

= Singapura cat =

The Singapura is one of the smallest breeds of cats , noted for its large eyes and ears , brown ticked coat and blunt tail . Reportedly established from three " drain cats " imported from Singapore in the 1970s , it was later revealed that the cats were originally sent to Singapore from the US before they were exported back to the US . Investigations by the Cat Fanciers ' Association (CFA) concluded no wrongdoing and the Singapura kept its status as a natural breed .

= = History = =

They were originally from Singapore .

= = = Foundation = = =

In 1975 , after working in Singapore , Tommy and Hal Meadow returned to the US with what they say were three local brown @-@ ticked cats . These three cats , a pair of male and female kittens from the same litter and another young female , were the foundation used to establish the Singapura . The breed takes its name from the Malay name for Singapore . In 1981 a breeder visited Singapore and chanced upon a cat fitting the profile of the Singapura (with the exception of the tail) in the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals . The cat was imported to the US and adopted into the breeding program .

The Singapura was accepted for registration by the CFA in 1982 and granted championship status in 1988 . In between this period , breeders found that the occasional litter would have a solid colored kitten , caused by the recessive gene for solid color . In a desire for the Singapura to breed true , many breeders chose to do test matings to pinpoint and remove from their breeding programs individuals with the recessive gene . It was discovered that two of the three foundation cats carried this gene .

= = = Controversy = = =

In 1987 , while on a cat finding trip to Singapore , American breeder Jerry Mayes discovered importation papers which revealed that the three foundation cats were actually taken into Singapore from the US in 1974 . Lucy Koh , a friend of Mayes , made efforts to correct the history of the Singapura presented by the Meadows but that went relatively unnoticed until 1990 , when the Singapore Tourist and Promotion Board (now Singapore Tourism Board) started a campaign to use the Singapura as a national mascot . Reporter Sandra Davie was informed of the discrepancy and published an article about it in the national broadsheet The Straits Times .

Because the cats were registered as Abyssinians in the import certificates , and because the Meadows had been breeders of Abyssinian , Burmese , and Siamese , some have speculated that the Singapura is a Burmese / Abyssinian cross and it has even been described as such by CFA Judges . The resemblance of some Burmese / Abyssinian cross to the Singapura , as well as the Singapura 's small litter size , which is uncommon in natural breeds , added more doubts to the Meadows ' story .

The CFA investigated the incident at the request of a Singapura breed club . In the investigation , Hal Meadow told the investigation board that the three cats were grandchildren of four local cats he sent back to the US during a previous sensitive business trip to Singapore in 1971 , contradicting the Meadows ' earlier claim of the foundation cats ' origin . Apparently Tommy Meadow lied about it to conceal the secret trip . The CFA found no wrongdoing and kept the Singapura 's status as a natural breed . CFA 's Joan Miller said that " Whether they mated on the streets of Singapore or whether they mated in Michigan , it doesn 't really matter . " Referring to the cat picked up from the SPCA in 1981 , she said that " In addition , there is at least one documented cat that is behind many Singapura pedigrees and it was picked up at the pound . Even with none of the cats the Meadows brought in we still have a legitimate cat from Singapore behind our Singapuras . "

Recent studies in 2007 based on feline DNA showed that there are very few genetic differences between the Singapura and Burmese , adding support to the claim that the Singapura is not a natural breed .

== Singapura in Singapore ==

The Singapore Tourist and Promotion Board (STPB) proceeded with the decision to use the breed (advertised under the name Kucinta) as a tourism mascot after CFA concluded its investigation . The name Kucinta is an amalgamation of the Malay words kucing (cat) and cinta (love) and taken from the winning entry in a naming competition . Incidentally , Kucinta also means " The one I love " in Malay . Sculptures of the Singapura can be found by the Singapore River .

While brown cats with ticked coats can occasionally be seen , few if any resembles the Singapura , with the majority of cats being bobtailed tabbies , tortoiseshells or bicolor , and the move by the STPB is seen by locals to be an advertising move based on the popularity of the breed among tourists at that time .

In 2004 , the Singapore Zoo hosted a temporary exhibit of Singapura cats in celebration of the nation 's 39th National Day . Four Singapura cats were loaned by their owners for the event .

== Description ==

The Singapura is a moderately stocky and muscular and is one of the world 's smallest cats , with a very short and fine coat . A full grown female usually weighs 5 ? 6 pounds (2 @. @ 3 ? 2 @. @ 7 kg) while the male weighs 6 ? 8 pounds (2 @. @ 7 ? 3 @. @ 6 kg) . The large , slightly pointed and deep cupped ears together with the large almond @-@ shaped eyes are characteristics of the breed . The tail is slender , slightly shorter than the length of the body and has a blunt tip .

The breed 's coat pattern is that of a ticked tabby . That is , individual hair strands have alternating sections of dark and light color , typically two dark bands separated by two light bands , with a dark color at the tip . The underside , including the chest , muzzle and chin , takes the color of the light bands . The Singapura is recognized by cat registries in only one color , the sepia agouti , described as " dark brown ticking on a warm old ivory ground color " .

The Singapura is described by the CFA as active , curious and playful . They are affectionate and desire human interaction . They have a tendency to perch on high places , to allow them a better view of their surrounding .

In 2006 , a pet @-@ quality Singapura in the UK cost £ 300 @-@ 400 (US \$ 500 @-@ 600 USD) while a show specimen can cost upwards of £ 600 . At present pet @-@ quality Singapuras can cost £ 800 @-@ 900 (US \$ 1 @, @ 300 @-@ 1 @, @ 500 USD) while show specimens go for upwards of £ 1 @, @ 000 .

== Health ==

Of concern to breeders is the condition known as uterine inertia , an inability to expel the foetus due to weak muscles . This condition was present in one of the foundation cats and appears in some Singapura females today . Individuals with uterine inertia may require deliveries to be made by Caesarean section . Another issue that affects the breed is Pyruvate kinase deficiency , which leads to hemolytic anemia . Typical symptoms includes lethargy , diarrhea , lack of appetite , poor coat quality , weight loss and jaundice .

Some breeders have shown concern regarding the lack of genetic diversity in the breed due to inbreeding caused by a small gene pool . Researchers who completed the 2007 DNA study found that the Singapura (along with the Burmese) have the least genetic diversity among the 22 breeds studied . The possibility of outcrossing with another breed to increase the genetic diversity had been raised among CFA breeders , but not many were receptive to the idea , preferring to use Singapuras from around the world that are not so closely related to the CFA line . In April 2013 , UK 's Governing Council of the Cat Fancy started allowing outcrossing for the breed . Individuals chosen

have to meet certain health and appearance requirements .