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# Australian Curl

The Australian Curl was an experimental, lost domesticated cat breed with various unique coat colors that was originally set to be a mixture between the American Curl and the Domestic Shorthair.

## Information[]

[1]The Australian Curl was a breed that never was made it past the first hurdle. In th

e July 1996, National Cat Magazine (Australia) wrote that a Queensland cat breeder, Margaret Hayes, had begun an experimental breeding programme for a curled-ear cat that she had discovered at her vet’s office. “Waltzing Matilda,” (Tilly) was believed to be the first Australian Curl due to her curled ears and her foreign body type, which resembled that of the American Curl.

Tilly spent a month recuperating from a badly crushed rear leg before she could be mated to a cat of suitable body type. Before proceeding, Mrs. Hayes needed approval from the Queensland Feline Association (QFA). Tilly was bred to a cream and white Domestic Shorthair male and produced four healthy kittens in October 1996.

Initially, the kittens’ ears curled back on their heads, but this was worrying because American Curl kittens are born straight-eared and the ears begin to curl between 5 and 10 days old. Tilly’s kittens were doing the exact opposite. When the kittens were five days old, Tilly developed a temperature of 102 Fahrenheit. Margarent Hayes hand-reared the kittens, but by 10 days old their ears stiffened and straightened. It was evident that their ears would not re-cur. Unlike their mother, the kittens lacked the curved ear cartilage that produced the back-swept curl. Due to her serious illness, Tilly was spayed and her mate was neutered. The kittens were not bred to further investigate the trait, and were also desexed and placed in pet homes.

## References[]