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Breed	Physical Characteristics	Personality Characteristics
Abyssinian	• Shorthair cats with large ears, a slender build, and many coat colors. • Typically weighs 6 to 10 pounds.	• Highly intelligent, athletic, and energetic, these cats require mental and environmental stimulation, or they will resort to entertaining themselves. • They are known for being very affectionate to people.
American Bobtail	• Has the appearance of a Bobcat with a large frame and ears with long hair. • Male cats can be 14 pounds or more. • Their tales are short and run 1 to 4 inches in length. • Fur is medium length with many coat colors.	• These cats are known for a "doglike" personality and are outgoing and playful. • They tend to do well with other types of pets and with children. • They are often used in animal-assisted therapy due to their sensitive and affectionate nature.
American Curl	• You can spot an American Curl immediately due to its curled ears. • They are longhair cats that grow to about 5 to 10 pounds.	• American Curls are friendly, playful cats that are good with families with children and other pets. • They are extremely social and should not be the only pet in the home.
American Shorthair	• These cats can be medium and large sized. • Their fur is a variety of colors. Silver tabbies are its most popular color. • They are low maintenance cats without a lot of grooming needs.	• Also known as the Domestic Shorthair, this breed is one of the most popular in America. • They are known for being friendly and calm and are good with children, cats, and dogs. They do better with companionship than alone. • They have a moderate level of activity and do enjoy hunting so it's best to keep them indoors.
American Wirehair	• This breed gets its name from its unusual wiry fur. • Due to the look of their fur they are called "the punks" of cats. • They come in most colors and they weight from 8 to 15 pounds.	• American Wirehairs are playful, smart cats that are another good choice for families with children and pets. • They tend to be quiet cats and are affectionate.
Anatolian	• These are medium-sized shorthair cats that are muscular with rear legs longer than their front legs, making their rear ends higher than their front. • Their eyes can run from yellow to green and they come in several colors. • They also tend to have heterochromia (eyes of different colors).	• Anatolians are known as "gentle giants" who are a great choice for children. • They are very agile and active and love jumping and climbing to high places. • They also love water, much like their cousins the Turkish Van.
Balinese	• The Balinese is a sleek looking cat that appears much like a Siamese but with longer, silkier fur. • The tail looks like a feathered plume. • It does not require a lot of grooming because there is no undercoat. • The colors most often seen with the Balinese are tabby point and tortie point and they have striking blue eyes.	• This breed has a funny, almost clownish, temperament and they are very affectionate. • They are talkative like the Siamese but not as much or as loudly. • They do best as an indoor cat and would make a friendly addition to any family.
Bambino	• This unusual cat is the pairing of the Sphynx and Munchkin cat. • The Bambino is very small and is part of a group of cats known as dwarf cats. • They are short and stocky with stubby, muscular legs. • They have very fine hair although they appear "hairless."	• Bambinos need an owner that will keep them as an indoor only cat. • They tend to be very affectionate and enjoy being with people. • They are known to be good with children, cats, and dogs. • They are very energetic and will need play and enrichment to keep them happy.
Bengal	• Bengals are beautiful cats that is a hybrid of Asian Leopard cats and domestic cats. • They are medium to large and are spotted. • They look somewhat like a small "wild" cat.	• Bengals are not the cat for every owner. • They are extremely intelligent and require a lot of work to keep them stimulated mentally and physically. • They are known to be climbers and do well with lots of cat trees and shelves to move about on.
Birman	• Birmans are long-haired cats that come in four different color patterns: seal point, blue point, chocolate point, and lilac point. • They are large and stocky cats.	• Their personality can best be described as gentle and quiet although they can be playful. • They tend to appreciate the company of another animal such as a cat or dog.
Bombay	• Bombays are small cats and black in color. • They have green, gold, or orange eyes. • They have short hair and are easy to groom.	• Bombays are talkative cats who love people. • They don't necessarily get along with other cats although they do better with cat-friendly dogs. • They are very good with children and families although they do tend to bond closely with one specific person.
British Longhair	• British Longhairs are large cats that weigh between 12 and 18 pounds. • They have a dense, long, and wavy coat. • They come in any color, but the most common are grey, cream, and rust.	• These cats do well with children and families. • They are generally calm cats that are bright and friendly but not excessively active. • They do require more grooming so prospective owners should be ready for a lot of coat care.
British Shorthair	• They are descended from Domestic Shorthair cats and look similar, with short fur and a round face. • They tend to be shorter with stout legs. • They come in just about every coat color.	• Nicknamed the "Bulldog" of cats, they tend to be very relaxed and enjoy laying about. • They do well with other cats and sometimes dogs. • They are curious and enjoy being with their humans.
Burmese	• Burmese cats have a distinct look with yellow to golden eyes and sable fur. • Their coat colors are sable, blue, champagne, or platinum. • They are medium in size and muscular.	• They are best described as an outgoing, intelligent cat that enjoys being with people. • They can be quite dependent on people and are not a good choice for an indoor/outdoor cat.
California Spangled Cat	• This cat looks like a small leopard both because of its coat pattern and colors and its body shape and gait. • They come in charcoal, black, silver, bronze, brown, red, blue or white. • There is also a "snow leopard" variety that has black spots on a white coat and blue eyes.	• This cat is quite rare with only about 200 left in the U.S. • Unlike other cats bred from wild cats, they are very mellow and enjoy being with people. • They do not do well being alone, so the breed is not a good choice for people who work long hours.
Chantilly	• Chantilly cats weigh between 8 and 12 pounds. • They have beautiful fluffy tails and oval eyes that run from gold to amber in color. • It is a longhair breed with a ruff around the neck and long hair from the ears. • The coat colors are blue, cinnamon, lilac, fawn, and chocolate.	• This breed is fairly laid back and would be a good choice for older adults who want a mellow companion. • They tend to be shy with strangers and bond to specific people in a household. • They do well with other pets and are better when not left alone for long periods of time.
Chartreaux	• The national cat of France, the Chartreaux is a blue cat with orange eyes. • They have medium length, wooly hair. • The cat is known as the "potato on toothpicks" because of its slender legs. • They are 12 to 16 pounds, and their round face makes them appear to smile.	• The Chartreaux cat is very quiet, and their sound is more of a chirping than the traditional meow. • They like other cats and dogs and are good with children. • They are known for being very gentle and amenable to lots of handling. • They are playful but don't have a high amount of activity.
Chausie	• Another hybrid cat, the Chausie looks like a small jungle cat or mountain lion. • They have a sleek, muscular body. • The colors of the Chausie are black, brown tabby, and black tabby. • Their eyes can be yellow, lime, or aqua. • They have short hair and are large cats, weighing up to 30 pounds.	• Like most hybrid breeds, this is not a great choice for a new cat owner or a family with children. • They are very smart and will get into trouble if not given a lot of stimulation and activity. • They also have a high prey drive and should be kept indoors.
Cheetoh	• Cheetohs are a cross between Ocicats and Bengals. • Like the Chausie, they look like a small-sized jungle cat. • They weigh between 15 and 23 pounds. • Their typical colors are black or brown spotted sienna, black or brown spotted tan, black spotted smoke or silver, and lynx pointed with gold spotted snow.	• Unlike some other hybrids, they were bred to be more social with people and can do well with children. • They love being with people and are more mellow than some of the more active and "wild" hybrid breeds.
Colorpoint Shorthair	• This breed is a cross between a Siamese and a red American Shorthair cat. • They look much like Siamese cats but they do not have a Siamese's coloring. They are available in 16 colors and patterns and have blue eyes. • These cats weigh about 5 to 10 pounds.	• The personality of a Colorpoint Shorthair is almost exactly like a typical Siamese: intelligent, loving and active. • They are very talkative and can be quite loud. • This is a very people-focused breed and they tend to want to be near their humans all the time. • They do better with a companion animal if they have to be alone all day.
Cornish Rex	• The Cornish Rex is a bit of an odd-looking cat. • They have wavy short hair that has a distinct texture. • They are generally medium sized and have large ears and an oval shape to their skull. • Due to their unusual fur, they are a hypoallergenic breed. • They come in many different colors.	• They are very active cats that don't do well alone for long periods. • They can become destructive when bored and alone. • This breed enjoys playing and being with their people.
Cymric	• Some Cymric cats, known as "rumpies," have no tails. • Other Cymrics have short, stumpy tails. • They have long hair and weigh about 7 to 15 pounds. • They come in many colors and patterns.	• Cymrics are happy, outgoing cats that enjoy being with people and other pets. • They are also easy to train. • They are a good option for families with children because of their gentle dispositions and playful nature.
Devon Rex	• This is a small breed, weighing around 8 pounds. • They have short, curly hair and are considered a hypoallergenic breed. • Their fur is quite delicate, and they have some areas where there is no fur at all. They come in several colors and several patterns. • Some people have described their look as that of an elf, with large eyes and ears and a distinctive set to their nose and eyes.	• The Devon Rex is a very playful cat with a funny disposition. • They are affectionate, enjoy cuddling, and are attracted to warmth due to their lack of fur. • They are very active and enjoy jumping and climbing so a prospective owner should be ready to provide for their exercise needs.
Donskoy	• Donskoys hail from Russia and are another unusual looking cat. • They weigh between 6 and 12 pounds and look similar to the Sphynx cat with wrinkled skin. • They may be hairless or have some small amount of hair. • They come in four different coat colors: completely hairless ("rubber bald"), flocked (soft and hairless, velour (bald head with hair on legs, tail and facial area), and brush (mixed with bald spots and hair throughout the body).	• Donskoys are social, smart cats that enjoy the company of people and other pets. • They don't always do well with other cats so introductions to new cats should be taken slowly. • They generally are better with other animals in the home or a human who is home often as they don't like being alone. • They may not be the best choice for a brand-new cat owner or someone who works long hours, unless they can provide that cat with another animal companion.
Egyptian Mau	• These are extremely graceful and slender cats with beautiful soft green eyes. • They are about 7 to 11 pounds and come in three colors: silver, bronze, and smoke. • All colors have a spotted pattern that recalls the look of a wild cat.	• This cat is best suited for a calmer household as they have a moderate level of activity. • They have an even temperament and make good companions for all people of all ages.
Exotic Shorthair	• Exotic Shorthairs look a lot like Persian cats but with shorter hair. • They require weekly brushing to keep their dense coats healthy as well as daily cleaning of their face areas. • These cats are medium in size with thick necks, large heads, and short legs.	• In terms of personality, they are playful and fun with an overall sweet disposition. • This is a quiet breed who won't put excessive demands on your attention. • While they love their families, they do tend to fixate on one person over the others.
Foldex	• The Foldex is a cute cat that is a mix of the Scottish Fold and Exotic Shorthair. • Their ears are folded and they have large round eyes and a round head. • The Foldex comes with both short and long hair, which comes in most solid colors and patterns.	• This is a very outgoing breed who loves every person he or she meets. • They are an active and intelligent breed and will need to have an outlet for their energy and mental stimulation. • They do well with children and other pets, and while they are friendly, they are not the type of cat that will follow you around constantly.
Havana Brown	• Havana Browns come in a medium brown color with green eyes. • They have shorthair and are medium in size, weighing from 6 to 12 pounds.	• This breed is very people-focused and need a lot of interaction. • They tend to be talkative, but they don't have loud kitty voices. • They are a friendly breed who are generally good with children.
Highlander	• This is a relatively new breed with a unique look due to their curled back ears. • They have very short tails that can be kinky or curled. • There are long and short hair varieties and they come in most colors and patterns other than any combination of colors with white.	• This breed is a fun cat to have in the home, and they are known to have a "clown-like" personality. • They are good with children and are relaxed cats that can handle a high activity home.
Himalayan	• The Himalayan is the most popular breed of cat in the world. • They have a long coat that requires a lot of grooming. • They are medium sized cats. • They are a color point breed that comes in many varieties.	• Himalayans are wary of strangers although affectionate with their human families. • They prefer low-key environments and are quiet themselves. • They are a good choice for older adults rather than active households with children.
Japanese Bobtail	• These cats get their name from their short, puffy tail. • They can have either short or long hair and are generally medium-sized. • They come in many colors but the most common are bi-colors and tri-colors.	• In terms of personality, the Japanese Bobtail can be very affectionate with an active nature that can get them into trouble. • They do well with a second cat to keep them occupied although a male-female pairing tends to work best.
Javanese	• Javanese cats are like the more popular Siamese cat in their body shape and size. • They weigh from 5 to 10 pounds and have a sleek body. • Their fur is medium in length with a tail shaped like a plume. • Their eyes are blue, and they come in lynx, tortoiseshell, red, or cream points, lilac, seal, blue, and chocolate.	• Javanese are a good choice for someone new to cat ownership. • They are known to do well with children and are very playful. • They are talkative and need daily attention from humans, especially if they must be alone for a few hours each day.
Korat	• The Korat is a silver-blue color with beautiful eyes ranging from yellow to green. • They have a heart-shaped face and a body shape like their wild cat ancestors.	• Korats are playful cats that love being with humans. • They are very active. • They can do well in a family with children and despite being energetic, they have a gentle temperament.
LaPerm	• This breed gets their name from their curly fur that looks like a human perm hair style. • They can be short or long-haired and come in most colors.	• These cats are curious and intelligent and one of several breeds described as "doglike." • They are affectionate and not particularly talkative. • They have a reputation for being good with children and other pets.
Lykoi	• The Lykoi is a newer breed that gets its name from the Greek word lykoi for "wolf." • The cat has a very distinct to the hair on its face that makes one think of a werewolf. • They come in a few different colors, such as blue and tuxedo, but the black roan is the most popular.	• They are loyal cats who enjoy being with people although sometimes this can become excessive. • The Lykoi is highly intelligent and fixated on their environment. • They do well with other animals and are a good breed for children.
Maine Coon	• The largest domestic cat breed, they have beautiful long hair and whiskers and extra toes. • They can weigh from 9 to 18 pounds. • Their coats can get greasy and they require regular grooming.	• Maine Coons are known for making "chirping" sounds as well as normal meows. • They do well with children and other pets. • They are not very cuddly but like being with people and have "big personalities." • They are sometimes referred to as the "Golden Retrievers" of cats.
Manx	• The Manx cat has a round body with their rear legs higher than their front legs. • They come in both short and long hair. • Many people believe the Manx is tailless, but they can be born with or without a tail.	• The Manx is another cat that is known as "dog-like" and are outgoing and energetic. • They are also known for strongly bonding with one specific person although they will be friendly with others.
Minskin	• This is another "dwarf cat" that weighs up to 4 pounds, with small stocky bodies. • They appear hairless but have areas of very fine hair on their bodies. • Minskins are available in just about every solid color and pattern.	• The Minskin has a gentle disposition and enjoys people. • They do well with older children, adults and seniors. • They can live with other dogs and cats. • They are known for being very warm so people with arthritis may find holding and petting a Minksin very therapeutic.
Munchkin	• Munchkins get their name from the characters in the *Wizard of Oz* and it's easy to see why. • They have short, stubby legs which gives them a look like a Dachshund dog. • They come in both long and short hair varieties and just about all colors.	• A very playful breed, they are known to act like kittens throughout their lifetime. • They are affectionate and loving with people and tend to very outgoing and social.
Nebelung	• The Nebelung comes with a blue medium to long hair coat that is edged with silver. • They weigh about 6 to 16 pounds. • They have yellow to green eyes, tufted ears, and a long body shape. • Because of their coat this breed needs to be groomed daily.	• The Nebelung is a newer breed of cat that has a shy but loving personality. • They are wary of strangers but very affectionate with humans they are familiar with. • Due to their nature, they would do better with older children, adults or seniors and would not thrive in a loud, active household.
Norwegian Forest Cat	• The Norwegian Forest Cat is a stunning cat with long hair and gold to green eyes. • Their fur developed from living in the Scandinavian forests in winter and is very thick. • Their ears and feet also have long hair.	• A vocal and active breed, they have a strong prey drive developed from their wild cat ancestors. • If you live in a home with other small critters, you should take care to cat-proof their areas. • These cats also enjoy being near their owners. • If you bring one home, be sure to give them climbing spaces to fulfill their natural desire to climb.
Ocicat	• At first glance the Ocicat looks like many of the hybrid breeds but they're a cross of Abyssinians and Siamese cats. • They have tawny, chocolate, cinnamon, blue, lavender, or fawn spots on a mostly silver coat.	• Ocicats are extremely friendly and outgoing with all people. • This breed does well in active households and needs a lot of social interaction. • They do well with other pets. • They are very smart and will need some mental and environmental stimulation to keep them happy and healthy.
Ojos Azules	• The Ojos Azules is a medium-sized cat weighing from 6 to 12 pounds. • They have shorthair and get their name from their striking blue eyes.	• This breed does well with children and have a moderate activity level. • They tend to be generally relaxed cats and love people but are not pushy about attention. • They get along with other cats and dogs.
Oregon Rex	• The Oregon Rex are cats with "awn" hair, which is hair that with straight ends and wavy at the base. • Compared to other Rex cats like the Devon, they have much thicker hair. • This is a medium-sized breed that is svelte overall.	• Oregon Rex cats have been called "extroverted" and they have outgoing, social personalities. • This is a cat that needs attention and would not enjoy being alone for long periods.
Oriental Shorthair	• This is a medium-sized cat from 8 to 12 pounds. • They have a short or medium hair which comes in many colors. • They also come in a special variety called the White Oriental. • They are a svelte cat with a long body and legs. • Their eyes are long as well and are usually green but also come in blue or have heterochromia.	• Oriental Shorthairs are independent, smart cats that require human attention and affection. • They are very trainable and enjoy the mental stimulation. • They also are known to be jumpers, and you will need to have lots of vertical spaces for them to climb on.
Persian	• The Persian has a very distinct look with their flat face and large eyes. • They tend to be stocky with tons of luxurious fur. • The cats range in size from medium to large. • They come in seven color groups: solids, silvers and golds, tabbies, shadeds and smokes, parti-colors, calicos, and bi-colors, and Himalayan (colors, not the breed).	• Persians are cats with sweet dispositions who do well in low-key homes. • They do best in a home with adults although older children who respect their space are ok. • They also require a lot of regular grooming.
Pixie Bob	• The Pixie Bob is said to be descended from a Bobcat mixed with a domestic cat and they have the large size of a Bobcat. • They can weigh from 8 to 25 pounds, are very muscular and polydactyl. • They have a thick coat and come in short and long hair varieties with color patterns mackerel or striped and colors are typically tawny, red or light gray.	• Pixie-Bobs are another "doglike' cat and they are great with children as well as other pets. • They are extremely loyal and despite their wild ancestry, their reputation is that of a mellow and relaxed cat.
Ragdoll	• Ragdolls run about to 10 to 20 pounds with the males larger than the females. • They have long hair and come in seal, chocolate, lilac, blue and cream as well as van, mitted, bi-color and solid pointed patterns. • Ragdolls get their name from their tendency to go limp when picked up.	• Ragdolls tend to be very relaxed cats and are good options for families with children. • They are best as indoor only cats. • This a good choice for someone looking for a loving pet with a gentle disposition.
Russian Blue	• These cats are easy to spot from their distinctive blue coloring and striking green eyes. • They are medium-hair cats with dense coats.	• This breed is not as social and outgoing as others and tend to be reserved around strangers. • They are affectionate with their families although they tend to fix on a single person for special attention.
Savannah	• This hybrid cat is one of the largest domestic cats available. • They can be more than 20 pounds and look like a small Cheetah.	• Savannahs are beautiful cats that are for very special owners only. • They have "wild" natures and will act much like a small wild African cat. • They do tend to enjoy people, but they need a lot of environmental, mental and physical enrichment to keep them from becoming destructive and develop behavior problems.
Scottish Fold	• Scottish Folds are distinctive and adorable cats with ears that fold over and round eyes and body. • They are medium in size and come with long or short hair. • They come in most colors.	• These are very active and "talkative" cats. • They are known for being very affectionate with humans.
Selkirk Rex	• This is a large breed with distinctive curly hair. • Their weight ranges from 10 to 15 pounds. • There are both long and short-haired Selkirk Rex cats. • Their hair requires regular grooming to remain mat-free.	• The Selkirk Rex is a good choice for children as they are known to be very calm, patient, and tolerant. • They also do well with other animals and prefer not to be alone. • They have a reputation for having a loving but silly personality.
Siamese	• Another breed with a very distinct look, the Siamese has a triangular head, almond-shaped eyes and a long, sleek body. • They come in seal, chocolate, blue, lilac, and red point colors.	• Siamese are quite intelligent and love cuddling with people. • They are also very vocal and will have extended "conversations" with their humans. • They are very active cats and would do best in a home that provides them with play and interaction regularly.
Siberian	• Siberians are one of the largest domestic cats with long, thick fur. • They are one of the few cat breeds considered to be hypoallergenic. • Siberian colors are color point, tabby, tortoiseshell, and most solid colors.	• Siberians are outgoing and friendly and do well with children. • They also do well with other pets and have been known to play with dogs. • If you enjoy training, this is a great breed to try clicker training with.
Singapura	• These lovely cats are small to medium in size, weighing up to 8 pounds. • They have short tails, pointed ears, and short hair. • Their coat colors are either brown or beige ticked with dark brown paw pads.	• Singapuras are good choices for a home with other pets such as another cat or a dog. • They are very vocal though their "voices" are not as loud as other breeds like the Siamese. • They are very playful and intelligent and do best in an active home that will interact with them often.
Snowshoe Siamese	• Their heads are triangular but rounder than the Siamese. • They are medium sized and have black or black-based color points. • They come in solid, white, blue, lilac, lynx, fawn, chocolate, and seal points and have short hair.	• A very affectionate breed, the Snowshoe Siamese requires a lot of attention. • They are very active and engaged with their people and would not enjoy a home where they are left alone for long periods of time. • They also interact well with dogs and other cats. • They tend to bond with one person in the family. • Like the regular Siamese, they can be talkative.
Somali	• Somalis are a long-hair variety of the Abyssinian. • They have the same big ears and have been compared to a fox. • They come in approximately 30 different colors although all will have some white on their muzzle and dark areas under the eyes.	• Somalis are excellent companions for children and adults. • They are very extroverted and enjoy playing with people. • Due to their social nature, Somalis do better with another feline companion or a dog if they will be left alone a lot. • They are intelligent and active cats who need opportunities to enrich them and keep them from getting bored.
Sphynx	• The Sphynx cat looks like a hairless breed, but they have fine hair. • They are a good choice for people with allergies as they are a hypoallergenic cat. • Their skin is wrinkled and comes in a few different colors: white, black, blue, red, cream, chocolate, lavender, fawn, cinnamon, and tabby.	• Although these are odd looking cats, they are a very good choice for families. • They are intelligent and outgoing and love cuddling, no doubt due to their very short hair makes them cold.
Tonkinese	• The Tonkinese looks similar in appearance to the Siamese because of their lithe bodies and coloring. • They have distinctive aqua-colored eyes and short fur. • They are medium in size compared to other cats.	• Like a Siamese, the Tonkinese are expressive, vocal cats. • They are very focused on people and would not do well alone and would benefit from another cat or dog friend. • They are active, fun cats and are a good choice for children.
Turkish Van	• Though they are a long-hair breed, they don't tend to need a lot of grooming because they don't have an undercoat. • They are white cats with a color pattern on their heads, backs and tails. These colors can be black, blue, cream, tabby and tortoiseshell. • They have blue or amber eyes and often have heterochromia.	• Van cats are special in that they love swimming and water in general. • They can be very independent and active and have been described as "dog-like." • They do well with children, particularly ones who will play with them and keep them engaged.