



Breed Cats for Beginners

How to choose a breed cat



How to choose a breed cat?

You have seen the cat of your life on a photo or in a show, you are enchanted and want to get a cat just like that – exquisite, very special to you... but you do not know where or how, and you are not quite sure if it is a good idea? We will try to help you, with simple advice and explanations of some trade terms. This guide may appear voluminous, but if you really wish to enter the magical world of fantastic breed cats please be curious, patient and thorough – do not make impulse decisions, which you and your cat will regret later!

Breed or rather a domestic cat?

If you provide a home to a domestic cat, you will do a very humane act towards the cat and provide yourself with a friend and entertainment for many years to come. The domestic cat rescued from the street will be relatively easy to nurture until it stands on its own paws. You will help it cope with possible infections or parasites and will very quickly bond with your new, furry friend who will probably become a new family member. The domestic cats have been fighting to survive for generations. They are very cuddly, intelligent, enduring, have a strong immune system and are mostly not very picky or demanding. Above all, you will feel good that you helped an animal in need.

Some animal welfare groups have a very unfriendly, often hostile attitude towards breed cats and breeders. According to them, every bred and bought kitten is one chance less for a street cat to be rescued. Slogan „Adopt, don't buy!“ sounds convincing and probably makes you feel uncomfortable because of your wish to buy a pedigree cat. But even if you get a pedigree cat, there are many ways you may help the stray cats in your area.

You may join one of big active animal welfare groups. Serious groups put a lot of effort in proposing legal acts and then control the implementation of those regulations, which greatly influence the survival of all endangered animals. Aside from helping groups, you can dedicate your time to the cat population in your backyard or neighborhood – you may feed stray cats, neuter them and cure when needed. If you wish to have a breed cat don't feel bad about that – there are a lot of ways to give back to the cat population on the streets. After all, if you get a breed cat today, you can always adopt a domestic friend tomorrow!

Which breed is the one for you?

Cats of different breeds have very different looks and external features but also quite different demands and needs. Your future cat has to be well adjusted with your temperament and character. The choice of cat is a decision which will influence your life you for ten or more years and it is very important for that decision to be wise and made based on information. For starters make a brief list of breeds you like and then research them online – find out as much as possible about cat's needs and habits,



about the good and maybe some bad characteristics of each breed. The amount of available data is enormous – they say that a third of the internet is dedicated to cats!

How active would you like your cat to be? How playful would you like your cat to be? How affectionate would you like your cat to be? How vocal would you like your cat to be? How much time and attention do you have to give your cat? How amenable to handling would you like your cat to be? How independent would you like your cat to be? How compatible do you want your cat to be with other pets?

Evaluate your needs and expectations, talk to your household members and then decide on one or more cat breeds..

You chose cat breeds – what now?

Now look for a respectable cat breeders' club. On the website of club you will find a page with contacts of recommended catteries. Those are responsible, internationally registered catteries, working according to the animal welfare laws and regulations of international feline federations. Their cats are bred according to standards and have interna-

tionally valid pedigrees so you can exhibit them in shows. The cats from these catteries are guaranteed breed cats.

If you are still not quite sure which breed to choose, call the club and ask for information and help. Members of the club can help you with choosing the breed and they know which kittens are available for acquisition or reservation. If the desired kitten is not available in your country, the club can assist you with the search and import of the kitten from abroad.

When you decide which kitten you want, you will contact the cattery and enquire about the availability of the desired kitten. But we will leave the first contact with the breeder for later - first let us answer a frequently asked question...

Breed cats are expensive, can I buy them at a cheaper price?

You can get a kitten from a registered cattery, but there is also another possibility – to get a cat from the classified ads. It is a gamble that resembles getting a used car – you can do really well, but you can also be a victim of fraud. Often a low-cost cat from the ad, a so called „cat without documents“ over time grows to be a terrific pet – cuddly and smart, healthy and in good condition. However it is also possible to get a kitten with inherited diseases or disorders programmed in genes, which is why it will have difficulties to grow up and live long. Have in mind that any offer which is too good is probably not honest. Instead of buying a cheap kitten from the ads, it is better to adopt a domestic cat, because a cheap cat from the ads is probably also a domestic cat which happens to look a lot like a breed one.

Choosing a cattery

So go back to catteries listed on the club's page. If the chosen cattery has a website, that is a good sign - this means that he is serious about the hobby. Some breeders prefer to have Facebook pages, because the pages are always up to date and offer a direct contact with fans. To begin with, check whether the cattery is registered with one of the big international feline federations: WCF (World Cat Federation), TICA (The International Cat Association), FIFe (Fédération Internationale Féline) or other.



Then carefully look at the photos and make sure that the kittens are just as you expect them to be. Look for photos from the cat shows – regular participation in shows is a sign that the breeder is actively promoting felineology, that he is ready to have his cats judged and to compete with other breeders.

Prepare questions and answers

A responsible breeder will not sell a cat to everybody. During the first conversation you will ask, but also answer a set of questions. Some of them will be quite personal. The breeders wish to sell the kitten, but are also very interested in conditions in which the kitten will live. They are also interested in your plans with the kitten.

Prepare to convince the breeder that the kitten will live in a safe home and be surrounded with attention and love. Prepare to describe the conditions in the kitten's future home and to mention all other family members and pets. Responsible breeders will tend to entrust the kitten to serious adults who have all the material conditions and some previous experience with animals. The breeder will assess whether his kitten is a good choice for cohabiting with children, older family members or other cats and dogs. If you have assured the breeder that you

have good intentions and all preconditions, a very important question will follow and you need to prepare an answer in advance: do you want the kitten as a pet or a cat for breeding?

Do you want the kitten for a pet or for breeding?

The difference in price between these two options can be significant – often it is double amount.

The kitten you take as a pet will already be neutered or you will commit with a contract that you will have it neutered when it is of proper age – most often eight months. Such a cat will have a completely valid pedigree and if you wish you can exhibit it in international shows. You only won't be able to have kittens.

A cat you get for further breeding will not be neutered – it will be sexually active and capable of reproduction, and you will be able to breed it with other cats of the same race. Such a cat will also have a valid pedigree and you will be able to exhibit it in international shows. If you are buying a cat for breeding, every responsible breeder will prepare a voluminous contract with precisely defined rights and obligations for both parties. The pedigrees of future kittens during the next five generations shall carry the name of the breeder, so for breeders who care about their reputation it is really important that future breeds are done according to felinology standards. If you decide to breed the cat irresponsibly – crossbreed it with domestic cats or unrelated breeds – your cat may be taken away from you and be returned to the cattery.

First contact with the cattery

Now it is starting to be exciting! Contact the cattery and ask for information whether they have available kittens or when they will have the next litter. Ask for terms of purchase and ask for photos of available kittens and their parents. Inquire whether the parents were exhibited in shows and about their results. If you agree with the terms and like the kittens on photos, make an appointment for a visit.

During the visit pay attention to the conditions in which cats live. Check whether the pedigree has a hologram or seal and signature of the person in charge of pedigree registry. If the kittens' parents are active, present and curious, it is very likely that kittens will be cuddly and full



of life. Wait for the kitten to pick you – the one that approaches you and wishes to play with you is your future pet.

The new household member that meows, purrs and cuddles!

Long live cats! Thin, chubby, shaggy, short-haired, bold, long-legged, short-legged, black, white, colorful... whatever they're like, they are beautiful because they are – cats! The decision to buy a cat, instead of some overpriced product which you will get bored with after a couple of days, is wise, humane and will permanently enrich your life with beauty and optimism. Good luck!

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Photos: Ivana Stevanović, Kristina Tošić, Club Le PETit

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WCF - World Cat Federation eV

WCF is an international association of cat clubs, registered in Germany. Currently there are 280 organizations worldwide associated to WCF (8/2019). Founder and president of WCF is Mrs Anneliese Hackmann from Essen.

The WCF has been successfully working on the development of animal protection laws in European Parliament in Strasbourg. WCF creates standards for pedigreed cats, trains judges and organizes cat shows.

Club Le PETit WCF

International cat breeders club Le PETit is a full member of WCF - World Cat Federation. Club provides cattery registration, certified WCF pedigrees and transfer documents. Club organises cat shows and helps finding, showing and selling breed cats.

Club Le PETit provides services and WCF pedigrees for breeders in Europe (Austria, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia) and Middle East (Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE).