

Cat

The domestic cat (*Felis catus*) is one of the most beloved pets around the globe, tracing its ancestry back to the African wildcat. Cats were first domesticated around 9,000 years ago, probably in the Near East, where they helped control rodent populations in early farming communities. Unlike dogs, cats retained more independence after domestication, resulting in their often aloof yet affectionate personalities. Cats are known for their exceptional agility, acute night vision, and heightened senses of smell and hearing. Their retractable claws and silent movement make them excellent hunters. A cat's purring is commonly associated with contentment but can also be a self-healing mechanism, with the sound frequencies promoting tissue regeneration. Domesticated cats come in hundreds of breeds, varying widely in size, coat type, and behavior. Today, cats are popular for their companionship and playful nature, and they adapt well to both indoor and outdoor environments. Ancient cultures, especially the Egyptians, revered cats and often depicted them in art and mythology. Despite their independent streak, cats often form strong bonds with their human companions and can live up to 20 years or more with proper care.