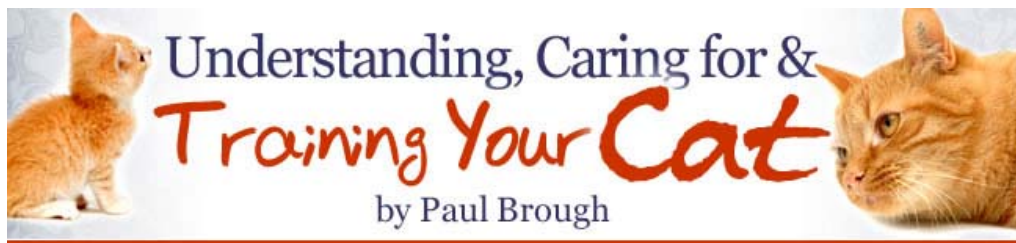


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“Understanding, Caring for & Training Your Cat”

By Paul Brough

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About the Author

Paul Brough has had many types of pets but cats are probably his favorites.

He worked in a pet store when he left school but has been selling insurance for almost ten years.

He has always been interested in writing and feels that this was the ideal subject for his first book. He did not rely on just his own experience but researched among his friends and work colleagues.

Paul hopes that this collection of advice and tips will help you and your family to have a long and happy relationship when your perfect cat adopts you.

Part-I: Introduction

Cats – An Overview

Cats have been human companions since time immemorial.

Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and other archeological surveys indicate the presence of feline creatures. Cats have a natural instinct to predate rodents and similar vermin that harm human life. Therefore, cats have become an intrinsic part of human life since the early ages.



Domestic cats are descendants of a group of self-domesticating desert wildcats, *Felis silvestris lybica* circa. Normally cats weigh between five-and-half and sixteen pounds with a few species weighing up to fifty pounds. Some species of cats weigh as little as four pounds.

Cats are carnivorous animals. They do not like fruits, grains, or vegetables. They have a digestive tract that suits meat digestion the best. Molar and premolar teeth on each side of the mouth can tear meat. Their tongue has sharp spines that help in ripping flesh from the skin of a carcass.

Although cats prefer a meat diet, they do need little quantities of vegetable matter for easy digestion. Adult cats are lactose-

intolerant and therefore it is best to feed them lactose-free milk.

Cats can be fussy eaters. They sometimes will refrain from eating their favorite food.

Domestic cats cannot change their inborn instinct to hunt animals. They could kill small birds, insects and animals like rats, mice, cockroaches, scorpions, grasshoppers, and others. Cats can eat prepared foods. They will like foods that you eat, rich in fats and proteins but these may not improve their well-being. Domesticated cats at times grow obese by eating rich foods. It is therefore essential for cats to have regular exercise.

Cats have a special gait, similar to camels and giraffes. They move in an unusual way with both legs moving in one direction and thereafter both legs moving in another direction.

The breed of a cat decides its temperament. Oriental body types of cats are normally thin and more active while the body type of heavier and less active cats is much different.

Cats have sharp sight at night, although daytime vision is not so sharp. They have a keen sense of hearing and can hear high-pitched sounds clearer than us. Their sense of smell is fourteen times more sensitive than humans. They are more sensitive to touch.

Cats sleep more than most animals with an average of thirteen to fourteen hours of sleep each day. Some cats can

also sleep for twenty hours in a day. Normal body temperature of a cat is between 101 and 102.2°F. The range of normal heartbeat is between 140 to 220 beats per minute. This could increase due to excitement.

Cats are not pack animals. They prefer being on their own. They like to fend for their food themselves. Nevertheless, cats have grown a social relationship with humans. They can adapt to humans easily. They make different sounds while communicating with humans. These are different from sounds they use to communicate with other animals.

Cats have an inherent liking for high places, probably for a better survey of its territory. They can land on their prey stealthily. Cats are playful creatures, especially kittens. They love playing with dangling pieces of string or yarn. However, ingestion of string could cause serious problems.

Cats have a low rate of detoxification. Therefore, they develop frequent problems due to exposure to normally safe substances. Cats do not have the necessary enzymes to tackle and deal with such toxic substances. Simple human foods like chocolate, garlic, and onions can cause upsets in cats.

Female cats can have various fertility periods within a single period of heat. This heat period could last between four to seven days, sometimes extending longer. A female could mate with different males during a heat period.

Normal gestation period for cats is 63 to 65 days. Litters could have three to five kittens. Female cats reach sexual maturity within four to ten months while males reach maturity within five to seven months. It is possible to spay cats as early as six to eight weeks. This restricts unwanted reproduction and other sex-related behavior.

Cats have a long life. Domesticated cats can live for fourteen to twenty years. Cats can survive high falls, which could prove fatal to other animals. People perceive cats to have nine lives. This is due to their ability to survive accidents and live long lives.

Cats are clean animals. They regularly lick their fur with their saliva that contains a powerful cleaning agent, which could cause allergic reactions in some humans.

There are more than thirty to forty breeds of cats with many new breeds developing regularly. There are many different varieties of cats with different color combinations. Cat coat genetics produce different coat patterns.

Part-II: Cat Breed Information

Cat Breeds Info



Abyssinian

This muscular cat has a soft coat, pointed ears, and a long tail. It comes in various colors like red, fawn, cream, lilac, or ruddy in America while it could be sorrel or fawn in the UK. This breed is very energetic.

American Bobtail

This cat could be long-haired or short-haired. These cats have a broad head with medium-sized ears, a wide nose, and a clear muzzle. Legs are proportionate to body length and the length of its tail is half the body length.

American Curl

This medium-sized cat has a soft and silky coat. It has walnut-shaped large eyes with wide and back-curving large ears. Its nose is straight and has a rounded muzzle with a firm chin.

American Shorthair

This cat is normally has specific patterns and colors like brown, silver, cream cameo, or red. It has a dense short coat.

This cat is affectionate and gets on well with children, cats and other animals.

American Wirehair

This breed is popular in the USA, although found all over the world. This breed came into existence through selective breeding of a male kitten from nonpedigreed parents. It has a curly coat in different colors. This breed has crimped hair.

Balinese

This medium-sized cat has a fine and silky coat. A tapering head starts from the nose and forms a triangle at the ears. It has long and slender legs. Its feather-like tail tapers at the end.

Bengal

This is a special breed developed through a domestic cat and an Asian Leopard cat. It is a well-tempered exotic breed with high-energy levels. They are excellent companions and require lot of affection and attention.

Birman

This breed exhibits controlled behavior. Although it is a long-haired cat, it does not require extensive grooming. This breed takes part in all action around it and loves playing with toys and children.

Bombay

These medium-sized muscular cats have fine and shiny coats. Eyes are large and ears tilt forward with rounded tips. It has a round face, short snub nose, firm chin, and round muzzle.

British Shorthair

This breed is present in a multitude of colors, patterns, and combinations. Tabby cats could be lilac-silver, chocolate tortoiseshell silver, and others. Solid cats are normally black, white, red, blue, and other colors.

Burmese

This breed has a short and glossy coat with large and round eyes. It has a round head with a firm rounded chin and short muzzle. The body is medium sized and the legs are proportionate to its body size. It has a straight tail.

Chartreux

This breed has a soft, short, and dense coat with a woolly texture. It is an affectionate and smart breed. It loves the telephone and television. These cats mature at the age of three.

Cornish Rex

This breed has an egg-shaped head with high cheekbones and a round muzzle. Eyes are oval-shaped and the ears are large. This breed has a short and wavy coat.

Devon Rex

This breed was discovered in the sixties. It has a small head with large ears. It has a crinkly coat and an impish face. It is easy to train this breed to perform simple tricks. It prefers being in warm places in the house.

Egyptian Mau

This elegant breed has an attractive coat that is silky, dense, and glossy. It normally has light green almond-shaped eyes. This breed is extrovert and smart. It can learn and perform small tricks.

European Burmese

This breed has a short, satin, and thick coat without any undercoat. It has a round head with high cheekbones. It has slender legs. This breed is heavy, although it may not appear so.

Exotic Shorthair

These playful cats have a soft and dense coat with a thick undercoat. Eyes are large and bright and ears have a slight tip towards the front. Legs are short and strong and have a short curvy tail.

Havana Brown

This breed is predominantly in brown color. It is more reddish brown than blackish brown. Although whiskers are brown, they turn white with age.

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