

What You Don't Know About Toybobs

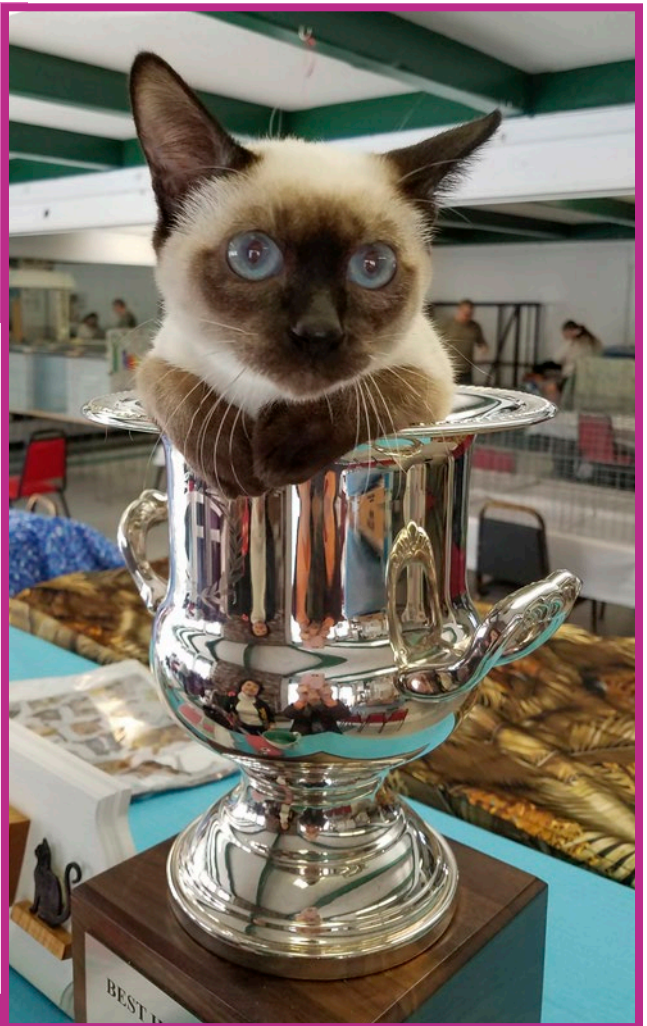
Good Things DO Come in Small Packages!

Candilee Jackson

Breeders and pet owners alike often express the wish that their kitten could remain a kitten forever. Kitten antics, play and ferocious “discoveries” around the home are too cute for words, but all too soon, kittens grow up and the cuteness starts to diminish. What if that wish could come true ... to have a cat remain a kitten for a lifetime - not just with regard to purrsonality, but in size!

Cat Talk would like to introduce you to the Toybob, one of the smallest of the domestic cat breeds.

This diminutive cat can have either a medium-long or short coat, and like Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, can occur in a rainbow of colors and patterns. “As its namesake suggests, the Toybob is a small-sized cat with a kinked bobbed tail.”¹ With a snuggly personality, the Toybob is affectionate and loves lap time with its owners, as well as lots of interactive play.

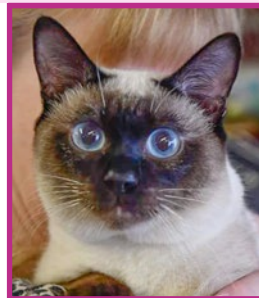


A Little History, If You Please!

These charming little cats “originated in Russia in 1983”.¹ As the story goes, “Elena Krasnichenko found a stray cat that looked like a Siamese with a short, kinked tail. Two years later, Elena’s mother took in a seal-point female with a curled bobtail.”³ After breeding them, one of the resulting progeny, a male named Kutciy, was entered in his first cat show in 1989; he was mistaken for a kitten.³ A judge from “the World Cat Federation (Europe) named this small cat a ‘Toybob.’ Development of the breed continued over the next few decades as breeders expanded the gene pool and introduced new colors and patterns.”³

However, by the late 1990s, the original Toybob lines had become scarce and Alexis Abramchuk of Si-Savat Cattery, a breeder from the Ural Region of Russia, began to broaden the breed’s limited gene pool by adding domestic cats. When Si-Savat discontinued its Toybob breeding program, local Ural breeder, Natalya Fedyeva of Little Angel Cattery, acquired a small male, “Gavrila,” from Abram-chuk, and two females from other breeders, and continued working to restore and expand the breed.⁴

That work has continued among many other breeders over the last thirty years. The Toybob was brought to the United States in 2004



where the cat was shown in The International Cat Association’s Experimental Breed class.⁴ With breeders using a variety of domestic cats to outcross with the Toybob, the cat was known by several different names. Dr Olga Miranova, a WCF judge and book author, suggested in 1994 that the breed be recognized as the Toybob.⁴

In 2014, the majority of TICA-registered Toybob breeders, under the direction of Dr. Anna Gromova, DVM, began to work in close cooperation, focusing on advancing the breed’s recognition. A year later the “International Toybob Cat Club” (ITCC) was formed, with the dedication to promote the breed worldwide, mentor new breeders and unify the breed’s standards across all Cat Fancy associations.⁴

The Cat Fanciers’ Association welcomed the Toybob in 2019, as its forty-fifth recognized domestic cat breed. “Today, all Toybobs can trace their ancestry back to Kutciy.”³

Fun Facts About the Toybob⁴

In Russia, a Toybob can cost as high as 150,000 rubles ... that’s \$1874.03 in US dollars.

The Toybob has a unique voice, causing many pet owners to imitate it or speak out words.

As one of the smallest of the domestic cat breeds, the Toybob is the feline equivalent of a Chihuahua.

Topping out at six pounds, most Toybobs remain the size of a three-to-four-month-old kitten for their entire lives.

Despite their diminutive size, most Toybobs are well-muscled and are surprisingly heavy when picked up.

Living with ...

Giselle Guerriero, Toybob Breed Committee Chair, is the proud owner of Wonderlyn Cattery, located in New York City, New York. She began working with Toybobs in 2014, when there were only two breeders in the United States. Gigi purchased her first pair from Mila Denny, who had imported cats from Russia in the early 2000s.

In 2015, I began importing new lines and Russian Domestic to expand the gene pool and introduce new color traits and long hair. A couple more US-based breeders joined, along with a few Russian breeders, and the first significant effort was made to begin advancing the breed in the US. Also, we began to work with Dr. Leslie Lyons, and she discovered the Toybob tail mutation was unrelated to all other bobtail breeds.

Meg Lambert of Attleboro, Massachusetts, is a well-known Abyssinian breeder but totally adores her Toybob, Tommy. His full name is Whisperstar Tommy of Anubis.

How do I describe my Tommy? He is definitely a gentleman cat. I think all Toybob boys are. If I told you he was nearly perfect, you might laugh, but he is one of the sweetest, most serene cats I have ever met," enthused Meg. "Many Toybob folks maintain that, despite their small stature, their cats run and jump like every other cat. I happen to have been an Abyssinian breeder for almost fifty years. I love the Aby breed, but I will tell you having a number of Abys is a bit like running a commando training camp. By contrast, Tommy virtually asks if he's allowed on the sofa, and he has never jumped onto the counter. He does have a small-tiered cat tree that enables him to climb onto my bed where he sleeps, curled into my body, every night.

Toybobs have many adorable habits. They love belly rubs and will lie on their back to receive them. While lying on their backs, they also enjoy stretching and waving their hind legs. They are the ultimate lap cat. They will sometimes groom your face or hair. One of their cutest traits is what I call "Toybob tongue." When happy, they'll often stick out the very tip of their tongue.

As companion cats, I feel Toybobs are among the most mellow, easiest keepers. Their voices are little squeaks, and they require minimal maintenance. Tommy enjoys having his coat combed or brushed, but he does NOT like his stumpy tail being touched. On the few occasions when he is pretending to be angry, he waves his kinked stump quite furiously.

In addition, Toybobs are extremely fastidious. Due to their quiet, Zenlike dispositions, whole males are easy to house, and they seldom feel any need to "mark" territory. Tommy does tend to be shy around strangers, although you will find him peering out from an advantageous hiding spot, evaluating the new arrivals. When I was still raising Abys and before he was neutered, Tommy would guard the moms and litters, possibly assuming that the elegant, refined kittens were somehow his. His favorite companion is an Aby girl he helped raise. For Tommy, it was love at first sight.

And the Last Word ...

Meg Lambert summed up the Toybob in purrfect fashion:

For me, the Toybob breed was love at first sight when I originally saw photos of two Toybobs that came from Russia to Brooklyn in the early 1990s. It was love rediscovered when I next saw Toybobs in 2017. Getting Tommy was a 25-year-old dream come true. He has not disappointed.

Ultimately, Tommy, like most Toybobs with his Buddha belly and froggy legs, his compact barrel body and his mesmerizing blue eyes in his mink-colored head set on almost no neck is a cuddly little "tommy-bear" of a cat. Like every Toybob, he is a whole lot of love packed into a small, chunky package.



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What You Don't Know About Exotics

Imagine a Persian in its PJs



Introduction

Gorgeous silky hair, a babydoll face, tiny little ears and a plume for a tail ... these are the key ingredients of the cat fancy's best-known breed, the Persian. However, all that hair requires intense daily grooming and expert care to ensure that the cat's beauty remains in condition. Many pet owners are intimidated by the challenge.

Meet the Solution—the Exotic!

“As spectators at the show walk by the cage they look quizzically at the cat and say, ‘It looks like a Persian but it has short hair. The sign says Exotic. Exotic what?!’”¹ Exotics are bred to the Persian standard “with one special exception: the coat has a thick, dense, plush, short coat.” Affectionately known by some as, “the lazy man’s Persian” because its lush fur requires less combing than the fur of a Persian, Exotics offer the beauty and charm of their parent breed along with grooming requirements that are easier to manage. Tailor made for today’s time-pressed lifestyles, the Exotic is the best kept secret of the cat fancy.¹

A Little History, If You Please

A relatively new cat breed, the Exotic primarily resulted from breedings between Persians and American Shorthairs in the early 1960s.³ At about the same time, American cat breeder Carolyn Bussey crossed a Persian with a brown Burmese in hopes of designing a brown colored Persian.⁵ While producing black kittens rather than brown, the result was adorable, short-haired kittens that looked like Persians yet required less grooming than the meticulous Persian protocols.



As other breeders worked with this new breed, it was found that the best outcross was the American Shorthair, which produced a lush coat. To avoid breeding issues down the line, Carolyn Bussey set “exacting standards on breeding which brought a more ethical approach to the cross breeding” and contributed substantially to the foundation of the breed.⁵ Beyond the initial shorthair outcrosses, the Exotic has been consistently bred back to the Persian for many generations now.⁶ Shorthair outcrosses to the Exotic ceased in 1975, and were banned completely in 1987.⁵

The original name proposed for this new breed was “Sterling,” because many of the kittens were shaded silver or silver tabby (likely the result of crosses to silver American Shorthairs). At the time, though, there were no other shorthair breeds that were primarily silver, so the new breed was considered “Exotic” and its name became the Exotic Shorthair.⁶ The word Shorthair was subsequently dropped, and in 1966, the Exotic was formally recognized as a breed by the Cat Fanciers Association.⁶ It is now accepted in every major cat breed registry.³ The breed advanced to championship status in 1967, and the first national-winning Exotic appeared in 1973.⁶ An Exotic went on to become Cat of the Year in 1991.²

Fun Facts About Exotics

- Now more popular than its Persian great-great (etc.) grandparent,⁷ the Exotic is cute, cuddly and playful.
- Exotics look like teddy bears.¹
- Exotics actually have medium-length—rather than short—coats which DO require some grooming, but are less prone to tangles and mats than Persians.⁶
- Exotics tend to shed seasonally rather than consistently.⁶
- Exotics are somewhat shy with strangers but known for their gentleness and affection.⁴
- Exotics are social media stars! Check out Pudge the cat @pudgethecat, or pinpin and Yoyo @pinpin_bibi on Instagram!⁵



Living With ...

Lynn Cook, Exotic Breed Council Secretary, is the proud owner of Callyn Cattery, and calls North Salem, New York home. She was drawn to the Exotic thirty years ago, almost as the breed was created. With pedigrees similar to the Persian, Lynn loves the Exotic's plush, sweet-faced good looks and its endearing temperament.

Calling Martinsville, Indiana, home, Pam and Rick DeGolyer founded Ivy Cat Cattery in 2000, and have bred and exhibited both Persians and Exotics. As a CFA approved allbreed judge, Pam's training introduced to the forty-plus recognized CFA breeds, and although her heart lies with the Exotic, she has "a Cornish Rex and American Shorthair as my forever loving family members."

"My Exotic cats are easy-going and very affectionate. They are also very forgiving, and while they get scared by a noise or a bad storm, they tend to forget about it within minutes!" stated Pam. "My Exotics get along well with my other breeds, and love to eat and sleep. Even though they are short-hair cats, they still need grooming on a daily basis."



Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is home to two short-hair and one long-hair Exotics, who are staffed by Donna Dzrishin. She acquired her first Exotic in 2020 as a therapy cat for her grandson: "Cupcake was the perfect family member addition as she was very well-behaved, compassionate, loving, adorable and the perfect little girl," stated Donna. Recognizing that Donna's husband had terminal pancreatic cancer, Cupcake stayed by his side until his passing, and then took her allegiance to Donna's eight-year-old grandson who was having a tough time dealing with the loss of his grandfather. It was not long before Donna brought Lila, a white Exotic, into the fold. Lila loves lap sitting and mothering the cat family.

Giovanni, a brown mackerel tabby, joined the family at just twelve weeks old. "Oh man, this boy is just too much! He is courageous yet shy, and learns quickly. Giovanni is very athletic, especially when compared with his "sisters," Lila and Cupcake." Donna found that her Exotics were very intelligent and easy to train: "At 9 o'clock, Giovanni knows it's bedtime for my grandson, and he finds my daughter for their nightly routine." Giovanni sleeps on his side of the bed nightly, carefully watching over Donna's grandson.

Lauren Abbe of New Rochelle, New York, has enjoyed the company of Exotics for over seventeen years. Drawn to this breed for their "gorgeous and unique faces," she finds them to be like little dogs with interesting personalities that are not like other cat breeds. Exotics are "lap cats who are very loving and need a lot of attention. They are into everything, and can be mischievous and naughty, but that's because they are smart and curious. They are a wonderful breed, and that's why I have FIVE of them!" quipped Lauren.

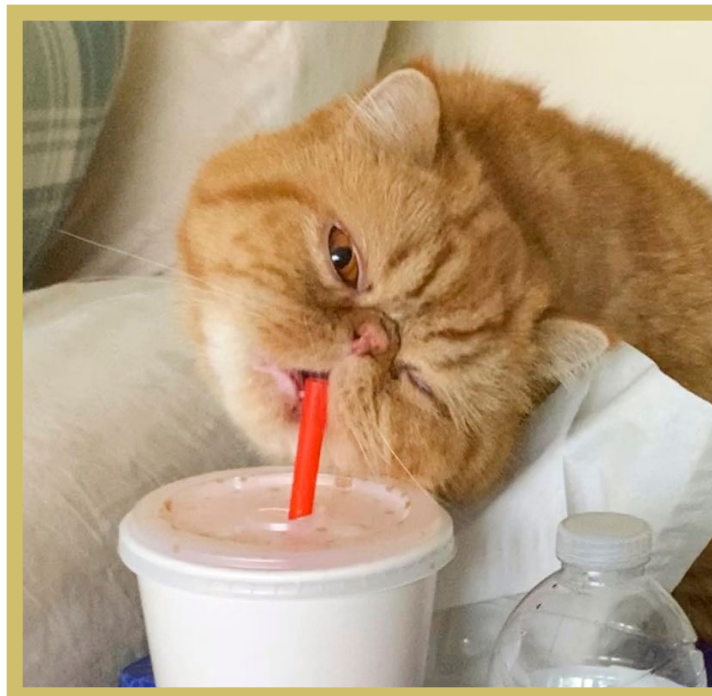
Carolyn Mupo calls Florham Park, New Jersey, home, and has been into Exotics for the last five years. "I used to breed Persians, and before that, I was into Persian rescue." Realizing she really was not into all the work Persians required, Carolyn found the Exotic was her best choice. "I love living with them! They are like little people, and each has his/her own personality. My boy, Adam, loves to play, cuddle and sit like a little person; I always say all he needs is a derby and a little cigar! Adam also loves to argue with himself in the



mirror. Eva is a bit uppity as she knows she is the queen, and every living thing should be happy Eva is in their world! Eva loves my daughter. Prada is MY little girl and is the total lap cat. She is with me all the time, and loves her toys, cuddling and sleeping with me.” And speaking of sleeping, Adam insists on being rocked to sleep, while Prada prefers sleeping on pillows.

And the Last Word ...

Donna Dzirshin gets the Last Word: “To sum it up, owning an Exotic is the most enjoyable, fun, and loving experience. The Exotic possesses the traits of beauty, love, understanding, and compassion, and are great for every age group as they tend to be protective and nurturing.”



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What You Don't Know About Lykoi

Candilee Jackson

Full Moon or Not, the “Werewolf” Cat is Coming On Strong!

Peering into the show shelter, the visitor’s eyes widened as she realized she was looking at a miniature werewolf ... no, a CAT that LOOKS like a werewolf! For real! Outlined in dramatic white fur, the cat’s enormous eyes appeared to peer into her very soul. Yet, instead of feeling unnerved, she felt, well, comforted. Perhaps it had something to do with the purrs this strange little creature was emitting.

While this description may sound like a great opening paragraph for a novel, several people who have interacted with the Lykoi told *Cat Talk* that their initial meeting was reminiscent of such an encounter. Despite the undeniably werewolf-like visage, the Lykoi are warm, loving, gentle companions and devoted lap cats. The name Lykoi comes from the Greek “Lycos,” meaning “wolf”, and is pronounced “lye koi”, as in the Japanese Koi fish.²

“The Lykoi is not a man made, designer breed, but is a natural mutation that randomly occurs in the feral population.”¹ Par-



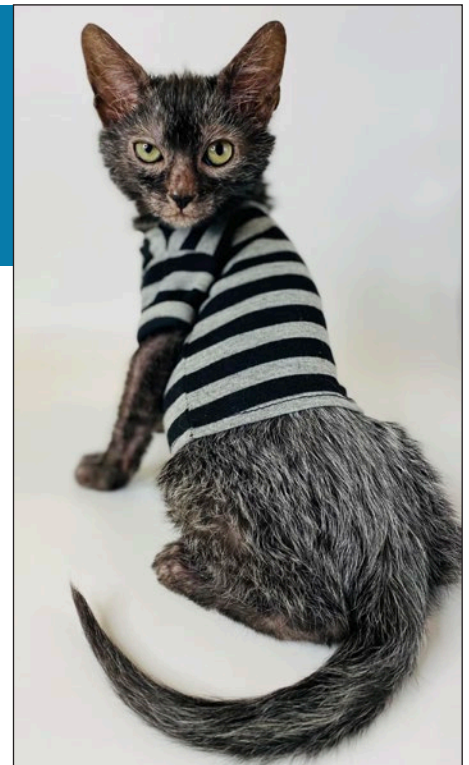
tially hairless, these cats have a unique coat characteristic known as “roaning.”¹ With this in mind, the Lykoi is most definitely an indoor cat. Since it lacks a substantial undercoat, it is especially vulnerable to the weather and “hypothermia as well as sunburn can occur if exposed to outdoor weather conditions.”¹ The Lykoi coat can be sparse, or even fully coated, but cats of this breed will typically molt twice each year.³

Lykoi are a fun loving, intelligent breed who love to interact with humans, cats and even dogs. They are medium-built cats, with slightly slender legs and a muscular body. One of their most striking features is their facial ‘mask’ which outlines and emphasizes the eyes. Regardless of the degree of coat density, which varies, they will always lack an undercoat and wear only the top guard hairs. The coat appears coarse, but is actually very soft and silky to the touch. Although they have a minimal coat, they are not to be considered hypoallergenic.¹

A Little History, If You Please!

The Lykoi origins, while not surrounded in mystery like most cat breeds, are unusual as several people take credit for their discovery.

One such origin story concerns “unusual appearing hairless kittens were found in different feral litters starting around 2010.”³ The kittens seemed to resemble wolves and were found by Patti Thomas who thought they might be Sphynx. In turn, Patti gave them to veterinarian Johnny Gobble and his wife Joni, who were Sphynx breeders, thinking they might be ill. After extensive health evaluations to rule out disease as the cause of their unique appearance, the Gobbles began breeding the cats with black domestic short-



hairs. Over time, Dr. Gobble determined that a recessive genetic mutation caused the breed’s partial hairlessness. And that, combined with a roan-patterned coat, is what gives the Lykoi their one-of-a-kind look.”⁵

CFA states their origins came from a feral colony in Virginia, and their appearance is the result of a natural mutation. “Genetic testing and test matings proved the Lykoi gene to be a recessive gene, and not related to any other known hairless mutations.”¹ After being shown in Miscellaneous and Provisional classes over the past few years, the breed was accepted for Championship competition in February, 2023 and will compete in that class starting May 1st.

Key Considerations for Prospective Lykoi Owners⁴

- Benefits from an experienced owner
- Needs a high level of environmental enrichment, including simulated hunting games and interactive play
- Highly active and inquisitive
- Sociable and dependent
- Very talkative cat
- Benefits from a combination of indoor and outdoor space



- Can be regularly left for a few hours but not long periods of time
- Needs a calm environment

Living With

Desiree Bobby, Breed Council Secretary for the Lykoi, hails from Port Sanilac, Michigan, where her Beeblebrox Cattery produces both Lykoi and Sphynx. A very busy lady, Desiree warmed to her story:

The original founders of the Lykoi were also Sphynx breeders so of course seeing them in the Sphynx community piqued my interest. In 2010-2011, Sphynx breeders were intrigued by the appearance of some weirdly coated kitties that were, at first, assumed to be natural Sphynx. After some experimental breedings and testing, the cats were determined to not be Sphynx at all but carriers of a newly discovered recessive gene that causes fewer hair follicles and fewer hairs per follicle.

A Sphynx breeder since 2007, Desiree's direct involvement with Lykoi began in 2015, when I was contacted by a rescue group that had an oddly coated tabby male and a suspected sister (or half-sister) with a similar anomaly. With the assistance of a Lykoi breeder, we tested and determined these cats also were carriers of the same mutation. These cats pop up in 'in need' situations often, and now, due to their popularity on the Internet and the exposure they have had, rescuers are no longer quick to assume that these cats are sick.

Although the Lykoi are in no way related to Sphynx," she continued, "their

care and grooming are comparable to that of the Sphynx due to the body oils that do not have hair to rest upon. Ears and nails will require the same regular grooming and frequent bathing that Sphynx owners have become accustomed to."

Cape May, New Jersey, is the home of Erin Kirk and her daughter, Windsor. Together they are the proud owners of Faoladh Lykoi and Got Curls Cornish Rex. "I have always loved the weirdo cats. I started out over twenty years ago in Sphynx and then moved to Cornish Rex. I recently began working with Lykoi to help them to become accepted into Championship and Premiership in CFA. I just always have loved the alien looking breeds or the breeds of cats some people ask, 'is that a cat, a dog or a ferret?'" laughed Erin.

Warming to her subject, Erin related that her very first Lykoi stud, Angus, was quiet and shy and rarely got into trouble.

Somehow, he figured out how to open the cabinets that contain all the food and treats in the cattery. It took me several days to figure out that he was actually opening the cabinets because they are not easy to get into. I would come in to check everyone and there would be food thrown EVERYWHERE! This went on for days until I figured out someone had learned how to unlock and open the cabinets. My money was on a Cornish Rex, so I set up a camera to find the offender, but sure enough, it was Angus. The little monkey used his paws to unlatch, turn the knob, and open the cabinets and free the food for all to party. I had to baby proof the cabinets after this!

Spring City, Tennessee, is the home of Adra Foster and her Royal Velvet Cattery, specializing in Sphynx, Devon Rex and Lykoi. Coming to breed Lykoi "on the ground floor," Adra had bred Sphynx for many years. Adra states:

I've always liked the strange and mysterious! I have been intrigued and curious about Lykoi for some time but never had the opportunity to meet one. So, I finally took the plunge and bought my first ones. I was most excited to feel the fur!! It looks like it would be coarse and wiry. To my surprise, it was incredibly soft! I was instantly hooked! I really enjoy the transformation to the werewolf look. They are head turning and just majestic! This breed is definitely one of my favorites now! And I will forever have Lykoi in my life!"

Calling Frenchburg, Kentucky home, Taylor McCoy is a Lykoi mum.

I first got a Sphynx, and shortly after, I saw a photo of a Lykoi kitten. I decided I HAD to have one! I have a pair that will be three years old this summer. My boys have completely different personalities. Remi is VERY vocal and outgoing and although neither of them prefer being held, he is more offering of love. Reverend is a big ball of anxiety; he mostly likes to get his love in bed at night when we lay down. Everything must be on their own terms. They are crazy about snacks and LOVE toys! Reverend can (and will) play fetch for hours. Remi enjoys his cat dad lifting him up to catch the occasional moth

flying around the house. They are mousers as well ... and food thieves! If I'm enjoying a sandwich, occasionally I will look over to see a Lykoi paw sticking out in interest!

Fontana, California, is where Anthony Chavez is servant to Lyra, a blue roan Lykoi. Lyra is almost two years old and Anthony describes her demeanor as playful and energetic.

She is like a little child sometimes, as she loves playing and vocalizing as often as possible. When she is sleepy, she will find a comfy spot with Chloe (my other cat) or in bed with a blanket.

Lenora Cooke, Anaheim, California, began her search for a show cat, and chose the Lykoi so she could represent them to the public as just another cat breed, and not a cat that was sick. "I decided that I wanted to represent them so they too, could live life like any other cat," stated Lenora. She adopted Mr Bagz from Beeblebrox Cattery and loves him to pieces.

His purr is awesome. He will go on loudly for fifteen minutes. He likes to go to Starbucks and get a cat cup full of cream. Everyone there knows Mr Bagz. We taught everyone who shows an interest what kind of cat he is and how his breed was discovered. My gene mutated kitty. Who is not man-made. He is a feral wonder cat.

McKinney, Texas, is the home of Hannah Gruver and her Lykoi, Cria.

I think like most people I was drawn to the breed because of their peculiar look,"

says Hannah. "I didn't know much about them before I got one. But after meeting the breed, I'll continue to have one in the house. Living with a Lykoi is definitely like sharing the house with an opinionated roommate. Cria is vocal and likes to make her presence known in every room she enters. But she is an extremely loving cat who likes to cuddle. During the winter, or whenever she's molting, she likes to burrow under blankets or pillows to steal body warmth. When I brought her home, Cria was so scared of everything that she hid and didn't even want to take treats from us. I kept my six-year-old son at a distance, so we didn't completely overwhelm Cria, but she sneaked into his room and got into bed with him. After their first night together, they were inseparable. Everywhere my son went she followed, with her little tail sticking straight up in the air, just prancing behind him. She definitely chose her person that day.

Melanie Bean, Evergreen, Colorado, fell in love with an Internet picture of a Lykoi found by her husband. "It was love at first sight!" she remembered.

Lemmy is the sweetest cat I've ever had. He loves everyone. We joke that it's too bad our kids are teens and adults because he would have loved being dressed in doll clothes and pushed in a stroller by a toddler. He is incredibly talkative and meows all the time, especially in response to our meows.

Living in the country, Melanie stated that they have to be careful when fresh eggs are

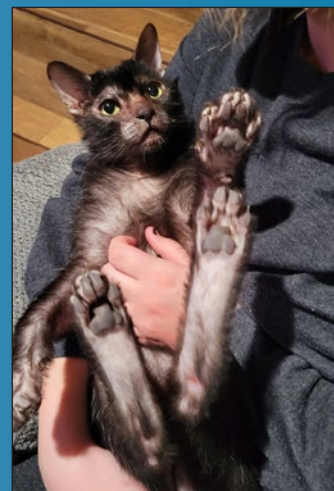
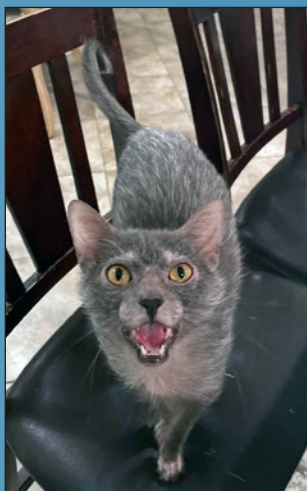
brought in from their chicken coop: "He loves to knock them off the counter!"

St Paul, Minnesota, is the home of "The Silver Bullet of Tarker's Mill," a Lykoi staffed by Jacquie Lantern and her family. Named for the werewolf movie, *Silver Bullet* by Stephen King, Tarker was adopted in January, 2023, leaving behind a way too busy home that caused anxiety.

Since Tarker came into my life, he has been an absolute joy! Watching him play with his food puzzles is like watching a mastermind at work. He's so smart and figures them out in no time!" related Jacquie. "I've noticed that Tarker loves to reach for things. Whether it's his toys, treats or even my hand for pets, he's always stretching out his little paws as if he's trying to grab hold of everything. Tarker is one vocal little guy. The moment he sees or hears me coming, he starts meowing up a storm, as if he's announcing my arrival to the world. And the moment I'm within reach, he flops right onto his back, begging for belly rubs and it's impossible to resist his charm!

Hailed as a Las Vegas phenom, Undead Fred is the mascot of the Wolfenstein Ranch cattery, owned by Tracy Dushane and her family.

Equipped with hairless legs, murder mittens, and a ware-face ... his cuteness resembles something between a homeless possum and a drunken night watching Steven King's *Pet Sematary*. Undead Fred obliterates all stereotypes about what a cat life should be. He even scoffs





at evolution, and molts his sparse coat during the coldest winter months

Fred is my CONSTANT unrequited companion. When I shower, he showers. When I brush my teeth, he rolls in the sink. He loves water, hot or cold, and has no problems joining me in my bathtub with his six inch talons. When I arrive home from work, Fred is right there, at the front door. And when nature calls, yes ... you guessed it ... Undead Fred wants to be on my lap to share in the excitement of 40+ regularity.

Fred talks constantly. In fact, he never shuts up. He chirps more than the hens in my coop but is at least very clear about his demands. He is precocious, presumptuous, somewhat annoying... and HIGHLY entertaining. Fred believes me to be the butler and I now

spend my days opening and closing the doors, turning on and off the water... and ceiling fans... and lights at his whim. If Fred were a movie, he would be BeetleJuice. But if Undead Fred were a magazine, he would be *Cat Talk* ... he would take it over, put himself on the cover, and rule it with an IRON CLAW. Now turn on the fan, human, it's a bit stuffy in here."

And the Last Word ...

The Lykoi are getting a second chance at life. While it was once cats with this appear-

ance were sick with mange, rescues and vets all over the work are now taking a closer look and testing them to determine if each new sparse-haired cat is another example of Mother's Nature's spooky little trick. And Jacquie Lantern earned the exalted position of The Last Word: "As a proud owner of a beautiful Lykoi, Tarker, I am constantly amazed by his fascinating behavior and individuality. It just goes to show that embracing what makes us different can bring us some of the best things in life."

Editor's Note: So many thank yous to the Lykoi family of breeders and pet owners who came out in droves to help with stories and pictures! You all ROCK! Photo credits: Jill Dolge-Butzer, Erin Kirk, Jacquie Lantern, Tracy Dushane, Melanie Bean, Hannah Gruver, Anthony Chavez, Lenora Cooke, Taylor McCoy, and BCS Desiree Bobby.

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