

The following information is designed to give you a general idea of the cat breeds on this list- please do further research on the breed you choose. Remember, each cat is an individual, and all breeds will not demonstrate all traits of their breed. Also, if you decide to adopt a cat who is a mixture of breeds, be sure you can live with the traits of each breed in kitty's heritage.

This information was gained from some research and a lot of personal experience.

Breed	Personality Description	Appearance	Health/Average Lifespan	Maintenance
Abyssinian (Egypt)	Intelligent, inquisitive. They like knowing what their humans are doing, and be involved with the task at hand. Very playful.	Lean and muscular bodies, large almond-shaped eyes. Ticked fur. Typically reddish-brown, but other colors available. Medium size.	No known health issues- can live well into their teens	Basically low maintenance, little grooming required. They require a LOT of human interaction daily.
American Bobtail (United States)	Playful, energetic, intelligent, friendly, often very good with children. Dog like personalities.	Can be any color. Stocky bodies, almond-shaped eyes. Short tails from 2"-6" long on average. Medium to large cats.	Ones with short spines have problems with their hips. Lifespan around 15 years.	Depends on coat- long hairs require more grooming than short hairs. Like a lot of human interaction.
Balinese/Javanese (United States)	Funny cats, vocal (yet not as much as other Siamese), affectionate.	Long, lean, they resemble their Siamese relatives, except for having medium to long hair. Come in many colors- chocolate point, lynx point, lilac point, etc. Medium size.	Rarely, weak hind legs or nasal issues causing them to breathe through their mouth. Lifespan around 10-14 years.	Very low maintenance coats. Very social, but tend to choose one human as their favorite.
Bengal (United States)	The breed stems from a domestic cat being bred with "the Asian leopard cat." The first 3 generations are rather wild, but the 4 th and above are typical, gentle domestic cats.	Large spots of color with lighter bellies. Shades of brown and black. Short coats, although some longhairs exist. The best is one that is 4 generations from his wild cat ancestor (F-4) Medium to large.	The breed is very susceptible to food poisoning. Chocolate can kill them. Lifespan around 10-15 years.	Weekly combing is best. Doglike, they often enjoy fetch, walking on a leash or playing in water. They usually attach strongest to 1 person.

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Birman (Burma)	Active, gentle, playful. Can be unobtrusive if you are busy.	Stocky body, long silky fur that is light and "pointed" like a Siamese with white feet. They have roundish, bright blue eyes. Large size.	Sensitivity to anesthesia. Check with breeder about family history of health problems. Long lives- lifespan 14-20 years.	Require plenty of human interaction. Brushing twice a week is recommended, although the fur does not usually mat.
Bombay (United States)	Outgoing, fun loving, affectionate, playful. They are also easy going and social, love humans and dogs. Very independent thinkers.	Copper colored eyes, black shorthair. Sturdy, compact, muscular body. Small to medium size.	No known health problems. Lifespan 13-15 years.	Lap cats, love to follow their humans around. Short, little shedding coats require little maintenance.
Burmese (Burma)	Extremely independent thinkers, social, loving. Playful, lively, and somewhat clumsy, but utterly charming cats. People oriented, lap cats. Chatty little cats!	Beautiful short, silky hair in a variety of colors. Compact, sturdy little bodies. Often deceptively heavy. Large, round eyes. Appear similar to Bombay. American Burmese have shorter faces (somewhat like Persians) while British Burmese have longer faces. Medium size.	Life span is over 15 years, some living to age 20. Heart issue called Primary endocardial fibroelastosis is possible, as are eye problems.	Lap cats, love to follow their humans around. Short, little shedding coats require little maintenance.
Chartreux (France)	Quiet, sweet, playful, loving, curious and affectionate. Will bond with 1 person but love all in home. Cats are very quiet with soft meows. Many are born mute. They are known for their "smile"	Short, dense gray-blue double coat. Coppery-orange round eyes. Muscular bodies with short legs and large paws. Sturdy build. Large cat.	Some can be prone to patellar luxation. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Weekly grooming with a steel comb (so as not to damage coat). Require a fair amount of time with their humans.
Cornish Rex (England)	Playful, active, enjoys company of other animals and people. Less likely to cause allergic reactions than other breeds	Short, wavy coat. May be found in a large variety of colors. 6-10 pounds. Small to medium size.	Low stamina, but otherwise healthy. Prone to slight balding. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Coats require little care. Firm stroking of coat is recommended over brushing/combing. Require a fair amount of human companionship.

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Devon Rex (England)	Intelligent, active, impish, energetic and curious.	Large eyes and ears. Curly short coat. Small to medium size.	Can be prone to slight balding. Lifespan 10-15 years.	Thrive on human interaction, but can remain alone sometimes. Coat is low maintenance- firm stroking recommended over brushing.
Egyptian Mau (Egypt)	Musical voices- they make a variety of noises. They are very loyal and clingy to their humans. Not usually good with other animals.	Spotted, short coats. Longer back legs than front. Slim and muscular. Small to medium size.	Very sensitive to medicines/anesthesia. Lifespan 15 years.	Short coats require little brushing/combing. Require fair amount of time with humans.
Havana Brown (United Kingdom)	Soft voices that are seldom used. Very people-oriented.	Chocolate or mahogany colored short coats. Muscular, supple bodies. 6-10 pounds. Medium size	No known health issues. After age 8, it is advisable to keep an eye on liver and kidney function. Lifespan up to 15 years.	Short coats require little brushing/combing. Adaptable to most situations- low maintenance.
Himalayan/Colorpoint Persian (United Kingdom)	Sweet cats, very social and playful. Lap cats. Vocal, like their Siamese ancestors.	Coloring is available in same colors as Siamese. Long coats. Large size.	Some inherit polycystic kidney diseases (PKD) but a test can reveal if yours has that gene.	Daily brushing, wiping their faces. They don't require a lot of attention, but when you are with them, they WILL be involved in your activities.
Maine Coon (United States)	Very loving, sweet cats. Inquisitive. Fun loving, playful, curious, intelligent and affectionate. Not clingy.	Big boned, solidly built cat. Long or medium length flowing coat. Many have extra toes. 15-25 pounds. Large size.	Generally very healthy, but males and older cats are more susceptible to feline cardiomyopathy. Few may be prone to hip dysplasia or polycystic kidney diseases (PKD) but a test can reveal if yours has that gene. Lifespan 9-15 years.	Daily brushing is recommended with a slicker brush. Adaptable- love lots of human companionship, but can spend some time alone.
Manx (Isle of Man)	Lap cats. Affectionate, friendly, energetic intelligent, involved in their human's tasks. Very protective of homes and people. Good with other pets, even birds and fish. They like high places.	Tailless, or a small stub. Come in all colors. Double coats, short or medium length. Back legs longer than front. Medium size.	"Manx Syndrome" is possible in some cats where the shortened spinal cord causes serious health issues with nerves, bladder, and digestion. Can cause spina bifida. Lifespan is around 12 years. Slightly shorter than average.	Weekly brushing. Provide them with lots of toys and exercise.

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Munchkin (United States)	Loving, social, playful, energetic. Get along well with people, other cats, and dogs.	Like a regular cat with short legs resulting from a genetic mutation. They come in various colors, tabby and pointed. Long and short coats. Medium size.	Healthy, although some have lordosis, a condition where the base of neck dips, often causing death by 12 weeks. Deaths from lordosis is less likely after that age. Lifespan is 15 years.	Longhairs require more grooming than their shorthair counterparts. Require a fair amount of human interaction.
Norwegian Forest Cat (Norway)	Intelligent, fun, social. Personalities are similar to Maine Coons.	Emerald green eyes. Long, thick double coat comes in many colors. 13-22 pounds. Large size.	No known health problems. Lifespan 9-15 years.	Coat requires seasonal brushing. Cannot be left alone for long periods of time.
Ocicat (United States)	Outgoing, trainable, intelligent, fun loving, love toys, playful.	Mixture of Siamese, Abyssinians, and silver tabbies. Short coats with spots in either browns or silvers. Muscular bodies. 6-14 pounds. Large size.	Lifespan about 15 years.	Weekly brushing recommended. They need a lot of human interaction.
Persian (Greater Iran)	Calm, loving, sweet, good for apartments.	Round face, short muzzle, large round eyes. Long, luxurious coats. 7-12 pounds. Medium size.	Some have breathing problems, malformed tear ducts, kidney problems, eye problems and cardio myopathy. Many however, live over 15 years.	Daily brushing, weekly bathing with thorough drying are recommended. Eyes need constant cleaning. Require a fair amount of human attention.
Pixie-bob (United States)	Intelligent, social, active, playful (with toys, people and other animals).	Resemble bobcats- shades of brown with black stripes. 14-18 pounds. Large size.	A very healthy breed. Lifespan is uncertain, as breed has been in existence only since the mid 1990's	Weekly brushing recommended. Fair amount of human interaction recommended.
Ragamuffin (United States)	Intelligent, sweet, love people. Like to perform tricks, although not terribly athletic.	Large, round (usually) blue eyes. Pointed, tabby or solid medium to long coats. Ragamuffins reach full growth in 4 years. Very large boned cats. 10-20 pounds. Large size.	No known health issues. Lifespan is uncertain, but is known to be quite long for this hardy breed.	Weekly brushing is recommended. Much human attention is required.

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Ragdoll (United States)	Playful, fascinated with their humans. Exceedingly gentle, rarely extending their claws.	Pointed medium length coats. Large blue eyes. Muscular bodies. 10-20 pounds. Large size.	Predisposed to cardio myopathy. Lifespan 15 years.	Bi-weekly brushing. Daily brushing during heavy shedding. Much human attention is required.
Russian Blue (Russia)	Gentle, quiet, loving, shy, playful. Often good for people with cat allergies.	Dense, short, blue-gray double coat. Bright green eyes. 8-12 pounds. Medium size.	No known health problems. Lifespan 10-15 yrs.	Weekly grooming. Minimal human interaction required.
Savannah (United States)	Loyal, intelligent, loving, not always gentle, but not intentionally rough. Love high places, like tops of refrigerators, cabinets, etc.	Crossed domestic cat with an African several. Colors vary based on domestic cat. Tall and slim. F1 and F2 are largest, due to their close relation to wild ancestors weighing up to 30 pounds. F3 and beyond, 12-20 pounds. Large size.	Many do not respond well to vaccines and anesthesia. Some have slightly smaller livers than other cats, and should receive lower doses of medicines. Lifespan is usually over 15 years.	Weekly brushing. Much human interaction is required, as these cats like to be the center of attention.
Scottish Fold (Scotland)	Quiet, inquisitive and sweet. Very adaptable to situations and other animals. Love playing with people. Not all are lapcats, but they do like to stay close to their humans.	All colors. Some have folded ears due to genetic mutation. Ears fold at around 12 weeks. Round eyes, rounded body. 6-13 pounds. Medium size.	Some have degenerative joint disease, which, while not curable, can be successfully treated. Lifespan around 15 years.	Weekly brushing. Moderate amount of human interaction required.
Serengeti cat (United States)	Friendly, confident, intelligent, active, chatty. Can get along well with other pets. Like to climb and chase toys.	Cross between a Bengal and Oriental. Wild looking, but no wild blood- large, with gold/brown short coats with black stripes. Large, rounded ears and large almond shaped gold-amber eyes. Big bones, long legs. 10-15 pounds. Large size.	No known health issues. Lifespan around 12 years.	Weekly brushing. Fair amount of human interaction required, as are lots of toys.

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Siamese (Thailand)	Extroverted, friendly, affectionate, intelligent. Some tend to be slightly high strung. Not good only cats.	Triangular head, lean, muscular body. Short, glossy coats in a variety of pointed colors.	Very healthy breed. Lifespan is often 20 years.	Brush weekly. They need LOTS of human interaction, and another cat.
Siberian (Russia)	Often people allergic to cats can live with this breed. Very loving, loyal, sweet, intelligent. Very much like Maine Coons. Good with other pets and kids.	Fluffy medium coats. Large built cats. Big boned, muscular. Takes 5 years to mature. Come in all colors. Large size.	No known issues. One of the hardiest breeds. Lifespan 12-15 years.	Bi-weekly grooming, moderate interaction with humans.
Singapura (Singapore)	A combination of Abyssinian and Burmese, they share their gregarious, fun-loving, affectionate personalities. Intelligent, playful, very clingy with their people.	Tiny cats with silvery/taupe colored short coats. Large round eyes and ears. 5-8 pounds. Small size.	No known health issues. Many females have delivery problems due to their small size. Lifespan 9-15 years.	Weekly brushing, and LOTS of human interaction.
Snowshoe (United States)	Mellow, sweet-tempered, gentle, loving. Very vocal. Many enjoy running water. Intelligent-will figure out how to open doors, etc. Very active, curious cats.	Short to medium pointed coat. Large almond-shaped blue eyes. Big paws compared to the size of their bodies. Long body. 6-14 pounds. Medium size.	No known health problems. Very healthy breed by nature. Lifespan 9-15 years.	Weekly brushing. Need a lot of human interaction; should not be left alone for long periods of time.
Somali (United States)	Friendly, intelligent, playful, active. Like to be in the middle of what their humans are doing.	Basically, a medium haired Abyssinian. Trim, muscular bodies. Color is usually brownish, sometimes with a black stripe down the back, sometimes full tabby striping. 6-12 pounds. Medium size.	Dental issues. Many need all adult teeth removed. Lifespan 15 years.	Frequent brushing when they blow their coat once yearly. Otherwise, weekly brushing. Require a LOT of human interaction.
Sphynx (Canada)	Frequent snugglers with people and animals, due to lack of coat. Intelligent, loving, energetic. Can be good for people with allergies.	Very short, fine hair. Sturdy, heavy bodies. 8-10 pounds. Small size.	Healthy breed. Lifespan 13-15 years.	Weekly baths are required due to lack of coat. Need a fair amount of human interaction.

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Turkish Angora (Turkey)	Fun, friendly, loving, intelligent, adaptable, energetic, graceful. Good with other animals and kids.	Fine boned, medium coats. Primary color is white, but other colors are becoming increasingly available. Eye colors vary. 8-10 pounds. Small size.	Some are predisposed to cardio myopathy. Lifespan is over 15 years.	Once or twice a week brushing. Best to have more than one animal with the Turkish angora. Require a fair amount of time with their humans.
Turkish Van (Turkey)	Very good for those with ct allergies. Intelligent, energetic like to explore, climb, and be close to their humans. Many enjoy playing in water.	Long, soft coat in a variety of colors, usually white with red tabby striping. 12-16 pounds. Large size.	No known health issues. Lifespan 9-15 years.	Once or twice a week brushing.