

TICA'S WORLD OF CATS



TICA
THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION INC.

Laura Seelley



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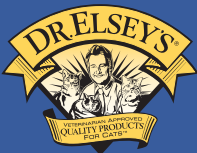
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WELCOME TO TICA'S WORLD



The International Cat Association, Inc.[™] (TICA[™]) is truly an international organization. TICA has thousands of members and hundreds of clubs all around the world. You will find TICA cat lovers and shows in Latin America, North America, Asia, and Europe. From New York to California, from London to Moscow, and Taiwan to Korea, you're in TICA's world. While customs and languages may differ, you will always find that everyone in TICA's world shares one thing – the love of cats! A genetic registry, TICA accepts healthy new breeds and is proud to call the Bengal our registry's most popular breed and ambassador to the world. Sixty-three breeds of cats from the Russian Blue to LaPerm, Sphynx to Norwegian Forest Cat all compete for titles and regional and international awards. TICA also was the first cat registry and now the world's largest registry - to allow household cats and household kittens of unknown ancestry to compete for the same titles and awards at cat shows as the pedigreed cats.

TICA Judges have extensive training and they are happy and willing to share their knowledge and expertise as they judge.

TICA cat shows are fun. TICA cats are fabulous. And TICA members are friendly. The cat fancy and cat fanciers are all cat lovers and almost all own cats. You do not have to own a cat to be a TICA member! You just have to love all cats! Cat kids get to learn the ropes through our Junior Exhibitor program and new cattery enthusiasts can learn more through the TICA Mentorship Program.

We welcome you to TICA's world! A world of cats and cat lovers! Remember, wherever you are, you're in TICA's world!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fate Mays".

Fate Mays, President

TICA'S SOCIAL NETWORK:

TICA Website: www.TICA.org

TICA Blog: www.TICA.org/blog

TICA Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheInternationalCatAssociation



TICA ~ The International Cat Association, Inc Overview



The International Cat Association, Inc.™ (TICA™), is the ultimate intertwining of the appreciation of feline beauty and ongoing investigation into the scientific understanding of the cat by feline enthusiasts. As the world's largest genetic feline registry since it was founded in 1979, TICA has led the way in greater appreciation of the cat. The more that is known about the vast array of genes that result in the individual animal, the more every cat can be appreciated as a masterpiece.

As the leading global registry for household pets, TICA encourages the celebration of each cat no matter if its origin is a nearby street, local rescue or municipal shelter. Household pet cats, cats from no specific breed, are registered with TICA with their genetically correct color, pattern, and coat length. In TICA, Household Pet Cats compete for the same titles and honors as cats with esteemed pedigrees judged on their cleanliness, grooming, and purrsonality.

TICA is home to a diverse array of breeds. The world's most well known breeds such as the Persian, Maine Coon, Ragdoll and Abyssinian, as well as rare and new breeds like the Bengal, Kurilian Bobtail and Toyger, call TICA home because of the shared interests in advancing their responsible breeding, exhibition and appreciation. Through collaborative efforts between individual members, chartered clubs, TICA Elected Officers, TICA's Genetic, Feline Welfare, Junior Exhibitor, Breed Committees and in association with veterinarians and scientists, efforts are made to improve the lives of all cats. Each year in more than twenty-six countries throughout the globe in exhibitions organized by hundreds of TICA chartered clubs, feline enthusiasts gather to share knowledge and acknowledge the beauty of household pet and pedigreed cats. Amazingly, in an excess of one hundred countries, across every demographic, social, and national categorization the love of felines unites the membership of TICA.

TICA is a group of cat lovers, a cadre of the most passionate feline enthusiasts, and the global leader in progressive genetic based registration of all cats, thus making TICA the apex of integration between scientific understanding and appreciation of every cat.

In summary the overview of TICA is:

What is TICA? The International Cat Association is like AKC – the American Kennel Club®, but for cats! TICA is headquartered in Harlingen, Texas.

How long has TICA been around? TICA was founded in 1979.

Is TICA International? Yes, TICA is proud to unite cat lovers and enthusiasts in 104 countries, including China, Korea, Japan, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Israel, Ireland, U.K. and many more.

Does TICA only register pedigreed cats? NO! While TICA is the world's largest genetic registry of pedigreed cats, it is also the largest registry of non-pedigreed cats and kittens.

I get why someone would register a pedigreed cat, but why a non-pedigreed cat? TICA offers opportunities for people to share their love of cats and socialize with other cat enthusiasts at sanctioned cat shows around the world. Non-pedigreed cats, registered in TICA, can compete for titles and awards just like the pedigreed cats.

Why does TICA encourage people to show non-pedigreed cats? First, all non-pedigreed cats MUST be spayed or neutered in order to be registered and shown in TICA shows. Many TICA members and clubs are actively involved in cat rescue and welfare activities and love having the cat shows as venues to educate the public about cats, for adoption events, and as fundraisers for a local cat rescue group.

So, in summary, what is TICA's "elevator speech" when asked what we are all about? The responsible breeding of pedigreed cats preserves the distinct characteristics of individual pedigreed breeds and ensures the continuation of predictable physical and behavioral traits for future generations. TICA and its members work together to preserve our unique pedigreed cats and promote the health and welfare of ALL domestic cats through education, responsible cat ownership and the proper care of the millions of cats worldwide.



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Abyssinian (SH) - Abyssinians tend to be loyal, affectionate, highly intelligent and very interactive with their owners and environment. They are not usually considered a lap cat due to their high energy and curiosity levels. They like a good view of their surroundings, so expect them to find them atop the refrigerator, doors and bookcases. They are easy to groom and make a great addition to an active family.



American Bobtail (LH/SH) - American Bobtails tend to attach themselves to the whole family and not just one person. The breed gets along with children as well as other pets, including the family dog. They want to be with the family rather than being alone. They have a subtle personality that is affectionate and loving rather than demanding or in your face. They have two coat lengths: easy-to-groom shorthairs and longhairs, which require a weekly combing.



American Curl (LH/SH) - American Curls can be curious, exuberant and loving companions. They are exceedingly people-oriented and pat you to get your attention. Their kitten-like personalities have earned them the nickname of the Peter Pan of cats. All American Curls are born with straight ears, but not all American Curls will have curled ears. They have two coat lengths: shorthair and longhair. Both are easy to groom.



American Shorthair (SH) - American Shorthairs are a medium size cat, muscular with a firm, well-balanced body. They are one of the most adaptable breeds. The good natured, playful American fits right in for any type of household, whether a single person living alone, a senior citizen, or a family with children. They have an easy-care short, lustrous coat in a range of colors and patterns.



American Wirehair (SH) - The American Wirehair, like its counterpart the American Shorthair, is one of the most adaptable breeds for any type of household-from being the lap cat curled up with the senior citizen to the energetic cat joining in to play with the children. One of the natural breeds, the American Wirehair is a medium size cat, muscular with a firm, well-balanced body. The wirehair gene originated as a spontaneous coat mutation in upstate New York and changes the hard coat of the American Shorthair to the hard, dense, springy coat of the American Wirehair.



Australian Mist (SH) - Australian Mists are new to most of the world, but they have been Championship status in Australia for 30+ years. Recently, several have been exported to the United Kingdom and the U.S. where they are gaining popularity quickly. Dr. Truda Straede, an ecologist, intentionally created this breed in response to the serious problem of predation of domestic pets on native Australian wildlife. Her goal was to create a breed that was happy to be with people and live indoors. Mists are medium sized, shorthaired and have distinctive spotted or marble-like patterns that appear as if covered in a light veil – thus the name “mist”. They come in six muted colors. They are wonderful companion cats, sweet in nature, people and animal friendly and often bond strongly with their owners. They make wonderful pets and show cats.

Balinese (LH) - Balinese have extremely loving temperaments and bond closely with their families. These gregarious cats will chat with you about any and all subjects while calling your attention to something you may have missed. They demand lots of attention and get into mischief so should not be left alone for long periods. They are the longhaired Siamese. The silky single coat makes the Balinese an easy longhaired cat to keep in perfect condition.



Bengal (SH) - The Bengal breed is most noted for its luxurious short, soft coat that may appear in either the spotted or marble pattern. Bengals are an active, inquisitive cat that loves to be up high. If you don't like a cat to leave the floor, a Bengal is probably not the right cat for you. Bengals are busy by nature. They are very affectionate and can be a "lap cat" whenever THEY want to be, but in general their idea of fun is playing, chasing, climbing and investigating. Their short, pelt-like coats require minimal fuss.



Birman (LH) - Birmans are a great family cat. It's the kind of cat that can dwell peacefully in a single pet home or are equally content cohabitating with many furry friends. It is the Velcro cat of the cat world. It is a medium to medium-large longhaired pointed cat with distinctive white gloves and laces. The Sacred Cat of Burma, Birmans have a lovely legend about being raised by the Kittah priests in their temple in Burma. They have a long, soft, almost silky single coat and require only a once a week combing.



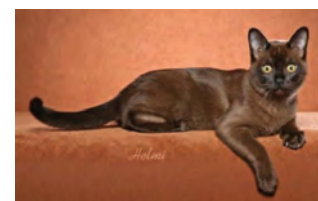
Bombay (SH) - Bombays combine the easy-going nature of the American Shorthair with the inquisitive, loving personality of the social Burmese. They love to be in your company and will greet you joyously at the door and shower visitors with the same loving enthusiasm. The Bombay comes in one color: black, but it's the deepest, densest black imaginable topped with a high gloss sheen. The large eyes are anywhere from a deep, rich gold to new penny copper. Their very short coat requires minimal grooming.



British Shorthair/British Longhair - With its chubby face, chipmunk cheeks and happy smile, the British Shorthair/Longhair gained fame as the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. The breed traces its ancestry back to the cats of Rome and is one of England's oldest breeds of cats. With its plush coat and wonderful disposition, these sturdy teddy bears make a great family pet. They easily tolerate children and dogs but dislike being carried around. Instead, they prefer to maintain their dignity with all feet firmly on the floor. While not lap cats, they do enjoy snuggling up beside you. With their love of food and sedentary ways, they can quickly gain weight so keep a careful eye on portions. The longhaired variety requires daily combing.



Burmese (SH) - Burmese are extremely sweet natured, people-oriented cats that love to curl up on any available lap. Their playful nature includes joining the games of young family members. They easily tolerate being dressed up in doll's clothes and being carried around. The Burmese are an ideal family pet, but if your busy household means they will be alone for long periods of time, consider two so they will be company for each other. Their satin-like coats require little maintenance. A weekly grooming with a rubber brush removes loose hairs and polishes the coat to a high gloss.



Burmilla (LH/SH) - While a new breed to TICA, the Burmilla is a breed of domestic cat which originated in the United Kingdom in 1981 and gained championship status there in 1984. It is a cross between the Chinchilla colored Persian and Burmese breeds. It is medium sized, muscular cat with a distinctive silver coat and comes in two coat lengths, semi longhair and shorthair. They are sweet natured, inquisitive, gentle and get along well with children and other animals.





Chartreux (SH) - The Chartreux is an old breed that is a balance of contrasts. With its sturdy, robust body and fine-boned legs, the Chartreux is often described as a "potato on toothpicks." It is one of the few breeds to come in blue only and its medium length coat has a woolly texture. These are cats that want their feet firmly on the ground. While playful and intelligent, these engaging cats are not one for hi-jinks or flying through the air. They have a short, thick coat that requires a weekly brushing.



Chausie (SH) - The Chausies, pronounced "chow-see," were advanced to Championship status at TICA's August 2012 board meeting and joined the other breeds in the Championship Classes at TICA shows beginning May 1, 2013. Over three thousand years ago, two species of wild cat found their way into Egyptian homes. Chausies are active, loyal cats that bond to their person and do not do well if left by themselves all day. They open doors, explore cupboards and love to be in the middle of everything, where they can "supervise" the action. Curiosity and intelligence are preeminent personality traits of this breed. The shorthaired Chausie comes in three color-pattern combinations: brown ticked tabby, solid black, and black grizzled tabby.



Cornish Rex (SH) - The Cornish Rex has an outstanding enthusiastic personality. These attention seekers are highly social and like to be right in the middle of everything. They are intelligent, acrobatic, clownish and retain their kitten-like personalities throughout their adult lives. The most unique feature of the Cornish Rex is its coat. Unlike most cats, Cornishes do not have guard hairs and the hair lays in marcel waves that can be tight or loose. They are often compared to a washboard in appearance and to Chenille, with its soft and silky texture, in touch.



Cymric (LH) - Together, the Manx and the Cymric comprise the Manx breed group. They differ only in coat length with the shorthairs known as Manx and the longhairs as Cymrics. While lack of a tail is the breed's immediately obvious features, they're also known for their roundness. These medium-sized cats have short, rounded bodies, a deep flank to the strong hindquarters, an arched back and a round head with round cheeks. The overall effect is a cat that resembles a bowling ball. These even-tempered, calm cats have a lot of affection to share and prefer not be on their own for long periods of time. The longhairs have a plush, silky to the touch, medium length coat accented by fluffy breeches and a neck ruff. A weekly brushing is all they require.



Devon Rex (SH) - With their impish looks and mischievous personalities, the Devon Rex are the pixies of the cat fancy. Devon Rex are intelligent, highly active, playful and thrive in busy households. Leaving them alone for long is unwise as they can become destructive if bored. They are great with children and get along well with other family pets. The wavy coats does not shed much and dries quickly when bathed. The large ears can attract dirt, though, so clean them weekly with a soft cotton ball. There is the misperception that the Devon Rex is hypoallergenic, but like every cat, they too produce allergens.



Donskoy (SH) - The Donskoy is a Russian breed whose history starts with the foundational cat being discovered in the city Rostov-on-Don in Russia in 1987. The Donskoy is a very intriguing, elegant, unique, inquisitive, soft-hearted and social cat. They are very active, extremely friendly, highly intelligent very loving and amiable. The Donskoy is an easy to groom and handle cat, with coats that are warm and soft to the touch. The Donskoy sports four different coats types in a variety of colors. All but one coat usually results in hairlessness. (Championship status as of 5-1-16) *Personal photograph.*

Egyptian Mau (SH) - The Egyptian Mau is a colorful cat of elegant type, having a very alert appearance that gives it a regal bearing. The breed is intensely loyal and yet happy to go about the business of being a cat. But when it is ready for you, there is no stopping the love, attention, and adoration it will bestow upon you. The Mau has an extraordinary power of scent, hearing and sight. They are a shy sensitive cat that is easily upset by sudden loud, unpleasant noises. The Mau is the only natural spotted breed of domestic cat, showing good contrast between the background color and pattern. The coat is medium in length and is easy to care for.



Exotic Shorthair (SH) - The Exotic Shorthair is a Persian in its pajamas and is the ideal cat for those who love the Persian look but don't have the time to take care of all that hair. Sometimes called 'the lazy man's Persian', the Exotic Shorthair is bred to be just like the Persian except with a short, dense coat. Exotics request your attention with an irresistible gaze and then hug you when you pick them up. Exotics have an intelligent curiosity that makes them a joy to be around, and since they are so easy-going, they get on well with children and other pets. Grooming is easy with simple combing removing loose dead hair. The large surface of their eyes tend to attract dust and lead to irritation, so a regularly wiping the eyes is necessary.



Havana (SH) - The Havana is a people-oriented breed. They want lots of attention and return it with great affection. These gentle cats are playful members of the family and always curious about everything that is happening in their home. The Havana is a striking cat with a rich mahogany coat showcasing brilliant green eyes. The short, smooth rich red-brown coat reveals the graceful lines of this elegant cat, while the expressive green eyes glow with intelligence. Their coats are short, smooth and soft to the touch. They require very little grooming.



Himalayan (LH) - The Himalayan is a gorgeous cat with the body and coat of a Persian, but the color, pattern and stunning dark blue eyes of the Siamese. A man-made breed, it is named for the pointed pattern that is known as Himalayan in many other breeds. The Himalayan is a poised, loving and sweet breed with a perceptive intelligence that makes them responsive to your moods and emotions. They prefer to cuddle with you rather than climb up your curtains. The coat is long, flowing and requires constant grooming to prevent the undercoat from matting. This is a cat that demands a serious time commitment to keep the coat looking lovely. It takes knowledge and practice to do it properly and may require frequent trips to the pet groomer.



Japanese Bobtail (LH/SH) - The good luck cat of Japan is a naturally occurring breed named for its distinguishing trait—the unique pom-pom tail composed of curves, angles and kinks. No two tails are the same and may be flexible or rigid but must be carried close to and be in balance with the body. These charming cats are active and intelligent. While they will settle on your lap for a short nap, they are too busy to stay still for long and are quickly off to the next adventure. They are loyal to their family and adapt well to other pets and children, making them an excellent addition to an active family. They have two, easy-to-maintain coat lengths.



Khaomanee (SH) - The Khaomanee (sometimes seen as Khao Manee) means White Gem. While new to the Western world, it is an old breed that originates from Thailand. The distinctive heart-shaped head and high cheekbones provide an ideal setting for the jewel-like eyes, which can be odd eyed (one blue and one yellow) or they can have even eye color from yellow to green. These regal, shining solid white cats are graceful, curious, and intelligent. They make wonderful companions. *Personal photograph.*



Korat (SH) - The Korat is an ancient cat from Siam (now Thailand) and is sometimes known as the *Si-Sawat* cat. *Energetic, intelligent, affectionate* are all words used to describe them. Korats are active cats that love to play but they are very gentle when playing with children. Korats need your companionship and do not like to be left alone for long periods or ignored when you are home. If ignored, they are likely to become withdrawn. They are one of the only breeds with that distinctive, heart-shaped head. Their easy-to-maintain coats are short to medium, fine, glossy and satiny. Korats are silver-blue and a cat of any other color is not a Korat.





Kurilian Bobtail (LH/SH) - The Kurilian Bobtail is a natural breed of cat tracing its origins to the Russian Island of Sakhalin and to the Kuril Islands. Kurilian Bobtails are independent, highly intelligent, clever, inquisitive, sociable, playful, trainable, absent of aggression and very gentle. They are devoted to their humans and when allowed are either on the lap of or sleeping in bed with their owners. They adapt well to other cats, children, dogs and other household pets. They are excellent jumpers and are inclined to survey their domain from the highest point available. The true phenomenon of the Kurilian Bobtail is the pom-pom appearance of their tail. The coat is soft and silky, generally non-matting and pleasant to the touch.



LaPerm (LH/SH) - The LaPerm is a naturally occurring mutation first found in Oregon in 1982, producing both long and shorthaired cats. Its distinctive loose and bouncy curly coats is sometimes called a gypsy shag. These active, outgoing cats like to be with you and to join in everything you do. Affectionate and loving cats that get along well with children and other family pets, they are an ideal family companion. Their curly coats are low shedding, which makes maintenance a breeze. A few minutes of light combing using a metal comb with rolling teeth removes loose hair and keeps the coat in excellent condition.



Maine Coon (LH) - One of the oldest natural breeds in North America, the Maine Coon is generally regarded as a native of the state of Maine (the official Maine State Cat). Maine Coons are relaxed and easy-going in just about everything they do. They generally get along well with kids, dogs and other cats. They are not as vertically oriented as some other breeds, preferring to chase objects on the ground. Many Maine Coons will play fetch. Maine Coons develop slowly, and don't achieve their full size until they are three to five years old. Their dispositions remain kittenish throughout their lives. They are big, gentle, good-natured goofos. Maine Coons rarely meow. Instead most have a soft chirp or trill in a tiny voice that doesn't fit their size. A weekly combing is required to keep it in top condition. Maine Coons have very long, bushy tails.



Maine Coon Polydactyl(LH) - The Maine Coon Polydactyl is quite simply, a Maine Coon cat with a little bit extra in the paw department. Polydactyls (a term meaning "many digits"), can have up to 7 toes on each foot, in contrast to the cat's usual five front and four back. Many years ago, Maine coons earned their living by keeping the barns and docks of New England free of vermin. "Polys" were particularly valued for their superb hunting skills and their broad paws that seemed to be designed for the heavy Maine snow. Although they may no longer hunt live mice, as with other Maine Coons, the Polydactyls tend to be playful even into adulthood, and love sharing in everything you do. They need regular trimming of their toenails and a good comb through weekly but make wonderful family pets.



Manx (SH) - The mature Manx, with its rounded bowling ball contours, is a round, heavy cat of medium size. Its primary feature is its lack of a tail. Not all kittens are born tailless. These gentle cats are generally playful and their powerful hindquarters make them excellent jumpers able to get to the highest corner to investigate something that has sparked their interest. These even-tempered, calm cats have a lot of affection to share and prefer not be on their own for long periods of time. Together, the Manx and the Cymric comprise the Manx breed group. They differ only in coat length with the shorthairs known as Manx and the longhairs as Cymrics. The medium to short coat is easy to maintain.



Minuet (LH/SH) - Originating from the old style "doll faced" Persians and the short legged Munchkins, the first thing you notice about the Minuet is the sweet round face and the second is the short legs. Besides sharing the looks of their ancestors, they have the gentleness of a Persian and the energy, curiosity and playfulness of the Munchkin. They are a medium-sized strong cat but don't let those short little legs fool you, they can navigate the curves of their self-defined race-track through the house at breakneck speed. A wonderful family pet, the Minuet comes in long and short hair and every imaginable color. (Championship status as of 5-1-16) Photo by Audra Mitchell.



Munchkins (LH/SH) - The Munchkin is not a new mutation; short-legged cats have been recorded throughout the years and around the globe. These sociable, playful cats will run, chase and amuse themselves for hours with their toys. They love the company of children, dogs and other pets, leading them on a merry chase as they zoom by in their games. Munchkins are extremely curious and will sit rabbit-like on their hind legs to get a better view of something that catches their attention. Grooming is quick and easy. Shorthair Munchkins should be combed once a week to help remove loose dead hair. Comb the longhaired Munchkins twice a week to remove dead hair and prevent tangles and mats.

Nebelung (LH) - The highly intelligent Nebelungs are devoted to their owners and family, but are often shy with strangers and young children. Kittens need time to adjust to their new home and should be allowed to advance at their own speed. As they settle in, their playful personality will emerge and they will soon be following you from room to room. In terms of looks, these medium-sized cats are sturdy, well muscled and draped with a silky, medium length blue coat that shimmers with silver at the tips. A regular combing is a must to prevent tangles and mats.



Norwegian Forest Cat (LH) - The Norwegian Forest Cat is a healthy, robust natural breed that developed over hundreds of years of natural selection in a harsh climate. "Wegies" are a slow-maturing breed that may take up to five years to reach full maturity. Intelligent, resourceful and mild mannered, they easily adapt to their environment. These interactive cats enjoy being part of their family and love to play with any one who enjoys a game! While the coat is full and dense in the winter, it does not require the care of some other longhaired breeds. This low-maintenance longhair is ideal for the busy active family!



Ocicat (SH) - The exotic-looking Ocicat stops people in their tracks and steals their hearts. An impressive muscular spotted cat with the look of the wild, the Ocicat is a man-made domestic cat that is absolutely devoted to its family. They are confident, outgoing and eagerly look for a game or a lap to curl up on. These bright cats quickly learn to play fetch, but beware that their love of toys can turn to possessiveness and they will engage in tug-of-war if you try to take them away. They are full of energy and their powerful grace easily lets them leap to high places. They are adaptable cats who easily learn the household rules; however their social nature means they are unhappy if left alone for long periods. A busy active household suits them to a T.



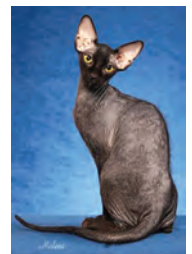
Oriental (LH/SH) - The long, slender and stylized Oriental is a member of the Siamese breed group and comes in two coat lengths: the Oriental Shorthair and the Oriental Longhair. They are lively, talkative, intelligent and become very attached to their people. Many are fetchers, returning their favorite toy tirelessly to the hands of their human. No cupboard or high shelf is safe from these inquisitive, high jumping cats. They love everyone, are always up for a party, and generally don't fare well as only cats. When ignored, they wilt. If you are looking for a cat who won't disrupt your quiet lifestyles, leave your knick-knacks alone, and sits and looks pretty, they are most likely not the cat for you. If it's an interactive, amusing and devoted pet you seek, you could not do better than this distinctive breed. Whether longhairs or shorthairs, their coats are easy to maintain.



Persian (LH) - Evoking images of ancient Persia and Turkey, the glamorous Persian is one of the oldest breeds. Its long, luxuriant coat comes in a myriad of colors and its big, round eyes dominate a sweet and open, pansy-like face. This gentle natured creature of habit easily blends into most households, contenting themselves while you are away but always happy to greet you on your return. Persians prefer a calm atmosphere, gentle handling and will sit contentedly for hours while children comb and pet them. A daily brushing with a metal comb prevents tangles and matting and removes loose hair before they develop into hairballs. A regular bath with conditioner is necessary, and the routine should be established early with the young kitten. Wipe eyes daily as their large surface attracts irritants that may cause them to run.



Peterbald (SH) - The incomparable cat from Russia is intelligent, affectionate and inquisitive. They are active cats with a grace and athleticism that manifest in inspiring aerial ballets and daredevil antics. Devoted to their owners, they want to spend as much time in your company as possible. They relish the company of people, children, dogs and other pets, and should not be left alone for hours on end. The coat ranges from a totally smooth bald skin, to a velour texture, to a unique short, brushy coat. Regular bathing removes grease and prevents the build-up on their skin that makes the coat appear grimy. They leave residue where they sleep. Ultra bald cats are oilier and need more frequent baths than other coat types.



Pixiebob (LH/SH) - The active, social Pixiebob is doglike in its devotion and makes a great companion for children while embracing the company of other pets. They easily learn to fetch and walk on a harness and leash. Originating in Northwestern United States, the Pixiebob is muscular, brawny cat bred to resemble the wild Coastal Red Bobcat found in the coastal mountains of the area. It is one of only two breeds that accept polydactyls (cats with extra toes) and the maximum number of toes allowed is seven. Pixiebobs come in long and shorthair. Its thick, double coat has a woolly texture that causes it to stand off from the body and gives it a padded feel when petted. Longhairs have a medium coat up to two inches in length with a softer, silky texture.





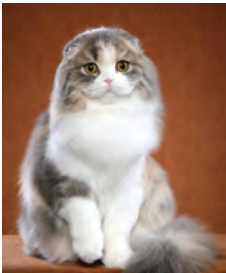
Ragdoll (LH) - The happy, relaxed Ragdoll is celebrated for its loving, laid-back disposition. This semi-long-haired breed makes a memorable impression with its captivating blue eyes and impressive size. It's one of the largest breeds in the cat fancy. The genial Ragdoll gets along with other pets and is often a favorite among children. Living up to its name, the Ragdoll is content to be carried around the house in a child's arms. These sturdy cats have no extreme features and blend easily into the busy, modern household. The coat is medium long and has a silky, rabbit-like texture. They shed little except in the spring and fall, and even then, the soft textured hair tends to stay atop surfaces and is easy picked up with a damp cloth.



Russian Blue (SH) - The elegant, aristocratic Russian Blue's keen intellect makes it an engaging companion and the gem of the feline world. The Russian Blue surveys a situation before diving in and rarely gets itself into a difficult situation. They come in one coat color, blue, and one coat length, short. It is this dense, bright blue coat tipped with silver that has been the breed's hallmark for more than a century. Their fur shimmers like moiré silk as they move and provides an elegant setting for their glowing emerald green eyes.



Savannah (SH) - The Savannah is a tall, lean graceful cat with striking dark spots and other bold markings. It is a domestic breed, which closely resembles its ancestral source, the African Serval, but is smaller in stature. It is a very active cat that needs a great deal of daily interaction. It is also very loyal. It is not a lap cat, but shows affection on its own terms, often greeting family members at the door. They can easily be trained to walk on a leash and harness and most love to play games such as fetch. The body is very long and the legs are quite long as well, creating a false image of a very large, heavy cat. In reality, most Savannahs are just the size of a large domestic cat, and often weigh less than other cats of a similar size.



Scottish Fold (LH/SH) - Scottish Folds are intelligent, inquisitive and loyal. No shrinking violet that hides in corners, these cats instead bask in your company and follow you from room to room. Some learn cute antics, like how to open cabinet doors and take a look inside, and they can even be trained to play fetch. The unique folded ears fit closely to the skull, giving it an owl-like appearance or as if they had donned a cap. Big, round shoe-button eyes open up the face in the rounded head giving a sweet expression. The longhaired Scottish Fold will require a weekly combing but other than that they do not require much grooming. Friendly with children and other pets they make wonderful companions.



Scottish Straight (LH/SH) - The Scottish Straight is the straight or normal eared sibling of the Scottish Fold. Scottish Folds are bred to straight eared cats and therefore approximately 50% of the litter folds and 50% does not. They are easy to groom with a brush through weekly and they get along well with children and other pets. Like their siblings the Scottish Folds, the Straights are a fun loving and even comical breed. They may lack the distinctive folded ears, but other than that, they are identical and boast that same sweet and charming Scottish Fold features and personality. *Photo credit Christopher Hermeline*



Selkirk Rex (LH/SH) - First found in Wyoming in 1987, this breed has a semi-cobby body and a rounded face with a short but not snubbed nose. Sometimes called the cat in sheep's clothing, these are loving, patient cats, which reflect the temperaments of the breeds used in its development. It is an easy-going relaxed cat that resembles a soft, stuffed toy. It comes in long and shorthaired coats. The shorthairs have a dense, plush curl that emphasizes the density of the coat and is similar to a teddy bear's; longhairs have a more tousled look similar to a woolly sheep. Both hair lengths come in a rainbow of colors.



Siamese (SH) - The actual origins of the Siamese have been lost, but it is fairly certain that it originated in the East. In 1879 the first Siamese arrived in the United States as a gift to the wife of President Rutherford Hayes from the US Consul in Bangkok. The Siamese is the perfect pet for someone who wants lots of interaction and activity. They are loving, loyal, intuitive, demanding and social. Many who have kept company with Siamese claim it's best to always have two - that way they can entertain each other while their owners are away. When you return home after a busy day, be prepared to drop everything and spend a half hour or more "hearing about their day." The intelligent Siamese has lots to say...and always has the last word.

Siberian (LH) - The Siberians have a long history with the earliest known reference dating to 1000 AD. They appeared at the first cat show and were also referenced at the famed 1884 Madison Square Gardens show. A slow-maturing breed, the average Siberian reaches its full grandeur around five years of age. This majestic cat is strong, powerfully built, and features muscular hindquarters that propel its athletic, gravity-defying leaps. Siberians are large cats with a substantial, barrel-like body supported on heavily boned legs. These Impressively intelligent cats are natural problem solvers. The Siberian's semi-longhair coat varies with the season. In the winter, it has a thick, full, triple coat that would have protected it from the elements in its native Russia. In the summer, they shed the winter coat for a shorter, less dense variant. They require weekly combing.



Singapura (SH) - With its name derived from the Malaysian word for Singapore, the Singapura originates from this Southeast Asian city state, an area generally recognized as the source for the ticked tabby gene pool. The ticked coat pattern and dark brown color are a common local combination. In 1991 the government of Singapore recognized the cats as a living national treasure. The Singapura is the smallest breed of cat, but it's an energy-packed dynamo that wants to help you with everything. These inquisitive minxes are into everything and are definitely not a four-paws-on-the-floor cat. They want to be high on your shoulder or atop the kitchen cabinets, where they can have a bird's eye view of everything going on.



Snowshoe (SH) - The Snowshoe traces its origins back to early 1960s Philadelphia. Their personality is as unique as their appearance and is a charismatic mix of mystical aloofness with a dash of mischievousness. Like snowflakes, no two have the same personality. Some are shy, some bossy, and some caregivers. All, however, are uncannily intelligent, amusing and loyal. While demure around strangers, beware that once they bond with you, they will become your second shadow. As they mature, the contrast of the white against the point colors makes for an eye-catching, muscular, medium-sized cat. The Snowshoe is unrelated to either the Birman or Ragdoll, and boasts an easy-to-groom, short coat.



Somali (LH) - The Somali is the stunning, long-haired descendent of the Abyssinian, named after Somali, the country bordering Ethiopia, historically known as Abyssinia. They are loyal, affectionate, highly intelligent and very interactive with their owners and environment. They are wonderful companions interested in everything and everyone around them. Enjoying a good view of their surroundings, expect to find them atop the refrigerator, doors or bookcases. Despite their high energy and curiosity, Somalis do occasionally visit your lap or find a way under the covers to spend time near you. The semi long-haired coat is soft, finely textured and easy to care for.



Sphynx (SH) - The Sphynx is an inquisitive, intelligent and extremely friendly cat. Warm and soft to the touch, Sphynx frequently sleep with their owners under the covers. The term "Velcro lap cat" describes the Sphynx's desire to be on you all the time. One of the few hairless breeds, the Sphynx is striking and distinctive in appearance, but they do not entirely lack hair. Fine down covers the skin of most Sphynx, giving the skin a chamois or suede-like texture. Light hair is usually visible on the nose and backs of the ears. Because of their lack of absorbent coat, Sphynx tend to get oily and need to be bathed often. Contrary to some claims, they are not hypoallergenic.



Thai (SH) - The Thai has the personality made famous the world over by the early Siamese. They are highly intelligent, people loving, active, curious and endowed with a great sense of humor. To some the Thai is synonymous with "applehead Siamese," but "applehead" is a colloquial American term, not an official breed name, and it means different things to different people. It is the natural pointed cat found in Thailand today and reminiscent of the late 19th and early 20th century Siamese. The colorpoint pattern includes deep blue eyes, a whitish beige body and dark-colored extremities ("points"). They are moderate in type, never extreme. They're easy to maintain, self-cleaning cats.



Tonkinese (SH) - Developed from a cross between the Siamese and Burmese, the Tonkinese is wrapped in a mink coat with sparkling aqua eyes. This gregarious package of purrs and love knows your purpose is to shower it with affection and attention. It is a medium-sized, muscular cat with a sense of humor and showmanship. They like nothing better than to be on you—your shoulder, your lap, overseeing everything you do. Their long memory, intelligence and strong will means that persistence pays off when training them. Keeping their coats sleek and soft is easy. A weekly once over with a rubber brush removes loose hair and an occasional bath keeps the mink-like coat at its best.





Toyger (SH) - A young breed, the Toyger is in development as breeders work to replicate the pattern and colors of the tiger with ever-increasing accuracy. The Toyger is a friendly, outgoing cat that delights in being with people. They are highly intelligent, interactive and get along with other pets. These dependable, quiet tempered pets are easily trained and can be taught to walk on a leash and play fetch. Their laid-back personalities make them easy to live with and allow them to fit easily into the household. With their athleticism and stately movements, they offer a sense of having truly tamed the wild.



Turkish Angora (LH) - The Turkish Angora comes from Ankara (formerly Angora), where several other animals with delicate, silky long coats originate. The Turkish Angora's slender, delicate looks belies its solid muscle. Angoras stay fit by exercising their hunting instinct and chase through the house in pursuit of their toys. Don't be surprised to find these extremely agile ballerinas in some unexpected aerie, like atop a door. These outgoing, affectionate cats are interested in everything you do and want to help. Likewise, they expect you to be interested in everything *they* do and be just as eager to help them. The semi-longhaired soft and silky coat rarely mats. A comb run through the coat once a week removes loose hair and keep it in shining, peak condition.



Turkish Van (LH) - Often called 'the swimming cat,' the semi-longhaired Turkish Van is an ancient natural breed thought to have originated in eastern Turkey. Thanks to their waterproof, cashmere-like coats, these active, robust cats enjoy swimming and water games. They are uniquely patterned, traditionally coming in white with color primarily found on the head and tail. The occasional solid white Turkish Van is sometimes known as the Van Kedi. In addition to being loyal, loving and affectionate, the Turkish Van is highly intelligent with a mischievous streak. These great jumpers monitor everything from high atop a bookcase or other elevated perch.

Non Championship Breeds



Household Pet Cats (LH/SH) - These are our everyday companion cats that bring joy to our lives. Many have been adopted from shelters and have found new, loving homes where they blossom in the love and attention they receive from their new owners. They come in every personality, size, shape, color and pattern imaginable. TICA is proud to be the largest registry of Household Pets and the only requirement for showing them in TICA is that the cat is in good condition and has a friendly personality. In addition, adult HHPs are required to be spayed or neutered in order to be shown. Household Pets may acquire the same points as Championship cats and when they do, they can receive titles too. A good number of today's exhibitors of pedigreed cats started showing with a Household Pet.

Developing New Breeds



Highlander (LH/SH) - Development of the breed began in 2004 and an early name for it was the Highland Lynx. No lynx genes were present in the cats used to develop the breed; rather the name referred to the intent of creating a domestic cat with a powerful "big cat" look. In 2005, the name Highlander was settled on and breeders focused on defining the breed and its characteristics as they worked toward championship status in TICA. Despite their "big cat" look, the Highlanders are the clowns of the cat fancy and love to play and chase. They love human company and will be there to greet you at the door or will show off to visitors. Vocally they are relatively quiet cats but physically they are high-energy cats. The top of the ears has a loose, backward curl.



Lykoi (SH) - The Lykoi is a newly discovered natural mutation from Tennessee. DNA testing of the foundation cats has proved that there is no Sphynx or Devon Rex behind these cats, which was the original thought when they were first found. They have also been very carefully tested for skin problems or other any genetic conditions. Having been given a clean bill of health, there are a handful of breeders now carefully working on developing this breed. The word Lykoi roughly means "wolf cat" in Greek and some have nicknamed these the werewolf cats. Because the black color of these cats is the most striking with their 'roan' pattern, that is the color they are focusing on. These cats are soft to the touch and are remarkably sweet and gentle. They are intelligent and extremely loyal to their people and when introduced properly, get along beautifully with children and family pets. *Photo by Brittney Gobble*

Minskin (SH) - The Minskin is a new breed of cat with short legs and fur points; that is fur on the face, ears, nose, legs and tail. The body skin may have sparse hair covering but the belly is always hairless. The outgoing Minskin is an affectionate cat that loves the company of people, especially children, and it gets along well with other cats and dogs. These friendly little cats are very playful and will entertain you with their athletic antics as they speed around your house like a radio-controlled miniature race car. The dense fur points feel like cashmere but have a satin-like sheen. The coat on the body is sparse and the body feels very warm to the touch. There is very little shedding of the coat. It comes in all colors and pattern.



Serengeti (SH) - The Serengeti cat was created by Karen Sausman. The ideal Serengeti cat has an open, self-assured and friendly temperament. While they might be shy for a few moments in a new location, as soon as they warm up to their new owners and home, they become like Velcro, always wanting to be with you and helping with every endeavor. These are extremely agile cats and very active. They love to get on high places and enjoy running through the house at full speed. They can be vocal, which comes probably from their oriental ancestors, and gladly talk with you about almost any subject. If properly introduced, they get along well with other pets.





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Cat Show

TICA clubs the world over hold cat shows. Common to all is that you find fabulous felines, people having fun and exhibitors enjoying the companionship of their friends, both human and feline. It may all seem confusing to a visitor at first, but let's take the mystery out of the event. We invite you to visit our shows, have fun and ask lots of questions!



The Judging Rings: As you stroll through the show hall, you will notice judges earnestly examining cats and hanging “ribbons” on their cages. You may also notice a group of people clustered around a judging area, cheering and clapping for their favorites while a judge takes one cat after another out of its cage and holds it up for spectators to admire and applaud. If you're unfamiliar with the way a cat show is organized, you may feel somewhat puzzled, as though you'd just begun watching television half way through a mystery story! If that's the case, pull up a seat in the judging area, which is called a “ring” even though it's rectangular in shape, and we'll explain what the ribbons mean and what all the cheering is about.

Judging Schedule: Each judge in the show hall evaluates cats according to a preset schedule and that schedule changes for each judge. The judging schedule is composed of some arrangement of the eight categories of competition offered at a show. Ring One's judge may begin the day judging kittens, then go on to household pets, and then on to other categories. Ring Two's judge may begin with altered cats, progress to championship cats and then new breeds. Every judge will evaluate every cat entered in the show over the course of the weekend.

Judging Categories: These categories include championship, for unaltered, pedigreed cats at least eight months old; kitten, for pedigreed youngsters between four and eight months old; alter, for neutered or spayed pedigreed cats at least eight months old; new traits for those cats which are seeking permission to have accepted, for show, a new color or trait of an established breed;

preliminary new breeds for cats which are in a beginning developmental cycle as a new breed; advanced new breeds for cats which have nearly completed the requirements for acceptance into championship competition as a brand new breed of cat; household pet kitten and household pet adult. (Household pet competition generally consists of non-pedigreed cats, but purebred cats may also compete in this classification if their pedigrees cannot be registered for some reason.)

Classifications: There are three main classifications that are judged: Championship (kittens, adults or alters), Household Pets (kittens or adults) and New Breed (kittens or adults). Kittens are four to eight calendar months of age; adults must be eight calendar months of age on the opening day of the show.

Championship cats are pedigreed cats, and each breed has an individual breed standard used during judging. Household pets have their own unique standard and titles comparable to pedigreed cats. They are judged primarily on condition, beauty, and show presence. Adult cats are judged together, and kittens are judged together.

Let's suppose you've decided to watch Persians being judged in the championship category in an “all breed” ring. (An all breed ring is one in which all cats in a competitive category vie for one set of awards. In a “specialty” ring shorthaired and longhaired cat breeds are judged independently of each other and compete for a separate set of awards for each.) Cats are called to the ring in alphabetical order according to breed. The ring clerks—the people sitting at either end of the judging table—are responsible for post-

ing the cats' catalog numbers on top of the judging cages and for having the cats summoned to the ring in an orderly fashion via the public address system.

Judging Procedures: As Persian cats are called to the ring for judging, they follow a sequence that breaks them into smaller groups according to colors and patterns. (The cat's "catalog number" is determined by this sequence.) If there are two white Persians in the show, the judge examines both, and then awards first-place ribbon (blue) to one cat and a second-place ribbon (red) to the other. Depending on the number of white Persians, the judge may award ribbons to the third best (yellow ribbon), fourth best (green), and fifth best (white) cats as well. The judge makes these decisions on the basis of how closely each cat conforms to the written standard for its breed, then records their decisions in a judge's book while the ring clerk does the same in a show catalog.

After finishing with the white Persians, the judge proceeds to each of the other solid colors of that breed, awarding best through fifth-best of color as the class size dictates. Then, having evaluated all the solid colored Persians, the judge reviews these cats and awards three additional ribbons: best of division (black), second-best of division (purple), and third-best of division (orange).

When the solid-colored Persians have been assessed, the judge goes to the other divisions in the breed: e.g., tabby patterned. After all Persians have been evaluated, the judge announces which of the Persian cats he or she considers Best of Breed, Second Best of Breed, and Third Best of Breed. No additional ribbons are presented for these awards.

At the end of the all breed championship category, when every breed—from Abyssinian through Turkish Van—has been examined, the judge calls his or her best cats back to the ring for "finals." After the cats are settled in the judging cages and a reverent hush envelops the crowd gathered about the ring, the judge introduces the top 10 cats individually until the best cat in show has been held aloft to the applause of the spectators.

If your favorite cat didn't make finals in this ring, don't give up. Each ring constitutes a separate, individual "show," and each judge makes his or her decisions independent of the decisions of other judges. Furthermore, since each cat entered in the show competes in every ring, the best cat in Ring 2 may not get the same award—or any award—in Ring 3; and a cat that was overlooked in Ring 3 may go onto be best cat in Ring 4.

In the household pet kitten and household pet adult categories, cats are judged on beauty, condition, and personality, not according to a written standard of conformation. What's more, cats competing in these two categories automatically receive a first-place (blue) ribbon for merit if they are presented in good condition. At the end of the show weekend, a composite score for each cat for all the rings is computed to determine the Best-in-Show Cat, Kitten, Alter, Household Pet Kitten and Household Pet Adult.

Championship Titles: All TICA-registered cats in the championship, alter, and household pet adult categories earn points toward titles at shows. Points are awarded for best through fifth best of color, best through third best of division and best through 10th-best cat in show.

A cat may earn as many as six titles in competition. Titles that include the word champion are earned by cats and alters. Those

with master, are earned by household pet adults. The titles are:

- Champion/Master
- Grand Champion/Grand Master
- Double Grand Champion/Double Grand Master
- Triple Grand Champion/Triple Grand Master
- Quadruple Grand Champion/Quadruple Grand Master
- SupremeGrand Champion/Supreme Grand Master

International And Regional Awards: All TICA-Registered cats in the championship, kitten, alter, household pet kitten and adult categories, who place among the top 10 cats in show (remember each judging ring is a separate "show"), receive points toward the international and regional titles awarded by TICA. The awards are announced at the end of each show season, which runs from May 1 through April 30. These points are awarded on the basis of where a cat places in finals and how many cats it defeats. International awards are presented to the top 25 Championship cats, the top 25 Longhaired Championship Cats, the top 25 Shorthaired Championship Cats, the top 25 Kittens, the top 25 Alters, the top 25 Household Pet Adults and the top 25 Household Pet Kittens. Regional awards are offered to the top 20 feline competitors in the same competitive categories.

To find a current listing of shows, anywhere in TICA's world, visit our website www.tica.org and check out the Show Calendar. Please visit our shows and HAVE FUN!

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SPECTATOR ETIQUETTE

We want you to have a fun and educational time at our shows so you should keep some simple etiquette in mind.

Benching Area

- Spectators are welcome to walk through the benching area as well as watch the cats being judged in the rings.
- You should not touch any of the cats unless the exhibitor has given consent. This helps eliminate the possibility of transmitting any disease from cat to cat. Don't feel bad if the exhibitor says "no."
- Children should not put their fingers or any toys or food in the cats' show cages.

SHOWING NON-PEDIGREED CATS & KITTENS

You don't have to be a cat breeder to get into the show habit and join the fun of exhibiting. TICA has a Household Pet (HHP) class for adults and kittens that can compete without registration numbers. So you don't have to have a purebred to join in on the fun. HHPs compete against each other for top awards, just the same as pedigreed cats, but in a class of their own.

TICA welcomes Household Pet exhibitors. HHPs have their own unique standard and titles, which are comparable to pedigreed cats. HHPs are judged primarily on condition, beauty and show presence. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and colors and patterns are often a whim of Mother Nature.

What cats can be shown? Almost any cat can be shown. Minimum age is four months and there is no maximum. Adult HHPs (over eight months) must be altered. TICA allows declawed cats to be shown. TICA also allows cats with physical handicaps, such as those with three legs or one eye, to be shown.

Should my cat be shown? Is your cat in good health? Is it reasonably willing to be handled by strangers? A cat in poor health should not be shown. As to the handling, one cannot always be sure. If your cat tends to be friendly, it'll probably do well, although lovers occasionally do turn into a tiger in the show ring. The opposite also happens: the tiger turns tame in the show ring because it's all so overwhelming. So if your cat's in good health - why not give it a try?

What do judges look for? HHPs are judged on three things: 1) 50 % on Condition (health, cleanliness, nails trimmed, ears clean, etc.) 2) 30% on Personality and 3) 20% on Beauty. Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder... some judges like black, some white, some stripes, some spots, some like everything in between! It is the great diversity that makes the HHP group so much fun to watch, judge and exhibit in.

Getting ready for the show: Be sure your cat gets a good balanced diet and exercise. If you have the opportunity, get your cat used to being handled by strangers. Be sure your cat has its shots. It's imperative for your cat's health, and the health of the competition, that all routine feline vaccinations are up to date. Try to get this done a few weeks ahead of time to allow any unexpected reaction to pass. A day or two before the show, clip the claws on all four feet. This can be done with human nail clippers or with special scissors from a pet shop designed specifically for this task. You may be able to do this yourself or you may need another person to assist if you have a "squirmer."

How to enter a show: There are shows held all around the country every weekend. Look for the most current show listings at: www.tica.org under "show calendar."

Judging Rings

- You are welcome to watch the cats being judged in the ring. Take a seat in front of the judge's table and please be quiet.
- Also please don't enter the actual judging area (other than the seating area) while judges are handling the cats.
- If you have a question about a particular breed or cat, it is better to go back to the benching area and talk to the exhibitor who owns the cat.

Walkways in the Show Hall

- Yield to people who are carrying cats to and from the show rings.
- Children should not run through the show hall or play with toys in the show hall as it may frighten the cats.

Almost all purebred shows have a division for the household pet. When you find a listing for a show near you on a date you can attend, contact the person listed for entry information. Entries for shows close two to three weeks before the actual show date to allow time to type the catalog and judges' books and print the catalog, so be sure to allow sufficient time.

TICA's Junior Exhibitor Program

TICA's Junior Exhibitors are tomorrow's leaders. As future exhibitors, breeders and even judges, they will shape the future of TICA and the cat fancy.

The program welcomes youth aged eight to seventeen, while younger children may be admitted at the discretion of the regional Junior Exhibitor Liaison. Success is gauged by their accomplishments and personal growth.

Youth progress through the program's six levels. Each has different activities and testing questions. The three junior levels emphasize learning about TICA, showing etiquette and procedures, and basic cat health and welfare. The three senior levels focus upon advanced knowledge of cat showing, cat breeds, clerking and TICA.

Youth learn to be ethical cat exhibitors, responsible caretakers and productive members of TICA. Along the way, they earn a TICA Junior Exhibitor Award of Excellence, become a TICA and regional club member, and learn a great deal about cat breeds and exhibition. At the higher levels, they may become licensed TICA clerks.

Each youth has a mentor, someone other than a parent or guardian who oversees their progress and ensures they benefit from and enjoy being in the program. They work on individual projects, present in Junior Exhibitor rings, steward to support their local cat clubs and participate in other group activities. The Junior Achiever rings are where they present their cats, describe them, and answer basic questions about cats, show etiquette and TICA.

The program involves young members of the TICA community in showing cats in a responsible, fun way. It improves self esteem, encourages confidence in presentation and interaction skills, fosters a sense of camaraderie, and provides an engaging, progressively challenging way to learn all about cats and TICA. Find out more at www.tica.org.



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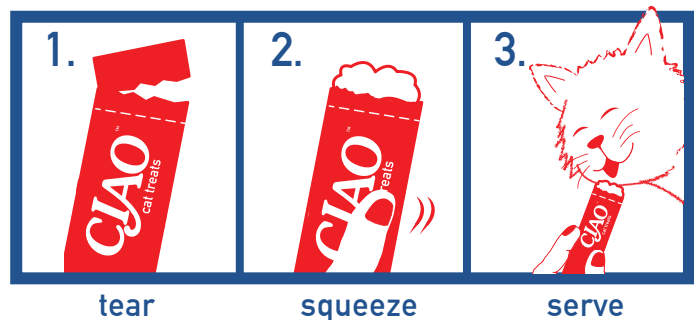
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What Color Is My Cat?



Black Tortoiseshell (Torti)

Blue

Seal Point with White

Black

Red

It is not unusual to see many different colors in the same litter of kittens. There are two primary colors in cats - black and red. All other colors are variations of black and red with the exception of solid white. White is a masking gene. It hides -masks- all other color. So a solid white cat is either black or red but the color is hidden by the white.

All colors are also seen with different markings - called patterns. The three most common patterns in cats are solid, tabby and pointed. All colors and patterns can have some white. Referred to as white spotting, this is also a masking gene. However, white spotting only hides some of a cat's color instead of all of it.

Domestic cats have all the same colors and patterns that are seen in pedigreed cats. So, while certain breeds may require specific colors and patterns, breeds are defined by their many physical characteristics, described in the breed standard. Color does not make a breed. So, all pointed cats are not Siamese, all longhaired cats are not Persians, all tailless cats are not Manx, and all blue cats are not Russian Blues. The same color and pattern can be seen in many different breeds. For example, you will see brown classic tabby Maine Coons, American Shorthairs, Oriental Shorthairs, Devon Rex, Persians, Norwegian Forest Cats, Siberians, and Scottish Folds/Straights. You will also see seal point Siamese, Himalayans, Birmans, Snowshoes, Ragdolls, Balinese, and Tonkinese.



Cream

In the chart below, the official colors are those names used by The International Cat Association (TICA), along with other names commonly used to describe the same color:

Official Color	Commonly Called
Red	Orange, marmalade, ginger
Blue	Gray, grey
Chocolate	Brown
Seal	Brown
Silver	Gray, grey
Black Tortie & White	Calico
Cream	Buff

Following are TICA's official patterns:

Solid - Cats that are one color and do not have any stripes.

Tabbies - Cats with stripes - called tabby markings. The tabby markings have four different patterns.

Torties/Torbies - Usually females, these cats are a mixture of both black and red. They can be solids or tabbies.

Pointed - Color is only seen on the face, feet, and tail. Those points can be solid or tabby.

With Whites - Any of the above with white added. The term particolor means any cat with white.

To learn more about color in cats visit the website:

www.seregiontica.org/Colors/intro.htm

We hope you enjoy the challenge of determining your cat's color and pattern.



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Are You Looking for a Kitten?

Finding the Purrrfect Kitten---

Bringing a new pet into your family involves a long-term commitment of time, energy, and money. Buying your kitten from a responsible breeder is one step in getting off to the best possible start with your new family member.



• What can you expect from a responsible breeder?

When you buy a kitten from a responsible breeder, you can expect the breeder to guarantee that your kitten is in good health, but suggest that you have your own veterinarian examine your kitten within a few days of purchase to confirm its good health. You will be required to have your kitten spayed or neutered at an appropriate age. Some breeders will have already done this for you! You will be required to sign a sales agreement to outline the conditions of releasing the kitten to your care. Finally, a responsible breeder will be intensely interested in the welfare of your kitten and encourage you to call whenever you have questions or concerns about your kitten.

• How can you tell if your kitten is healthy?

Handle the kitten. It should have good muscle tone, a clean coat, and bright, clear eyes. The kitten should not be sneezing or sniffing. Its eyes should be free of discharge and its ears should be clean and pink inside. There should be no bald patches or signs of dry, flaky skin. Check behind its ears and low on its back and at the base of the tail for possible flea dirt (which looks like black sand).

• How can I tell if a kitten is well socialized?

Play with the kitten using a non-threatening toy such as a feather or ribbon. After a period of normal caution toward strangers, the kitten should relax and become friendly, active and playful. Many perfectly friendly kittens would rather play than be held; however, after becoming acquainted with you, the kitten should let you hold it, at least for a short time.

• When can I take the kitten home?

Most responsible breeders allow their kittens to go to new homes at 12 weeks of age or older. This is a perfect age to make the transition to a new home. At 12 weeks, a kitten is weaned, litter trained, and has been vaccinated at least twice. Don't worry, it still has plenty of comical, lovable kittenhood to go!

• Will I receive the kitten's "papers?"

When you get your kitten, you'll receive its health/vaccination record and a written sales agreement. After you have the kitten altered and send the breeder a veterinarian's certificate of neutering or spaying, the breeder will send you the kitten's registration form. You should also receive a pedigree for the kitten. To register the kitten, you fill out the registration form and send it with the proper fee to the appropriate registering body.

• What should I do after I bring the kitten home?

When you bring your kitten home, make sure you follow the breeder's instructions carefully. Making the transition to a new home can be very stressful for any cat. Changes in food, water, litter, and overall environment can cause minor ailments, even in healthy cats.

• Why is the breeder asking me questions?

Don't be offended if the breeder asks you questions. The breeder is not trying to embarrass or intimidate you; they are simply trying to determine whether their kitten will have the "forever" home they would want for it. They are striving to find the best possible home for each kitten.

- **Why buy from a responsible breeder?**

While no one can guarantee that your kitten will never have a medical problem, a responsible breeder's commitment to ethical/responsible breeding increases your chances of getting a healthy, well-adjusted kitten.

- **What about the pet overpopulation problem?**

A responsible breeder is acutely aware of the vast numbers of unwanted cats and kittens, and breeds for quality rather than quantity. Breeding a cat with less than ideal "show conformation" adds to the pet overpopulation problem and degrades the overall quality of the breed. Please don't feel that you can offset the cost of the kitten by having "just one litter." Have all your pets altered!

- **How do I decide on a breed?**

Try to visit a cat show in your community. You can find a calendar of TICA shows by visiting our website at www.tica.org.

While you are at the show, take the opportunity to talk to breeders of various breeds. Be sure to find out how much grooming each breed requires and whether the breed has any special needs or characteristics. Cat books, cat magazines, and the internet are other good sources of information. If you haven't decided on a breed, or if the expense of a purebred kitten is beyond your current budget, please consider adopting a cat or kitten from a local shelter. There are many lovely and loving cats in need of good homes. Plus, if you would like to join the fun of showing a cat, check the TICA website for information about showing Household Pets.

Questions to Ask

- **What are the characteristics of this breed?**

A responsible breeder will be happy to discuss the breed's characteristics and special requirements with you. Some breeds require more grooming than others. Some are more active or vocal. Others may be shy or aloof. Be sure you discuss not only the breed's characteristics with the breeder, but also the personalities of individual kittens. Choose the right breed and kitten for your lifestyle and personal preferences.



- **Do you provide a written sales agreement that includes a health guarantee?**

A responsible breeder sells a kitten only with a written contract that includes a health guarantee. Make sure you both understand the terms of this guarantee.

- **What diseases and conditions does your health guarantee cover?**

A responsible breeder will vaccinate the kitten at least twice against Panleukopenia, Calicivirus and Rhinotracheitis. Be clear about who is responsible for conditions or other illnesses that might arise.

- **How are the kittens raised?**

A responsible breeder puts careful thought and much care into raising healthy, outgoing kittens, and will be happy to discuss their methods with you.

- **Can you provide references from people who have purchased kittens from you?**





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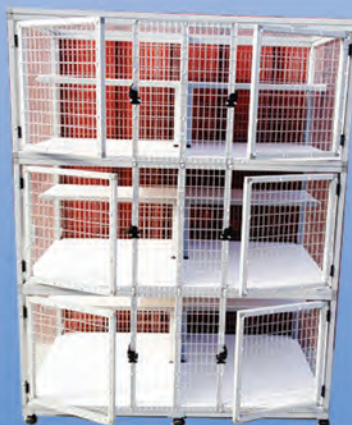
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Steve Cantin (left) with Rick Pruess beside the GoCat Display at Pruess Pets in Lansing MI.

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SPAY & NEUTER FACTS

Spay & Neuter

Today, more people are having their cats spayed and neutered than ever before. Why? Because people who live with cats are discovering the many benefits of spaying and neutering. This article outlines those benefits and answers commonly asked questions about spaying and neutering. If you have other questions, ask your veterinarian.

I've heard of the Pet Overpopulation Problem. What, exactly, is the problem?

Simply speaking, there are more pets being born than there are homes for them. For this reason, over 10 million dogs and cats in the United States are euthanized each year in animal shelters because no one wants them. Many of these dogs and cats are young, attractive, healthy, friendly and playful. Some appear to be purebred. Because of the pet overpopulation problem, care should be taken to prevent pets from breeding. One solution is to spay or neuter your pet.

What is spaying and neutering?

Female cats are spayed. Male cats are neutered. Spaying and neutering removes an animal's ability to reproduce. Spaying involves surgical removal of the uterus and ovaries. Neutering involves surgical removal of the testicles. Both operations, done under general anesthesia, are safe, routine and relatively painless. Typically, a spayed or neutered cat is up and about within a day of the operation.

What are the benefits of spaying and neutering?

Spayed and neutered pets are less distracted by sexual instincts. They can become more responsive to family members. Spayed and neutered pets are less likely to roam the streets and become lost or injured in search of a mate. (Male cats can smell a female in heat over great distances.)

Isn't spaying and neutering expensive?

Most veterinarians try to keep charges for spaying and neutering affordable, but prices can vary. We suggest you call several veterinarians and spay/neuter clinics to check on costs for your cat. Remember, the one-

time cost of spaying or neutering is minimal compared to the costs of repeated veterinary treatments for pets injured when roaming or fighting. Additionally, paying for a mother cat's proper health care, including possible cesarean delivery, along with feeding, worming and vaccinating litters of kittens can result in excessive veterinary bills.

Spayed and neutered cats are less likely to fight with other cats, thus saving themselves much pain and saving their owners high veterinary bills.

How much time does it take to have a cat spayed/neutered?

Most clinics and veterinary hospitals will accept your cat during morning hours, and the cat is usually available for pickup later that day or the next day.

Will spaying or neutering change my cat's personality?

The majority of cat owners notice no change in their cat's personality. If a change is noticed, it is typically a decrease in their cat's desire to roam, fight with other animals, or exhibit anxious, aggressive behavior. Instead, they become more affectionate.

My cat never leaves my yard. Why should I spay or neuter my cat?

You have already read about the health benefits of spaying and neutering. A female spayed before her first heat is 200 times less likely to develop breast cancer. Also, accidents do happen frequently to backyard cats, as interested suitors usually find a way into the yard. Remember, spayed and neutered cats are calmer, easier to care for, and more attentive to you.

Spaying or neutering a cat, contrary to popular belief, does not make them fat or lazy. Rather, the metabolism of a cat changes after spaying and neutering and the cat requires less food.

Spayed and neutered cats are usually cheaper to license, too!

More Reasons to Spay or Neuter For Those with Female Cats:

Spayed female cats are less likely to develop cancer or pyometra, a common uterine infection in unaltered females.

Female cats in heat spray and defecate in inappropriate places and stain carpets and furniture. Additionally, they attract noisy, fighting and bothersome males. Spaying eliminates these problems.

Pregnant female cats eat more, both when pregnant and after offspring are born. Health care for pregnant females is expensive.

Raising kittens is expensive, and it is time-consuming to feed, worm, vaccinate, advertise and place them into homes.

For Those with Male Cats:

Neutered male cats are less likely to suffer infections or disorders in the reproductive or prostate glands, or develop lower genito-urinary problems. These conditions can lead to kidney disease, the most common problem in unaltered males over five years old.

Unaltered male cats typically spray urine to mark territory both inside and outside the home. Neutering, at a young age, normally eliminates this problem.

• More Spay & Neuter Myths •

I can find a good home for each kitten in my cat's litter.

Unfortunately, many animals in animal shelters are brought in by owners who were unable to place them in homes.

My children should experience the miracle of birth.

Public television and your library are two highly

informative sources available to teach children about reproduction of animals. For millions of cats, however, the “miracle of birth” is closely matched with the increasing number of cats euthanized due to pet overpopulation.

I can make money by breeding my purebred cat.

Professional breeding of purebred cats is a science involving years of study of desirable breed characteristics. For the novice, little money, if any, can be made when the mother cat is properly cared for and kittens are fed, wormed, vaccinated, and advertised.

My cat is too old to be spayed or neutered.

Cats are safely spayed and neutered every day. Unless your cat has health problems, spaying or neutering is safe and routine. Your veterinarian or low-cost spay/neuter clinic will examine your cat before the operation to determine if any health problems are present.



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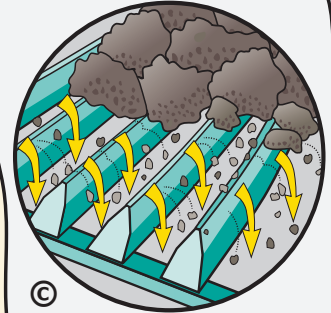
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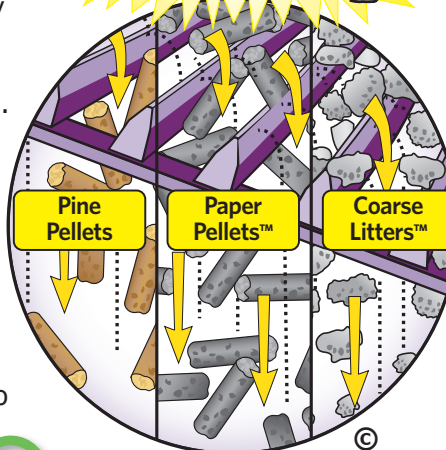
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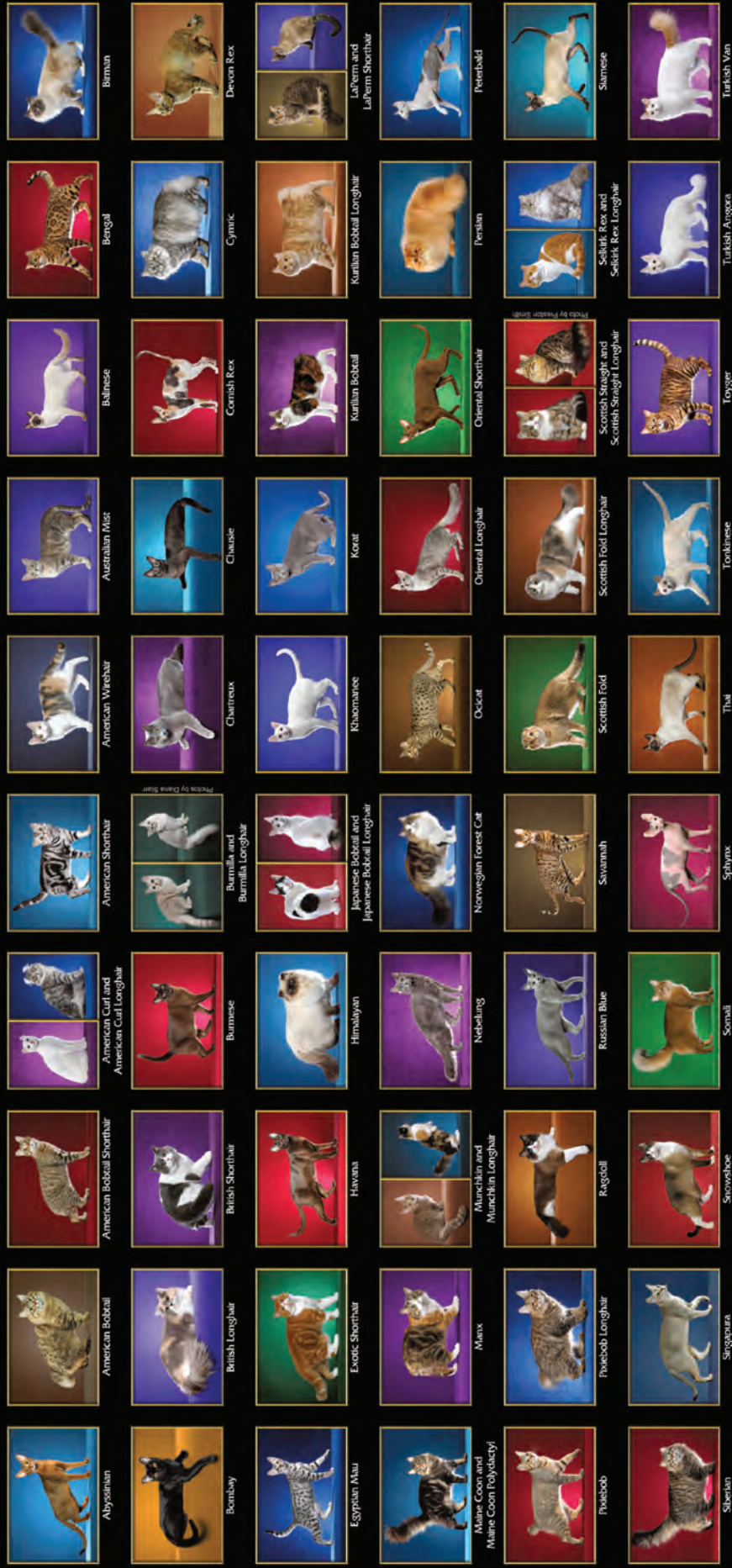
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NOTE: Many breeds come in other colors and patterns beyond the one example shown here. Remember, color does not make a breed.

TICA's Championship Breeds as of May 1, 2015

www.TICA.org

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Should I Change the Diet?

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