



A Guide to The Top 3 Most Popular Cat Breeds

By Alisha Wheat

Persians

The Persian is the most popular pedigreed cat in North America, if not the world. He first came into vogue during the Victorian era, but he existed long before then. Little is known about his early history, though. The Persian comes in two types: show and traditional. The show Persian has a round head enhanced with a thick ruff, small ears, a flat nose, big round copper eyes, a broad, short body with heavy boning atop short tree-trunk legs, and a thick, flowing plume of a tail.

TO LOVE AND CARE

Persians crave affection and love to be petted and fussed over, but will not harass you for attention the way some breeds will. However, they will let their feelings be known if they are not getting the requisite amount of attention. Owning a Persian requires a significant time commitment. That beautiful coat requires daily grooming to keep it in good condition and free of mats. Because of the long coat and docile temperament, Persians should be indoor-only pets. Many Persian fanciers keep at least part of the coat clipped, particularly the hindquarters and around the anus to avoid the accumulation of feces.



PERSIAN STATISTICS

Min. Weight	9lbs
Max. Weight	14 lbs
Avg. Price	\$550
Lifespan	15 years

Maine Coon

The Maine Coon is sweet and friendly, with the typically curious cat nature. He loves his family but isn't demanding of attention. He will follow you around and show an interest in what you are doing, and if you'd like to give him some lap time, well, he is all in favor of that, too. This cat can get along along with anyone, including dogs and other cats. He enjoys playing fetch and is willing to learn to walk on a leash, making him a great choice for anyone who travels frequently and would like to bring a feline companion along.



TO LOVE AND CARE

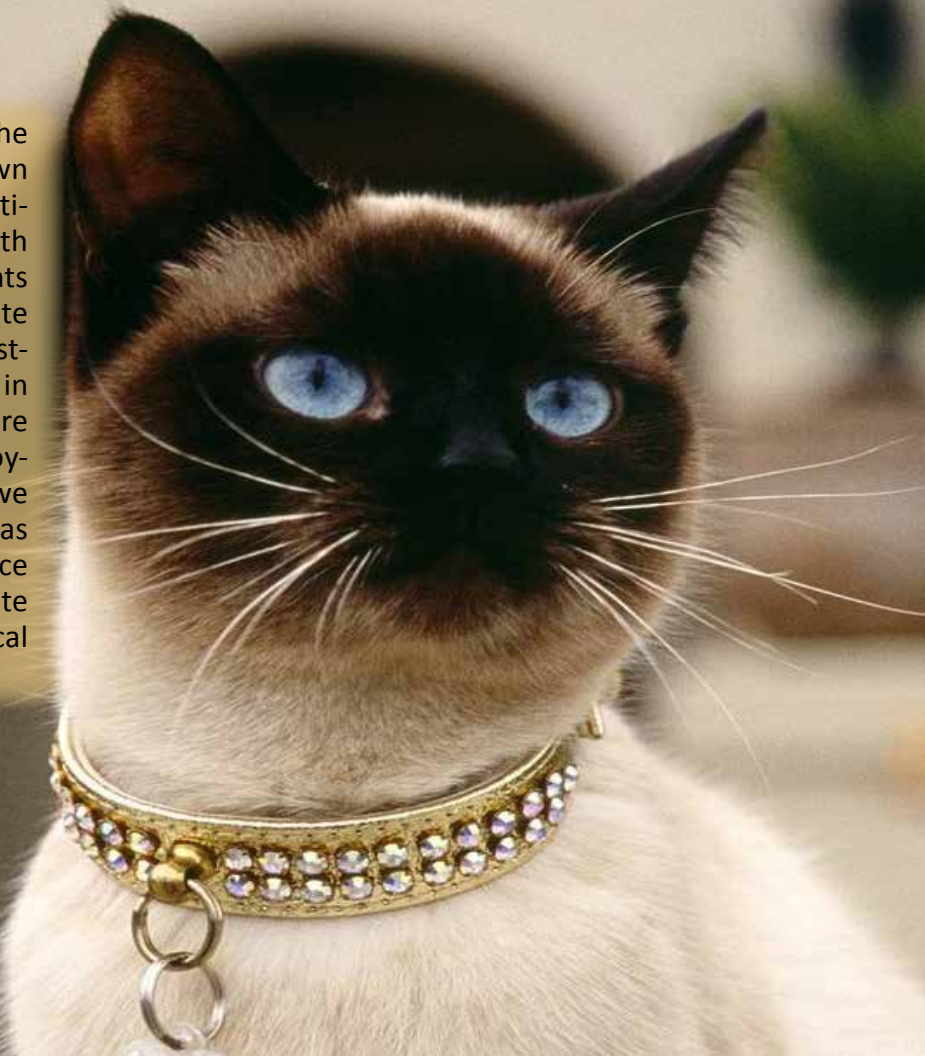
When you are not home with him, keep your Maine Coon entertained with puzzle toys, a bird feeder he can watch from the window and a water bowl he can splash in. The Maine Coon has a heavy, shaggy coat that's silky to the touch. It rarely mats and weekly combing is all that's needed to care for it. Combing removes the dead hairs that would be ingested by your cat when he bathes himself, resulting in hairballs. Trim the nails as needed, usually every 10 days to two weeks. Cats can be prone to periodontal disease, so brush the teeth at home with a vet-approved pet toothpaste and schedule regular veterinary dental cleanings.

MAINE COON STATISTICS

Min. Weight	12 lbs
Max. Weight	15 lbs
Avg. Price	\$350
Lifespan	13 years

Siamese

The Siamese is one of the oldest and best-known cat breeds. The beautiful light-colored cat with the striking color points in seal, lilac, chocolate and blue made his Western Hemisphere debut in Victorian England, where he was touted as the Royal Cat of Siam, what we now call Thailand. He has been beloved ever since by people who appreciate his good looks and vocal talents.



SIAMESE STATISTICS

Min. Weight	11 lbs
Max. Weight	15 lbs
Avg. Price	\$500
Lifespan	20 years

TO LOVE AND CARE

This breed needs lots of attention. Owners who are home often or are able to participate in activities with this cat breed will be delighted. Time alone spent can be 0 to 4 hours per day. The short coat of the Siamese is easy to groom. Comb him weekly with a stainless steel comb. Trim the nails as needed, usually every 10 to 14 days. Cats can be prone to periodontal disease, so brush the teeth at home with a vet-approved pet toothpaste and schedule regular veterinary dental cleanings.



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