
The breed of the month is...

Domestic Longhair and Shorthair



Overview

The Domestic Long/Short Hair, though not a specific “breed,” is the most common cat in the US. They are not to be confused with the American Short Hair, which is a specific breed of cat. The Domestic Long/Short Hair is a mixed breed cat that does not belong to a specific registered breed. The Domestic is your “barn cat,” “alley cat,” “stray cat,” “house cat,” or the “oops” mixed breed cats. They are the “mutts” of the feline world. The Domestic is the ordinary companion cat who brings love and affection to the lives of their owners.

History

Mixed breed cats have been around since the days of the Pharaohs and maybe even longer. Cats within geographic regions tended to be very similar in appearance. Over time exploration and trading brought these early populations together, creating mixed cats. During the 1500s and 1600s cat populations were greatly reduced due to the witch hunts of the time. The cat survived, and the population started to grow once people realized their worth as rat hunters and as companions in general. For much of history, cats were allowed to breed randomly and could be thought of as the free spirited ancestors of today's Domestic. By the 1830s, in the northeast US, contests were being held at fairs for cats to compete for awards. Farmers would enter their “coon” cats to see who had the fluffiest tail. In 1871 the first official cat show took place at the Crystal Palace in London. These earlier cat shows were interested in the different and unusual along with the color and patterns. This idea is carried on in today's cat shows in the Household Pet Class.

Personality

With the Domestic Long/Short Hair, there is no one personality type. Due to their diverse backgrounds, Domestic cats can have a wide range of personalities. These personalities include adventurous, mischievous, inquisitive, social, reclusive, playful, energetic, subdued, independent, bold, shy, and every other personality out there.

Traits

As with the Domestic Long/Short Hair's personality, there is no one set of traits. The Domestic's physique can be big or small, muscular or lean. Their coats could be long, short, none, or anything in between. (Tip: The length of a cat's coat is determined by the length of the hair on the tail, 2 inches or longer is a long hair cat.) The Domestic's coat can also come in a variety of colors and patterns, anything Mother Nature can create. They can appear as a solid black cat, or a brown stripped tabby, or a calico, or even a pointed Siamese looking cat.

If you are interested in learning more about the Domestic Longhair and Shorthair you can go to the following sites <http://www.tica.org/public/breeds/hh/intro.php> or <http://harrisonweir.com/cat-shows/>.