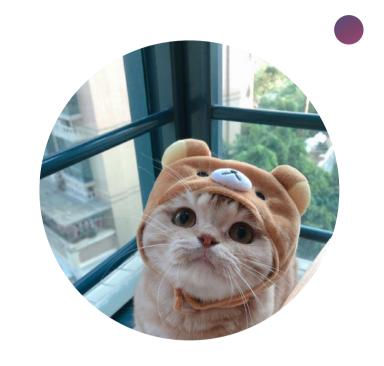
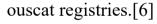


STAY HOME, STAY UP TO DATE



CAT

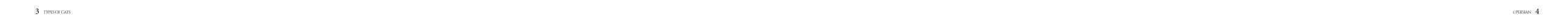
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Female domestic cats can have kittens from spring to late autumn, with litter sizes often ranging from two to five kittens.[9]Domestic cats are bred and It was long thought that cat domestication began inancient Egypt, wherecats were venerated from around 3100 BC,[11] [12]but recent advances in archaeology and genetics have shown that their domestication occurred in Western Asia around 7500 BC.[13]

ETYMOLOGY



The origin of the English wordcat,Old Englishcatt, is thought to be the Late Latinword cattus, which was first used at the beginning of the 6th century.[21]It was suggested that cattusis derived from an Egyptian precursor of Coptic w □ sau, 'tomcat', or its feminine form suffixed with-t. [22]The Late Latin word may be derived from anotherAfro-Asiatic [23]orNilo-Saharanlanguage. The Nubianwordkaddîska' wildcat' and-Nobiinkadīsare possible sources or cognates. [24] The Nubian word may be a loan from Arabic .gittِطِق~ظِق/qattِطِق

However, it is "equally likely that the forms might derive from an ancient Germanic word, imported into Latin and thence to Greek and to Syriac and Arabic".[25]The word may be derived from Germanic and Northern European languages, and ultimately be borrowed from Uralic, cf. Northern Samigáðfi, 'femalestoat', andHungarianhölgy, 'lady, female stoat'; fromProto-Uralic*käd'wä, 'female (of a furred animal)'.[26]

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Skulls of a wildcat (top left), a housecat (top right), and a hybrid between the two. (bottom

Main article: Cat evolution

The domestic cat is a member of the Felidae, afamilythat had acommon ancestorabout 10-15million years ago.[42]ThegenusFelisdivergedfrom other Felidae around 6–7million years ago.[43] Results ofphylogeneticresearch confirm that the wildFelisspecies evolved throughsympatricorparapatric speciation, whereas the domestic cat evolved throughartificial selection.[44] The domesticated cat and its closest wild ancestor are diploid and both possess 38 chromosomes [45] and roughly 20,000 genes. [46] The leopard cat(Prionailurus bengalensis) wastamedindependently in China around 5500 BC. This line of partially domesticated cats leaves no trace in the domestic cat populations of today.[47]

See also:Domestication of the cat A cat eating a fish under a chair, amuralin an Egyptian tomb dating to the 15th century BC

The earliest known indication for thetamingof anAfrican wildcat(F. lybica) wasexcavatedclose by a humanNeolithicgrave inShillourokambos, southernCyprus, dating to about 7500–7200 BC. Since there is no evidence of native mammalian-

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> > cat and other wild mammals to the island from the Middle

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tamed cats lasted thousands of years. Asagricultural practicesspread, so did tame and domesticated cats.[13] [6]Wildcats of Egypt contributed to the maternalgene poolof the domestic cat at a later time.[49]

The earliest known evidence for the occurrence of the domestic cat inGreecedates to around 1200 BC. Greek.Phoenician.CarthaginianandEtruscantraders introduced domestic cats to southern Europe.[50]During theRoman Empirethey were introduced toCorsicaandSardiniabefore the beginning of the 1st millennium.[51]By the 5th century BC, they were familiar animals around settlements in Magna Graecia and Etruria. [52] By the end of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, the Egyptian domestic cat lineage had arrived in aBaltic Seaport in northernGermany.

During domestication, cats have undergone only minor changes in anatomy and behavior, and they are still capable of surviving in the wild. Several natural behaviors and characteristics of wildcats may have pre-adapted them for domestication as pets. These traits include their small size, social nature, obvious body language, love of play, and high intelligence. CaptiveLeoparduscats may also display affectionate behavior toward humans

but were not domesticated.[53]House cats often mate with feral cats.[54] Hybridisation between domestic and other Felinae speciesis also possible, producing hybrids such as theKellas catin-Scotland.[55] [56]

Development ofcat breedsstarted in the mid 19th century.[57]An analysis of the domestic catgenomerevealed that the ancestral wildcat genome was significantly altered in the process of domestication, as specificmutationswere selected to develop cat breeds.[58]Most breeds are founded on random-bred domestic cats.Genetic diversityof these breeds varies between regions, and is lowest in purebred populations, which show more than 20 deleteriousgenetic disorders.[59]

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owned and 480million stray cats in the world. [14] [15] As of 2017, the domestic cat was the second most popular pet in the United States, with 95.6million cats owned[16] [17] [18]and around 42 million households owning at least one cat. [19]In theUnited Kingdom, 26% of adults have a cat, with an estimated population

Etymology and naming

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5 TYPES OF CATS

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