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# American Shorthair

The American Shorthair (ASH) is a breed of domestic cat believed to be descended from European cats brought to North America by early settlers to protect valuable cargo from mice and rats.[1] According to the Cat Fanciers' Association, in 2020, it was the eighth most popular pedigreed cat in the world.[2]

## History[]

When settlers sailed to North America they carried cats on board ships to protect their stores from mice. Many of these cats "settled" in the New World, interbred, and developed special characteristics to help them cope with their new life and climate. Early this century a selective breeding program was established to develop the best qualities of these cats. The American Shorthair is also called the Mouser because they caught mice on ships.

## Characteristics[]

A very athletic cat, American Shorthair has a larger, leaner, and more powerfully built body than its relation, the British Shorthair. It is also known as a "working cat."

American Shorthairs are a pedigreed cat with strict standards and a distinctive appearance as set by the various Cat Fanciers Associations worldwide.

Originally known as the Domestic Shorthair, the breed was renamed in 1966 to the "American Shorthair" to better represent its "All American" character and to differentiate it from other shorthaired breeds. The name "American Shorthair" also reinforces the notion that the American shorthair is distinct from non-pedigreed, short-haired cats in the United States.[3] A non-pedigreed shorthaired cat (called a Domestic Shorthair) might resemble an American Shorthair, just as another non-pedigreed cat might look like a Siamese, Persian or Maine Coon. The difference, however, is that American shorthairs are a purebred cat and are recognized as such by the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA).[3]

## Personality and History[]

The American Shorthair is usually very personable and affectionate. Usually outgoing, the American shorthair takes pride in greeting visitors to its home. The American Shorthair is America's own breed, whose ancestors came to North America with early settlers from Europe. Records indicate that the Mayflower carried several American shorthairs to hunt ship's rats. For centuries, 'working cats' flourished along with their pioneer owners and eventually established themselves as the native North American shorthaired cat. Their beauty and loving nature came to be valued as much as their rat-catching skills.

## History[]

When settlers sailed from Europe to North America, they carried cats on board (ships' cats) to protect the stores from mice[4]—for instance, the cats that came over on the Mayflower with the Pilgrims to hunt rats on the ship and in the colony.[5] Many of these cats landed in the New World, interbred, and developed special characteristics to help them cope with their new life and climate. Early in the 20th century, a selective breeding program was established to develop the best qualities of these cats.

The American Shorthair is a pedigree cat breed, with a strict conformation standard, as set by cat fanciers of the breed and the North American cat fancier associations such as The International Cat Association (TICA)[6] and the Cat Fanciers' Association. The breed is accepted by all North American cat registries. Originally known as the Domestic Shorthair, the breed was renamed in 1966 to the "American Shorthair" to better represent its "all-American" origins and to differentiate it from other shorthaired breeds. The name "American Shorthair" also reinforces the fact that the breed is a pedigreed breed distinct from the random-bred non-pedigreed domestic short-haired cats in North America, which may nevertheless resemble the ASH. Both the American Shorthair breed and the random-bred cats from which the breed is derived are sometimes called working cats because they were used for controlling rodent populations, on ships and farms. American shorthair (then referred as Domestic shorthair) was among the first five breeds that were considered as registered cat breeds by CFA during 1906.[4][7]

## Color[]

American Shorthairs come in all colors, divisions and categories. The Amеrican Shorthair is recognized in an unlimited variety of different colors and patterns ranging from the striking brown patched tabby to the glistеning blue-eyed white, the beautiful shaded silvers, smokes and cameos to the flashy calico van, and many colors in between. The most well-known American Shorthair color today is the cameo tabby, with dense orange markings set on an off-white background.

## Patterns[]

* Blue Eyed WhiteCopper Eyed WhiteGreen Eyed WhiteAqua Eyed WhiteOdd Eyed WhiteBlueBlackChocolateLilacCinnamonFawnCreamRedBlue TabbyChocolate TabbyLilac TabbyCinnamon TabbyFawn TabbyCream TabbyRed TabbyBrown TabbySilver TabbyBlue Silver TabbyChocolate Silver TabbyLilac Silver TabbyCinnamon Silver TabbyFawn Silver TabbyGolden TabbyBlue Golden TabbyChocolate Golden TabbyLilac Golden TabbyCinnamon Golden TabbyFawn Golden TabbyRed Cameo TabbyCream Cameo TabbyBlue TorbieBrown TorbieChocolate TorbieLilac TorbieCinnamon TorbieFawn TorbieSilver TorbieBlue Silver TorbieChocolate Silver TorbieLilac Silver TorbieCinnamon Silver TorbieFawn Silver TorbieGolden TorbieBlue Golden TorbieChocolate Golden TorbieLilac Golden TorbieCinnamon Golden TorbieFawn Golden TorbieBlue TortoiseshellTortoiseshellChocolate TortoiseshellLilac TortoiseshellCinnamon TortoiseshellFawn TortoiseshellChinchillaBlue ChinchillaChocolate ChinchillaLilac ChinchillaCinnamon ChinchillaFawn ChinchillaGolden ChinchillaBlue Golden ChinchillaChocolate Golden ChinchillaLilac Golden ChinchillaCinnamon Golden ChinchillaFawn Golden ChinchillaShaded SilverBlue Shaded SilverChocolate Shaded SilverLilac Shaded SilverCinnamon Shaded SilverFawn Shaded SilverShaded GoldenBlue Shaded GoldenChocolate Shaded GoldenLilac Shaded GoldenCinnamon Shaded GoldenFawn Shaded GoldenShaded Blue TortoiseshellShaded TortoiseshellShaded Chocolate TortoiseshellShaded Lilac TortoiseshellShaded Cinnamon TortoiseshellShaded Fawn TortoiseshellShaded Golden TortieBlue Tortoiseshell Shaded GoldenChocolate Tortoiseshell Shaded GoldenLilac Tortoiseshell Shaded GoldenCinnamon Tortoiseshell Shaded GoldenFawn Tortoiseshell Shaded GoldenBlue SmokeBlack SmokeChocolate SmokeLilac SmokeCinnamon SmokeFawn SmokeBlue Tortoiseshell SmokeSmoke TortoiseshellChocolate Tortoiseshell SmokeLilac Tortoiseshell SmokeCinnamon Tortoiseshell SmokeFawn Tortoiseshell SmokeShell CameoShaded CameoCameo SmokeCream Shell CameoCream Shaded CameoCream Cameo Smokeand pointed, sepia and mink categories of all these colours and patterns all of them with or without white

## See also[]

* British Shorthair

## References[]