

The cat cadre

Did you know there are over 70 recognised cat breeds across the globe, each with its own unique charm and characteristics? Join **Qayla Unis Kamili**, AGS Gur, XII, as she unveils the enchanting diversity of the feline world, helping you find the perfect feline companion for your home.



Name: Persian Cat, or the Persian Longhair

Origins: Exported from Iran and Afghanistan in the 19th century to Europe, the Persian cat is one of the oldest domesticated cat breeds. It became popular among the European nobility and eventually spread to North America after World War II.

Colour: White, black, cream, tuxedo, and calico

Size: Medium to large

Ear shape and features: Small, rounded ears

Activity level: Prefers lounging and gentle play

Temperament: Gentle, sweet-tempered, calm, and adaptable

Family-friendly: Persians can be wonderful companions for families with older children who can handle them gently.



Name: Siamese Cat, or the Thai Cat

Origins: Siamese cats are distinctly recognised breeds of Asian cats as they originated in Thailand from the Wichianmat landrace, one of several native cat varieties. Siamese became one of the most popular breeds in the 19th century.

Colour: Bluepoint (blue-grey), Chocolate point (milk chocolate brown), Lilac point (pinkish grey)

Size: Medium

Ear shape and features: Large, triangular-shaped ears

Activity level: Playful, intelligent, and active

Temperament: Social, intelligent, loyal, and attention-seeking

Family-friendly: Siamese cats are wonderful companions and do best in homes where they get plenty of attention and interaction.



Name: Bengal Cat

Origins: The Bengal Cat, developed in the 1960s in the USA, is a hybrid of the Asian Leopard Cat and domestic breeds like the Egyptian Mau, Abyssinian, and Burmese.

Colour: Brown spotted tabby, snow spotted tabby, silver spotted tabby, and melanistic

Size: Medium to large

Ear shape and features: Small to medium-sized, rounded ears

Activity level: Highly energetic and playful

Temperament: Intelligent, curious, and affectionate

Family-friendly: Bengal cats can be wonderful pets, but their high energy levels and playful nature may be overwhelming for some.



Name: Abyssinian Cat, or the Aby

Origins: The Abyssinian's exact origins are a mystery. Genetic studies suggest Southeast Asia

and the Indian Ocean coasts might be their true birthplace. The first Abys exhibited in England in the late 19th century were believed to come from Abyssinia, hence the name.

Colour: Ruddy brown, red, cinnamon, blue, and fawn

Size: Medium

Ear shape and features: Large and pointed ears

Activity level: Highly active and playful

Temperament: Social, curious, intelligent, and loyal

Family-friendly: Abyssinians can be excellent companions for families with older children who can understand their need for attention and playtime.



Name: Sphynx Cat, or the Canadian Sphynx

Origins: The Sphynx originated in Canada and not ancient Egypt. After a hairless kitten was born from a domestic shorthair cat in the 1960s, the development of the Sphynx breed began through selective breeding to preserve the hairless trait.

Colour: Black, white, cream, calico, tabby

Size: Medium

Ear Shape and Features: Large, open ears with sparse covering of downy fur

Activity Level: Highly energetic and super playful

Temperament: Outgoing, affectionate, clownish, intelligent, and social

Family-Friendly: Sphynx cats can be wonderful family pets, especially for families with allergies, but their need for attention and warmth might not be ideal for everyone.