

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE BALINESE CAT

Thank you so much for your interest in our lovely Balinese. We think they are truly exceptional animals. They have created quite a stir of interest among cat lovers in the past few years due to their great beauty and loving ways.

The question most often asked at shows and among cat fanciers is, "What is the difference between the Balinese and a Himalayan?" The Himalayan, well known across the country, is a Persian-type cat with Siamese coloring. As such, it is judged by the Persian standard (short, cobby body, wide head, short nose, short tail, round eyes with a sweet expression). It was developed by Mrs. Marguerita Goforth of La Mesa, California, who crossed Persians with Siamese and worked for many years to perfect this beautiful cat with its rich Persian coat.

The Balinese, on the other hand, is pure Siamese cat. No other breed has been crossed with it to achieve the long coat. Consequently, it is judged by the Siamese standard (body long and lithe, long legs and tail, almond-shaped eyes, wedge-shaped head). The only difference is that the Balinese has long, very soft silky hair. This long hair has come from mutations - that is to say, long haired kittens have turned up spontaneously among pure-bred, pedigreed Siamese litters. These unusual kittens have been treasured by a few breeders and by carefully breeding long-haired Siamese to long-haired Siamese they proved that the cats will breed true, all long-haired.

Due to the efforts of these pioneers, the Balinese were officially recognized by the Cat Fanciers' Federation, and a standard was published for them in 1963.

Since then all the associations have recognized the Balinese.

The Balinese make the most perfect pets one could wish for. Their coats are much easier to keep in order than most long-hairs' as they are more "flowing", not so dense and do not mat. Also they do not shed, even as much as some short hairs. Depending on the climate in your area, they may shed briefly, once a year; but most of the time you can wear black or navy blue with impunity even if your home boasts several Balinese. They are very intelligent and lively and like their Siamese forbears, enjoy taking part in their owners' activities. But they tend to be a little quieter than the average Siamese. Not to say they aren't chatty when spoken to. You'll always get a response from these long-haired Siamese; but you'll get fewer demands. They are wonderfully gentle and affectionate. We have never heard of a "mean" one.

The best known bloodlines to date are the Rai-Mars, pioneered by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Dorsey of Torrance, Calif., now retired, and the Holland's Farm which has some Rai-Mar blood. Mrs. Helen Smith the creator of the name "Balinese", is also a pioneer with her own bloodline. She has some of the few Chocolate Points available, so far, at her cattery in Seaford, New York. There is the Draheim line from Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Verde, which is part Draheim. E.L.C. Kats of Holiday, Florida, and El Gato of Wooster, Ohio, have their own mutation and many catteries in this country and Canada, such as Ti-Mou, Chen Ye, Die Noelck and Phai, are working with and combining the established bloodlines.

If you have any questions regarding the Balinese, please contact:

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