

The history of the cat and the cat in history.

The domestic cat has a long and glorious history. When people started farming, grain began to be taken to storehouses, to barns, and then mice and rats attacked their goods. To get rid of them, man tamed a cat. It is believed that this happened 4500 or 5000 years ago. Probably one of the small wild cat species of Europe, North Africa or Asia became the ancestor of the domestic cat.

Members of this family have been found throughout the world since time immemorial. Fossilized remains of cats found that are millions of years old! But the domestication of cats began relatively recently in relation to the history of man. It is known that the ancient Egyptians tamed cats 4000 years ago and deified them. Their goddess Bast (or Buttermilk) was depicted in drawings with a cat's head, and sacrifices were made to cats. The cat also accompanied their supreme gods - Ra and Isis.

When a domestic cat died in an Egyptian family, all family members and servants shaved their eyebrows and wore mourning, and the cat was embalmed and buried in special cemeteries in wooden, bronze and even gold boxes. Numerous mummies of cats have been found, made in the same way as the mummies of pharaohs and noble people. The death of the temple cat plunged the entire city into mourning. The punishment for killing a cat was the death penalty!

Most likely, domestic cats came to Europe with the Romans about two thousand years ago. But here they had a hard time, and all because of stupid superstition. It was believed that they contained a devilish spirit. The devil was often depicted as a black cat, and it was believed that witches turned into cats. And in the Middle Ages, when women were accused of witchcraft, "evil demons" - cats - were burned at the stake along with them. Fortunately, those times are over.

In Russia, these animals were not considered unclean. Excavations have shown that in Novgorod already in the 14th century cats were loved by the townspeople, and in the 18th century three hundred cats were kept in the Winter Palace - as they said in those days, to "transfer mice".