result of more than a decade of breeding programs aimed at producing a longhair with Siamese markings. Round-faced and snub-nosed, with large eyes, a short, sturdy body, and long, lush fur, the Himalayan has all the typical Persian characteristics. It is a cat that loves to be loved, although as a companion it is quiet and undemanding. Daily grooming is a must for this breed, because the dense, double coat is inclined to mat without regular attention.



Round face with broad skull
Short, snub nose with pronounced stop between eyes



Face mask of contrasting seal color

Seal point coat

Broad, stocky body



Large, round paws with long tufts between toes

Long, thick ivory-colored coat over entire body



Short, brushlike tail with seal pointing

Large blue eyes

Small ears with rounded tips

Deep ruff

BALINESE

A VERY SPECIAL CAT THAT IS REFINED IN APPEARANCE BUT WITH HIDDEN STEEL

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6-11lb (2.5-5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Seal, chocolate, blue, and lilac solid color points.

A longhaired version of the Siamese, the Balinese is an exquisite cat with the slender, graceful outlines of its relative draped in a flowing, silky coat. Records show that longhaired kittens have appeared occasionally among shorthaired Siamese litters for many decades, but it was not until the 1950s that some breeders began to develop the new look. The Balinese has an outgoing personality and is bursting with energy and curiosity. Although not as loud-voiced as the Siamese, it is attention-seeking, and also has a strong streak of mischief—owners of a Balinese would be well advised not to leave this cat to its own devices over long periods.



Clearly defined seal mask covers most of face



Long, straight nose with no break



Almond-shaped deep blue eyes slant toward nose



Seal point coat

Long, lithe, strong body

Plumed tail

Seal pointing on legs matches shading on body

Long, tapering, wedge-shaped head

Long, slender legs

BALINESE-JAVANESE

THIS CONFIDENT AND ATTENTION-SEEKING CAT DEMANDS A PLACE IN THE FAMILY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1950s
Breed registries	CFA
Weight range	6–11lb (2.5–5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Many point colors, in lynx and tortie patterns.

This enchanting cat is a development of the Balinese

(opposite), the longhaired relation of the Siamese, with which it shares an identical breed standard in terms of conformation and coat quality. The difference between the two is the range of additional colors and patterns in the Javanese, which were acquired mostly through crosses with the Colorpoint Shorthair (p.58). Lithe and athletic despite its delicate appearance, the Javanese has a strong character to match. An affectionate, communicative cat, it loves to follow its owner around—when it is not prying into every nook and cranny of the house. The silky coat does not mat and is relatively easy to groom.



Clear, vivid
blue eyes



YORK CHOCOLATE

THIS BREED IS SWEET AND LOVING, BUT AN AVID HUNTER OUTDOORS

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	Other
Weight range	6-11lb (2.5-5kg)

Grooming

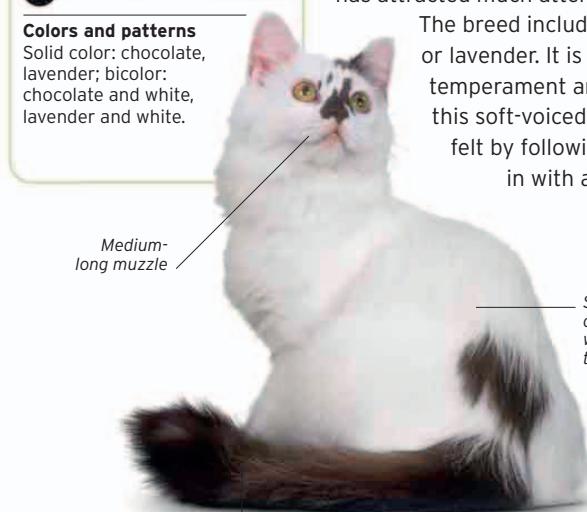


Colors and patterns

Solid color: chocolate, lavender; bicolor: chocolate and white, lavender and white.

The founding female of the York Chocolate breed came from New York State and was a dark chocolate brown, hence the breed's name. When kittens born to this cat had the same rich coloring, their owner developed an enthusiasm for continuing the line. Although still comparatively rare, the York Chocolate has attracted much attention at cat shows in North America.

The breed includes bicolors with patches of chocolate or lavender. It is a gentle lap cat with an affectionate temperament and loves to be petted. In the home this soft-voiced breed will quietly make its presence felt by following its owner everywhere and joining in with anything that is going on.

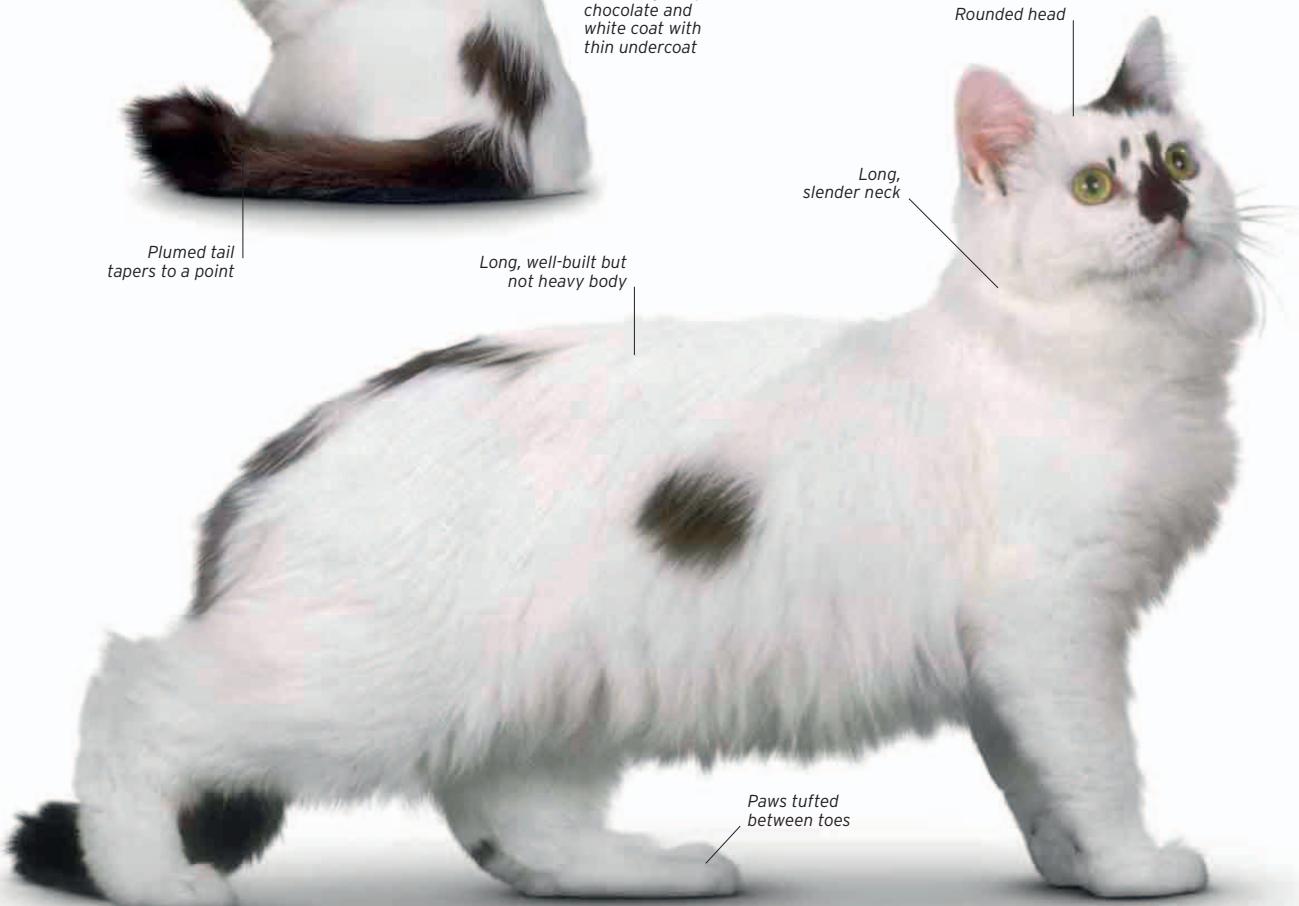


Medium-long muzzle

Semi-long, silky chocolate and white coat with thin undercoat

Plumed tail tapers to a point

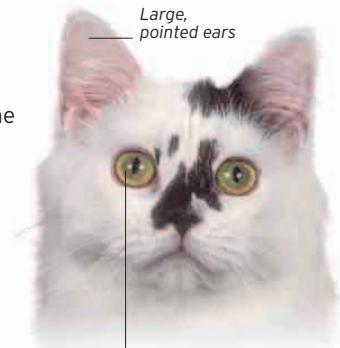
Long, well-built but not heavy body



Rounded head

Long, slender neck

Paws tufted between toes



Large, pointed ears

Almond-shaped eyes

ORIENTAL LONGHAIR

A TYPICAL ORIENTAL CAT THAT NEEDS PLENTY OF COMPANY AND AMUSEMENT

Place of origin UK

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6–11lb (2.5–5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Many colors, including solid, smoke, and shaded; tortie, tabby, and bicolor patterns.

Known originally as the British Angora, the Oriental Longhair was renamed in 2002 to avoid confusion with the Turkish Angora (p.178). The breed was developed in the 1960s in an attempt to re-create the silky-haired Angora cats that were favored pets in Victorian households until ousted by the up-and-coming Persians. Breeding programs included various longhaired Oriental cats, such as the Balinese (pp.156–7), producing what is in essence a longhaired Siamese-lithe-bodied and elegant but without color points. Curious, playful, and highly active, the Oriental Longhair loves to be the center of family attention, but often chooses one person with whom to form a close bond.



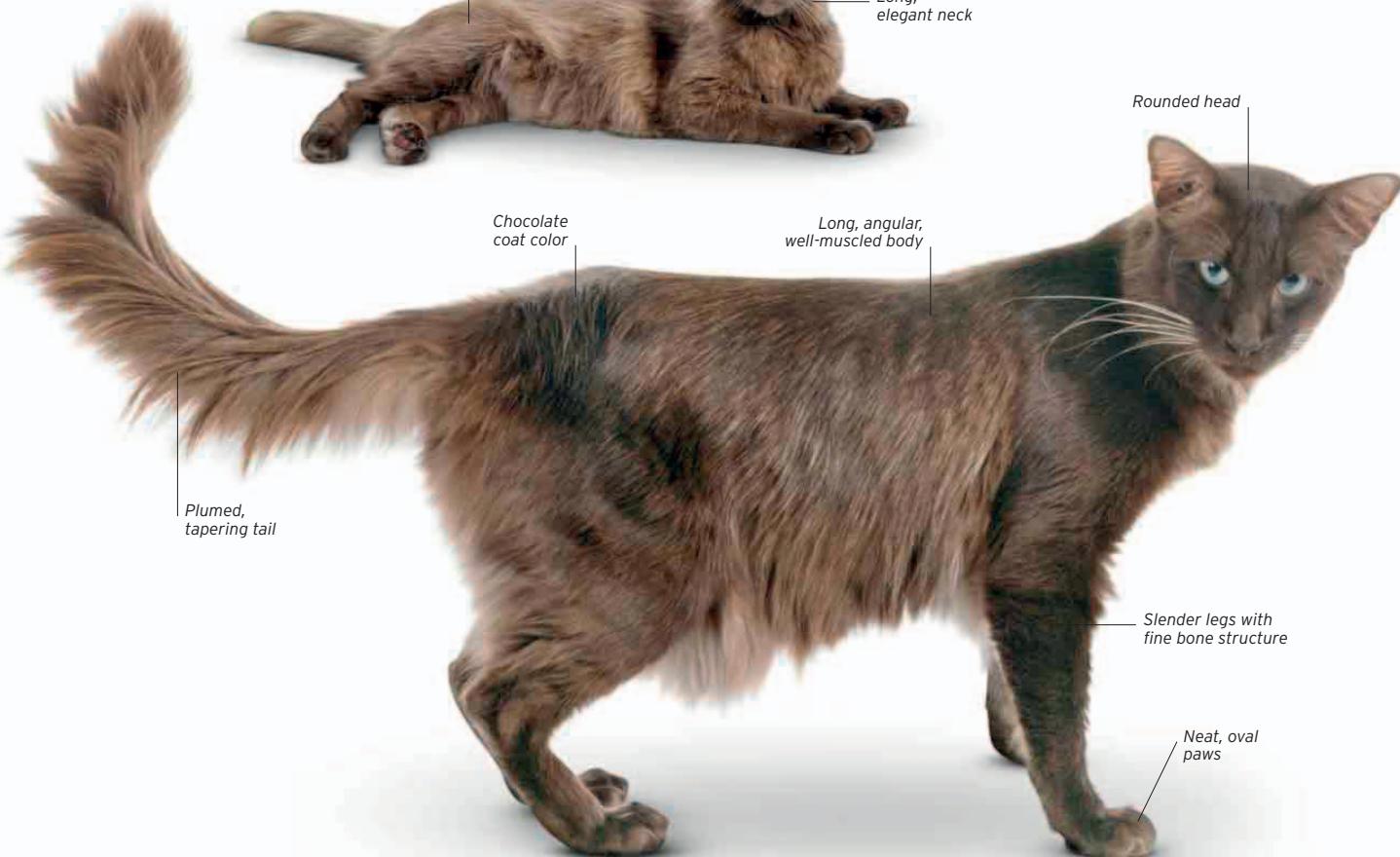
Striking,
almond-shaped
green eyes



Fine, silky, semi-long
coat with no undercoat

Wide-based,
triangular ears

Long,
elegant neck



Chocolate
coat color

Long, angular,
well-muscled body

Plumed,
tapering tail

Slender legs with
fine bone structure

Neat, oval
paws

TIFFANIE

THIS EASYGOING BREED MAKES AN IDEAL COMPANION FOR OWNERS OF ALL AGES

Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	GCCF
Weight range	8-14lb (3.5-6.5kg)

Grooming



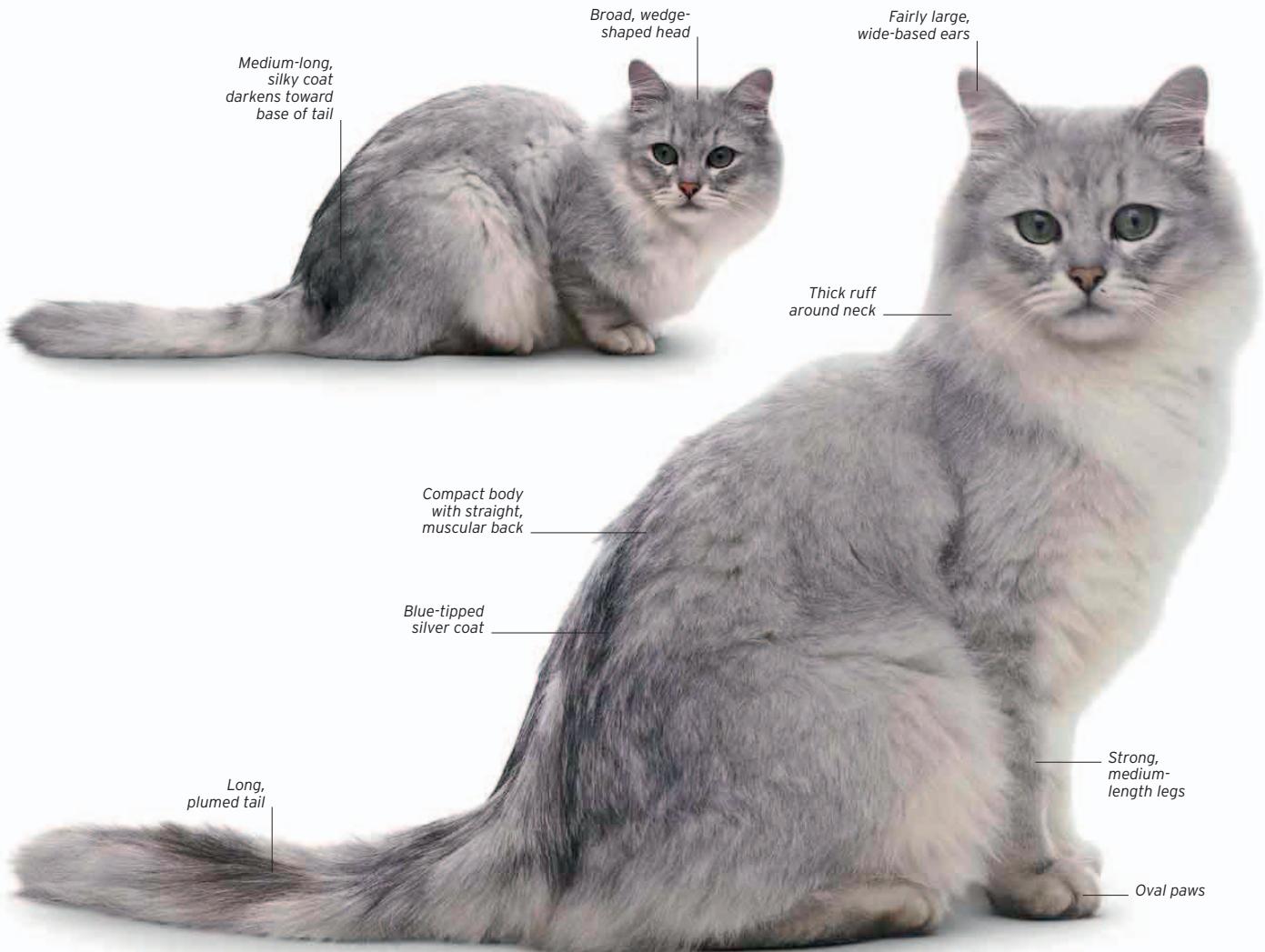
Colors and patterns

All solid and shaded colors; tabby and tortie patterns.

Formerly called the Asian Longhair, this cat is often confused with an American breed that has been known variously as the Tiffany, Chantilly, or Chantilly/Tiffany (opposite). It first appeared by chance as a longhaired variant of the Burmilla, a breed that itself originated as a happy accident following an unplanned mating between a European Burmese (p.39) and a Persian Chinchilla (p.140). The Tiffanie is a gentle, cuddly cat with a hint of mischief inherited from the Burmese side of its family. This cat is good at amusing itself with its own games, but is pleased if a human wants to join in. Sensitive and intelligent, the Tiffanie is said to be highly responsive to the moods of its owner.



Yellow-green eyes set well apart



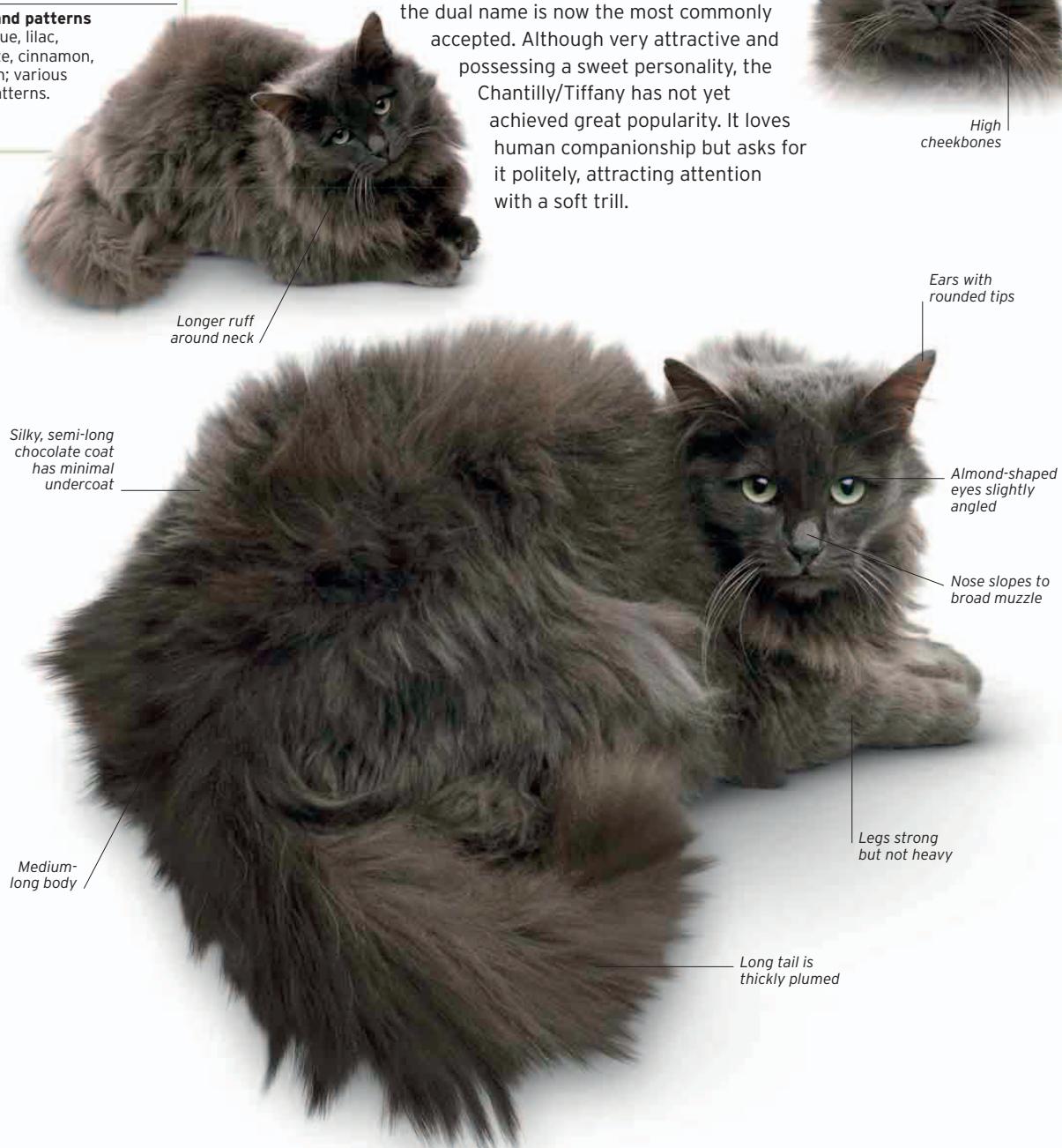
CHANTILLY/TIFFANY

A RARE BREED WITH A SOFT, FULL, RICHLY COLORED COAT

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	Other
Weight range	6–11lb (2.5–5kg)
Grooming	 [A small icon of a cat being groomed.]

Colors and patterns
Black, blue, lilac, chocolate, cinnamon, and fawn; various tabby patterns.

The history of the Chantilly/Tiffany starts with a litter of chocolate-brown kittens born to two longhaired cats of unknown origin. A once widespread belief that the Burmese was included in the breed's ancestry has now been discounted. The various names registered for this cat during its development—Foreign Longhair, Tiffany, and Chantilly—caused much confusion, and the dual name is now the most commonly accepted. Although very attractive and possessing a sweet personality, the Chantilly/Tiffany has not yet achieved great popularity. It loves human companionship but asks for it politely, attracting attention with a soft trill.



BIRMAN

THIS CAT IS QUIET AND GENTLE BUT HIGHLY RESPONSIVE TO AN OWNER'S ATTENTION

Place of origin Myanmar (Burma)/France

Date of origin c.1920s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 6–9lb (4.5–8kg)

Grooming



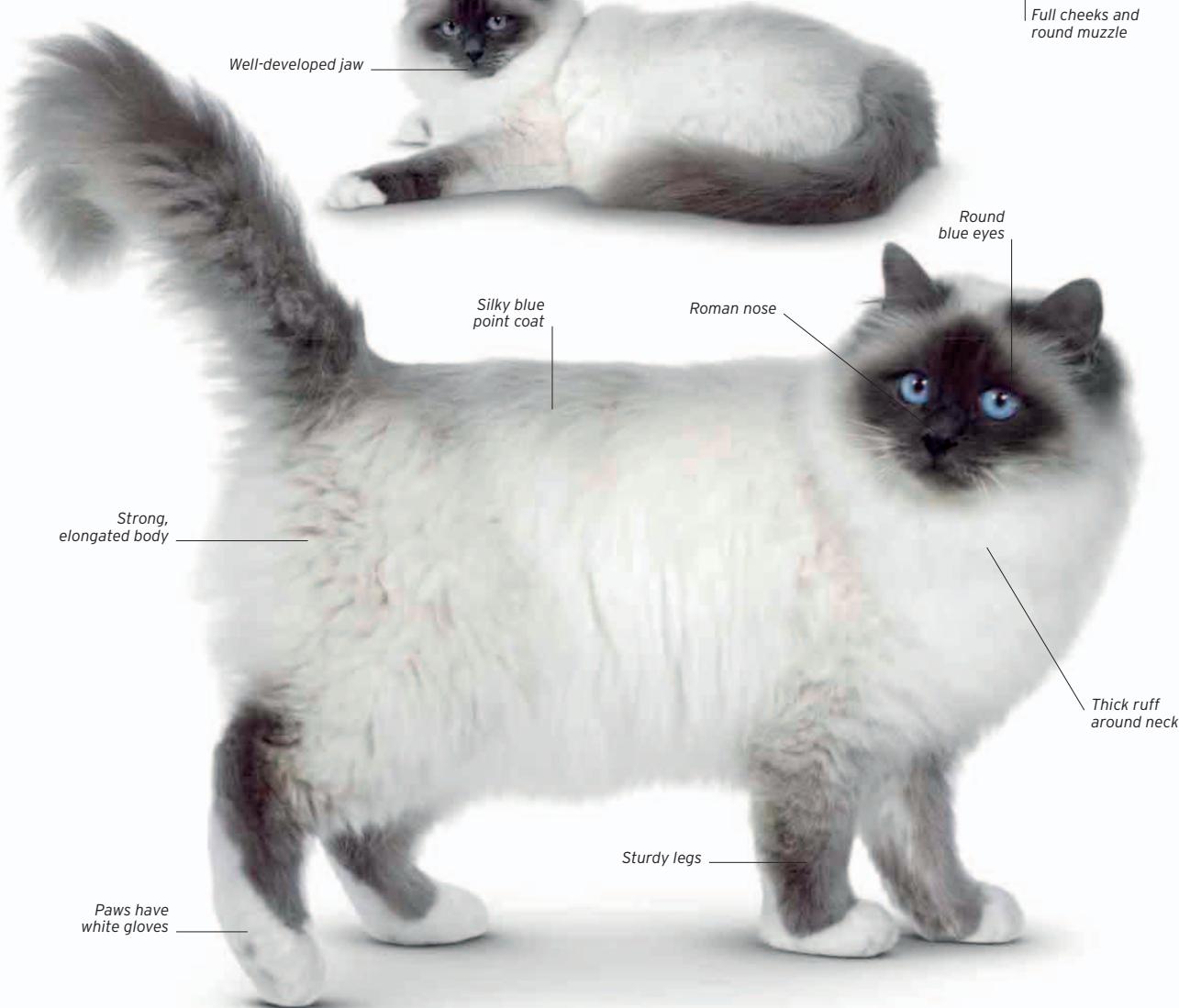
Colors and patterns

All color points, with white feet.

With its distinctive color points, this exquisite cat has the appearance of a longhaired Siamese, but the two breeds are unlikely to be closely related. According to a charming legend, Birmans descend from the sacred white cats once kept by priests in Myanmar (Burma), their coloring bestowed by mysterious supernatural powers. In reality, the breed was probably created in France in the 1920s, though the foundation cats may have been acquired from Myanmar. Long-bodied and sturdily built, the Birman has silky textured hair that does not mat like that of many longhaired cats.



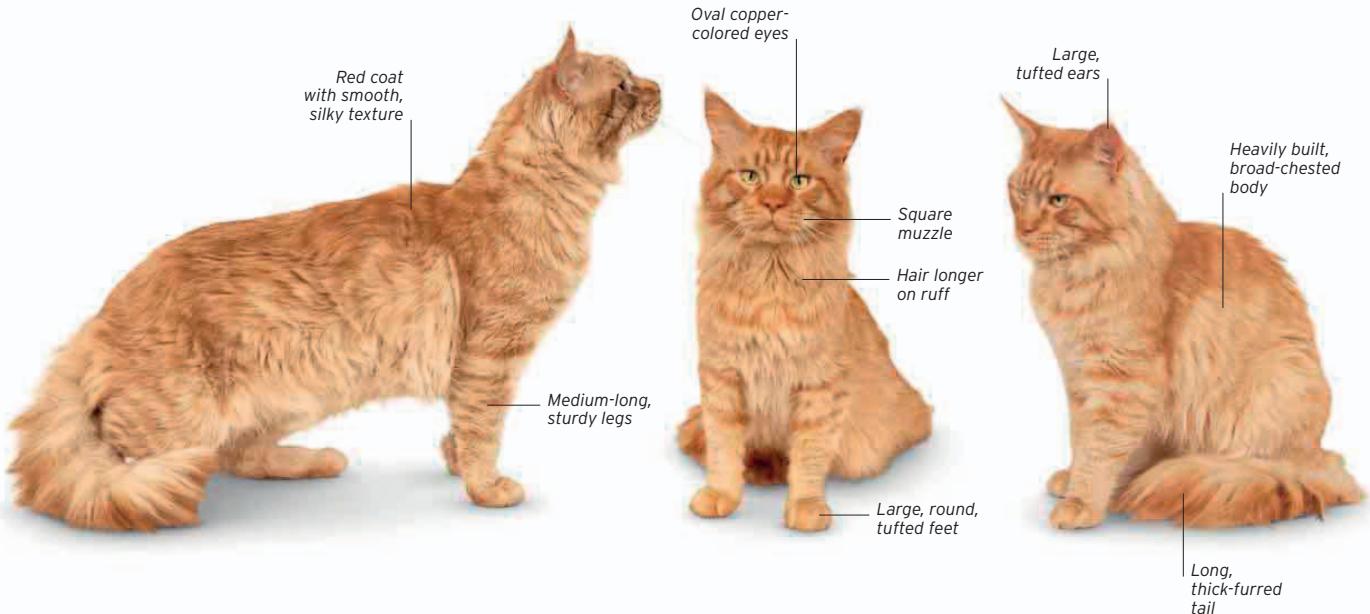
Full cheeks and round muzzle





PEACEFUL PET

Gentle and sweet, the Birman is an exceptionally easy pet to live with. Even the long coat is not difficult to groom, since there is little undercoat to become tangled or clogged with loose hair.



MAINE COON

AN IMPRESSIVELY LARGE CAT THAT IS KIND-NATURED AND EASY TO KEEP

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	9-17lb (4-7.5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Many solid colors and shades in tortoiseshell, tabby, and bicolor patterns.

Regarded as America's native cat, the Maine Coon is named after the state where it was first recognized. How the breed first arrived there has been explained in various entertaining but mostly improbable tales. Wilder versions of the Maine Coon's history put forward the theory that it descends from Scandinavian cats brought in by the Vikings, or claim that several cats of this type were sent to the US by Marie Antoinette, anxious to preserve her pets during the French Revolution. The suggestion that the Maine Coon was originally a hybrid between feral cats and raccoons can definitely be discounted as a scientific impossibility, though the cat's bushy tail makes it easy to see how the idea might once have had credibility.

Huge and handsome, the Maine Coon has a thick, shaggy, waterproof coat that served it well in its earlier role as a farm cat, leading an outdoor life through harsh North American winters. Once highly regarded for its skills as a vermin catcher, this breed has become a

popular pet since the mid-20th century. Maine Coons have many endearing characteristics, including a tendency to act like kittens all their lives. Their voice, described by some as a birdlike chirp, sounds surprisingly small for such a big cat. These cats are slow to mature and do not usually reach their full magnificent growth until about their fifth year.

SEASONAL COAT

A Maine Coon in full coat has an immense ruff, which is usually shaggier in males than in females. This provides excellent insulation and would have been a vital cold-weather accessory when Maine Coons were outdoor working cats. The coat changes seasonally, much of the thick undercoat being shed in summer.





WEATHERPROOF

The Maine Coon's massively thick coat keeps the cold out and warmth in. Even the long ear tufts are designed to protect the large, broad-based ears from the harshest weather.





RAGDOLL

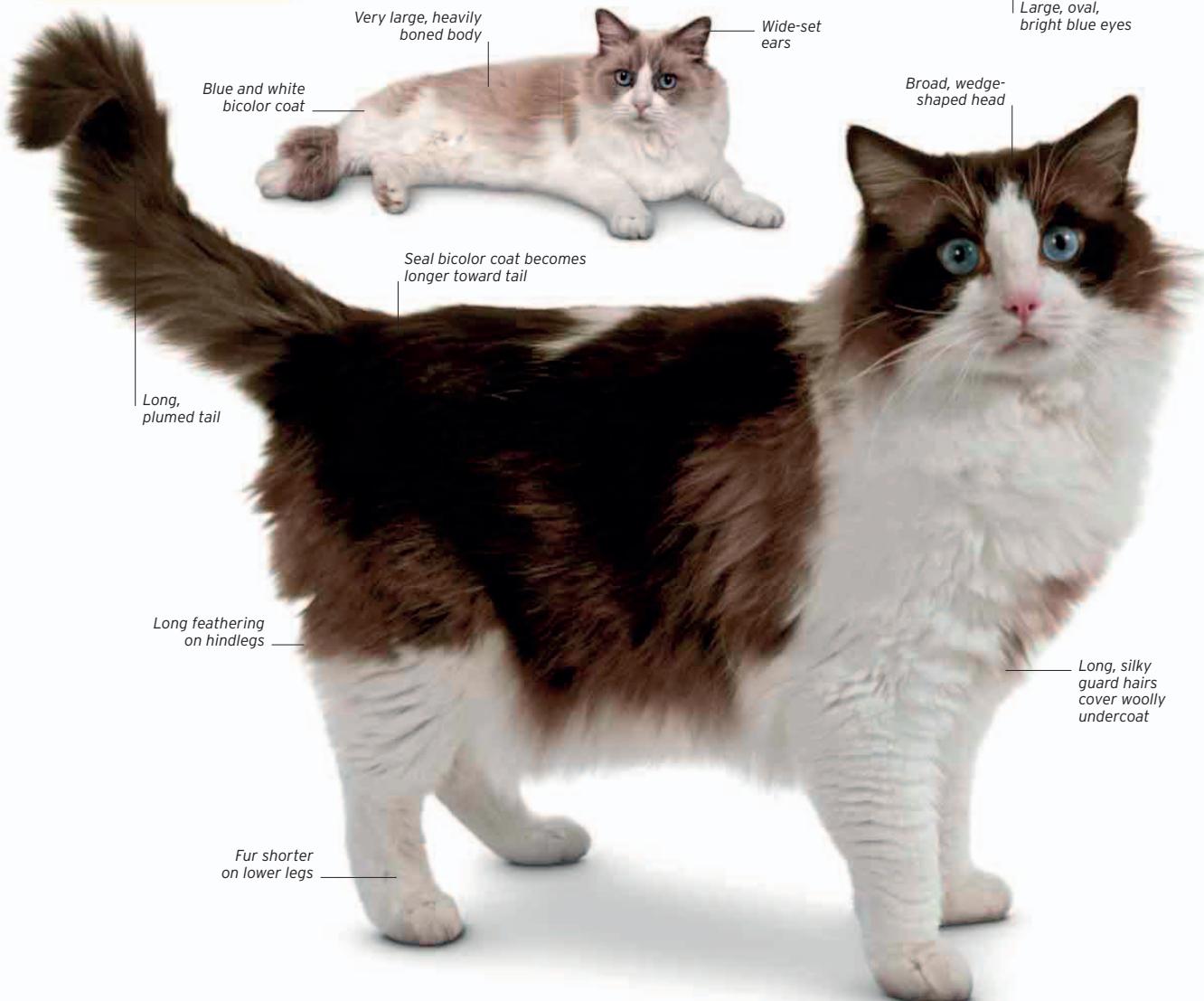
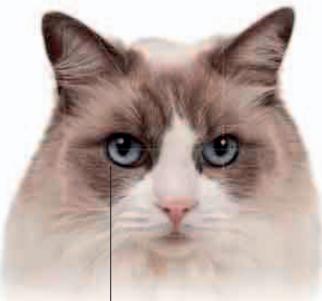
THIS HUGE CAT IS REMARKABLY SWEET AND AMENABLE

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	10-20lb (4.5-9kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Most solid colors in tortie and lynx patterns; always pointed and bicolor or mitted.

The name is well chosen, since few cats are easier to handle or more ready to sit on a lap than a Ragdoll. One of the largest of all cat breeds, this cat has a confused history—supposedly, the original Ragdolls were developed from a litter of kittens, born in California, that became unusually limp and “floppy” when picked up. These cats love human company, will happily play with children, and are usually well disposed toward other pets. Ragdolls are not particularly athletic and, once past kittenhood, mostly prefer their games to be gentle. Moderate grooming is enough to keep their soft, silky fur free from tangles.



RAGAMUFFIN

A MASSIVELY BUILT, BIG-HEARTED, AND DELIGHTFULLY CALM CAT

Place of origin US

Date of origin Late 20th century

Breed registries CFA, GCCF

Weight range 10–20lb (4.5–9kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors in bicolor, tortie, and tabby patterns.

This comparatively recent breed has a complicated history but it emerged as a new development of the better-known Ragdoll (opposite). The RagaMuffin is a huge cat, a true gentle giant that fits in placidly with families of all types. It thrives on affection, and its docile temperament makes it an excellent pet for children. The RagaMuffin is not without a sense of fun and is easily persuaded to play with toys. This cat's dense, silky fur is not prone to matting, and short, regular grooming sessions will keep the coat in good order.



Full cheeks

Long, plumed tail

Heavily built, rectangular body

Wide-set ears with rounded tips

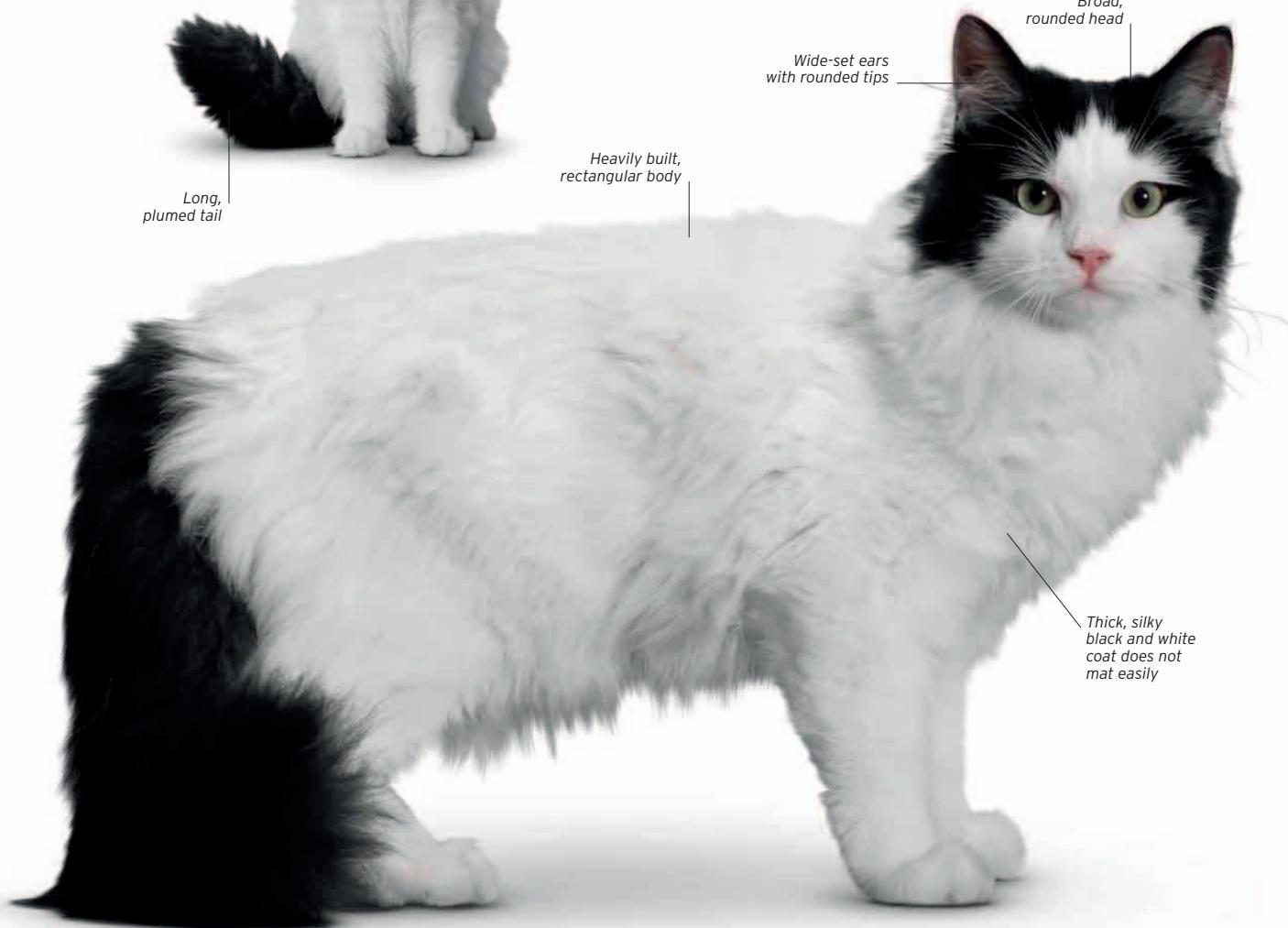


Dip in nose

Large eyes with characteristic sweet expression

Broad, rounded head

Thick, silky black and white coat does not mat easily



SOMALI

A CAT WITH DRAMATIC LOOKS, A GORGEOUS COAT, AND A COLORFUL PERSONALITY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	8-12lb (3.5-5.5kg)
Grooming	



Colors and patterns

Various colors, some with silver tipping; tortie pattern; silver hairs always ticked.

This **astoundingly beautiful breed** is a longhaired relative of the Abyssinian (p.83). Neither the Somali nor its short-coated relative have any proven links with Africa to justify their names. The eye-catching coat of the Somali comes in a variety of rich colors and is exceptionally fine-haired. Most striking of all of the cat's features is its immense, bushy tail. Lively and insatiably curious, the Somali makes an amusing and engaging pet. Though

highly affectionate and family friendly, this is not generally a lap cat; the Somali has too much energy to sit still for long.



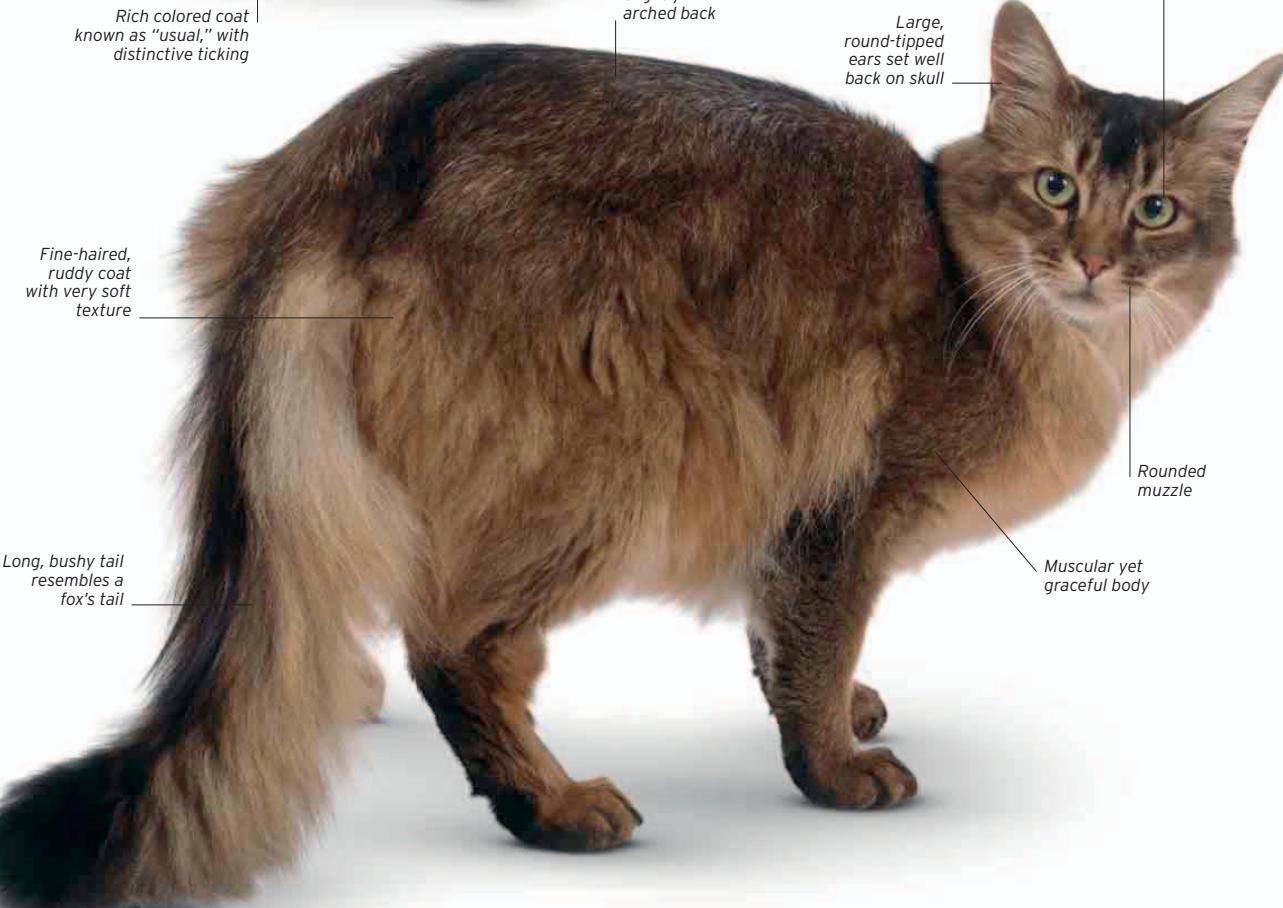
Dark markings on cheeks and brow



Rich colored coat known as "usual," with distinctive ticking

Eyes encircled by lighter color

Slightly arched back



Fine-haired, ruddy coat with very soft texture

Almond-shaped eyes have dark rim

Large, round-tipped ears set well back on skull

Rounded muzzle

Long, bushy tail resembles a fox's tail

Muscular yet graceful body

BRITISH LONGHAIR

THIS CHUNKY, HANDSOME CAT HAS A LONG, FLOWING COAT

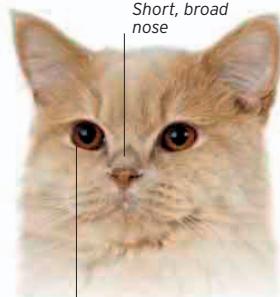
Place of origin	UK
Date of origin	1800s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	9-18lb (4-8kg)
Grooming	



Colors and patterns

Same colors and patterns as recognized in the British Shorthair.

This cat, known as the Lowlander in the US and the Britanica in Europe, is the longer-haired cousin of the British Shorthair (pp.68-77). The two are identical in body shape, sharing the same sturdy build, massive head, and round face, and both come in the same range of colors. Not all pedigree cat registries regard the British Longhair as a separate breed. Regardless of its official status, this cat makes an excellent pet, since it has a calm, easygoing, people-loving temperament. The long coat needs moderate grooming to keep it tangle-free.



Large, round gold eyes set well apart

NEBELUNG

AN AFFECTIONATE BREED THAT LIKES A SECURE ROUTINE AND IS SHY WITH STRANGERS

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	GCCF, TICA
Weight range	6–11lb (2.5–5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns
Blue, sometimes silver-tipped.

Developed in Denver, in the late 20th century, the Nebelung is an outcross from the Russian Blue (pp.66–7), deliberately bred to re-create the longhaired blue cats that were popular in the Victorian era. The breed's name, taken from the German word *nebel* meaning haze or mist, is appropriate to its softly glistening coat. Naturally reserved and preferring a quiet environment, this cat may not settle well in a family of boisterous children. However, with sensitive handling, the Nebelung makes a devoted pet, anxious to keep its owners in sight and loving a lap to sit on.



Long, graceful body

Silver-tipped blue coat has soft sheen



Slightly oval yellowish green eyes

Feathering behind ears



Heavily plumed tail

Prominent whisker pads

Ruff around neck

Shorter fur on lower legs

Hair tufts between toes

NORWEGIAN FOREST CAT

THIS CAT IS BIG, TOUGH, AND BURLY BUT ALSO GENTLE AND WELL-MANNERED

Place of origin Norway

Date of origin 1950s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA

Weight range 7–20lb (3–9kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Most solid colors, shades, and patterns.

Cats have been known in Scandinavia since Viking times, being kept as useful pest destroyers in homesteads and villages. The Norwegian Forest Cat cannot claim direct descent from these ancestors, since the breed was developed fully only in the 1970s, but its characteristics are recognizably those of the cats familiar for centuries on Norwegian farms.

This magnificent cat's long double coat, a natural insulation against bitter northern winters, may become much thicker in colder months as the undercoat reaches full density.

Surprisingly, this does not mean extra winter grooming for owners, although shedding is likely to be heavy in spring.

Triangular head

Silver tabby coat

Well-muscled, powerful body

Thick silver patched-tabby coat

Long, plumed tail

Short, strong neck

Nose straight in profile

White markings on chest, face, and legs

Thick tufts between toes



NORWEGIAN FAVORITE

Legends abound about the origins of the Norwegian Forest Cat. Its ancestors may, or may not, have sailed with the Vikings, but the breed is a true native of Norway and particularly popular in Scandinavia.





TURKISH VAN

A PLAYFUL BREED WITH AN UNUSUAL LIKING FOR WATER GAMES

Place of origin Turkey/UK
(modern breed)

Date of origin Pre-1700

Breed registries CFA, FIFe,
GCCF, TICA,

Weight range 7-19lb (3-8.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns
White with darker colors
on head and tail.

The predecessors of this cat, named after the Lake Van area of eastern Turkey, may have existed for hundreds of years around the region now known as the Middle East. The modern Turkish Van was first developed in the UK in the 1950s, and breeding cats have since been exported to other countries, though they remain uncommon. A Turkish Van is not the ideal choice for an owner who wants a peaceful lap cat—zestful and fun-loving, this cat enjoys a game, especially if the family joins in. Many Turkish Vans also love dabbling about with water, and some are reputed to be confident swimmers.



TURKISH VANKEDISI

THIS RARE BREED IS AN ALL-WHITE VARIANT OF THE TURKISH VAN CAT

Place of origin Eastern Turkey

Date of origin Pre-1700

Breed registries GCCF

Weight range 7-19lb (3-8.5kg)

Grooming

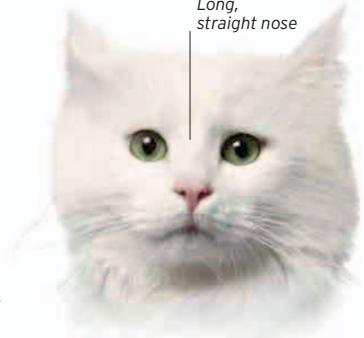


Colors and patterns

Pure white only.

This cat has its origins in the same region of Turkey as the Turkish Van (opposite), and it is distinguished from that breed only by the lack of the typical Van markings on its snow-white coat. In all other respects, it shares the characteristics of its relation. The Turkish Vankedisi is rare anywhere in the world and is much prized in its native country. Like many all-white cats, the breed has a tendency to inherit deafness but it is nonetheless strong and active. Its pleasant temperament makes this cat an affectionate companion but it demands plenty of attention.

Long,
straight nose



Silky, snow-white coat



Long hair
inside ears

Odd-colored eyes

Fairly broad,
wedge-shaped head



Pink rim
around eyes

Long,
muscular
legs



Long, bushy tail

Round,
tufted paws

TURKISH ANGORA

THIS BREED IS DELICATE TO LOOK AT BUT HAS A STRONG CHARACTER

Place of origin Turkey

Date of origin 16th century

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, TICA

Weight range 6-11lb (2.5-5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Many solid colors and shades; patterns include tabby, tortoiseshell, and bicolor.

Records indicate that this native Turkish breed probably reached France and the UK some time around the 17th century. Widely used in the development of other longhaired cats such as Persians, especially during the early 20th century, the

Turkish Angora as a breed became so diluted that it almost ceased to exist except in its own country. In Turkey, the cat had been given greater protection, and by the 1950s purebred Angoras were being sent around Europe and to the US. Still rare, the Angora is one of the most exquisite of all longhaired cats, with its fine bone structure and exceptionally soft, glistening coat.



Fine-boned,
slender yet
muscular body

Slender,
graceful neck

Small, rounded
paws usually tufted
between the toes

Fine, silky,
shimmering black coat,
with no undercoat

Long, tapering,
brushlike tail



Small- to
medium-
sized head

Blue-cream
coat



Almond-shaped,
slightly slanting
green eyes

Long legs

SIBERIAN

A LARGE, HEAVY-COATED CAT THAT IS SLOW TO REACH FULL MATURITY

Place of origin	Russia
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	CFA, FIFe, GCCF, TICA
Weight range	10-20lb (4.5-9kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns
All colors and patterns.

This forest cat is native to Russia, where it has probably been around for centuries in varying forms. Breeding Siberians to standard did not begin until the 1980s, and full breed recognition did not come until a decade later after a number of cats had been imported to the US. Although still rare, the Siberian cat is gaining popularity for its handsome looks and engaging personality. It may take five years or more for a Siberian to attain full growth. Despite its moderately hefty build in adulthood, this breed is highly athletic and loves to leap and play.



NEVA MASQUERADE

A MAGNIFICENT COLORPOINTED CAT WITH AN ULTRA-THICK COAT

Place of origin	Russia
Date of origin	1970s
Breed registries	FIFe
Weight range	10-20lb (4.5-9kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

Various colorpoints, including seal, blue, red, cream, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

This breed is the **colorpoint version** of the Siberian (p.179), a forest cat that has a long history in Russia. The Neva Masquerade is named after the Neva River in St. Petersburg, where it was first developed. Combining strength with gentleness, this substantially built cat makes an excellent family pet and has a reputation for becoming particularly attached to children. The immensely thick coat of the Neva Masquerade, which has a double-layered undercoat, is not inclined to form mats or knots, so grooming is not a difficult task, although it does need to be done regularly.



MUNCHKIN

A DEVOTED CAT WITH VERY SHORT LEGS BUT A FULL ZEST FOR LIVING

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	6–9lb (2.5–4kg)
Grooming	 

Colors and patterns
All colors, shades, and patterns.

The extraordinarily short legs of the Munchkin are the result of a chance mutation. This breed appears to have escaped the spinal problems sometimes associated with very short legs in dogs such as the Dachshund, and having a low-to-the-ground stature does not inhibit its general mobility. In fact, Munchkins can run extremely fast, and are energetic and playful. These confident and inquisitive cats make sociable family pets. As

well as the silky, semi-longhaired version, there is also a shorthaired Munchkin (p.101), and both come in an almost endless variety of colors and patterns. The Munchkin longhair needs regular grooming to prevent the coat from matting.



NAPOLEON

THIS SHORT, ROUND CAT COMES WITH A LUXURIOUS FUR COAT

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1990s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 7-17lb (3-7.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns, including colorpoint.

A sturdy, low-to-the-ground cat, the Napoleon longhair is a hybrid specially bred to combine the very short legs of the Munchkin (p.181) with the luxuriant fur of the Persian (pp.136-55), including versions with a colorpointed coat. There is also a shorthaired variant of the Napoleon. This breed is very active, despite its short stature, and has plenty of character. The Persian influence has ensured that the Napoleon likes spending time as a lap cat too, and it loves to be made a fuss of, although it is not overly demanding.

Round head with full cheeks

Round, wide-open eyes

Semi-long white coat stands out from body

Short nose with well-defined stop

Smallish ears with rounded tips

Muzzle fairly short with round whisker pads

Ruff around neck

Long, plumed tail

Shaggy breeches

Short, firm legs

SCOTTISH FOLD

A CHARMING, SOCIABLE CAT WITH A DELIGHTFUL OWL-FACED APPEARANCE

Place of origin	UK/US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	6-13lb (2.5-6kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns

Most solid colors and shades; most tabby, tortie, and colorpoint patterns.

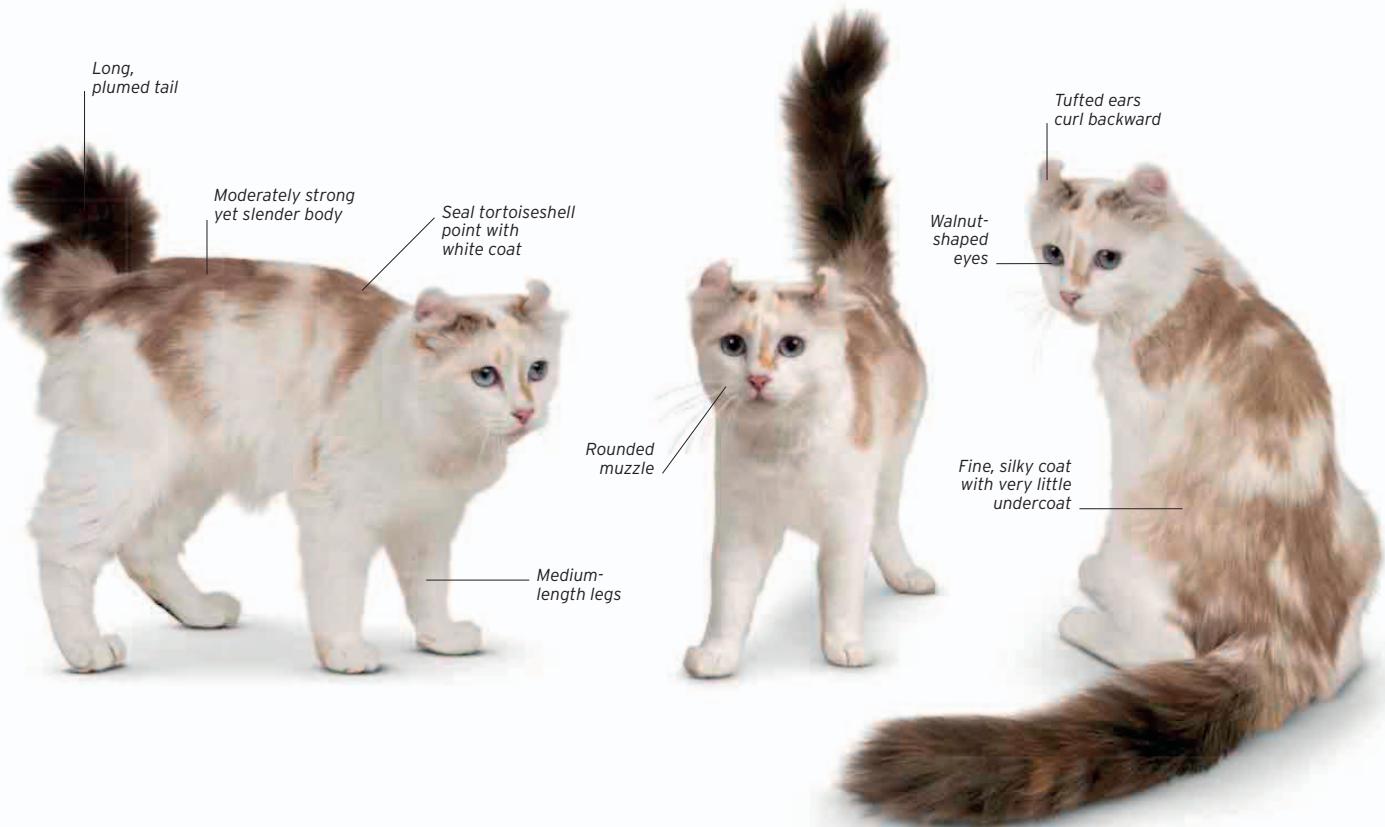
The tightly folded-down ears of this rare breed and its shorthaired relation (pp.106-7) are due to a genetic mutation seen in no other cat. Descended from a folded-ear Scottish farm cat, the Fold is not recognized as a breed by the leading cat registry in the UK because of concerns about genetically linked health problems, although it has been more successful in the US. The diverse coat colors of the Scottish Fold come from the many different outcrosses, including domestic non-pedigree cats that were selected to develop the breed. The dense coat is of variable length and is enhanced by a thick ruff and a huge, plumed tail.



Rounded golden eyes

Prominent whisker pads





AMERICAN CURL

A RARE BREED WITH HIGHLY DISTINCTIVE CURLED-BACK EARS

Place of origin US

Date of origin 1980s

Breed registries CFA, FIFe, TICA

Weight range 7–11lb (3–5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors and shades; patterns include colorpoint, tabby, and tortoiseshell.

This breed has its origins in a stray cat with a long, black coat and oddly curled ears that was adopted off the street by a family in California in 1981. The cat, a female, went on to produce a litter of curly eared kittens, and the rare mutation aroused widespread interest among both breeders and geneticists. Programs for the planned development of the American Curl, in both longhaired and shorthaired (p.109) variants, began remarkably quickly, and the future of the new breed was secured.

In an American Curl, the ears curve backward to a greater or lesser extent, the arc of the curl ideally somewhere between 90 and 180 degrees. The cartilage is firm, not floppy, and the ears of these cats should never be manipulated. At birth, all Curl kittens have straight ears, but in about 50 percent of them the characteristic curve

begins to take shape within a few days, reaching its full arc by the time the cat is about three or four months old. Cats whose ears remain straight are of value in breeding programs, since their use helps to keep the American Curl genetically healthy.

The longhaired Curl has a silky coat that lies close to the body. There is very little undercoat, which makes grooming easy and means minimal shedding. A further embellishment in the longhair is the lovely, long, plumed tail.

Alert, intelligent, and affectionate, the American Curl has an attractive personality and is an excellent family pet. This cat is gentle and soft-voiced, but not at all shy about pestering its owner for attention.



HIGHLANDER

THIS RARE BREED WITH STRIKING LOOKS IS FAMILY-LOVING AND PLAYFUL

Place of origin North America

Date of origin 2000s

Breed registries TICA

Weight range 10–25lb (4.5–11kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors in any tabby pattern, including colorpoints.

With its thick, almost shaggy coat, the Highlander longhair looks like a small lynx, although there are no wild cats in its breeding. This curly eared newcomer on the cat scene is large and powerfully built, but moves with grace. Full of life and energy, the Highlander longhair is not content to stay in the background, and owners—and other pets—will be pestered constantly to play. Nonetheless, this is an affectionate, gentle cat that gets along well with children. The heavy coat needs regular grooming to prevent mats and tangling. There is a shorthaired version (p.109) of the Highlander that is easier to maintain.



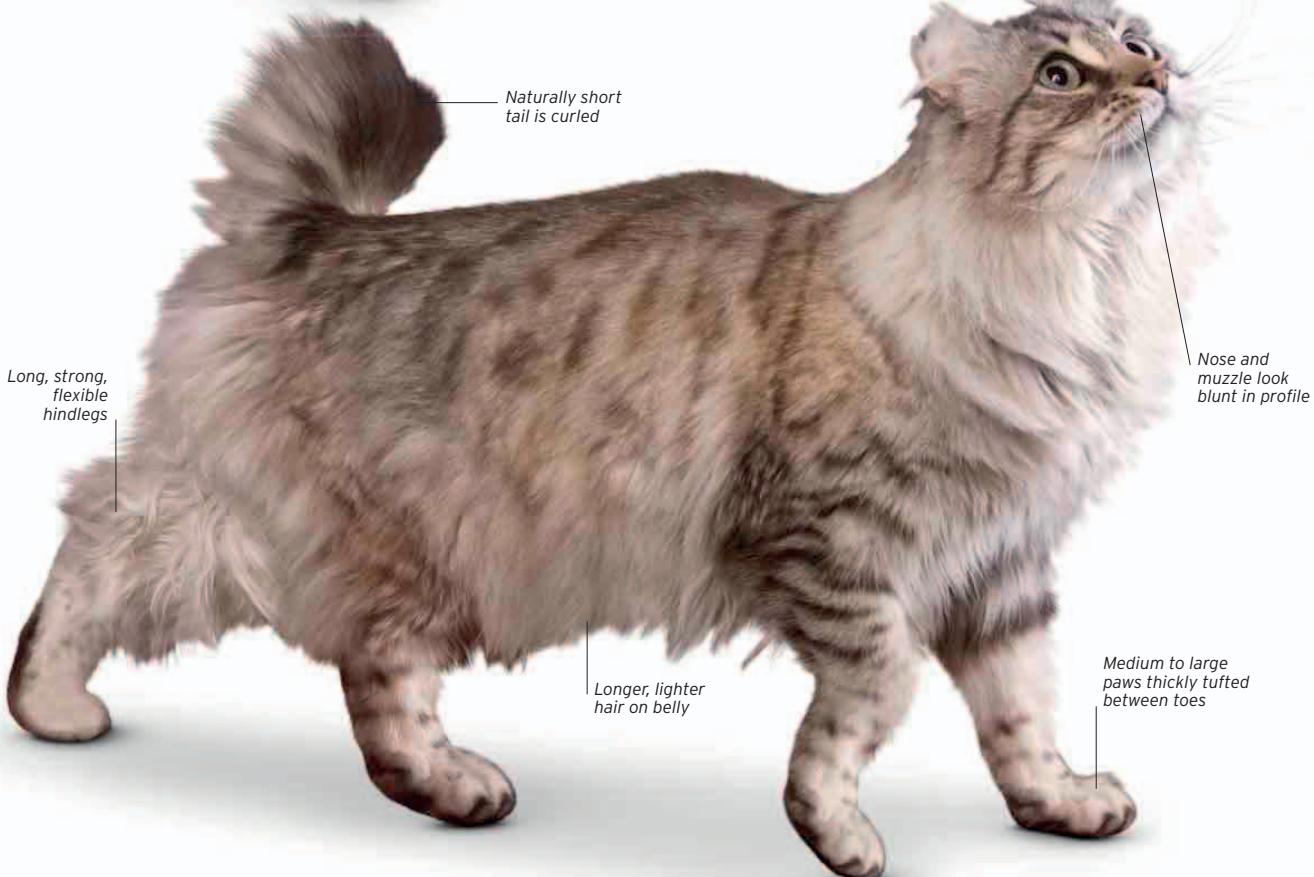
Long, soft,
chocolate-spotted
tabby coat

Substantial,
well-boned legs



Sloping
forehead

Prominent
whisker pads



Long, strong,
flexible
hindlegs

Naturally short
tail is curled

Nose and
muzzle look
blunt in profile

Longer, lighter
hair on belly

Medium to large
paws thickly tufted
between toes



NEW LOOK

Just created in the 21st century, the Highlander is not yet well known. With appealing shaggy looks, quirky ears, and a fun-loving nature, the breed has great potential for future popularity.

JAPANESE BOBTAIL

THIS CAT IS ALWAYS ON THE GO, TALKATIVE, AND INQUISITIVE

Place of origin	Japan
Date of origin	c.17th century
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	6-9lb (2.5-4kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All solid colors in bicolor, tabby, and tortie patterns.



Both longhaired and shorthaired (p.110) Japanese Bobtails appear to have been favored pets in Japan for several hundred years. In the 1960s the first of these charismatic and unusual cats were imported to the US, where the modern breed was developed. Japanese Bobtails are loving and lovable, but with their outgoing and energetic natures they are not for the owner who wants a lap cat. There are many variations on the short, plumed tail, which can curve or bend in any direction. The longhaired coat falls softly over the body and is relatively easy to groom.

KURILIAN BOBTAIL

A RARE SHORT-TAILED BREED THAT THRIVES ON COMPANY AND AFFECTION

Place of origin Kuril Islands, North Pacific

Date of origin 20th century (modern breed)

Breed registries FIFe, TICA

Weight range 7-10lb (3-4.5kg)

Grooming



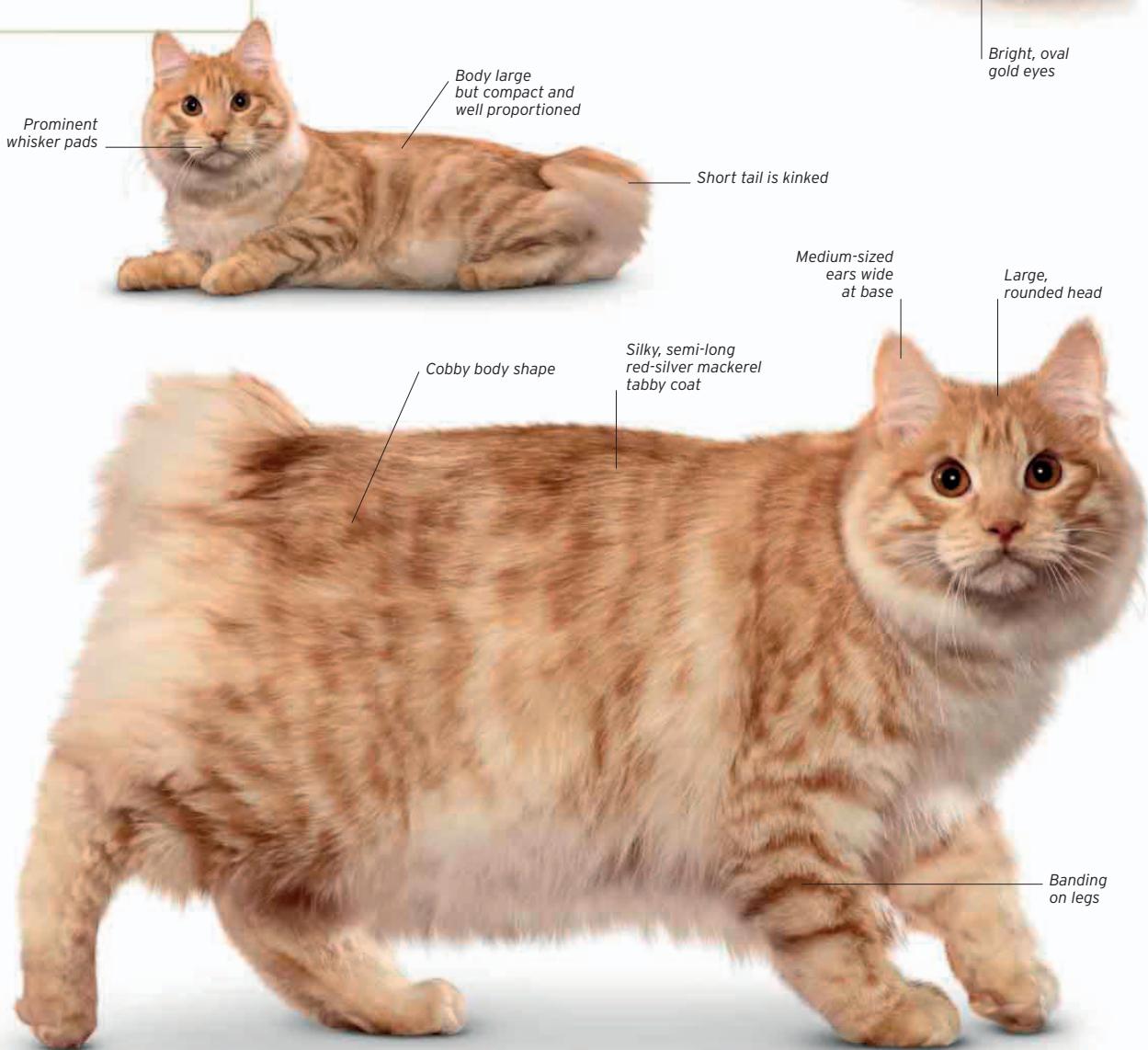
Colors and patterns

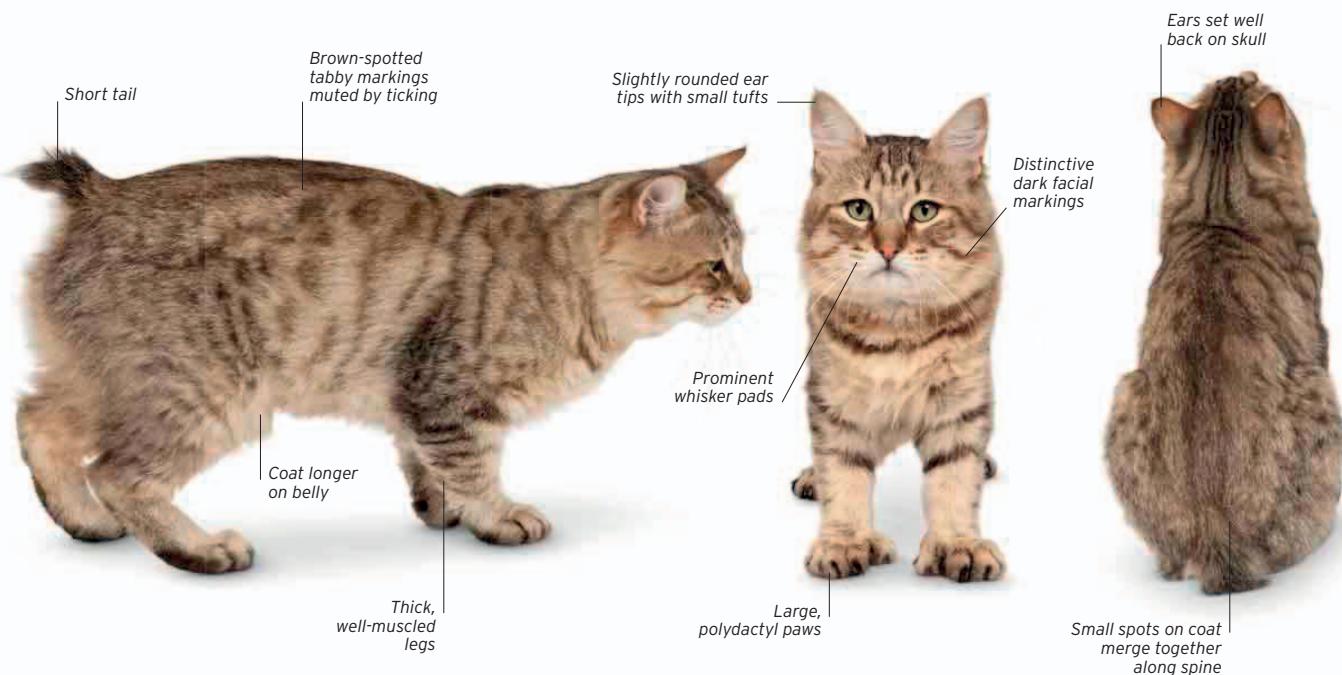
Most solid colors, shades, and patterns, including tabby.

This solidly handsome cat takes its name from the Kuril Islands, an archipelago in the North Pacific, where it is thought to have its origins. As both Russia and Japan have laid claim to various of these islands, it is uncertain from which country the Kurilian Bobtail longhair really comes. The breed has been popular on the Russian mainland since the 1950s, as has the shorthaired version (p.111), but it is uncommon elsewhere and particularly rare in the US. The Kurilian Bobtail adores family life and can never get enough fuss and attention from its owner, although it has a strong streak of independence.



Bright, oval gold eyes





PIXIEBOB

THIS LARGE BREED RESEMBLES THE WILD BOBCAT OF NORTH AMERICA

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	TICA
Weight range	9–18lb (4–8kg)
Grooming	

	Low
Colors and patterns	Brown spotted tabby only.

This relatively new breed has a similar appearance to the bobcat, native to the mountains of the Pacific coast. The resemblance is deliberate—the Pixiebob's characteristics having been developed by breeders catering for a growing fashion in domestic cats that look like their wild cousins. Lynxlike features include a thick, double tabby-spotted coat that stands out from the body; tufted ears; a heavy brow; and facial hair that grows in sideburns. The tail varies in length and may be long and brushlike, although only short-tailed cats are eligible for showing. A shorthaired variation of the Pixiebob (p.116) creates much the same wildcat illusion.

The founding father of this breed was an exceptionally tall, bobtailed tabby that bred with an ordinary domestic female cat, sired bobtailed kittens with a special look—one of them, christened Pixie, passed her name to the breed.

Powerfully built, with a swaggering air, Pixiebobs are active and athletic. However, they are also relaxed and sociable cats that take happily to family life, enjoy playing with older children, and are usually tolerant of other pets. Pixiebobs like being with people and many enjoy outdoor walks on a lead.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

The kitten seen below has its mother's short hair but the bobtail and polydactyly (extra toes) of its longhaired father (main photos). This is the only breed in which polydactyly is allowed in show cats.





CYMRIC

AN EXCELLENT FAMILY COMPANION, THIS BREED IS CALM BUT EASILY PERSUADED TO PLAY

Place of origin North America

Date of origin 1960s

Breed registries FIFe,
TICA

Weight range 8-12lb (3.5-5.5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

Developed in Canada, the Cymric is a longhaired variant of the tailless Manx (p.115). Sturdy and round-bodied, the breed, which is sometimes referred to as the Longhaired Manx, differs from its relative only in the length of its silky coat. Muscular hindquarters and long hindlegs give the Cymric a powerful jump—it can spring up onto high places with ease. Cymrics have an affectionate nature, frequently forming close attachments to their human family. They make intelligent and entertaining companions and appreciate plenty of attention from their owners.



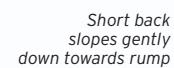
Prominent
whisker pads



Ruff around neck
extends to shoulders

Thick breeches
on hindlegs

Coat shorter on
lower legs



Short back
slopes gently
down towards rump

Well-rounded
rump lacks tail

White, glossy double coat
lies smoothly on body

Large, round eyes
slightly angled



Well-muscled
hindquarters
and legs

Sturdy forelegs
shorter than hindlegs

AMERICAN BOBTAIL

A WILD CAT LOOKALIKE WITH A HOME-LOVING PERSONALITY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1960s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	7–15lb (3–7kg)

Grooming

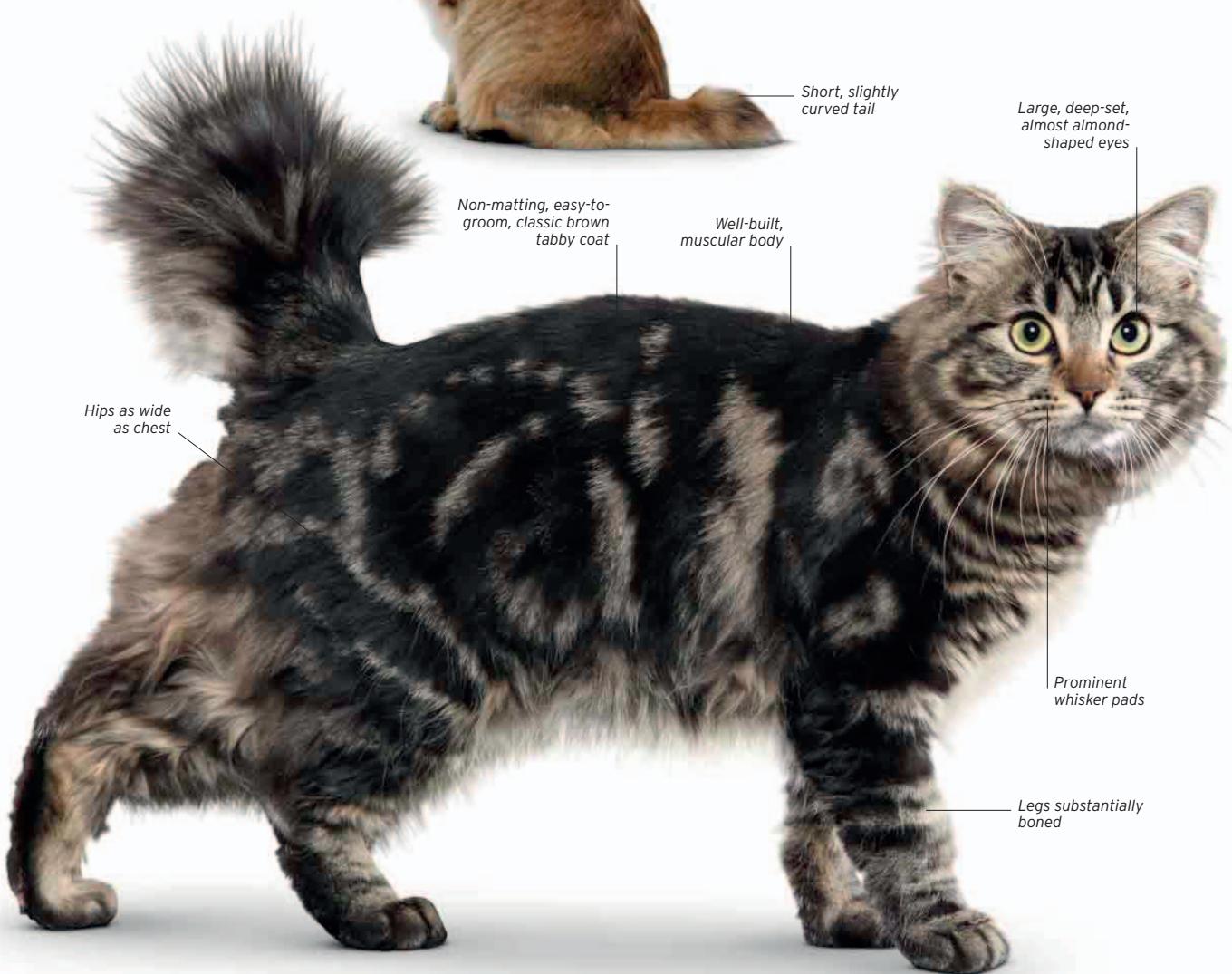


Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

According to a widely accepted opinion, the origins of this true native American cat can be traced to the naturally short-tailed, feral cats found roaming free in various US states. The breed also has a short-coated cousin (p.113). The large,

powerfully built Bobtail longhair has the alert air of a wild cat, but it is entirely benign and a good family pet. It is renowned for being tolerant of children and staying calm and friendly even with strangers. The Bobtail's long coat does not mat, so moderate grooming is all that is required.



SELKIRK REX

THIS BREED HAS WILD CURLS AND AN ENDEARINGLY HUGGABLE PERSONALITY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	8-11lb (3.5-5kg)
Grooming	

Colors and patterns
All colors, shades, and patterns.

The breed originated with an odd curly coated female kitten, discovered among an otherwise normal litter in an animal rescue center in Montana. Adopted as something of a curiosity, this cat went on to produce curly offspring and lay the foundations for the Selkirk Rex. Through planned matings with both Persians and short-coated breeds, longhaired and shorthaired (pp.124-5) lines were developed. These sweet-tempered, placid cats are almost irresistibly cuddly, and fortunately they are very happy to accept attention. Regular grooming of the Selkirk Rex longhair is essential, but owners should avoid overvigorous brushing, because this can straighten out the curls.



URAL REX

A LITTLE-KNOWN BREED, THIS CAT IS SAID TO BE QUIET AND GOOD WITH FAMILIES

Place of origin	Russia
Date of origin	1940s
Breed registries	Other
Weight range	8-15lb (3.5-7kg)
Grooming	 Moderate

Colors and patterns

Various colors and patterns, including tabby.

Although this cat was not generally recognized until fairly late in the 20th century, it is possibly one of the oldest of the rex breeds and is thought to have been in existence in the Ural region of Russia since the late 1940s. The Ural Rex longhair has a medium-long coat that falls in waves over its entire body. This rare cat comes in a shorter-haired version (p.122), which is also far from common. As test breeding has shown, the genetic mutation responsible for the Ural Rex's wavy coat appears to be very different from that found in other, better-known, rex cats, such as the Cornish Rex (p.127) and Devon Rex (pp.128-9).

Pronounced cheekbones

Slim legs

Oval white paws

Relatively short, muscular body

Tail tapers to rounded tip

Semi-long chocolate coat lies in loose, elastic waves

Short, broad, wedge-shaped head

Large, slanted, oval eyes



LAPERM

THIS CLEVER AND CAPTIVATING CAT ADORES HUMAN COMPANY

Place of origin	US
Date of origin	1980s
Breed registries	CFA, TICA
Weight range	8-11lb (3.5-5kg)

Grooming



Colors and patterns

All colors, shades, and patterns.

An ordinary farm cat in Oregon produced the curly coated kittens that led to the development of the LaPerm. The unique coat of this shaggy but graceful cat varies considerably from soft waves to bouncy, corkscrew curls. There is also a shorthaired version (p.123). Long-legged and agile, LaPerms are active cats, but will readily accommodate their owners by switching from playing games to purring on a lap. The LaPerm is not difficult to groom, because it has very little undercoat to shed or mat. Regular combing is the best way to keep the curls in good order.



Broad muzzle



Prominent whisker pads with long, flexible whiskers

Large, cupped ears with tufts

Almond-shaped eyes

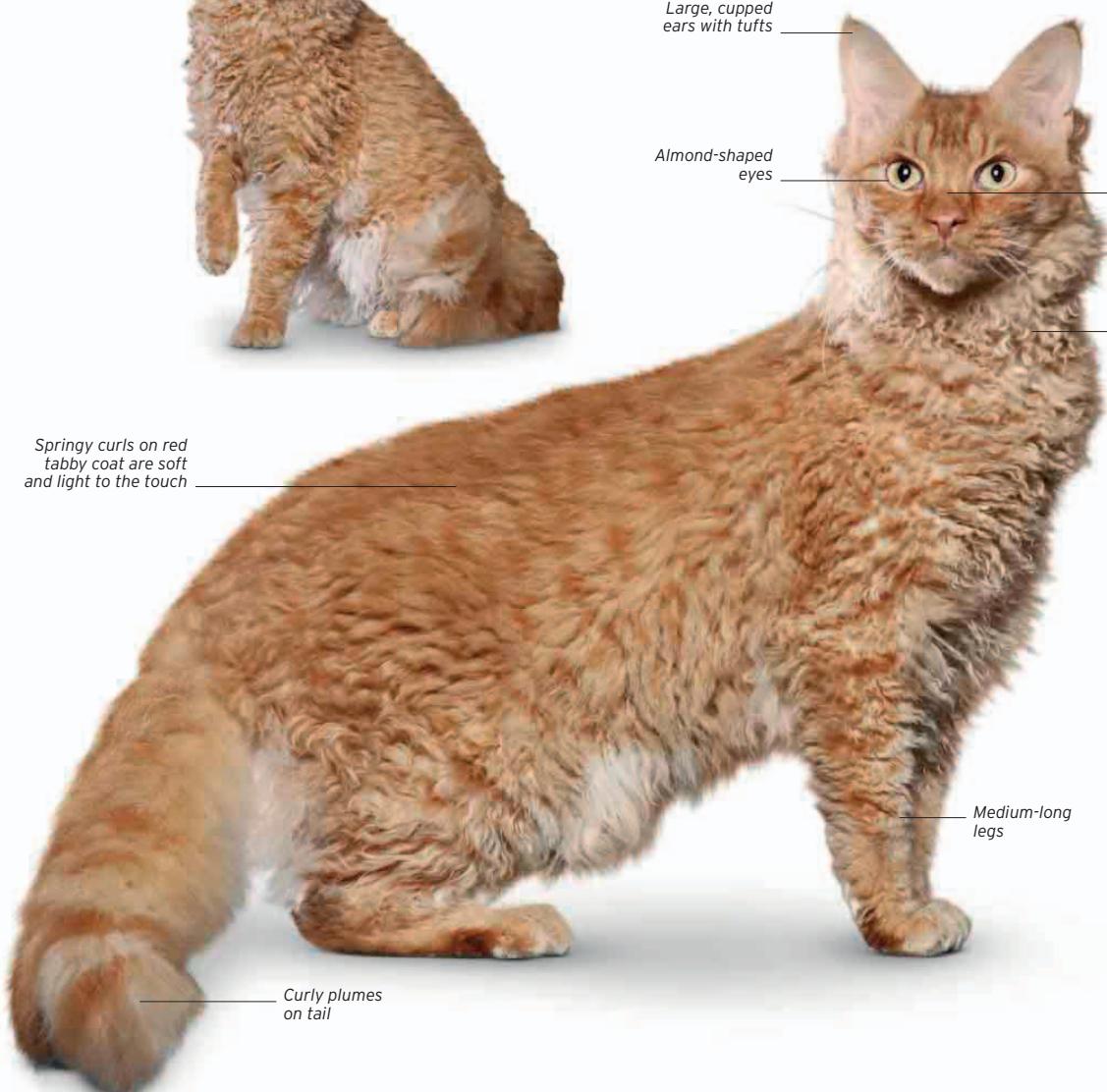
Nose has slight dip

Longest, tightest curls occur in ruff

Springy curls on red tabby coat are soft and light to the touch

Medium-long legs

Curly plumes on tail





IRRESISTIBLE CURLS

The LaPerm is gratifyingly responsive to affection and welcomes being fussed over. Its long, curly coat usually draws regular attention and stroking from its human admirers.

HOUSE CAT—LONGHAIR

REGARDLESS OF THEIR ANCESTRY, THESE CATS HAVE UNDENIABLE GLAMOUR

Non-pedigree cats with long hair are less common than their shorthaired counterparts. In some of them, the clues to their origins are obvious. A dense, woolly undercoat, stocky body, and a round, flattened face are likely to be inherited from a Persian. The ancestry of others remains a mystery in a confusion of variable coat lengths, mixed colors, and indeterminate patterns. Longhaired house cats rarely have the extravagantly thick coats seen in the show ring, but many of them are very beautiful.



CREAM AND WHITE

Cream—a diluted form of red—is an unusual color in the average house cat. This one has ghost tabby markings, which cat fanciers try to eliminate in pedigrees by breeding only the very palest creams.



BROWN TABBY

Long fur tends to blur tabby patterning. This cat has a semilong coat marked with the pattern known as classic tabby, which on a shorter coat would appear as boldly defined, dark whorls.



BLACK

Jet black was among the first colors to be popular in longhairs. In random-bred cats there are likely to be slight tinges of brown or tabby pattern in the coat.



RED AND WHITE TABBY

Most owners of a red tabby are likely to refer to their pet as a ginger cat. This color is highly sought after and can often be just as deep and rich in non-pedigree cats as it is in purebreds.



SILVER AND WHITE

Rarely seen in the domestic house cat, silver is the effect of a white coat tipped with darker color at the end of each hair. Depending on their degree of tipping, pedigree silver cats are sometimes known as chinchillas.



APPEALING MIXTURE

A longhaired cat can be a showstopper even without a pedigree. Many attractive house cats combine a medley of colors with long, lush fur, often the result of a Persian cross somewhere in their history.





CARE AND BEHAVIOR

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

Is your house ready for a cat or kitten? Before bringing a new pet home, take a good look around and ask yourself a few key questions: is there anywhere you don't want your cat to go; is there anything that could be hazardous to a cat; and which of your own habits might you or your family need to change when you have a cat? A little preparation will turn your home into a safe environment for the new arrival.



A kitten is life-changing

Become cat aware

Cats are inquisitive and athletic, and you should take this into account when evaluating your home. If you regularly leave doors and windows open, assess whether your cat could escape through them or enter areas you want to keep cat-free—and close them when necessary. Also, start looking behind you when going through a door, since a cat can easily slip through a gap at your feet. Close the doors of washing machines and dryers when not in use, and always check the whereabouts of your cat before switching them on.



Safety indoors

Cats love climbing, so remove breakable or valuable objects from low tables or shelves that they could leap on to. Be aware of possible pathways that would allow your cat to reach high shelves or work surfaces, and move furniture accordingly. Stools, floor lamps, wall hangings, and curtains are all scalable to a cat. Consider temporarily putting double-sided sticky tape, plastic sheeting, or aluminium foil around the edges of furniture you want to remain off limits until your cat learns to leave them alone; cats dislike these textures and will avoid stepping on them. Climbing and scratching are entirely natural behaviors for a cat, so make sure you provide outlets for these activities, such as a scratching pole and something safe for him to climb on.

TOP TIP

Household chemicals are an obvious hazard. Keep them securely shut away in places a cat cannot reach. Mop up spills right away. Also check whether any products are toxic to cats—for example carpet cleaners and bug control sprays. Do the same in any garage or shed that a cat could access. Even seemingly innocuous substances may be dangerous to cats, especially since their first instinct is to lick themselves clean if they get something on their coat or paws.



WINDOW SCREENS

Using window screens will enable you to leave windows open for fresh air and in hot weather, safe in the knowledge that your cat cannot escape.

OUTDOOR THREATS

FOXES



SNAKES



OTHER CATS



FIREWORKS

SUNBURN
(WHITE CATS)**TOP TIPS**

■ **Keep your cat indoors** during firework displays. Close doors and windows, mask the noise with music, and let your cat hide if he wants to. Don't reassure him—this may be taken as a sign that you too are afraid. A pheromone plug-in may help your cat to stay calm.

■ **Cat sunblock** can be bought from pet shops. Cats with white coats or patches of white are susceptible to sunburn, since the skin under the fur is also pale. Use only cat-friendly sunblock.

**NATURALLY CURIOUS**

Cats will inspect and explore whatever and wherever they can. Make sure cupboards cannot be opened, and always put away sharp knives, scissors, pins, and tacks.

Beware of leaving small objects lying around: cats can swallow or choke on things such as toys, bottle caps, pen tops, and erasers. Tuck away wiring on electrical appliances and pull up dangling cords so your cat cannot drag a lamp or iron onto himself. Fit unused electrical sockets with childproof covers.

Safety outdoors

After assessing your home, carry out a "safety audit" of your garden and yard. Remove sharp, potentially harmful objects and prevent access to sheds and greenhouses. Even if you try to secure your yard from animal intruders, you will always have some "visitors." Foxes are usually wary of mature cats

and their claws, but they may harm kittens. Snakes are an issue in some places, mainly because cats prey on them and sometimes get bitten in the process. There are cat-friendly snake-repellent products on the market. Always examine your pet carefully after a fight with a neighborhood cat, in case he has injuries that need a vet's attention. In urban areas, the greatest threat will be from traffic, so do your best to prevent your cat from being able to reach the road.

Dangerous plants

Some plants are toxic to cats if eaten (see below). Remove these dangerous plants from the garden. Keep houseplants off the floor and low tables, and cover the soil with bark chips or pebbles to discourage digging. If your cat must nibble indoors, buy special cat grass plants from nurseries and keep them away from other plants to avoid confusion.

DANGEROUS PLANTS**indoors**

- Dieffenbachia
- Poinsettia
- Mistletoe
- Lily
- Cactus
- Potted bulbs—crocus, daffodils
- Philodendron

**outdoors**

- Azalea
- Hydrangea
- Nightshade
- Oleander
- Nicotiana
- Tomato leaves
- Potato leaves
- Rhododendron
- Yew
- Monkshood

Equipment for your cat

If you are a new cat owner, you'll need to buy a certain amount of equipment for your pet's comfort and well-being. These items include a bed, a litter box, feeding and drinking bowls, and a scratching post. It's tempting to go for the latest "must have" items, but think carefully about whether your cat really needs such things. Start with good-quality basic items that are within your budget, since the initial outlay on your cat will quickly mount up. You can think about treating him to more products later on.

Bed and bedding

Felines will take a catnap anywhere that captures their fancy, but like most animals they really appreciate somewhere that is exclusively their territory. Choose a round or oval, washable, soft-sided bed that is not too big. A blanket or old cushion can be added if your cat is not yet fully grown.



HANGING AROUND

Suspended from a radiator, this cat bed provides your pet with a warm, cozy place to sleep.



Basket style



Tent style

CAT BEDS

Beds come in a wide range of styles. If you know what kind of bed your cat used before joining your family, choose that type; otherwise, try to match the bed style with what you know of his character.

Litter boxes

Open, covered, manual, automatic, self-cleaning—the choice of litter boxes is ultimately up to you. However, if you are acquiring an older cat, stick to the type of box with which he is familiar: a cat used to an open box, for example, is likely to be reluctant to change to a covered one. Choosing the right litter material may involve some trial and error before you find a brand that your cat likes using and that meets your own requirements for cleaning. You can also add deodorizers to the litter. These come as sprays, powders, or granules; avoid scented products, since these may deter your cat from using the box. The best deodorizers use enzymes to break down smells. A plastic scoop will be useful for removing clumps of urine and stools from the litter. Always wash the scoop after using it.



Clay



Fiber pellets

WHICH LITTER TO CHOOSE?

- **Ask the breeder** which litter the kitten is used to and stick with the same type.
- **Clay** is the most popular type of litter, because it absorbs moisture quickly and clumps are easy to remove.
- **Fiber pellets** are very absorbent products and are biodegradable.
- **Nonabsorbent** litter needs to be used in conjunction with a special box that drains the urine into a collecting unit. Feces need to be removed and disposed of, but the litter material itself can be washed and reused.
- **Soil and sand** are popular choices for most cats. However, they may not be suitable for use in apartments or houses without yards, because they are bulky to store and are not biodegradable.

Food and water bowls

Bowls should be sturdy and stable enough not to tip over if stepped on. They should not be too deep and need to be wider than the cat's whiskers. Wash bowls at least once a day. Remove "wet" food after the cat has finished eating. If you feed

your cat canned food, buy an extra can opener that you can reserve solely for opening cat food. Use plastic lids for any partially used cans stored in the refrigerator. There are also automatic feeding stations available that operate on a timer. They flip open a lid at your cat's mealtime—a useful asset if you are going out and don't want to break the cat's routine.



Plastic



Steel

FOOD BOWLS

There are many cat bowls to choose from. Make sure you pick one that is easy to clean. A rubber base can keep the bowl from sliding when your cat is eating.

Scratching posts

Providing a place for your cat to scratch is essential if you don't want your furniture or carpets ruined. Cats need to scratch every day to help wear away the outer sheaths of their claws. Scratching is also a way of marking territory. Scratching posts are usually a flat, rough-carpeted base and an upright post covered in coiled rope, often topped by a carpeted platform (p.235). Make sure the post is tall enough for your cat to get a really good stretch—preferably at least 1ft (30cm) high. Locate the post close to where your cat usually sleeps, since cats do most of their stretching and scratching immediately after waking up.

Collars and ID

It is important to get your cat tagged with a microchip. These tiny devices are no bigger than a grain of rice and are inserted by a vet under the loose skin at the back of the neck. Each chip has a unique number that can be detected when it is scanned by a reader. When the number is fed into a database, your contact details will come up. It's worth doing this even if you have an indoor cat—cats are experts at escaping and may take advantage of an open window or a loose door on a cat carrier. All outdoor cats should have



Collar



Disc tag



Cylinder tag



Bell

COLLARS AND TAGS

A collar is a must for an outdoor cat. Your ID can be engraved on a disc or sealed in a cylinder pendant. A bell will protect birds by warning of your cat's approach.

a collar with an ID tag giving your name and address, along with a telephone number or email address. The collar must be loose enough for you slip two fingers underneath. Many collars have an elasticized section or quick-release snap that allows the cat to escape if the collar becomes snagged.

Cat carriers

A cat carrier is the safest way to transport your cat. Whether it is made of plastic or wire, or is a traditional basket, it must be large enough for your cat to turn around in. A blanket or cushion can be put inside to keep him warm and comfy. To get your cat used to traveling in a carrier, keep the carrier open

and in a place that he can access and use as a refuge.

If he regards the carrier as a place of safety, he will be happier to travel in it—even when it results in a trip to the vet.

CARRIER CRITERIA

A good cat carrier will be easy to enter and exit. It will shield your cat from the outside but still let in plenty of fresh air and light, and allow him to see out.



Cat carrier



Cat cage

CAGE OPTION

An open cage may be more suitable if your cat doesn't like the confines of a carrier. While a carrier will sit well on a car seat, a cage may have to be put securely in the back of a large car.



A new family member

FIRST DAYS

Moving to a new home can be as strange an experience for a new cat or kitten as it is for a human. Although a cat will quickly adapt to his new surroundings, you should aim to make his first few days in an unfamiliar household as calm and stress-free as possible. To aid this, some advance planning and a course of action implemented by the entire family can help him to feel at ease.

Thinking ahead

Plan to bring your cat home on a day when your house will be very calm and quiet, so that you can devote all your attention to him. If you have children, explain to them that their new pet will be a little scared at first and that they should give him time to get used to them. Don't let them get overexcited about this new addition to the family. If you've never had a family pet before, try to make your children understand that the cat is not a toy and will need to be kept calm for the first few days.

Transporting your cat

Your cat or kitten needs a secure box or cat carrier to be transported safely. If possible, put a piece of his bedding into the carrier so that he recognizes the familiar smell. Cover the carrier if necessary so that he can only see out of one end; this will help to reduce his anxiety. Strap the carrier into the car seat with a seatbelt or place it on the floor to prevent your cat from being thrown if you have to stop suddenly.

TOP TIP

Some cats are bolder than others. If your cat leaves the carrier quickly and appears confident, try introducing a toy and playing with him for a while. This will help to break the ice and make your cat feel more relaxed in his new home.

FIRST STEPS

A cat will feel more in control if you let him emerge when he wants. If you force him out, you will merely succeed in causing anxiety.

Welcome home

When you arrive back at your house, bring your cat into the room where he will be spending his first few days. It's best to restrict him to one or two rooms until he is settled. Check that any doors and windows are closed. If you already have other pets, make sure they are out of the way in another room. Put the carrier on the floor and open the door. Allow your cat to venture out in his own time; be patient, and do not try to remove him yourself. Curiosity will eventually get the better of him, and he will leave the carrier and start to explore.





Showing your cat the ropes

Part of your cat's acclimatization involves introducing him to the essential elements of his new life: his basket, the litter box, feeding area, and scratching post. Make sure that these are in easily accessible places but are away from busy areas of the house. It is best to start with the litter box—with any luck your cat will use it right away. If the box is in a separate room, make sure that he can always get to it. Feeding bowls should be put in a place where it is easy to clean up any spills.

Meeting the residents

It will be hard to keep small children away from something as exciting and cute as a new cat or kitten. However, too much yelling, shrieking, and rushing around may frighten your cat, so make sure they understand this. Show them how to hold your cat correctly (p.216) and let them stroke or cuddle him, but if he starts looking unhappy, then be swift to intervene and take control—a nasty scratch could put a child off of their new pet for a long while. Perhaps think about providing children with an activity or treat that will keep them out of the way for an hour or two after they have been introduced to their new pet, so as not to overwhelm him. Also, make them aware that what they leave on the floor could be dangerous to their new kitten—such as small toys—and that they will need to look where they're going from now on to avoid stepping on him.

WHAT'S MY NAME?

Think carefully about what you are going to call your cat. Cats respond best to short, one- or two-syllable names. Make sure it sounds different from the names of any other pets or even members of the family, so that he will learn to recognize his own name and come when called.

INTRODUCTIONS

When showing a new cat to a child, always keep hold of him. Children need to learn how to handle a pet, so let them follow your example.

Start as you mean to continue

Establish the ground rules from the outset, especially about feeding and sleeping. If you give your cat morsels from your plate, for example, he will always expect tidbits and may even refuse his own food. Make sure everyone in the house knows and sticks to the rules. A cat will not understand if you allow him to do something one day but not the next.

BEDTIME RULES

If you allow your new cat to sleep on your bed at night, that is where he will always expect to sleep in the future.





READY FOR A NEW HOME

Kittens are used to the warmth and companionship of littermates and may be timid on their own. Given love and patience, your new cat will soon become a confident member of the family.



Establishing a routine

Cats are creatures of habit. Setting a routine in the early days will help your cat or kitten to settle into his new home and make him feel secure. Eventually, your cat will develop his own patterns of behavior around your family's daily schedule.

Base your routine around regular activities such as feeding, grooming, and playtime. You will need to be consistent with this for several months, so make sure it fits in with your own commitments and habits. Cats do not like constant change—it can stress them and may result in behavioral problems such as digging, chewing, biting, and general hostility. A regular routine will also help you notice any changes in your cat's behavior and health. Predictability means safety to your cat.



Decide on regular mealtimes for your cat, and always put the bowls in the same place. By doing this, you can keep an eye on his appetite, and it will also prove useful for training to know when he's hungry.

If your cat needs regular grooming, aim to do this at the same time each day. Grooming may not be your cat's favorite activity, but it will be tolerated if your pet knows it's only going to take a limited amount of time. Grooming just before mealtime or playtime will give your cat an incentive to be close by and to cooperate with the process.

Having a regular playtime is also a good idea. It gives your cat something to look forward to and reduces the likelihood of "mad hours," when your cat goes crazy and rushes around the house or won't leave you alone. Make sure that playtime is a worthwhile experience with plenty of variety and a decent amount of time devoted solely to the cat.

TOP TIP

Plan when you will give your cat his first feeding. You won't want your cat howling for its 6 a.m. weekday breakfast on a Saturday or Sunday if you like sleeping in on the weekend. If you train a cat to eat at a certain time, stick to your side of the bargain—feed him at the same time every day.



REGULAR MEALTIMES

Giving your cat meals at set times of the day is just one of many routines that will help him to adjust to his new home.

PREPARING THE LITTER BOX

Make sure the litter box is set up and ready for use by the time you bring your cat home—you never know how soon it may be needed.



LITTER SHARING

The general rule is one litter box per cat, but if you start them young they may accept a shared box.

TOXOPLASMOSIS

Cat feces may contain the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. Humans can be infected by *T. gondii* from contact with cat feces, contaminated soil, and cat litter. The infection, called toxoplasmosis, may produce a flulike reaction, but in most cases there are no symptoms at all. However, it is dangerous for pregnant women to come into contact with cat feces, because the infection can be passed to the unborn baby. In extreme cases, this can result in problems as serious as blindness and brain damage.

Litter box etiquette

Most cats and kittens will already know how to use a litter box by the time you bring them home, but an unfamiliar box or litter product may cause a few problems in the early stages. A cat used to one type of litter may not like changing to another. Use the same litter as the breeder initially, so the cat first has a chance to get used to the litter. Then you can make the change to the new product gradually, by mixing the two types, adding a greater proportion of the new product each time you change the litter.

If your cat is avoiding the litter box, try setting up another box containing a different product to see which he prefers. Generally, the finer the product feels under his paws, the more attractive it will be to a cat, which is why most instinctively go for sand or soil. Keep the litter box in the same place all the time and within easy access. If the location is too busy, your cat may refuse to use his box—cats like their privacy too. Clean the box out regularly. Scoop out clumps every day and change the litter once a week. Rinse the box well after washing to remove any lingering chemical smell, and resist the temptation to mask litter odors with scented sanitizers or deodorants.

Coping with change

There will always be times when routines have to change. Some changes can be positive experiences for your cat, so long as they don't make him feel threatened or stressed. There will inevitably be occasions when you have to go out for the day and leave your cat on his own, which will disrupt his usual playtime or grooming sessions. It won't matter if you have these sessions before you go out or when you

come back instead, or even abandon them completely, but try to make a fuss of your cat at some point and leave him with toys so that he can entertain himself.

Going on vacation

Vacations are always tricky times for cat owners, and you will need to organize things so that your cat's routine remains as constant as possible. Cats can adjust to their owner being away or being taken to a new place, but rarely to the two happening at the same time. The best option is to ask a friend or relative to come in and feed your cat at home. If this is not possible and you have to resort to professional pet sitters, then make sure you ask for references.

Boarding kennels can be stressful places for cats, so it's vital to choose a good one. Ask cat owners whose judgment you trust if they can recommend any. Go and visit the kennel before using it, to see conditions for yourself. They should have a license from the proper authority—don't be afraid to ask to see it. Remember to book well in advance, especially if the kennel is popular.

VACATION HOME

A good boarding kennel will have separate sleeping and exercise areas for each cat, without allowing contact between the animals.



FOOD AND FEEDING

A well-fed and well-nourished cat is a happy cat. Although the occasional mouse caught outside may supplement your cat's diet, he will rely on you almost exclusively for his food. And that reliance places great responsibility on you. Providing your cat with a healthy, balanced diet will help him to grow and develop as he should, and give him the best chance of living a long life free of illness.



Eating healthily
for a long life

Essential nutrition

Cats are carnivores—they eat meat because they cannot convert the fats and proteins found in vegetable matter into the amino acids and fatty acids necessary for their bodies to function properly and stay healthy. Meat protein contains everything they need plus an important amino acid that they cannot make—taurine. Insufficient taurine in a cat's diet can lead to blindness and heart disease. Taurine is added to all processed cat foods. Cooking reduces its effectiveness, so if you cook your cat's food yourself, you will also need to provide him with a regular taurine supplement.

Vitamins and micronutrients

The vitamins needed for essential cat nutrition include D, K, E, B, and A (cats cannot manufacture vitamin A). They also need vitamin C, but intake of this vitamin should be monitored since cats can develop bladder stones if they have too much. Cats also require certain micronutrients—for example, phosphorus, selenium, and sodium. Although these are only needed in tiny quantities, a lack of them can lead to serious health problems. A source of calcium is vital too because calcium only occurs in small quantities in meat. Most commercial cat food contains all of these essential vitamins and micronutrients.



Wet or dry?

Most prepared cat food is described as "wet" or "dry." Wet food comes in airtight cans or pouches, so it doesn't need preservatives to keep it fresh. It is tasty but soft in texture, so it provides little resistance to keep teeth and gums healthy. If wet food is not eaten immediately, it will soon become unappealing to your cat.

Dry food has been pressure-cooked and then dried. It is sprayed with fat to make it palatable, but this requires preservatives to be added. Dry foods usually includes antioxidants such as vitamin C and E, which are natural and beneficial to your cat. Although you shouldn't give your cat dry food all the

FIBER FROM PREY

Cats require a source of fiber to maintain healthy digestive function. In the wild, they obtain the fiber they need from the fur, skin, and feathers of their prey.



Dry food



Wet food



Home-cooked

TOP TIP

When buying food, choose a product that uses real meat (not mechanically recovered meat) and lists this as the first ingredient. Avoid foods full of additives or that list cereal as the main ingredient.

WET, DRY, AND HOME-COOKED FOOD

Dry food won't spoil, but wet food is more like a cat's natural diet. Homemade meals are freshest, but avoid single-protein diets.

time, it does have some advantages. It can, for example, be left out during the day without spoiling. You may want to give dry food in the morning and reserve the wet food for when you return from work in the evening.

Home-cooked food

For home-cooked meals, use meat and fish that's fit for human consumption. Make sure it is well cooked to kill bacteria or parasites that could be dangerous. Homemade meals are a good way of introducing well-cooked bones as a calcium source, but don't offer them if your cat has not learned to eat bones or if he eats his food too quickly. The scraping action of bones keeps teeth in good shape; without them, your cat's teeth will need regular cleaning (p.231).

Drinking requirements

All cats should be provided with a source of water, since water helps dilute the urine and is absorbed by fiber in the gut. Caution should be taken with giving cats milk or cream, since many adult cats lack the enzyme necessary to digest

the lactose sugar in dairy products and may get diarrhea. Special "cat milk" can now be bought; alternatively, use milk for lactose-intolerant humans available at supermarkets.

Foods to avoid

As well as milk and cream, other foods to avoid include raw fish, which contains enzymes that can be harmful to cats. Onions and garlic can cause anemia, while green tomatoes and green (raw) potatoes—and especially their leaves—contain a poisonous alkaloid that produces violent gastrointestinal symptoms, so keep these items out of reach. Chocolate is highly toxic to cats, and grapes and raisins may harm the kidneys.

DRINKING WATER

Cats fed a dry-food diet will require more water than those that eat wet food.

**DANGEROUS FOODS**

Onions and garlic



Green tomatoes and potatoes



Chocolate



Grapes and raisins



Cream



Raw fish



When and how much to feed

Generally, your cat should be fed twice a day at regular times. This will allow him to build up an appetite and you to regulate how much he eats. Once you have established a regular feeding regime, it will be easy to tell if your cat is not eating and feeling unwell. The feeding guides printed on

CAT GRASS

Cats eat grass because its juices contain folic acid, which prevents anemia. Cat grass bought from a pet store or nursery can be grown indoors in a small pot.



EATING THE RIGHT AMOUNT

If you have more than one kitten, make sure that they are all eating the right quantity for their age and weight. If you suspect one isn't eating enough, try feeding him separately so that you can monitor his intake.

packets of prepared food are only estimates, and they may need to be increased or decreased depending on how your cat looks and feels when handled. As a guideline, you should be able to feel your cat's ribs easily but not see them. Make sure you never feed an adult cat kitten food or dog food—kitten food contains too much protein and will be bad for an adult cat's kidneys; conversely, dog food does not contain enough protein for a cat. Make sure your cat's food and water bowls are always washed thoroughly after use.

The right balance

Cats enjoy variety, and it is important that they are fed a mix of different foods to ensure they get adequate nutrition. Make any changes to your cat's diet gradually, so that he can build up enough bacteria in his system to digest the new food. Once you've found a balanced diet that your cat likes, stick to it. Constantly changing his food may encourage him to become a fussy eater, and cats can hold out for days until you give them what they want.

Special diets

Your cat's dietary needs will change throughout his life. Kittens need lots of protein, fat, and calories to support their rapid growth. Use specially formulated kitten food to avoid deficiencies that could cause problems later in life. For the first week after bringing your kitten home, give him the same food that he has eaten since weaning. To introduce a new food, replace 10 percent of the original food with the new food, increasing the proportion by 10 percent daily until your kitten is eating only the new food by the tenth day—this will prevent diarrhea. If he does get an upset stomach, revert to a higher proportion of the old food and take longer to make the switchover.

A pregnant cat needs extra protein and vitamins, and will want to eat more in the final stages of pregnancy. This may mean giving her smaller meals more frequently if she cannot eat as much as usual at a time. She will also have increased nutritional requirements when nursing. Older cats use less energy, so they need fewer calories in their diet. They may need special food to aid a more delicate digestive system.

For cats with medical conditions and overweight cats, use a diet recommended by your vet. An approved weight-loss diet ensures that an obese cat loses weight but stays nourished and still eats a satisfying volume of food. Food allergies in cats are rare, but when they occur the only way to find the cause is through a food-elimination trial supervised by your vet.

The role of treats

Whether given as rewards in training or to aid bonding with your cat, try to ration treats to avoid weight gain in your cat. Ensure that 10 percent maximum of your cat's calorie intake comes from treats. Some treats may give nutritional benefits that your cat won't get from his normal food; others contain filler ingredients with little nutritional value and a lot of fat. Learn to distinguish good ingredients from bad.



IT'S TREAT TIME

Rewards for learning new tricks will reinforce training, while treats given when you leave for work and return home can be something your pet looks forward to.



WHICH TREAT?

Treats come in many different meat and fish flavors. Whatever you choose, make sure you don't overfeed your cat.

FEEDING YOUR CAT

ADULT WEIGHT	4.5LB	9LB	13.5LB	22LB	26.5LB
Inactive lifestyle 	100-140cal (4oz wet/1oz dry)	200-280cal (8oz wet/2oz dry)	300-420cal (1oz wet/3oz dry)	400-560cal (16oz wet/4oz dry)	500-700cal (20oz wet/5oz dry)
Active lifestyle 	140-180cal (6oz wet/1.5oz dry)	280-360cal (12oz wet/3oz dry)	420-540cal (16oz wet/4oz dry)	560-720cal (24oz wet/6oz dry)	700-900cal (28oz wet/7oz dry)
Pregnant female 	200-280cal (8oz wet/2oz dry)	400-560cal (16oz wet/4oz dry)	600-840cal (24oz wet/6oz dry)	800-1120cal (32oz wet/8oz dry)	1,000-1,400cal (44oz wet/11oz dry)

HANDLING YOUR CAT

Cats are notoriously choosy about who they will allow to touch them, let alone pick them up and pet them. Some cats simply don't like being picked up and will struggle to get free. There are right and wrong ways to handle a cat—learn how to do it properly and your cat will enjoy the opportunity to get closer to you. If he's comfortable with being held, it will be easier for you to groom him and check for injury or illness.



A correctly held kitten



STRESS-BUSTER

There's something about cats that makes us want to stroke them. Research has shown that petting cats is good for reducing stress in humans—and cats like it too.

Start early

The best time to get a cat used to being handled is when it is a kitten. Early and routine contact from about two or three weeks old helps kittens not only to develop faster but also grow into more contented cats that are happy to be handled by humans. If you have children, teach them to be gentle and to treat the kitten with respect. Mistreated and mishandled kittens will grow into nervous cats who keep their distance from people and who are difficult to train. Cats have long memories, and they will avoid children who handle them too roughly or pull their tails.

How to pick up a cat

A very young kitten can be picked up by the scruff of his neck, like his mother does, but he will need more support as he gets older and heavier. When his mother stops picking him up like this, so should you. From then on, the correct way to pick up your cat will be to approach from the side and place one hand flat against his ribcage, just behind his front legs. Use the other hand to support him under his hindquarters.



CARRYING YOUR CAT

Don't cradle your cat on its back when you pick him up—this position is unnatural to a cat and will make him feel vulnerable. Instead, try to hold him as upright as possible. Put one hand under the "armpits" of his front legs, place the other under his rear, and hold him securely.

TOP TIP

Never try to pick up a cat that doesn't know you. First, let him sniff and investigate you. Try stroking him while talking in a calm tone—if he gets used to you being friendly, he may be happy to be picked up in the future. If he seems nervous, back off. Sudden movements could make him lash out, then run off. Treat feral or fully wild cats with even more caution.

Different strokes

Try not to stroke your cat unless he is willing to be touched. Put out a hand or finger for him to sniff. If he touches you with his nose or rubs his cheek or body against you, he's in the mood for contact. If he shows no interest, leave it until another time.

Once your cat is amenable to being petted, begin by stroking him along his back in a slow, continuous motion. Always go from head to tail, never the other way. Stop when you reach his tail. If your cat is enjoying it, he may arch his back to increase the pressure of your hand.

Learn how your cat likes to be petted. The top of the head, especially between and behind the ears, is often a favorite place. Cats can't reach this spot, and it reminds them of when their mother used to lick them there. Some cats also like being stroked under the chin. Rubbing the cheeks with a circular motion is popular with many cats, because it helps them spread their scent onto your fingers.

**CAT MAKING CONTACT**

Your cat may often make the first move himself, by bumping or brushing up against you. If it's not convenient for you to pet him, at least stroke your cat once or twice so he knows he's not being ignored.

**HEAD SCRATCHING**

Scratch with the pads of your fingers from back to front. Be slow and gentle—cats can be fussy about how they are petted.

Your cat may like being raked with the fingers, but don't stop and scratch him in one place. Most cats dislike being patted, especially along the flank. When your cat jumps into your lap and lies down, pet him once to see if he wants attention or just a warm place to snooze. If he fidgets or his tail twitches, stop stroking. A cat that is enjoying being petted may change his position so that the part he wants stroking is uppermost and closest to your hand.

Rough and tumble

Some cats like rough play and will grab and “play bite” at a hand that tries to rub their belly. If your cat sinks his claws in, keep still until he disengages. Pushing further in toward him may surprise him enough to let go. In general, when you stop, so will he. If he kicks with his back legs at your hand, don't assume that he wants his paws touched. Try stroking one foot lightly with a finger in the direction of his fur; if he pulls his foot away, flattens his ears, or walks off, let him be.

Knowing when to stop

Watch your cat's body language and stop stroking if he seems to be getting angry (pp.224–5). Be careful if he is on his back exposing his belly because this is not necessarily an invitation to pet; it may be an aggressive defense posture that leaves him free to kick, bite, or claw. If you misjudge his mood and get a bite or a scratch that breaks the skin, wash the wound and treat it with antiseptic. See your doctor if the area around the bite swells and starts oozing.

SOCIALIZING YOUR CAT



By nature, cats are solitary creatures. That said, some cats are able to live quite happily in groups. Bringing a new cat into your home may change his whole outlook on the people and other animals around him. But if introductions are made carefully and sensitively, your cat will grow into a confident, friendly animal that can cope with all social situations.

Start early

Socialization should start in kittenhood. Give your kitten plenty of opportunities to meet new people, cats, and dogs, and make it a fun and rewarding experience. Introduce him to friends, neighbors, and the vet at an early age; keep initial encounters brief and reward your kitten with treats for good behavior. A cat that is not exposed to new situations as a kitten may grow up to be timid and fearful, and is liable to react badly to being touched or approached by strangers.

Kittens start to learn social skills from their mother between 8 and 12 weeks of age. Be wary of bringing home a kitten younger than this, otherwise his socialization will be your responsibility. It is important that your kitten gets used to being handled, with plenty of play designed to hone his predatory skills, but let him sleep when he wants to. Kittens left to spend a long time on their own without stimulation or attention may develop antisocial behaviors and grow up to be aloof or aggressive toward people and other animals.

Socializing an adult cat

Adult cats take longer than kittens to adapt to new people and surroundings. Changes in routine are upsetting for an older cat, and unless you are familiar with your cat's previous home there may be issues related to how he has



SOCIALIZING MOTHER
Adopting a kitten less than 12 weeks old is not often recommended—it still needs a lot of socialization time with its mother, who will teach it essential life skills.



OLDER AND CALMER

If you have very small children, it may be better to get an adult cat. Toddlers may not realize how gently they need to handle a kitten, while an older cat may be more tolerant of children.

been treated in the past. Try to get as much information as possible from the previous owner or rescue center about the cat's personality, habits, motivations, and favorite food and toys. Familiar objects can also help him to settle in, so try to bring some of his old bedding or toys to make him feel more secure. Provide him with a refuge, such as a carrier or box, to which he can retreat and feel safe when things get too overwhelming.

An older cat may initially be wary of contact with his new owners and may resist being touched. Let him explore his surroundings in his own time. Talk to him in a low, soothing tone so that he gets used to your presence and the sound of your voice. Gradually accustom him to being handled by rewarding him with treats. One of the main problems with poorly socialized cats is that they play too rough, biting and

scratching to get what they want. If that is the case, simply stop playing with him, say "no" in a firm voice, and give him a toy instead. If your cat learns that biting or scratching achieves the outcome he wants, it will be difficult to get him to break the habit. Give plenty of praise when your cat is playing nicely with you, but also praise him when he takes his aggression out on a toy. That way, he will learn that he can play hard with toys but not with you.

New people need to be introduced with care. Never force your cat to meet strangers. Instead, let him approach the person when he is ready; once he realizes that nothing bad is going to happen, he will be more confident and trusting. You can speed up the process by laying a trail of treats up to the stranger. This works best when your cat is hungry. (You can also restrict treats to occasions when there is a visitor in the house.) When your cat is comfortable with the person, a friendly stroke or two on the head or back can be attempted. If you have to leave your cat to be looked after by friends or neighbors, get him used to the new people in advance. Ask them to come to your home frequently to feed him treats and pet or play with him. He will soon look forward to their visits.



GETTING USED TO CHILDREN

A new cat will be an irresistible attraction to any children in your family. Teach them the correct way to approach and handle a cat, and make sure you supervise their initial encounters.

Introducing children

If you have small children, your cat may feel threatened and frightened by their exuberant, noisy behavior and sudden movements—especially if they chase him. His preferred defense will be to run away, but when cornered he may respond by hissing, scratching, or biting, all of which may scare or hurt a small child. It pays to prepare your children for the cat's arrival by reading through a book about cat care with them. First meetings should be supervised, especially if toddlers are involved. Let your cat or kitten take the initiative and approach the child. If he decides to flee, let him go. Play sessions should involve the child sitting still on the floor with a lure toy or ribbon that encourages the cat to come closer.

To make your children feel involved, give each responsibility for some aspect of the cat's care, such as filling the water bowl, shaking out the bedding, putting his food away, or collecting his toys. To avoid overfeeding, make sure only one child has the job of feeding your cat. Never let a young child clean out your cat's litter box. Cat feces can carry intestinal parasites, such as worms, and an infection called toxoplasmosis that can be harmful to a young child (p.211).

A new baby

If your cat has always been the center of attention, he may become jealous of the competition for affection when a new baby arrives. Some careful preparation can help prevent this. Before the birth, allow your cat to examine the baby's room and gear, but make it clear that he is not allowed in on his own and that the crib, bassinet, and stroller are distinctly off limits. If you have friends or family with a baby, ask them to visit so that your cat becomes familiar with the sounds and smells. To accommodate the new domestic situation, you may need to change your cat's routine or how much time you will be spending with him. Introduce such changes gradually in the months leading up to the birth. Likewise, if your cat has any behavioral problems that you need to put right, now is the time to do it, since they may get worse when the baby arrives.

A NEW COMPANION

The arrival of a new baby need cause no problems for your cat if you get him used to the idea well in advance of the birth.



When you bring the baby home for the first time, allow your cat to sit next to the baby and give him treats for good behavior so that he associates the baby with a positive experience. Never leave the baby and cat alone together. Close the door to the room where your baby is sleeping or buy a screen to cover the door frame. You can also get nets to put over cribs and strollers, which will deter your cat from trying to snuggle up to your baby or from spraying if he is stressed. Try to keep your cat's routine as normal as possible and make sure he gets his share of attention from someone in the family.

Cats and dogs

Whether you are introducing a new cat to a dog or a new dog to a cat, the same methods of socializing them can be used, with slight modification. When you first bring your new cat home, put him in a room that the dog does not need to access until the cat has settled in. Alternatively, put up a barrier or put the dog in a crate. While the cat is getting used to his new surroundings, let the dog smell the cat's scent. You can do this by rubbing the dog with a towel that you have previously rubbed on the cat or letting the dog sniff your hands after handling the cat. Do the same with the cat. Once the dog is familiar with the cat's scent, put the dog on a lead and bring him to the door of the cat's room. Do not allow any bad behavior such as barking, scratching, or lunging. If the dog behaves properly, try letting him off the lead.



For the next stage of socialization, allow the dog through the door while on the lead, or put him in a crate in the cat's room. Let the pair sniff each other, but remove the dog if he attempts to jump on or chase the cat. Supervise encounters until the cat is comfortable around the dog. Initial contacts should be short and repeated several times a day. Praise and reward the dog for good behavior, so that he comes to regard the cat's presence in the house as a good thing.

Finally, you can try leaving the two alone in the room by walking out then walking back in right away. Gradually extend the period of leaving them alone, but stay within listening distance. If you hear hissing, growling, or barking, return immediately. Make sure the cat has a safe place to hide that is out of the dog's reach. Continue this process until the dog no longer reacts to the cat, and the cat is happy to eat or sleep when the dog is in the same room. Sadly, some dogs may never be safe to leave with a cat. If that is the case, you will have to keep them separate or supervise their encounters at all times.

Other cats in the home

Because your cat sees your home as his territory, bringing another adult cat into the house may be seen as a threat. A new kitten, however, is more likely to be tolerated by the resident. Keep a lookout for bullying and jealousy on the part of the adult cat. If it looks like the older cat is picking on the kitten, keep the two apart until the newcomer is more able to look after itself.

Remember, this is the older cat's territory and his natural instinct is to protect it from interlopers, however small.

Make sure that the older cat gets his share of love and attention, and reward him with treats for good behavior. The two will gradually get used to each other and develop a companionable truce.

ACCEPTING ADULT

Adding a new kitten into the household does not usually threaten an adult cat's dominance. The older cat will most likely tolerate the kitten, understanding its playfulness to be part of its natural behavior.



LEARNING TO BE FRIENDS

Cats and dogs are not natural allies, but they can learn to get along. The dog must understand that the cat is not a toy. Make sure the dog does not get overexcited, so the cat will feel safe when he is around.

INDOORS OR OUTDOORS?

One of the most important decisions you need to make before you acquire a cat is whether it is going to be a house cat or left free to roam the great outdoors. For many people, the decision rests on how "great" the outdoors would be for their cat. Owners need to take stock of their own lifestyle and their home's surroundings when deciding what is best for the long-term safety and happiness of their cat.



The freedom of
the pet door

Call of the wild

Domestic cats were once wild animals, adapted to living in open spaces. Many of their wild instincts remain, but the world that cats inhabit has changed dramatically. Many cat owners live in urban environments, surrounded by busy roads, buildings, people, and other animals, and an outdoor cat will have to contend with all these hazards. In making your indoors-or-outdoors decision, the safety of your cat is paramount. Not all cats develop a good road sense, and some fall victim to passing cars. If you let your cat out at night, buy it a collar with reflective patches that can be seen in the dark by drivers. Cats are naturally more active at dawn or dusk—times that often correspond with rush hours. Try to keep your cat indoors at these times. Given the run of the neighborhood, your cat will probably explore beyond your yard, leading to encounters with other neighborhood cats, and possibly wild animals too.



WINDOW ON THE WORLD

If your cat is to be truly independent, install a pet door so that he can come and go as he pleases. Otherwise, you will be perpetually opening doors to see whether he wants to go out.



Creating cat heaven

The best way to keep an outdoor cat close to home is to make your yard a cat-friendly sanctuary. Plant it with bushes to provide shade and shelter and a few scented plants that cats love—such as catnip, mint, valerian, heather, and lemongrass—in sunny places for your cat to bask among. A clump of cat grass is ideal for your pet to snack on if you habitually spray your grass and plants with chemicals.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

Provide your cat with plenty of spots in the yard to bask and doze. A garden basket makes an ideal bed for a laid-back cat.

Territorial disputes

Once your yard is cat-friendly, it will undoubtedly attract other cats. Feline disputes are certain to break out, because cats are territorial animals. Make sure your cat is neutered—especially if she is female—to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Neutered cats need smaller territories, but that won't stop your cat from straying or an unneutered feral tomcat from invading your cat's territory and picking a fight. Make sure that your cat is immunized against all diseases, because fights will inevitably lead to bites and scratches.

Dealing with the neighbors

Appreciate that not all of your neighbors are cat lovers. Some people are allergic to cats and go to great lengths to avoid them. Even the best-trained cats have bad habits—they dig up flowerbeds to defecate, chew on plants, spray, rip open garbage bags, chase birds, and wander into other houses uninvited. If your cat has been neutered, tell your neighbor that neutered cats bury their droppings and that their urine is less smelly. You can always provide them with a water gun to squirt at the cat if they really want to deter it.

Indoor cats

Your cat will live a longer and healthier life if it stays indoors—but it will be your responsibility to keep it happy. If you are at work all day, your cat will need a regular playtime or, better still, a companion. Bored cats grow frustrated and stressed, and can become overweight and unhealthy if they aren't exercised. Stress may manifest itself in scratching and biting or urinating outside the litter box. Despite their natural instincts, cats kept indoors from birth will rarely want to venture out, because they see your home as their territory. Once they get a taste for going out, however, they may want to do it more and more and look for any chance



KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH

Cats like to assume elevated positions from which they can watch over their territory. Shed roofs, fences, and pedestals—ideally in different parts of the yard—are perfect for this.

to escape. If so, you will have to be vigilant about closing windows and doors. Be extra careful in a high-rise apartment—many cats have died after falling from an open window or jumping off a balcony while chasing birds or insects.

Indoor cats need space to exercise, so they should have access to several rooms, especially if you have more than one cat—like us, cats need their own “personal space.” To give your cat a breath of fresh air, you could screen off a porch, patio, or balcony that he can access through

a pet door. Even if you live in an apartment building, allow your cat out into the hallway for a game that will allow him to run around. Ensure that any doors leading to the outside are closed first.

TOP TIPS

■ **With indoor cats,** you should always check where your cat is before leaving him alone in the house. Make especially sure you do not accidentally shut him away in a confined area such as a closet or cupboard.

■ **If you have** an outdoor cat, attach a bell to his collar to warn the wildlife in your garden of his presence. Bird baths and scattered food are a magnet for cats, so avoid leaving food out and keep bird feeders well out of reach of predatory cats.

GOOD COMPANY

If they are not siblings, companion cats are best introduced early in their lives. They will provide company and a playmate for each other if you are out at work all day.

CAT COMMUNICATION

You can always tell when a dog is happy or sad—its emotions are written all over its face. You will find your cat more inscrutable when it comes to facial expressions, so it may be difficult to know what your cat is trying to tell you. Cats do, however, have a whole range of other behaviors and signals that you can learn to interpret, which will make for much easier interaction between you and your cat.



Learn to understand your cat

How to speak cat

Wild cats are solitary, predatory animals that patrol a territory they regard as exclusively theirs. Consequently, most cat communications are designed to ward off intruders. Learning what your cat's body language, and the noises he makes, mean will help you understand what he is trying to tell you.

Chief among cat noises are hissing, growling, meowing, and purring. Hisses and growls—sometimes accompanied by a flash of teeth or show of claws—are warnings to strangers trespassing on the cat's territory or to humans who get too close. Meows—rarely used between adult cats—are mainly a way for kittens to signal to their mother. Domestically, your cat will use meowing to announce his presence. Short and high-pitched chirps and squeaks usually signal excitement or a plea for something, but drawn-out and low-pitched sounds express displeasure or a demand. Rapid, intense, and loud, repeated sounds often signify anxiety. Long, drawn-out cries and shrieks indicate that the cat is in pain or fighting. Mating

cats produce long wails known as caterwauls. Purring is usually a sound of contentment, but cats also purr as a way of comforting themselves when they are in pain or anxious.

Body language

Your cat will give you signals using his ears, tail, whiskers, and eyes. Ears and whiskers usually work together. Normally the ears are erect and facing forward and the whiskers are to the front or sides, showing that your cat is alert and interested. When his ears are rotated back and flat and his whiskers are forward, he is feeling aggressive. Ears out to the sides and whiskers flat against the cheeks mean that your cat is scared.

Cats don't like eye contact, which is why your cat will often approach anyone in the room who ignores him: to him, this is friendly behavior. Once your cat is used to those around him, he will find eye contact less threatening. Dilated pupils can mean he is interested and excited or fearful and aggressive, so always try to read the other signals he is giving out too.

INTIMIDATING EYE CONTACT

Cats use eye contact as a form of intimidation to avoid a fight. Staring is perceived as a threat, and two cats will try to outstare each other until one looks away or slinks off.

TOP TIPS

Speak cat, not human. If you hiss or make a spitting noise when you say "no" to unacceptable behavior, your cat will understand that it is doing something wrong. This will prove much more effective than yelling at him.



TAIL SIGNALS

The most obvious signs of your cat's mood are the visual signals he sends out. Although he will give you signals with all parts of his body, one of the best barometers of his emotional state is his tail. When you look at your cat,



Flicking from side to side

Your cat is telling you that he is mildly irritated



Thumping on the floor

A sign of frustration or a warning signal



Curved like an "n" or low to the ground and flicking

With this tail-shape and action, your cat is advertising the fact that he is feeling aggressive



Strong lashing movements

Stand back—your cat is not happy and he may become aggressive if he's approached



Hair fluffed out and standing on end

A sign of increased anxiety and that your cat is feeling threatened

the way he is carrying and moving his tail will be a clear expression of the way he is currently feeling. Try to learn these different tail configurations and their meanings. Remember that his mood can change in an instant.



Arched over the back

A warning sign that he is poised ready to strike



Tucked between the legs

This tail position is a way of expressing submission



Horizontal or slightly low to the floor

Everything is all right—he is feeling calm and relaxed in a situation



Erect, sometimes with a curl at the tip

He is feeling friendly and interested in making contact with you



Pointing straight up and vibrating

Your cat is literally quivering with joy and excitement

Posture

Your cat's posture tells you one of two things: "go away" or "come closer." Lying, sitting in a relaxed manner, or coming toward you indicates that he is approachable. A cat on his back exposing his belly is not being submissive like a dog: this is usually a fight posture that allows him to wield all his claws and teeth. However, if he is also rolling from side to side, you can assume that he is in a playful mood. Avoid touching his belly too much or you may get scratched or bitten. Wiggling the rump is another sign that he is up for some fun. When your cat is crouching—either looking sideways or with his tail wrapped around his body—he is looking for a chance to escape, pounce, or go on the offensive.



WARNING STANCE

When your cat stands with rump raised or back arched, he is feeling threatened and warning that he is about to attack. The hair on his body may also be raised.

CAT SPRAYING

Spraying is a perfectly natural behavior, and you should not punish your cat for doing it.



Smell and touch

Cats have a superb sense of smell, so they use urine and scent to mark territory and leave messages for other cats. A cat that is not neutered will spray to warn of his presence, threaten any rivals, and announce that he is ready to mate. If a neutered cat still sprays, he is probably feeling anxious. Investigate what is triggering this behavior.

Cats also spread scent from glands on their cheeks, paws, and tail by rubbing them on surfaces or other cats. These scents mark territory and form social bonds. Cats that live together will rub each other along the flanks or the head, creating a group scent that alerts them to the presence of strangers. Your cat will also rub the members of your family to mark you all as part of his "gang." Cats sniff nose-to-nose when they meet; unfamiliar cats end the encounter there, but friendly cats progress to rubbing heads or licking each other's face or ears. Scratching is another way of leaving scent, as well as being a visual signal of a cat's presence.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY



Playful kitten

No matter how pampered their existence, cats need some excitement in their lives. A cat deprived of opportunities to hunt and stalk becomes bored and stressed. This is a real problem with indoor cats, often locked up alone in a house all day. Yet, with forethought and commitment on your part, your cat can have an interesting and fun home life.

Going on instinct

Kept indoors alone all day, a bored cat will constantly pester you for attention when you get home. Outdoor cats have a riskier but happier and more active lifestyle. With plenty of fresh air, space to run and jump around, and exposure to new experiences, they can give free rein to their natural instincts for exploring, chasing, and hunting. Even when indoors a cat will need to let off steam regularly. Often, this takes the form of a "mad moment," when the cat rushes around the room, leaping on to furniture and climbing the curtains before bolting off. This is perfectly natural behavior, but uncontrolled sessions like this run the risk of damaging your home and causing injury to your cat.

BORN FREE

A cat that cannot follow its instincts may become troublesome.



CONSTRUCTIVE PLAY | CHANNEL THE ENERGY



CHASING AND PLAYING

To prevent manic bursts of activity, channel your kitten's predatory instincts into constructive play. Dangling or dragging along a piece of ribbon will appeal to your kitten's natural urge to hunt and stalk.



CATCHING AND BITING

Play also helps your kitten learn essential skills for survival in the wild, such as catching and biting prey. Most cats, especially if neutered, will still retain their sense of playfulness as they get older.

TOP TIPS

Supervise your cat's use of anything that could be chewed or shredded and swallowed. Bits of string and fabric can cause intestinal blockages, while objects with sharp edges could damage your cat's mouth.

Make sure that curtain and window-blind cords are not allowed to dangle within reach of your cat, or he will view them as a great play opportunity. As agile as your cat may be, he could become entangled and suffocate.

**TOY PARADE**

There is a wide range of playthings available for cats, from balls and pretend mice to catnip-scented toys. Many pet shops sell hollow balls in which a treat or small amount of food can be hidden.

Toys

Cats like toys that appeal to their chasing, stalking, and pouncing instincts. Suitable toys include small, lightweight balls and beanbags, felt or rope mice, pom-poms, and feathers. Items dangled from poles are ideal for grabbing or batting with the paws and running after. Make sure that toys are in good condition, with no pieces that could fall off and be swallowed. Most cats find wind-up or battery-operated toys that move around the floor particularly exciting.

Cheaper options

You don't need to buy your cat expensive accessories or toys. Cats can make their own amusement from simple, everyday items such as crumpled newspaper, spools of thread, pencils, pine cones, corks, and feathers. Cats love hiding, so provide yours with somewhere to play hide-and-seek, such as an old cardboard box or paper bag. Never let a cat play with a plastic bag—a cat can suffocate inside or strangle itself if it gets trapped in the handles.

EXPLORING AND HIDING

Paper bags appeal to a cat's sense of curiosity, giving him something to investigate and hide in. Monitor your cat and make sure he can get out whenever he wants to.

**PLAY STATION**

This multi-activity center provides plenty of variety for your cat, with a cozy hiding place, scratching posts, somewhere to sit, and hanging balls to play with.

**New tricks**

One way to make playtime with your cat more interesting is to teach him a new trick (p.233). Unlike a dog, which will learn tricks to please its "pack leader," a cat needs a different motivator—food. The best time to teach your cat is just before a meal, when he is hungry. Select a quiet spot with no distractions, but don't spend more than a few minutes on each training session. You may need to repeat the training a few times each day for several weeks, depending on your cat's age and the difficulty of the trick. Reward your cat's progress in getting the trick right with small treats, and make sure you give him plenty of praise. Your cat will only be willing to participate if he is having a good time: don't try to force him to do something he doesn't want to, and don't get cross if it decides he isn't interested.

GROOMING AND HYGIENE

Cats instinctively groom themselves, spending much of their time keeping their fur clean, tangle-free, and conditioned. However, many cats, especially longhaired breeds, show cats, and older cats, will need some assistance from their owners. Helping out with basic hygiene, such as teeth cleaning and bathing, is also essential to keep your cat in peak condition.



A cat spends many hours grooming himself

Natural grooming

Grooming keeps your cat's coat in prime condition. This is important because a sleek, conditioned coat is waterproof, keeps your cat warm, and protects his skin from infection. Grooming can also help keep your cat cool in hot weather.

Your cat will always groom himself in the same order. He begins by licking his lips and paws, then using his wet paws to clean the sides of his head. The saliva removes the scent of recent meals, making him "odorless" to natural enemies that hunt by scent. Next, your cat will use his rough tongue to groom his front legs, shoulders, and sides. The tongue is covered in tiny hooks that can get rid of mats and tangles in the coat. The tongue also spreads the natural oils secreted by glands in the skin that condition and waterproof the coat. Your cat will nibble away any stubborn tangles using his small incisors. His flexible spine then allows him to attend to his anal region, back legs, and tail, working from its base to the tip. He then uses his back paws like a wide-toothed comb to scratch his head. Cats raised together may sometimes groom each other, strengthening the bond between them.

Grooming your cat

Helping your cat maintain his coat is essential for several reasons. Grooming sessions will enable you to maintain a close bond with your cat and also give you a chance to check his body for health problems. Some cats—especially those selectively bred for their long, soft hair, such as Persians—have difficulty keeping their coat clean and tangle-free on their own. When you groom your cat, you will help reduce the amount of hair he swallows while grooming himself. This hair is usually coughed up as fur balls. Some fur balls, however, pass through the stomach and get lodged in the intestine, causing serious problems. Cats become less efficient at grooming themselves as they get older, so elderly cats benefit greatly from a helping hand.

If you accustom your cat to grooming sessions from an early age, he will come to view you as a parent figure and enjoy the experience. Always begin a grooming session by stroking your cat and talking in a soothing voice to help him relax. Remember to be patient and on the lookout for signs that he is uncomfortable, such as a flicking tail or whiskers turning forward. In such cases, stop and try again later or the next day. Make sure you also check his ears, eyes, nose, and teeth, and clean them if necessary. You may also need to clip his claws, empty his scent-secreting anal sacs (or ask your vet to do this), and give him a bath. Always end a grooming session with praise and a treat.

GROOMING TOOLS

Basic utensils for cat grooming include combs (flea, fine, and wide-toothed), brushes (slicker, pin-tipped, or soft-bristled), a rubber grooming glove, clippers, a cat toothbrush, and a tick remover. Some breeds may require specific tools for their coat type.



Tick remover



Nail
clippers

Slicker
brush

Fine
comb

Soft-bristled
brush

GROOMING | SHORTHAIRED CAT

Shorthaired coats are easy to maintain, and most cats with such a coat cope well on their own, keeping their fur in tip-top condition. However, a once-a-week groom (twice weekly if you have a show cat) will help you maintain a close bond with your cat and allow you to check for any potential health issues, such as lumps or skin problems. Shorthaired cats generally benefit from a comb through with a flea or



LOOSENING OLD HAIR AND DEAD SKIN

Draw a fine-toothed, metal comb from head to tail, along the lie of the fur. This will loosen dead hair and skin cells. Be careful when grooming around the ears, the underside (armpits, belly, and groin), and the tail.

fine-toothed comb, then a brush to clear out loosened hair and dead skin, and finally a “polish” with a soft cloth, such as a chamois leather or piece of silk to produce an eye-catching sheen. Make sure you are careful when touching sensitive areas, such as the ears, armpits, belly, and tail. If your cat has rexed, or curled, hair, use a very soft brush or a rubber grooming glove—anything harder may cause discomfort.

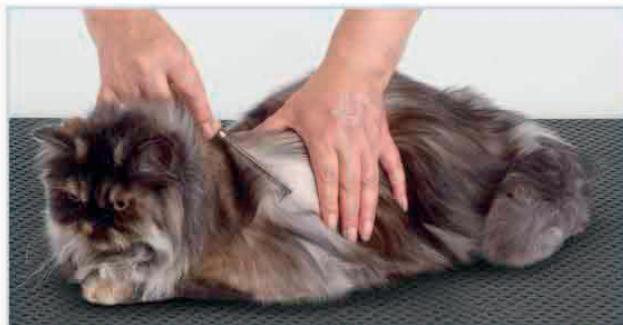


DEBRIS REMOVAL

Work over your cat's body with a slicker or soft-bristled brush, again with the lie of the fur. The brushing will get rid of all the debris loosened by the combing. Finish by polishing with a soft cloth.

GROOMING | LONGHAIR CAT

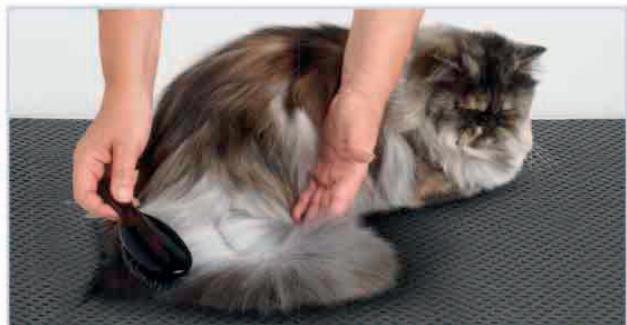
Longhaired cats need much more grooming than shorthairs, ideally 15–30 minutes per day. Long fur, especially if it is soft and downy, picks up dirt and tangles easily, particularly in the armpit, groin, and anal regions, and behind the ears. These tangles prevent the coat from protecting the cat properly, making the skin vulnerable to damage and infection.



INITIAL COMBING

Comb the fur against the lie from the roots outward. Unscented talc will help tease out tangles and also remove excess oils. Work through again with a finer comb. Be careful combing the tail and underside.

The main aim of grooming longhaired cats is to eliminate the tangles. Cat talcum powder can help tease them out, but with severely knotted tangles the only solution is to cut them out with scissors. Make sure the scissor tips point outward, so that you do not cut the skin. If you are unsure about this, take your cat to a professional groomer or ask your vet to do it.



BRUSHING OUT LOOSENED DEBRIS

Brush out loose debris and any remaining talc with a soft-bristled or pin-tipped brush. Work against the lie. Fluff out the coat with the brush or a wide-toothed comb. With a Persian, comb neck fur up into a ruff.

How to bathe your cat

Outdoor cats occasionally give themselves a dust bath, in which they roll in dry soil to clean their coat of grease and parasites, such as fleas. You can buy dry shampoo for cats, which works in a similar way. A shorthaired cat may need a wet bath if it becomes covered in oil or a pungent substance. A longhaired cat requires more frequent bathing. Few cats enjoy being bathed, and it's easier for both of you if you accustom your cat to the experience from an early age.

When bathing your cat, you will need to be patient. Use soothing words throughout the session and give treats to your cat afterward as a reward. Before you begin, close all doors and windows, and make sure the room is warm and free of drafts. Prior to bathing your cat, brush his coat thoroughly. You can wash your cat in a bathtub or a sink using a shower attachment, but make sure the water flow is very weak. Line the bottom of the bath or sink with a rubber mat for your cat to grip, so he feels secure and will not slip.

GROOMING | BATHING A CAT



1 Lower your cat into a bathtub or place him in a sink, talking to him soothingly. Spray him with warm water that is as near to body temperature (101.5°F/38.6°C) as possible. Soak his fur thoroughly.



2 Always apply a special cat shampoo. Never use dog shampoo, since it might contain a flea-killing chemical that is toxic to cats. Avoid getting shampoo in your cat's eyes, ears, nose, or mouth.



3 Lather in the shampoo thoroughly, then rinse it off completely. Repeat the shampoo wash or rub in a conditioner and rinse off again. Remember to keep giving your cat plenty of praise.



4 Towel dry your cat, or use an electric dryer on a low setting if the noise doesn't upset him. Brush his coat and allow him to finish drying off in a warm room. Give your cat a well-earned treat.

Cleaning ears, eyes, and nose

The inside of your cat's ears should be clean and free of odor. Remove excess earwax with cotton balls or tissues. If you see dark, gritty specks in the ears, which indicate ear mites, or an ear discharge, take your cat to the vet. Damp cotton balls can also be used to clean around the eyes and nose. Mucus may collect in the corners of the eyes of long-muzzled cats, such as Siamese. Flat-faced cats, such as Persians, often suffer from tear overflow, which leaves mahogany stains on the fur around the eyes. Consult your vet if you find any discharge from the eyes or nose, or prolonged redness of the eyes.

TEETH CLEANING



- **Hold the head** firmly; pry open the jaws, and clean each tooth for a few seconds.
- **Use a child's toothbrush** or a specially made cat's toothbrush, some of which fit onto a finger.
- **Special cat toothpastes** are available. Your cat will especially enjoy the meat-flavored ones.
- **If your cat** won't allow you to brush his teeth, ask your vet for oral antiseptics, which you apply directly to the cat's gums.



REMOVING EAR WAX

Use a cotton ball or a tissue, dampened with either water or an ear-cleaning solution from your vet. Never use cotton swabs, because you might push wax further into the ear canal.

GROOMING | NAIL CLIPPING

How to clip your cat's nails

Cats naturally keep their nails worn down by exercise, scratching, climbing, and biting. Indoor and especially older cats often don't get much claw-wearing exercise and are at risk of growing long claws that curl into the pads of the paws, causing discomfort. To prevent this, regularly check your cat's claws and cut them with clippers about every two weeks. Keep a firm hold on your cat and make sure you remove just the very end of the claw. Any further down and you might cut into the pink region, or "quick," and cause pain and bleeding. If you find it too difficult, ask your vet to cut your cat's nails instead.



EXTENDING THE CLAW

When clipping your cat's claws, very gently press down on the bone just behind each claw with your fingers to make the claw extend fully.



START THEM YOUNG

Accustom your cat to having his nails clipped from an early age. If your cat is not in the mood and struggles, don't force things. Let him go, and try again the next day.

TRAINING YOUR CAT

Training your cat may sound like a strange, even impossible, thing to do and contrary to the nature of such a free-spirited animal. But basic training, such as teaching your cat to sit, has benefits, and some cats make willing pupils. Training your cat will make it easier for you to control and manage his behavior. You may even be able to teach him a few tricks or train him to walk on a harness and lead.



Cat with harness

Anything for food

Cats are happy to learn if there's an edible reward. Unlike dogs, cats don't respond to discipline. Simply calling to your cat will not teach him to sit or come to you, but a tasty tidbit—such as a piece of dried salmon or a chicken treat—and lots of gentle praise will help greatly. Cats learn best when hungry; just before meals is ideal. During training, break treats into small portions. Too many too soon and your cat will stop feeling hungry and lose interest. Cats learn best from about four months old. Young kittens lack concentration; old cats are generally not interested. Active shorthaired cats, such as Siamese, are generally easier to train than other breeds.



COMING TO YOU

Teaching your cat to come to you on command is useful if you leave him outside during the day but want to bring him indoors at night or when you go out.

Basic training

Your cat cannot be trained unless he has a name—preferably a short name of one or two syllables that he will find easy to recognize and respond to. If you've adopted an adult cat, it's best not to change his name, even if you dislike it. Training sessions should last for one or two minutes, never much longer, and preferably in a quiet room, free of distractions.

To get a cat to come to you, call him by his name while tempting him with a treat. As he approaches, take a step back and say, "Come." When he has walked up to you, give the treat and praise him. Repeat this, increasing the distance each time until he will run to you from another room on hearing your command. If you then phase out the treats, he should still respond to your call.

Meow on cue

Once your cat has learned to come when called, you can try training him to meow on cue. Hold a treat in your hand and call to him, but withhold the treat until he meows—even if he tries to swipe the morsel from your hand. As soon as he does meow, say his name and at the same time hand over the treat. Practice both with and without giving a treat to reinforce the behavior, until your cat always meows at the sound of his name. You can then begin to phase out the treats.



ATTRACTING ATTENTION

When your cat can meow in response to his name, it will help you to find him. It could even be a lifesaving skill if he becomes trapped somewhere.



LEARNING TO SIT

When your cat has learned to come when you call his name, you can then start to teach him to sit. If he can sit without fidgeting, it will be much easier to groom him or have him examined by a vet.

The sit command

To teach a cat to sit, place him on a table so that he is standing on all fours. Gain his attention with a treat and hold it a couple of inches above his head. If the treat is too far away he will be inclined to rise up on his hindlegs and bat it from your hand. Slowly move the treat over your cat's head and between his ears, and as he watches it he will sit back. Say his name, then say, "Sit," as he begins to sit. Once he is sitting, say, "Good sit," and give the treat. After about ten sessions, simply holding your hand over his head should be enough to make him sit.

Walking an indoor cat outside

You can give your indoor cat a taste of the outside world by walking him on a lead. Cats need a harness rather than just a collar, which they can easily slip their head out of. First, allow your cat to get used to wearing the harness. Put it on him for 20 minutes each day for a few days. Give treats and praise, and make sure it fits correctly. Next, clip on the lead and let him stroll around indoors with it dangling, again for short periods, and then with you holding the lead. Finally, venture outside, ideally somewhere quiet. Your cat will initially spend most of his time sniffing and looking around and leading you. Never pull the lead in the direction you want to go; instead, persuade him with gentle commands and treats. Within a few weeks, he will be relaxed when walking with you outdoors.

Fun tricks

Once your cat has learned to come to you and to sit on command, you can go on to teach him some tricks, such as sitting up on his hindlegs, waving his paw, exchanging a high-five, retrieving thrown cat toys, or even jumping through a hoop. To get your cat to sit up, or beg, for example, hold a treat above his head and when he rises give the treat to him and say, "Good up." To get your sitting cat to high-five you, hold a teaser toy, such as feathers on the end of a stick, in front of him. As he raises his paw to the toy, say, "Good high-five," or "All right!" and give him a reward. After several lessons, use your hand rather than the toy. Then gradually phase out the treats until you are just using clear hand signals and verbal cues.

The same principles apply for teaching tricks as they do for basic training: hold one- to two-minute sessions before meals, when your cat is hungry and willing to earn his food. Always remember to be patient and to give plenty of gentle praise. Don't try to persevere if your cat is not in the right mood.

THE WAVE

Cats can also master fun tricks, such as waving a paw, if you make the experience an enjoyable and rewarding one for them.



BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS



A stressed cat may be very destructive

Pet cats sometimes have (what we humans consider) behavior problems, such as sudden aggression, scratching furniture, spraying urine, and refusing to use the litter box. Such actions make perfect sense—to a cat. Your job is to try to find out whether the behavior is caused by illness or stress, or just a case of a cat following his instincts. You will then, with patience, be able to solve or minimize the problem.

Aggression

If your cat bites or scratches when you're playing with him, stop play immediately. He is probably becoming overexcited or does not want you touching a sensitive area, such as his belly. Don't use your hands as "toys" when playing with him, since it will encourage him to bite or scratch them. Rough play may trigger aggression, so make sure your children play gently and know when to leave him alone. Any pet dogs must be trained not to tease your cat, to avoid a backlash. If your cat likes to ambush ankles or jump on shoulders, anticipate this and throw your cat a toy to play with instead.

Should your cat become aggressive for no obvious reason, he may be lashing out because he is in pain, so take him to the vet. Long-term aggression may result from your cat not

having been socialized properly as a kitten. He may always remain wary of humans, but be patient and you may eventually gain his trust. In general, cats are much more docile after neutering.

Chewing and scratching

Boredom may lead to stress and destructive behavior. A cat that spends his life indoors, especially if he is often alone, may chew household objects to relieve the tedium. If this sounds like your cat, give him plenty of toys to play with, and make sure you set aside some special time each day when you give him your full attention. Scratching is natural cat behavior that sharpens the claws and makes a visible and scented sign of a cat's territory. If your sofa is becoming heavily scratched, buy a scratching post as an alternative for your cat to mark his territory. If he prefers to claw at the carpet, provide a horizontal scratching mat instead. Make sure that the material covering the post is different from that

CATS AT WAR

Aggression may occur between two previously friendly cats after an upset in their routines. For example, a cat that has spent some time away from home, such as at the vet, may be greeted with hostility on his return.



**TERRITORIAL SIGN**

Scratching tree bark is natural feline behavior. It leaves a visible and scented sign to other cats, warning them that they are now trespassing into another cat's area.

SCRATCHING POST

Your cat will continue his territorial behavior indoors (see left), so give him a dedicated scratching post to minimize damage to furniture.

of the sofa. Place the post close to where your cat has been scratching. Rub some catnip into the post to tempt him if he is reluctant to use it. If he persists in scratching the furniture, deter him further by cleaning the scratched area to take away his scent—use rubbing alcohol, because cats hate the smell. Then cover the area in something that cats dislike the feel of, such as sticky, double-sided tape.

If he still will not stop, gently spray your cat's rump (never his head) with a water pistol whenever he scratches. You can also minimize damage from scratching by gluing small, plastic caps over your cat's claws. These are available from pet shops, but should only be used for permanently indoor cats.

Spraying

Like scratching, spraying marks territory too, but this behavior usually disappears once a cat is neutered. It may recur if your cat becomes stressed by a change in his environment, such as the arrival of a baby or another pet.

To combat indoor spraying, distract your cat the moment you see him raise his tail to spray. Push his tail down or throw him a toy. If there is an area he sprays repeatedly, cleanse it thoroughly and place his food bowls there to deter further spraying. You can also line sprayed areas with aluminum foil, because cats dislike the sound of their urine hitting it.

**Litter box problems**

If your cat experiences pain when relieving himself, he may associate his discomfort with the litter box and go elsewhere. So when he relieves himself outside the box, seek a vet's advice. An all-clear from the vet will mean that the problem is probably something you are doing. If waste is not removed from the box frequently, your cat may find the box's odor overpowering. Similarly, adding a cover to the box, to shield the smell from you, may make the smell inside too much for him. Switching to a new type of litter can also cause problems, since your cat may find its texture unpleasant (p.211).

TOP TIPS

■ To stop him from nibbling
on houseplants, coat the leaves in a strong-scented citrus spray that cats dislike.

■ A pheromone treatment
from a vet can solve aggression or anxiety-related spraying.

■ If you have two indoor cats, give each a litter box. Some cats don't like sharing.







HEALTH AND BREEDING

HEALTH

Your greatest responsibility as an owner is your cat's health.

You must ensure that your pet has regular checkups and vaccinations, and be able to recognize any changes in his body or behavior that may require a trip to the vet. Educate yourself about common disorders and learn how to care for your cat when he is ill, recovering from surgery, or in an emergency.



Keep your cat free
of itchy parasites

Finding and visiting a vet

Before bringing a cat home, look for a veterinary practice that will be willing to treat your cat. Your cat breeder may be able to recommend one. Alternatively, ask friends with cats or consult a local cat club or rescue center. Going to the vet is stressful for most cats, because they encounter strangers and other animals. Even a well-socialized cat will feel uneasy during the visit. Always take your cat in a carrier, with its door kept facing you in the waiting room so that he can see you. Speak to him soothingly and reward him with treats afterward.

If you buy a pedigree kitten, he should already have had his first vaccinations before you take him home at about 12 weeks old. Your breeder will give you the kitten's vaccination certificate, which you should show the vet on your initial visit. One of your earliest visits may be to have your cat neutered, generally from four months of age.



INITIAL VACCINATION

Cats should have their first vaccinations against infectious diseases, such as cat flu and feline leukemia, at between 9 and 12 weeks of age, followed by annual boosters for the rest of their lives.



EAR EXAMINATION

Your vet will examine the ears for mites during a routine checkup. Ear mites are highly contagious and commonly affect kittens and outdoor cats. They leave gritty debris in the ear canal that causes skin irritation.

Annual checkups

After his first visits, your cat will need a checkup annually, possibly twice a year in old age. The vet will assess his condition by checking his ears, eyes, teeth, gums, heartbeat, breathing, and weight, and feel him all over for abnormalities. A booster vaccination may be given. Your vet may clip your cat's claws if necessary, especially if he is a house cat or elderly. The vet will also inspect your cat for parasites and give you advice on administering worming and flea treatments.

THOROUGH EXAMINATION

During an annual checkup, the vet will examine your cat from head to tail, feeling for any tenderness or lumps. The vet will also listen to his heart and breathing, to ensure there are no irregularities.



Common health problems

Every cat will experience health problems during his lifetime. Some complaints, such as a one-time incident of vomiting or diarrhea, are not a major cause for concern and do not require treatment by a vet. Other problems, such as intestinal worms or fleas, can be treated easily enough at home, following instructions from your vet. More serious disorders requiring urgent veterinary attention include: repeated vomiting or diarrhea—often a sign of an underlying disorder; urinary tract infections or obstructions, which can cause painful urination; eye problems, such as conjunctivitis or a visible third eyelid; abscesses from fights with other cats; and painful dental problems preventing your cat from eating.

Signs of poor health

Cats tend to suffer in silence and do not draw attention to themselves when they are feeling vulnerable. One of your responsibilities as an owner is to be vigilant, keeping an eye out for any changes in your cat's routines and behavior that might suggest he needs veterinary attention.

Lethargy is difficult to spot—because cats generally rest much of the time—but decreased levels of activity, a reluctance to jump, and reduced alertness are often signs that your cat is ill or in pain. Lethargy is also often linked to obesity, so it may disappear when a cat loses his excess weight.

TOP TIPS

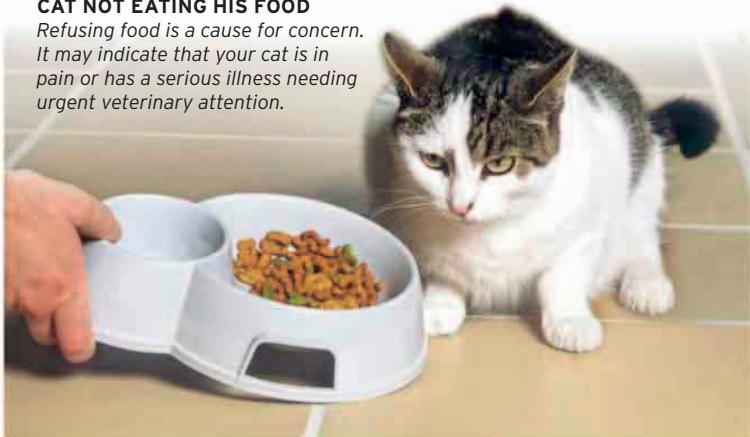
■ Dehydration test Gently lift the skin up on the back of your cat's neck. If the skin springs back into position, your cat is healthy, but if it returns slowly it is a sign of dehydration. Feel the gums with a finger—dry, tacky gums also indicate dehydration.

■ Checking gums A healthy cat has pink gums. Pale or white gums indicate shock, anemia, or blood loss; yellow gums are a sign of jaundice; red gums are caused by carbon-monoxide poisoning, fever, or bleeding in the mouth; blue gums suggest poor oxygenation of the blood.



CAT NOT EATING HIS FOOD

Refusing food is a cause for concern. It may indicate that your cat is in pain or has a serious illness needing urgent veterinary attention.



Changes in appetite are usually a sign of an underlying condition. A loss of appetite may be caused by pain in the mouth, such as toothache, or a more serious illness, such as kidney failure. Weight loss despite an increased appetite, together with increased urination and increased thirst, may be the result of an overactive thyroid or diabetes mellitus.

Abnormal or labored breathing may occur after a chest injury or as a result of an obstruction in the airway, an upper respiratory tract infection, or shock. Wheezing may be due to asthma or bronchitis. Breathing difficulties always require an emergency trip to the vet.

Dehydration is life-threatening and has various causes, including vomiting, diarrhea, increased urination, and heatstroke. You can carry out a simple test to check if your cat is dehydrated (see box, left). Emergency rehydration involves a vet injecting fluids under the skin or directly into a vein.

The color of a cat's gums (see box, left) can indicate several serious disorders, including those that affect the circulation of oxygen in the bloodstream. Lumps on skin, changes in grooming habits and coat texture, fur loss, and not using the litter box can also be signs of health problems.

First aid for cats

If your cat is injured, you may need to administer first aid before he has a chance to be seen by a vet. To treat a wound, apply pressure with a pad of clean cloth or gauze. Do not use tissue because it will stick to the wound. Keep the material in place, even if it becomes soaked with blood, until you see a vet. Removing an object embedded in a wound could cause more bleeding—leave it in place for your vet to treat.

A cat that has had an accident, such as being hit by a car, should be seen by a vet even if he has no visible injuries, since there could be internal bleeding, which can lead to shock.

TREATING SHOCK

A cat in shock may suffer from heat loss. Wrap him loosely in a blanket or quilt until he is assessed by a vet.



Shock is a life-threatening condition in which there is reduced blood flow, and tissues become starved of nutrients. Symptoms of shock include irregular breathing, anxiety, pale or blue gums, and a lowered body temperature. First aid for a cat in shock involves keeping him warm and elevating his hindquarters to increase blood flow to the brain while you take him to a vet.

If you find your cat unconscious, make sure his airway is not obstructed, listen and look for breathing, and feel for a pulse with a finger on one of the femoral arteries, which can be found on the inner side of his hindlegs, where they meet the groin. If there is no breathing, attempt artificial respiration by gently blowing air into your cat's lungs down the nostrils. If there is no heartbeat, alternate two breaths of artificial respiration with thirty chest compressions at two compressions per second.



ELIZABETHAN COLLAR

After surgery your cat may have to wear an Elizabethan collar for several days to prevent him from licking or chewing a wound that may have been stitched to help it repair.

BANDAGED LEG

A leg wound requires bandaging by a vet. Keep your cat inside if he has a bandaged limb. If the dressing becomes dirty, wet, loose, smelly, or uncomfortable, take your cat back to the vet for it to be changed.



When your cat is unwell

If your cat is ill or recovering from surgery or an accident, you must resist the temptation to stroke and cuddle him. He will most likely not enjoy being handled in the early stages of convalescence. Stroke or pet your cat only if he clearly wants attention. Provide him with a warm bed, where he can be left in peace to recuperate. Check on your cat regularly and change the bedding if it becomes soiled. If you have an outdoor cat, make sure he is kept indoors during his recovery and has easy access to bowls of water and a litter box.

Administering medicine

Only give your cat medicine prescribed by a vet, and follow the instructions carefully. You can try hiding a pill in a ball of meat or mold a sticky treat around it, but only if your cat is allowed to take food with his medicine. If not, or if he rejects or coughs up the pill, you will need to place it in his mouth (see below). This is best done with a helper to hold your cat while you insert the pill. If you are on your own, immobilize your cat by wrapping him in a towel, leaving his head exposed. Liquid medicines are also widely available and should be placed into the mouth, between the back teeth and cheek, using a plastic syringe without a needle.

or a plastic medicine dropper. Drops for the eyes or ears can be administered while gently immobilizing your cat's head. Always make sure that the dropper does not touch his eyes or ears.

If your cat is wholly resistant to being given any kind of medicine at home, take him to your vet each day or have him kept at the practice until the course of treatment is over.

TOP TIPS

Caring for a convalescing cat:

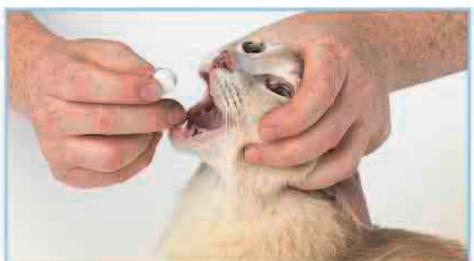
- Give frequent small portions of food heated to body temperature. You may have to hand-feed him initially.
- Check your cat's wounds daily for redness or infection.
- Provide a cozy bed, in a quiet location, with a microwavable heating pad or a hot-water bottle wrapped in a towel.
- Keep other pets away from your cat while he is recuperating.
- Give medicine according to your vet's instructions.



HEALTH | GIVING A PILL



1 Hold your cat's head with forefinger and thumb on either side of his mouth. Gently tilt his head back and pry open his jaws.



2 Place the pill as far back as possible on his tongue to trigger swallowing. Give him gentle encouragement while doing so.

Massaging your cat's throat for several seconds will make him swallow the pill

3 Close your cat's mouth and gently massage his throat to make sure the pill has been swallowed properly. Reward with praise and give him a treat.





TOP TIPS

How to keep your cat stimulated mentally and physically as he ages:

- Groom your cat daily if he lacks the motivation to groom himself in old age.
- Provide plenty of toys.
- Include antiaging antioxidants, such as zinc and selenium, in your cat's meals.
- Grow cat grass for him to nibble.
- If he is trained to walk on a lead, keep up this exercise for as long as possible.

OVERWEIGHT CAT

If you cannot easily feel your cat's ribs or see a waist toward the back of his abdomen, he is overweight.

Weight problems

Various health problems are associated with obesity, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, and arthritis and mobility problems resulting from strain on joints. Weight gain may also make it difficult for your cat to groom himself.

If your cat is noticeably gaining weight, switch him to a low-calorie diet, provide fewer treats and meals, and increase his levels of exercise. Neutered cats are particularly at risk of weight gain, as are indoor cats, which may not exercise enough. Outdoor cats can put on weight if other people feed them too. Cats usually live longer if they are a healthy weight.

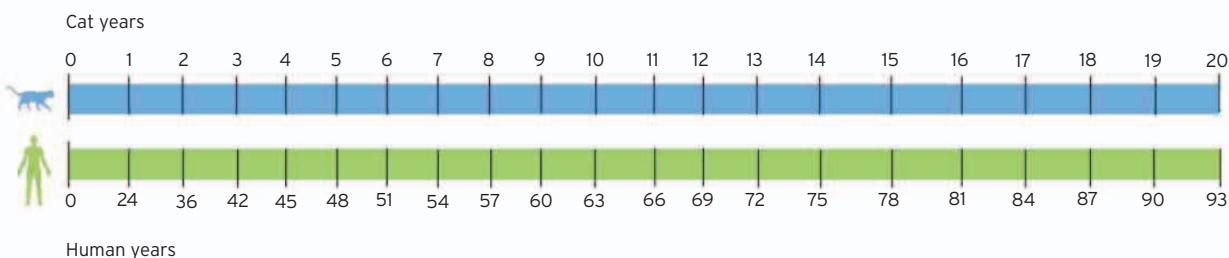
Weight loss is also a cause for concern and should always be checked by a vet. It may be a sign of a serious disorder, such as an overactive thyroid gland.

Caring for an older cat

Most well-cared-for pet cats can live to the age of 14 or 15, with some occasionally reaching 20. The trend for cat life expectancy is climbing, with advances in disease prevention, a better understanding of diet, improved drugs and treatments, and more cats being kept indoors.

By about age ten, you may notice signs of aging in your cat: weight loss (or gain), deteriorating eyesight, dental disease, a decrease in mobility, less fastidious grooming, and a thinner, less shiny coat. His personality may change too, with your cat becoming easily irritated and noisier, especially at night. As a senior, he may occasionally feel disoriented and relieve himself outside the litter box. You may want to start increasing his regular checkups by a vet to twice a year.

COMPARING LIFESPANS



It is often said that one year of a cat's life equates to seven years of a human's. But this does not hold, because life expectancy for pet cats has risen in recent years. It also ignores the different rates at which cats and humans develop: a one-year-old cat can breed and raise kittens,

which is a far more advanced stage than that of a seven-year-old child. By about three, a cat is roughly equivalent to a person in their early 40s. Each cat year from then on corresponds to about three human years. Use the chart above to find an approximate human age for your cat.

INHERITED DISORDERS

Some diseases and disorders are passed down from one generation of cats to the next. Different cat breeds have their own inherited health problems, usually as a result of inbreeding among a relatively small population. Responsible breeders should not breed from cats known to have faulty genes, and screening tests for many of these disorders are now available.



Cats with flat faces may suffer from breathing difficulties

Breed-specific problems

Because the gene pool may be quite small for each cat breed, faulty genes can have a greater influence than they would in a larger mixed-cat population, where such genes usually vanish after a few generations. Some cat breeds are even characterized by inherited disorders—for example, in the past the crossed eyes of classic Siamese cats were the result of a visual problem. An inherited disorder may be present when a kitten is born or develop later in a cat's life. Some cats may have a faulty gene but never develop any symptoms. These cats are called carriers, and can produce kittens with the inherited disease if they breed with another cat carrying the same faulty gene.

Many cat diseases are thought to be genetic in origin, but have not yet had faulty genes identified to explain them. The disorders in the table below have all been confirmed as genetic. For some of them, screening tests are available to identify whether or not a cat has the faulty gene. To help eradicate inherited disorders, responsible breeders should avoid using any cats known to have or to carry an inherited disorder for breeding by having them neutered.

If your cat has, or develops, an inherited disorder, try to find out as much information as possible about the condition. Most inherited disorders are not curable, but careful management can reduce symptoms and allow a good quality of life for your pet.

DISEASE	DESCRIPTION	CAN SCREENING DETECT IT?	MANAGING THE DISEASE	BREEDS OF CAT AFFECTED
Primary seborrhea	Flaky or greasy skin and hair.	No specific screening test available.	Wash the affected cat frequently with medicated shampoo.	Persian, Exotic
Congenital hypotrichosis	Kittens are born with no hair and are susceptible to infection.	No test currently available for this rare disorder.	No treatment. Keep the cat in a warm indoor environment, away from potential sources of infection.	Birman
Bleeding disorders	Excessive or abnormal bleeding after injury or trauma.	Yes. There are tests available for some types of bleeding disorder.	Look for nonhealing wounds on your cat. Try to staunch blood flow and seek veterinary advice.	Birman, British Shorthair, Devon Rex
Pyruvate kinase deficiency	A condition that affects life span and the number of red blood cells, leading to anemia.	Yes. A genetic test is available.	Affected cats may need blood transfusions.	Abyssinian, Somali



DISEASE	DESCRIPTION	CAN SCREENING DETECT IT?	MANAGING THE DISEASE	BREEDS OF CAT AFFECTED
Glycogenosis	Inability to metabolize glucose properly, leading to severe muscle weakness then heart failure.	Yes. A genetic test is available.	No treatment. Affected cats will need short-term fluid therapy.	Norwegian Forest Cat
Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	Thickening of the heart muscle, usually results in heart failure.	Yes. A genetic test is available.	Drugs may be given to minimize the effects of heart failure.	Maine Coon, Ragdoll
Spinal muscular atrophy	Progressive muscular weakness, beginning in the hind limbs. Appears in kittens from 15 weeks old.	Yes. A genetic test is available.	No treatment. In some cases, an affected cat may survive with an adequate quality of life if given support.	Maine Coon
Devon Rex myopathy	General muscle weakness, an abnormal gait, and problems with swallowing.	No. Disorder first appears in kittens at 3-4 weeks old.	No treatment. Give affected cats small, liquid meals to avoid risk of choking.	Devon Rex
Hypokalemic polymyopathy	Muscle weakness, associated with kidney failure. Affected cats often have a stiff gait and head tremors.	Yes. A genetic test is available for Burmese cats.	The condition can be managed with oral potassium.	Burmese, Asian Leopard
Lysosomal storage disease	Any of various enzyme deficiencies that affect many body systems, including the nervous system.	Yes. Some types of the disease can be screened and tested for.	No effective treatment. Affected cats usually die young.	Persian, Exotic, Siamese, Oriental, Balinese, Burmese, Asian Leopard, Korat
Polycystic kidney disease	Pockets of fluid (cysts) develop in the kidneys, eventually causing kidney failure.	Yes. A genetic test is available.	No cure. Drugs can be given to ease the workload of the kidneys.	British Shorthair, Persian, Exotic
Progressive retinal atrophy	Degeneration of the rods and cones in the retina of the eyes, leading to early blindness.	Yes. There is a test available for one form of the disorder, found in Abyssinians and Somalis.	No cure. Affected cats should be kept as safe as possible, away from potential hazards.	Abyssinian, Somali, Persian, Exotic
Osteochondrodysplasia	Painful degenerative joint disorder, leading to the fusion of tail, ankle, and knee bones.	No. To help prevent the disorder, cats with folded ears should only be crossed with cats with normal ears.	Palliative treatment can help ease pain and swelling of joints.	Scottish Fold
Manx syndrome	A condition where the spine is too short, leading to spinal-cord damage and affecting the bladder, bowels, and digestion.	No. There is no specific test for this severe form of taillessness.	No treatment. Most kittens are euthanized when the disease becomes apparent.	Manx

RESPONSIBLE BREEDING



A litter often includes a mixture of coat colors

Breeding purebred cats may sound like an enjoyable—and potentially lucrative—endeavor, but becoming a breeder is a big commitment. Most successful breeders have years of experience behind them. If you decide to go ahead, be ready to put lots of time (and money) into research, preparation, and caring for your pregnant cat and her newborn kittens.

A big decision

Before trying your hand as a breeder, make sure you know what you are getting yourself into. Get as much advice and detailed information as possible. The breeder from whom you bought your purebred female cat will be able to give you valuable tips, including where to find a suitable purebred tom to father the kittens. You will need a thorough understanding of cat genetics, especially coat colors and patterns, because the litter may have a mix of characteristics. You must also be aware of genetic diseases associated with your breed (pp.244–5). Purebred kittens sell for hundreds of dollars, but most of this income will be offset by costs for the stud fee, veterinary fees, heating for the kittens, registration fees, and extra food for the mother and kittens (once they are weaned). There may also be the long-term cost of owning more cats if you can't find suitable homes for your kittens.



PREGNANT CAT
A domestic cat's pregnancy usually lasts between 63 and 68 days.

Pregnancy and birth

If the mating was successful, your cat will be visibly pregnant by about four weeks. Give her extra food and ask your vet about any supplements she might need. Toward the end of her pregnancy, make a nest for her out of a cardboard box containing plain paper that she can tear up. You will need to be around for the birth to ensure it runs smoothly. Make sure you know what to expect—your vet can advise you about what will happen at each stage of the birth. After that, your main job will be to socialize the kittens so they'll be ready for new homes when they are about 12 weeks old.

NEUTERING

Surgical sterilization, or neutering, is advised for any cat you don't intend to breed. In males, the testes are removed in a simple operation. Neutered males rarely spray indoors. They are less aggressive and less likely to get injured in territorial battles or catch diseases from fighting or mating. Neutering females, called spaying, is major surgery in which the ovaries and part of the uterus are removed. It has a positive effect on longevity, eliminating the risk of common cancers in female cats.



HAND FEEDING

If a kitten is not thriving, you will need to feed him a cat-milk substitute from a pipette, about every two hours. Ask your vet about how to do this.

A close-up photograph of a fluffy, long-haired mother cat with green eyes and a light brown and white coat. She is sitting in a wicker basket lined with a blue cloth, surrounded by several small kittens. One kitten is visible on the left, sleeping with its eyes closed. Another kitten is partially visible behind the mother cat's front paws. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

HAPPY FAMILY

If all the kittens are healthy, the only assistance the mother will need will be extra food to help her produce milk for her litter. If she trusts you, she may let you handle her kittens from the start.

GLOSSARY

Albinism: Lack of the pigment that gives color to skin, hair, and eyes. In cats true albinism is very rare, but partial albinism gives rise to pointed coat patterns, as in the Siamese, and color variations such as silver tabby.

Almond-shaped eyes: Oval eyes with flattened corners, seen in breeds such as the Abyssinian and Siamese.

Awn hairs: Slightly longer bristly hairs that, together with the soft down hairs, constitute the undercoat.

Bicolor: Coat pattern combining white with another color.

Blotched tabby: Alternative term for Classic Tabby.

Blue: Light to medium-gray coat color, a diluted form of black. Blue-only cat breeds include the Russian Blue, Korat, and Chartreux.

Bracelets: Dark horizontal bands on the legs of a tabby cat.

Break: see Stop

Breeches: In longhaired cats, extra-long hair on the upper back part of the hindlegs.

Breed standard: Detailed description produced by a cat registry that defines the required standards for a pedigree cat's conformation, coat, and color.

Calico: Tortie and white patterning.

Cameo: Red, or its diluted form cream, where white covers two-thirds of the hair shaft.

Carnivore: Meat-eating animal.

Cat fancier: Enthusiast for breeding and showing purebred cats.

Cat registry: Organization that sets breed standards and registers the pedigrees of cats.

CFA: The Cat Fanciers' Association, the world's largest registry of pedigree cats, based in the US.

Chocolate: Pale to medium-brown coat color.

Chromosome: Threadlike structure within a cell nucleus, containing genes arranged along a strand of DNA. Cats have 38 chromosomes arranged in 19 corresponding pairs. (Humans have 46, arranged in 23 pairs.)

Classic tabby: see Tabby

Cobby: Compact, muscular, heavy-boned body type, seen in breeds such as the Persian.

Colorpoint: see Pointed

Crossbreed: see Random-bred

Curled ears: Ears that curve backward, as in the American Curl.

Diluted/dilution: Paler version of a color caused by the dilution gene, for example when black becomes blue and red becomes cream.

Domestic cat: Any member of *Felis catus*, pedigree or mixed breed. Also commonly known as a house cat.

Dominant: Describes a gene inherited from one parent that overrides the effect of a paired recessive gene inherited from the other parent. For example, the gene for a tabby coat is dominant.

Down: Short, soft, fine hairs that form an undercoat in some breeds.

Double coat: Fur consisting of a thick, soft undercoat covered by a protective topcoat of longer guard hairs.

Feathering: Longer hair on areas such as legs, feet, and tail.

Feral: Describing a domesticated species that has reverted to a wild state.

FIFE: Fédération Internationale Féline, the leading European federation of cat registries.

Folded ears: Ears that fold forward and down, seen in breeds such as the Scottish Fold.

GCCF: The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy, the leading organization for the registration of cats in the UK.

Gene pool: The complete collection of genes within an interbreeding population.

Ghost markings: Faint tabby markings on the coat of a solid-colored cat that show up in certain lights.

Ground color: Background color in tabbies; there are many variants: brown, red, and silver are among the most common.

Guard hairs: Longer, tapering hairs that form a cat's topcoat and provide weatherproofing.

Hybrid: Offspring of two different species: for example the Bengal, which is a cross between the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) and the Asian leopard (*Felis bengalensis*).

Leather: Hairless area at the end of the nose. Color varies according to coat color and is defined in the breed standards for pedigree cats.

Lilac: Warm pink-gray color, a diluted form of brown.

"M" mark: Typical "M"-shaped mark on the forehead of tabby cats; also known as a frown mark.

Mackerel tabby: see Tabby

Marbled: Variation of the Classic Tabby, mostly seen in wildcat hybrids such as the Bengal.

Mascara lines: Dark lines running from the outer corners of the eyes, or encircling the eyes.

Mask: Dark coloration on the face, usually around the muzzle and eyes.

Mitted: Color pattern in which the paws are white. Also called mittens or socks.

Moggie: Informal term for a non-pedigree cat.

Mutation: Change in a cell's DNA, often arising by chance; effects of genetic

mutations in cats include hairlessness, folded or curled ears, curly coats, and short tails.

Parti-color: General term for a coat pattern that has two or more colors; often one being white.

Patched tabby: Tortoiseshell with tabby markings.

Pedigree: Purebred.

Pointed: Coat pattern in which a cat has pale body fur with darker extremities (head, tail, and legs); typically seen in the Siamese.

Polydactyl: Extra toes produced by a genetic mutation; polydactyl, or polydactylism, is common in certain breeds, but only in the Pixiebob is the trait accepted in the breed standard.

Random-bred: Cat of mixed parentage.

Recessive: A gene that can produce an effect only when inherited from both parents. If a recessive gene from one parent is paired with a dominant gene from the other parent, its effect will be overridden. The genes for certain eye colors and long fur in cats are recessive.

Red: Reddish-brown, used to describe certain coat colors in Abyssinian and Somali cats; known as sorrel in the UK.

Rex coat: Curly or wavy coat, as seen in Devon and Cornish Rex cats.

Ruddy: A color of Abyssinian cats; known as usual in the UK.

Ruff: Frill of longer hair around the neck and chest.

Selective breeding: Mating of animals that possess desired traits, such as a particular coat color or pattern.

Semi-longhair: Medium-long coat, usually with a minimal undercoat.

Sepia: Dark-brown ticking on a paler ground color.

Shaded: Coat pattern in which the final quarter of each hair is colored.

Single coat: Coat with just one layer, usually the topcoat of guard hairs, seen in such cats as the Balinese and Turkish Angora.

Smoke: Coat pattern in which each hair shaft is pale at the base and colored for about half of its length.

Solid: Coat in which a single color is distributed evenly along the hair shaft; known as self in the UK.

Spotted tabby: see Tabby

Stop: Indentation between the muzzle and the top of the head; also known as a break.

Tabby: Genetically dominant coat pattern that comes in four types: Classic Tabby has a blotched or whorled pattern; Mackerel Tabby has fishbone stripes; Spotted Tabby has spots or rosettes; Ticked Tabbies have a faint pattern on a ticked coat.

Temperament: The character of a cat.

TICA: The International Cat Association, a genetic registry for pedigree cats worldwide.

Ticked: Coat pattern in which each hair shaft has alternate bands of pale and darker colors; also known as agouti. See also Tabby.

Tipped: Coat pattern in which just the tip of each hair is strongly colored.

Topcoat: Outer coat of guard hairs.

Tortie: Common abbreviation for tortoiseshell.

Tortoiseshell: Coat pattern in which black and red hairs, or their diluted forms, are mixed in patches.

Tricolor: Term sometimes used to describe a coat of two colors plus white.

Tuft: Clusters of longer hairs, which are seen, for example, between the toes or on the ears.

Undercoat: Layer of hair beneath the topcoat, usually short and often woolly.

Van pattern: Pointed coat pattern in which the color is restricted to the ears and tail only, as in the Turkish Van.

Wedge: Triangular facial conformation seen in most cats except the flat-faced Persian; the shape is elongated in breeds such as the Siamese and Orientals.

Whippy: Of a tail, thin and elastic.

Whisker pads: Fleshy pads on either side of a cat's muzzle where the whiskers are placed in rows.

Wirehair: Rare coat type, caused by a genetic mutation, in which the hairs are twisted or bent at the tips, giving a coarse, springy texture; seen in the American Wirehair cat.



INDEX

A

abscesses 240
 Abyssinian 83, 84-5, 135
 coat color 17
 ear shape 15
 inherited disorders 245
 see also Somali
 accidents 240
 acclimatization 206-7
 activity centers 227
 activity levels, changes in 240
 adoption fees 23
 adult cats
 and introduction of new kitten 220
 socialization 218-19
 versus kittens 20
 African wildcats 8, 9, 96
 age, and choice of cat 20
 aging, signs of 243
 aggression 218, 234
 agility 12
 agouti fur 17, 19
 airway, obstructed 241
 albinism 26
 alertness, reduced 240
 allergies
 food 215
 to cats 20, 223
 almond-shaped eyes 15
 American Bobtail
 longhair 193
 shorthair 113
 tail 14
 American Burmese 40
 American Curl
 ear shape 15
 longhair 184-5
 shorthair 109
 American Ringtail 117
 curled tail 14
 American Shorthair 27, 61
 American Wirehair 131
 coat 15
 amino acids 212
 Anadolu Kedisi 78
 anal sacs 228
 Anatolian 78
 ancient cats 27
 anemia 240, 245

B

babies, cats and 219-20
 bacteria 214
 bad habits 223
 balance 13
 balconies, falling from 223
 Balinese 135, 156
 inherited disorders 245
 Balinese-Javanese 157
 balls 227
 Bambino 105
 bandages 241
 barring 19
 bathing 230
 hairless cats 120, 121
 beds and bedding 204, 207
 bedtime rules 207
 behavior
 changes in 240
 problems 210, 218, 234-5
 shared with wildcats 9
 bells 205, 223
 Bengal 9, 26, 94-5
 bibs 18
 bicolors 16, 51, 138, 149, 151, 154, 1871
 big cats 8

C

bird feeders/tables 223
 birds, chasing 223
 Birman 162-3
 inherited disorders 244
 birth, giving 246
 biting 210, 217, 218-19, 226, 234
 black color 16
 bleeding disorders 244
 blood disorders 245
 blood loss 240
 blood tests 23
 blotched tabby 19, 151
 Blue Chinchilla 142
 blue color 10-11, 16, 66-7, 132, 138, 142
 boarding kennels 20, 211
 bobcats 8, 9, 190
 Bobtail
 American 14, 113, 193
 Japanese 14, 110, 188
 Kurilian 111, 189
 Mekong 112
 body language 217, 224-5
 body shapes 9, 13, 14
 Bombay 34, 36-7
 bones, eating 213
 boredom 223, 226, 234
 bottle feeding 246
 bowls 205
 brain 12
 breakages 202
 breathing
 difficulties 240
 irregular 241
 breed registry 22
 breeders
 choice of 22
 and genetics 9, 10
 questions to ask 22
 recommendation of vet by 238
 reputable 20, 22
 breeding
 responsible 246-7
 selective 9, 13, 16
 breeds 9
 choice of 20
 creation of 8
 definition of 9
 early 9
 and health problems 244-5
 new 9



D

cages 205
 calcium 212
 calico color 18, 77
 calicos 18, 132, 152-3
 California Spangled 92
 calories 215
 cameo color 17, 76, 139, 143
 camouflage 17, 19
 cancers, and neutering 246



canine teeth 12
caracals 8
Caracat 8
carbon monoxide poisoning 240
cardiovascular disease 243
carnassial teeth 12
carnivores, cats as 8, 12, 13
carriers 205, 206, 218
carrying position 216
cars, traveling in 205, 206
Casey, Paul 92
The Cat Book Poems 50, 54
cat clubs 22, 238
cat family 8-9
cat fanciers 9
Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) 19
cat flu 238
cat registries 9
cat shelters 23
catching 226
caterwauls 224
catflaps 223
cats
aggression to other 234
anatomy 12-15
breeds 9, 24-199
choosing the right 20-1
commitments of ownership 20
domestication 8-9
evolution 8
genetics 10-11
meeting other 220, 225
neighborhood 203, 223
Ceylon 87
CFA see Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
change, coping with 211
Chantilly/Tiffany 161
characteristics 9, 14-19
genetics 10-11
Chartreux 65
coat color 16
eye shape 15
chasing 226
Chausie 9, 99
chemicals, household 202
chest injuries 240
chewing 210, 227, 234
children

involvement with cat 219
learning how to handle cat 20, 207
meeting new cat 206, 207, 219
Chinchilla Shorthair see British Shorthair, Tipped
Chinese Li Hua 31
chocolate color 16, 158
chocolate, eating 213
choking 203
chromosomes 10
cinnamon color 16, 45
claws
covering 235
curved 12
retractable 8, 12
showing 224
sinking in 217
trimming 231
clay litter 204
climbing 202, 226
clippers, nail 228, 231
coats
changes to 240
color and pattern 9, 16-19
double-layered 27
in elderly cats 243
genetics 10-11
grooming 228-30
seasonal 164
single 27
types of 15, 20
undercoats 12, 15, 27, 135
see also curly coats; longhairs; shorthairs
cobby body shape 14
collars 205, 222
color 16-19
Colorpoint Shorthair 58, 70
combs 228
come when called 232
commercial foods 212-13
communication 224-5
companionship
human 20
of other cats 20, 223
congenital hypothyroidosis 244
conjunctivitis 240
conservation, wildlife 92
convalescence 242
Cornish Rex 27, 118, 126-7, 128, 130

cost, of cat ownership 20
cream color 16
cream, drinking 213
crossbreeds 23
cupboards 203, 223
curiosity 202, 203, 206
curled ears 15
American Curl 109, 184-5
Highlander 108
Kinkalow 102
see also folded ears
curly coats 15, 27, 135
American Wirehair 131
Cornish Rex 126-7
Devon Rex 128-9
German Rex 130
Kinkalow 104
LaPerm 123
Skookum 103
Sleekirk Rex 124-5, 194
Ural Rex 122, 195
curtains 226, 227
Cymric 115, 192
see also Manx

disease see health; inherited disorders
dog food 214
dogs
contact with 234
socialization 218, 220, 221
doll faces 14
domestic cats 8-19, 27
crossing with wildcats 9
domestication 8-9, 27
dominant genes 10, 18
Donskoy (Don Sphynx) 120
down 15
Dragon Li 31
drinking 213
increased 240
drops, eye and ear 242
dry food 212-13
dryers 202
dust baths 230
dwarf cats
Bambino 105
Kinkalow 102
Lambkin Dwarf 104

D

dairy products 213
deafness 43
dehydration 240
dental care/problems 20, 240, 243
deodorizers 204, 211
designer cats 92, 102, 105
destructive behavior 234
Devon Rex 27, 118, 128-9
face shape 14
inherited disorders 244
diabetes 240, 243
diarrhea 215, 240
diet 212-15
carnivorous 8
changes through life 215
for elderly cats 243
in pregnancy 246
special 215
and weight problems 243
digestive system 13
digging 210, 223
diluted colors 16, 18
discs, ID 205

E

ears
cleaning 231
drops 242
examining 238
hair tufts on 15
independent rotation 12
range of hearing 13
shape 9, 15
signals from 224
see also curled ears
Eastern colors 16
Egypt, Ancient 8, 9, 10, 80, 83, 118
Egyptian Mau 80-1
elderly cats
caring for 243
diet for 215
electrical cords 203
Elizabethan collars 241
enzyme deficiencies 245
equipment
basic 204-5
grooming 228
escape routes 202, 223

INDEX

continued

eumelanin 16
 European Burmese 39
 European Shorthair 62-3, 64
 evolution 8
 exercise, for elderly cats 243
 Exotic Shorthair 27, 28
 coat color 17
 inherited disorders 245
 exploring 226, 227
 eyelids, visible third 240
 eyes
 cleaning 231
 color and shape 9, 15
 drops 242
 large 8
 night vision 12
 problems with 240, 243
 signals from 224

F
 face shapes 14
 facial expressions 224
 falls 13
 fat, dietary 215
 fawn color 16, 45
 feces
 burying 223
 parasites in 211, 219
 Fédération Internationale Féline (FIFE) 19
 feeding
 difficulties 240
 see also diet; food
 Felidae 8-9
 feline leukemia 238
 femoral arteries 241
 feral cats 23, 193, 223
 fiber 212
 fiber pellets 204
 FIFE see Fédération Internationale Féline
 fights 223, 224, 234
 injuries from 240
 fireworks 203
 first aid 240-1
 fish, raw 213
 fleas 240
 Flehmen response 13
 flexibility 13

folded ears 9, 15
 Scottish Fold 106-7, 183
 see also curled ears
 folic acid 214
 food
 in convalescence 242
 cost of 20
 dangerous 213
 and feeding 212-15
 fussy eaters 214
 for pregnant cats 246
 refusing 240
 regular meal times 210, 214
 special diets 215
 and training 232
 and weight problems 243
 food bowls 205, 207, 210, 214
 foreign bodies, in wounds 240
 fossils 8
 founder effect 10
 foxes 203
 French Revolution 164
 friends, looking after cat 211, 219
 fur see coats
 fur balls 228
 furniture 202, 226, 234-5
 fussy eaters 214

G
 garbage bags 223
 GCCF see Governing Council of the Cat Fancy
 gender, and choice of cat 20
 genealogy 9
 genetic disorders see inherited disorders
 genetic screening 244-5
 genetics 8, 10-11
 German Rex 130
 glands, scent-producing 13
 glucose, inability to metabolize 244
 glycogenosis 244
 Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) 19
 grain 8
 grapes, eating 213
 grass, eating 214, 222, 243
 grooming 228-31
 change in habits 240
 in elderly cats 243

hairless cats 105
 key 19
 longhairs 135
 in overweight cats 243
 regular time for 210
 self- 228
 shorthairs 27
 time required for 20
 ground rules, establishing 207
 growling 224
 guard hairs 12, 15
 gums
 checking 240
 pale or blue 240, 241
 red 240
 yellow 240

H

hair
 disorders 244, 245
 loosening old 229
 shafts 16, 17
 shedding 27, 135
 types of 15
 hair dryers 230
 hairless cats 9, 15, 27
 Bambino 105
 Donskoy 120
 Peterbald 27, 121
 Sphynx 27, 118-19
 hand signals 233
 handling 216-17, 218
 Havana 44, 45
 Havana Brown 44, 52
 hazards, home 20, 202-3, 227
 head shapes 9, 14
 health 238-45
 caring for older cats 243
 common problems 240
 first aid 240-1
 giving medicine 242
 inherited disorders 244-5
 looking after unwell cats 242
 routine checks 238
 signs of poor 240
 weight problems 243
 hearing 13
 heart disorders 245
 hiding 227
 high-five 233

Highlander
 longhair 186-7
 shorthair 108
 Himalayan 155

Hinds-Daugherty, Dorothy 60
 hissing 224
 holidays 211
 home-cooked food 213
 homes
 cat-proofing 20, 202-3
 establishing a routine 210-11
 first days in 206-7
 for kittens 246
 rescue home checks on 23
 house-training 20, 23, 211

House cat
 Longhair 198-9
 Shorthair 132-3
 household chemicals 202
 houseplants 20, 235
 humans

 age compared with cat's 243
 early relationship with 8-9
 hunting 8, 13, 19, 27, 212, 226
 hygiene
 food and water bowls 214
 grooming and 228-31
 litter boxes 211
 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy 245
 hypokalemic polymyopathy 245

I

ID tags 205
 incisors 12
 indoor cats 20, 222, 223, 226
 walking outdoors 233
 infectious diseases 238
 inherited disorders 10, 22, 23, 43, 79, 244-5, 246
 injuries 240
 insurance, pet 20
 International Cat Association (TICA) 19
 international cat registries 9
 intestinal tract 13

J

Jacobson's organ 13
 jaguars 8



Japanese Bobtail
longhair 188
shorthair 110
tail 14
jaundice 240
jealousy 220
joints
disorders 245
flexible 13
strain on 243
jumping 226
reluctance/inability 240
jungle cats 9, 99

K

Kanaani 96
Khaomanee 29
kidney disorders 240, 245
Kinkalow 102
kitten food 214
kittens
breeding 246-7
choice of 22-3
handling 216
health checks 238
new homes for 208-9
and older cats 220
playtime 226
socialization 218, 220
sources of 22
training 232
vaccinations 238
versus adult cats 20
Korat 30, 245
Kurilian Bobtail
longhair 189
shorthair 111

L

Lambkin Dwarf 104
LaPerm
longhair 196-7
shorthair 123
leads, walking on 233
leopard cats 8, 9, 26, 94
Leopardette see Bengal
leopards 92
lethargy 240
leukemia see feline leukemia

Li Hua 31
lifespan 20, 23, 243
and neutering 246
lifestyle 20
lilac color 16, 32
limbs
back 13
front 12
injured 241
lions 8
litter boxes 20, 204, 210, 211
accidents 243
children and 219
problems with 235
litter material, choice of 204, 207, 211
litters
different breeds in same 9
meeting 23
liver disease 243
long tails 14
longhairs
breeds 134-99
coats 15
grooming 20, 135, 229
origins of 135
types of 135
Lowlander 171
lumps 240
Lynx Colorpoint 56
lynxes 8, 9, 15
lysosomal storage disease 245

M

mackerel tabby 19, 151
mad moments 226
Maine Coon 9, 23, 135, 164-5, 166-7
coat color and pattern 16, 17, 18, 19
ear shape 15
eye shape 15
inherited disorders 245
Mandalay 41
Manx 10, 114-15, 192
coat color 17
inherited disorders 245
tail types 14, 114
see also Cymric
Manx syndrome 245
Marie Antoinette, Queen of France

165
mating
choice of mate 246
noises made during 224
Meadow, Hal 38
meal times
number of 214
regular 210
meat 212
medicine, giving 242
Mekong Bobtail 112
melanin 16
meowing 224, 232
mice, toy 227
microchipping 23, 205
milk
drinking 213
production 246, 247
minerals and vitamins 243
mittens 18
mobility, decrease in 243
moggies 9
molting 27, 135
mothers, and socialization 218
mousers see rodents
Munchkin
longhair 181
shorthair 100-1
muscular bodies 8
muscular disorders 244, 245
mutations 10, 15
myopathy, Devon Rex 244
myths and legends 54

N

nails, clipping 231
names
choosing 207
recognizing 232
Nanu Rex see Lambkin Dwarf
Napoleon 182
natural breeds 9
natural selection 9
navigation 12
Nebelung 172
neighbors, attitude to cats 223
nests 246

neutering 20, 23, 223, 238
and docility 234, 246
and health 246
and weight gain 243
Neva Masquerade 180
night vision 12
nocturnal, cats as 13
noises 224
nonabsorbent litter 204
Norwegian Forest Cat 173, 174-5
coat color 16
inherited disorders 244
nose, cleaning 231
nutrition 212, 214

O

obesity 240, 243
diet for 215
obstructions, urinary 240
ocelots 8, 92
Ocicat 20, 88-9
Classic 90
odd-colored eyes 15, 138
Ojos Azules 79
onions, eating 213
Oriental
Bicolor 51
Cinnamon and Fawn 45
coat color 16, 18
inherited disorders 245
Longhair 159
Shaded 47
Shorthair 27, 44, 45, 52
Smoke 46
Solid 44, 50
Tabby 48-9
Tortie 18, 50
White 43
osteochondrodysplasia 245
outdoor cats 20, 222-3, 226

PQ

pads 12
parasites 21, 219
parti-colors 18
patched tabbys 18, 150
patterns 16-19
paws 12, 13

INDEX

continued

pedigree cats 20, 22, 23
breeding 246
genealogy 9
Persian 20, 23, 135, 144-5
Bicolor 154
Blue- and Odd-Eyed Bicolor and Tricolor 138
Cameo 17, 139
Cameo Bicolor 143
Chinchilla 17, 140, 146
coat color and pattern 16, 17, 18
coat types 15
Colorpoint 18, 155
eye shape 15
face shape 14
Golden 141
grooming 136, 228
inherited disorders 136, 245
Pewter 142
Shaded Silver 146
Silver Tabby 147
Smoke 17, 148
Smoke Bicolor and Tricolor 149
Solid 136-7
Tabby Bicolor 151
Tabby and Patched Tabby 150
Tortie and Calico 152-3
personality, of elderly cats 243
pest control 8-9
pet quality 22, 23
pet shops 22
pet sitters 211
Peterbald 27, 121
petting 217
pheomelanin 16
pheromones 235
picking up 216-17
pigment/pigmentation 10, 16, 17
pills, giving 242
Pixie Cat see Devon Rex
Pixiebob
longhair 190-1
shorthair 116
plants
cats' favorite 222
dangerous 20, 203
plastic bags 227
play bites 217
playtime 210, 217
importance of 226-7

pointed patterns 16, 18, 54-5, 56, 57, 58, 70, 155
pointed tip ears 15
polycystic kidney disease 245
polydactylism 10, 116, 190
posture, signals from 225
potatoes, green 213
praise 219
predators, cats as 8, 12, 13
pregnancy 246
diet in 215
prey 8, 13
primary seborrhea 245
progressive retinal atrophy 245
protein 212, 214, 215
pulse 241
purring 224
pyruvate kinase deficiency 245

R

RagaMuffin 169
Ragdoll 134, 135, 168, 245
body shape 14
coat color 18
raisins 213
recessive genes 10, 15, 16
red color 16
reflex, righting 13
refuges 218
regional breeds 9
registries 9
rehydration, emergency 240
rescue centers 238
rescue homes 20, 23
respiratory tract infections 240
rewards 232, 233
rexed coats 15, 27
Cornish Rex 126-7
Devon Rex 128-9
German Rex 130
Sleekirk Rex 124-5, 194
Ural Rex 122, 195
ribcage 12
righting reflex 13
Ringtail Sing-a-Ling see American Ringtail
road safety 222
rodents 8, 9, 13, 68, 111, 164
rough play 217, 218, 234
round eyes 15

rounded faces 14
rounded tip ears 15
routine
changes to 218, 219, 220, 240
establishing a 210-11
rubbing alcohol 235
Russian Blue 27, 66-7
Russian Shorthair 66

S

sabre-tooths 8
sand, as litter 204
Savannah 97
coat pattern 19
creation of 8, 9
scent marking 225
scent-producing glands 13
scoops, plastic 204
Scottish Fold
ear shape 15
inherited disorders 245
longhair 183
shorthair 106-7
Scottish Straights 106
scratching 13, 202, 219, 234-5
scratching posts 202, 205, 207, 234, 235
selective breeding 9, 13, 16
Selkirk Rex
longhair 135, 194
shorthair 124-5
senses 12, 13
Serengeti 98
servals 8, 97
Seychellois 59
shaded fur 17
shampoos 230
shape
body 14
ear 15
eye 15
face 14
head 14
Shell Cameo 76
shock 240, 241
short-legged cats
Bambino 105
Kinkalow 102
Lambkin Dwarf 104
Munchkin 100-1, 181

Napoleon 182
Skookum 103
short-tailed cats 9, 14
American Bobtail 113, 193
Japanese Bobtail 110, 188
Kurilian Bobtail 111, 189
Mekong Bobtail 112
Pixiebob 116, 190-1
see also tailless cats
shorthairs
breeds 26-133
coats 15
developing 27
grooming 20, 27, 229
maintenance 27
shoulder blades 12
show quality 22, 23
Siamese 20, 23
body shape 14
coat pattern and color 16, 18
Colorpoint 18
ear shape 15
eye shape 15
face shape 14
inherited disorders 244, 245
kittens 54
longhaired 156, 159
Lynx-Pointed 56
seal point 27, 54
semi-longhair version 135
Solid-Pointed 18, 54-5
Tortie-Pointed 57
Siberian 179, 180
signals, body 224
Singapura 38
sit command 233
sitting up 233
size 13
skeleton 12
skin
color of 12
dead 229
disorders 245
hairless cats 120, 121
lumps on 240
Skookum 103
skull deformities 79
slanted eyes 15
slicker brushes 228
smell, sense of 13, 225
smoke coats 16, 17, 33, 46, 74, 148,

149
 snakes 203
 Snow Bengal 26
 Snow Marble 94
 Snowshoe 60
 socialization 22, 23, 218-21, 234
 soil, as litter 204
 Sokoke 91
 solid coats 16, 17, 34, 44, 54-5, 68-9,
 136-7
 solid-white coats 16
 solitary nature 218
 Somali 135, 170
 coat color 17
 inherited disorders 245
 see also Abyssinian
 speed 12, 13
 Sphynx 27, 118-19
 hairlessness 15
 spinal disorders 115, 245
 spinal muscular atrophy 245
 spine 12
 spotting 18
 spraying 225, 235, 246
 stalking 226
 sterility 77
 sterilization *see* neutering
 stimulation, of elderly cats 243
 stomach upsets 215
 strangers, introduction to 219
 strays 23
 stress
 in cats 223, 226, 234, 238
 cats good for 216
 stretching 9
 stripes 19
 stroking 217
 studs 246
 sunburn 203
 swallowing, foreign bodies 203, 227
 swirling patterns 19

T

tabby coats 16, 17, 19, 35, 48-9, 56,
 75, 132, 147, 150-1
 tags 205
 tailless cats
 Cymric 192
 Manx 115
 see also short-tailed cats

tails
 and balance 13, 14
 signals from 13, 14, 224, 225
 types 9, 14
 talcum powder 229
 tangles 229
 tapetum lucidum 12
 taurine 212
 teeth
 carnivorous 12
 cleaning 231
 temperaments, breeds and 9, 20
 territory
 disputes over 220, 223, 224, 246
 marking 13, 225, 234, 235
 Thai 53
 thirst, increased 240
 thyroid problems 240, 243
 TICA *see* International Cat
 Association
 tick removers 228
 ticked fur 17, 19
 Tiffanie 160
 tigers 8
 tipped fur 17
 toddlers 218, 219
 toes
 polydactylism 10, 116, 190
 walking on 12
 tomatoes, green 213
 Tonkinese 42
 torties 16, 18, 50, 57, 77, 152-3
 tortoiseshells *see* torties
 touch sensors 12
 toxoplasmosis 211, 219
 Toyger 93
 toys 211, 227, 234
 retrieving 233
 and socialization 218, 219
 trade routes 10
 traffic accidents 203, 240
 training 232-3
 tricks 227, 233
 traits
 founder effect 10
 genetics 10-11
 inherited 9
 treats 215
 as rewards 232, 233
 and socialization 218, 219
 tricks 227, 233

tricolors 18, 138, 149
 Troubetskoy, Natalie 80
 Turkish Angora 135, 178
 Turkish Shorthair 78
 Turkish Van 9, 78, 176
 coat color and pattern 18
 Turkish Vankedisi 177

U

unconsciousness 241
 undercoats 12, 15, 27, 135
 unneutered cats 223
 Ural Rex
 longhair 195
 shorthair 122
 urinary tract infections 240
 urine
 pain passing 240
 passing increased amounts of 240
 scent marking 225

V

vaccinations 20, 22, 23, 223, 238
 verbal cues 232, 233
 veterinarians
 advice on breeders 22
 advice on diet 215
 annual checkups 238
 and breeding 246
 checkups for elderly cats 243
 choice of 238
 costs 20
 and rescue cats 23
 visiting 238
 Vikings 164, 173
 vision
 color 13
 night 12
 sensitive to movement 13
 visitors 219
 vitamins and micronutrients 212, 215
 vomeronasal 13
 vomiting 240

W

walking on a lead 233
 washing machines 202
 water, drinking 213

water bowls 205, 214
 water pistols 223, 235
 waving 233
 wavy coats *see* curly coats
 wedge faces 14
 weight
 and diet 215
 gain 243
 loss 240, 243
 problems 243
 Western colors 16
 wet food 212-13
 wheezing 240
 whippy tails 14
 whiskers 12, 13
 signals from 224
 white coats 16, 43
 white spotting 18

wild animals, encounters with 222,
 223
 wildcats 8, 9, 12-13, 15, 27, 135
 coat color 17
 crossing with domestic cats 9
 window screens 202
 windows, falling from 223
 worming 22, 23
 worms, intestinal 240
 wounds
 checking daily 242
 treatment of 240

XYZ

yard, cat-friendly 203, 222-3
 York Chocolate 158

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