Em Colkitt

Prof. Minkoff

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Russian Cat Breeds

The Russian Federation is renowned in the pet world for being home to an exotic array of cat breeds highly sought-after across the globe by breeders and owners alike. Strikingly, **half of the top ten Russian cat breeds are naturally-occurring or wild breeds that have been around for so long their date of origin remains unknown.** While historians have been able to pinpoint approximate geographical locations for where these five breeds originated, no specifics are known about where exactly they came from or how long they have been in existence. **The remaining half of the top ten breeds originated within the very tight window of 1983 to 1994**, most of them the result of purposeful breeding experimentation.

What truly sets Russian breeds apart are their tendency to have unforgettably unique features. For example, **the Donskoy breed is known for being completely hairless**. Donskoy cats are also commonly referred to as Russian sphinxes, and they’re known for their astonishing intelligence and wrinkly, exposed skin. **The Peterbald breed is the only other major Russian breed that can sometimes be hairless**. **Three of the other Russian breeds are recognizable for their short, bobbed tails.**

**Russian cats range in height anywhere from 4 to 12 inches, but their weight tends to stay around an average range of 8 to 12 pounds.** Interestingly enough, the older and more naturally-occurring Russian breeds tend to be taller and weigh more than newer breeds. One exception, however, is **the Toybob, a breed originating from Rostov-on-Don in 1983, which happens to be one of the shortest known breeds of cat in the world. Even fully grown, these friendly felines will only stand approximately 4 to 6 inches tall.**

Because these Russian breeds tend to be so extremely rare and exotic, they are difficult to acquire, particularly for United States citizens — but they are well worth the investment for those lucky enough to share a home with one. **Most Russian breeds are highly friendly** and doglike in their affection for their human, making them excellent companions.

LINK TO DATA: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1g8fcGTb0Or0SoKDtAhbMhats5LrgIV-LHhNfqgQAflU/edit?usp=sharing>