

CAT STORIES
inside



Illustrations by Giulia Lombardo

ATLAS OF CATS

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& Jana Sedláčková



Albatros

Text by Helena Haraštová
& Jana Sedláčková

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INTRODUCTION

All cats and kittens love to play and sleep—did you know they sleep through almost *three quarters* of their life?!—and often they're quite stubborn . . . unless they consume catnip, which entices them to roll around and act silly. Simply put, cats are quite the characters. Also . . .



They're huge rascals!

. . . But at the same time they're the cutest pets around.

They love helping us . . . and sometimes just watching what we're doing.



Deep inside, they're little predators—and no wonder, since they count wild lions, tigers, pumas, and leopards among their relatives! They began palling around with us humans as early as almost 10,000 years ago.



They love hearth and home. They also enjoy playing hide-and-seek in cramped spaces, where they pretty much just melt into taking a nap.



CATS ARE INCREDIBLE, MYSTERIOUS CREATURES . . . HERE'S WHY.

- 🐾 My excellent sight allows me to see in the dark, six times better than humans. My eyes reflect all of the available light, which makes them look like they're shining in the dark!
- 🐾 I explore my surroundings with my whiskers. They also help me find my bearings when it's pitch dark.
- 🐾 My rough tongue is a bit scratchy. I use it mainly to groom my coat (which I spend approximately 15% of my time doing). It can also scrape meat off of bones like a tiny grater.



- 🐾 My ears are moved by 32 muscles and I can turn them 180 degrees. They can even hear the quietest mice in the world.
- 🐾 My strong legs and flexible spine, made from 53 loosely moving vertebrae, allow me to jump at distances six times the length of my body. And I almost always land on my feet! That's due to the stabilization system in my inner ear.
- 🐾 I communicate my mood by changing the position of my tail. Right now, I'm happy you're reading about me!
- 🐾 There's a unique pattern on my nose, just like you humans have unique fingerprints. By sniffing around, I learn about my surroundings and meet other cats.
- 🐾 My sensitive paws with retractable claws are covered with soft pads that drain sweat away from my body.
- 🐾 I have around 40 million hairs!



THE MYSTERY OF FELINE PURRING AND MEOWING

Cats came up with meowing to communicate with us people. They also make one other peculiar sound, and that's purring. Why they do this remains a mystery. Sometimes, they use it to let us know how much they like that belly rub we're giving them. But many scientists also believe they purr to calm themselves down when they're afraid or hurting.



YOU ARE A PART OF MY TERRITORY!

Has a cat ever rubbed her cheeks or tail on you? She did it to put her scent on you and mark you as a rightful member of her territory!

EUROPEAN SHORTHAIR

Despite what you might believe, a savage beast still lives deep inside me—and so I sometimes miss the times when I could run freely in the wild. Crouch, turn my ears up, extend my claws . . . and pounce!

CRAFTY LITTLE MOUSER

INTELLIGENCE: 🐾🐾🐾
 STUBBORNNESS: 🐾🐾🐾
 PERSONALITY: Romper
 WANDERLUST: 🐾🐾
 CUDDLINESS: You may pet me whenever I feel like it.



APPEARANCE

STRONG MUSCLED BODY WITH A SHORT THICK COAT



TEMPERAMENT

Each one of us cats is unique. That's because we are not usually bred, and unlike other breeds don't have to meet strict rules on personality and temperament. We tend to be smart (naturally), playful, and energetic, but we're not crazy hotheads. An afternoon snooze on a windowsill? Yes, please. What we really love, though, is hunting—our hunting instincts are very strong.

ROUND HEAD WITH FULL CHEEKS

STRONG LEGS WITH ROUND PAWS

HOW I FIRST SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY

The first humans I ever befriended were the Roman soldiers I accompanied on their journey around Europe, protecting their food supplies from hungry rodents and cheeky birds. I can't even describe the respect they showed me! Over time, I stopped being a wild predator and turned into a loyal domestic companion, as well as the terror of all mice that infest pantries and storerooms. ➔



WHO ARE YOU, INTRUDER?

Just like wild animals defend their territory, so can I fight for the right to rule my home. Over time, I may come to accept a new cat or dog friend, but it usually takes me a while. After all, I must make sure that my human pack still loves me, since our house is so crowded all of a sudden!



INTERESTING FACT

Any household cat that has the appearance and temperament described above can be called a European shorthair, though it's true that such a cat is pretty hard to find in village squares or animal shelters.

OTHER CATS WITH TABBY PATTERNS

1. Chinese Li Hua
2. Australian Mist
3. Desert Lynx Cat
4. American Shorthair
5. Mojave Spotted Cat
6. Highlander Shorthair



HOW COULD ANYONE GET US MIXED UP?

HIGHLANDER SHORTHAIr

A short tail and upturned ears, as if they've been propped up—you won't mistake me for any other breed.



DESERT LYNX CAT

I have a funny short tail and an endless list of admirers.



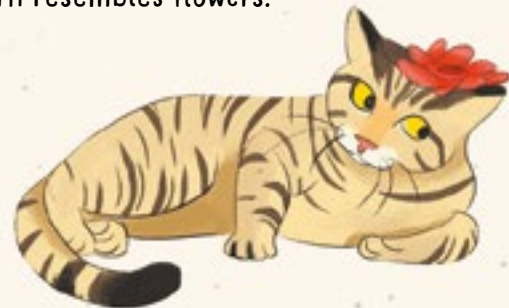
MOJAVE SPOTED CAT

Up until 1984, we lived only in the wild, deep in the dens of the Mojave Desert.



CHINESE Li HUA

My name combines the words for "fox" and "flower." That's because I look pretty wild and my coat's pattern resembles flowers.



AUSTRALIAN MiST

I'm the very first cat ever bred in Australia.



AMERICAN SHORTHAIr

I arrived in America on European colonial ships, where I hunted rats.



MEOW NEWS



7th YEAR — No. 1363 SINCE 1892 WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006 25 CAT HAIRS

A PRIVATE EYE IS WATCHING OVER THE DARK STREETS OF BROOKLYN



TODAY'S EDITION OF THE DAILY CAT BRINGS YOU AN ACCOUNT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH FRED, A TABBY SHORTHAIr TOMCAT WHO WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM BEING A SICK, HOMELESS ORPHAN TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE'S EMPLOYED AS A SECRET AGENT.

Editor Snowball: What is it like, being a secret agent? Is it dangerous?

Fred: Suspenseful. Dangerous. Nerve-racking. But even when the going gets tough sometimes, you always know that you're doing the right thing.

Editor Snowball: Tell us more about that. What was the last case you worked?

Fred: There was this guy, a real inconspicuous one. He pretended to be a vet. He had no certification, no credentials, but also no one had any hard evidence connecting him to the crime. Our guys were constantly prowling beneath his windows, looking through the keyhole, but still couldn't catch him in the act. Finally, me and my partner, Stephanie Green-Jones, decided to go undercover. But of course, a vet needs a patient...

Editor Snowball: So you volunteered as bait?

Fred: Yep.

Editor Snowball: That's really admirable! (Fred and the editor high-five each other, ed. note)

Fred: *Purrr*... All it took was a bit of gumption. When he was just about to inject me with who knows what, Green-Jones leapt to my aid. *Meow!* When we later inspected the crime scene, we found a small cubbyhole in the back, full of animals he wanted to steal.

Editor Snowball: But now the perpetrator is safely locked away.

Fred: Yeah, and... I decided to hang up my career as a policeman up and become a teacher. Tomorrow is my first day at school. We'll be teaching kids how to handle animals well and with care.

Editor Snowball: Thank you for the interview.

Let's say goodbye to the James Bond of the cat world and wish him many more adventures out there!

BRITISH SHORTHAIR

Give me a comfortable couch, the company of a beloved human, and an opportunity to do the occasional feline romping, and I'll be the happiest, most beloved member of your family!

KEEP CALM AND LOVE ME

INTELLIGENCE: 🐾🐾🐾🐾

STUBBORNNESS: 🐾🐾🐾🐾

PERSONALITY: I leave the couch only when I want to play.

WANDERLUST: Where would I go?

CUDDLINESS: Extremely, but only when I want to.



TEMPERAMENT

People love my laid-back nature. I'm a stalwart cool kitty who won't let anything throw her off and willingly pals around both with young human and canine roomies. Feline games and romping are my thing but I don't need a garden or much space to enjoy myself—I can rule a tiny flat just fine. Preferably from your lap, of course.

PLUSH COAT THAT JUST BEGS FOR CUDDLING

STRONG, SQUAD BUILD

APPEARANCE

ROUND HEAD WITH ROUND, USUALLY YELLOW EYES



HOW I SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY →

My ancestors are said to have been brought to Britain by Ancient Romans. After spending many centuries in the isolation of the British Isles (and catching millions of mice), these queens of the English streets were bred with Persian cats. And voilà—the oldest British breed ever was born. Later, we were once again crossbred with Chartreux cats. That's why we resemble them so much.



← INTERESTING FACT

My sister—the British longhair—has a few more Persian genes than I do and adores logic puzzles.

BRITISH SHORTHAIR COLOR VARIETIES

1. Tri Color—Calico (with green eyes)
2. Blue (traditional)
3. Silver & white (with green eyes)
4. Fawn
5. Chocolate (with golden eyes)
6. Black (with blue eyes)





← I USED TO BE “THE LADY IN GRAY”

Now, I can be pretty much any color I like. There are even British shorthairs with three-color, tiger-striped, or spotted coats.

HOW COULD ANYONE GET US MIXED UP?



↑ KORAT

In Thailand, my home, people believe I bring luck. That’s why they often give me to newlyweds as a present.

CHARTREUX CAT →

I’m said to have been raised by Carthusian monks in their monasteries.



↑ MALAYAN

I love to meow, especially late at night. For some strange reason, my human roomies tend to be bothered by it.



MEOW NEWS



19th YEAR — No. 1474 🐾 SINCE 1892 🐾 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015 🐾 25 CAT HAIRS

THE CHESHIRE CAT AND HIS MYSTERIOUS SMILE



Drawing a mysterious cat with a huge grin isn’t exactly a walk in the park. Just ask the man who drew the Cheshire cat, first introduced in the children’s book *Alice in Wonderland*!

It’s getting dark. The clock is striking five-time to enjoy a refreshing cup of tea! John Tenniel, an illustrator,

is sitting in his room, deep in thought. His friend, the writer Lewis Carroll, asked him to draw a cat for his book, *Alice in Wonderland*. “I’m too bad of a draftsman to do it myself,” Carroll said. “I need a professional to do it.” That’s because he didn’t want just any ordinary cat. Carroll himself had tried to draw his mysterious smile, but it resulted only in a bin of wasted paper.

Tenniel takes a sip of the tea, and a mischievous smile lights up his face—he’s got an idea. That gray cat on the wrapper of the cheese he had for breakfast came to mind . . . And the British shorthair from a week ago, the one who destroyed his kitchen tablecloth with her muddy paws . . . He caught her right in the act, but she smiled at him as if nothing had happened. Or those grimacing cat heads he’s been seeing on church walls since childhood. “My beautiful muses!” he rejoices and dips the tip of his pen into an ink well, not stopping until his table is sagging under the weight of the 92 total illustrations, one of them a drawing of the Cheshire cat with a dazzling guilty smile. Tenniel doesn’t know it yet, but he’s just made one of the most famous illustrations in modern history.

A funny detail: Did you know that a group of distant galaxies bears the name of the Cheshire cat? That’s because just like in Carroll’s story, these galaxies appear in your telescope and then vanish like a cloud of steam, meaning that scientists still aren’t sure if they actually exist.

~ Paws, editor ~

SCOTTISH FOLD

I'm said to resemble an owl due to my short, sort of folded ears and wise eyes. What do you think? Hoot, hoot . . . ahem, actually, meow!

INTELLIGENCE: 🐾🐾🐾🐾

STUBBORNNESS: 🐾🐾🐾🐾

PERSONALITY: Nag

WANDERLUST: 🐾

CUDDLINESS: Cuddling makes me as happy as a clam.

OWL AMONG CATS



APPEARANCE

ROUND HEAD AND WIDE EYES THAT HAVE A SWEET INNOCENT LOOK

YOU CAN RECOGNIZE ME BY MY FOLDED EARS (THOUGH THEY LOOKED COMPLETELY NORMAL WHEN I WAS BORN)

I CAN BE LONGHAIRED OR SHORTHAIRED

I HAVE SOMEWHAT SHORT LEGS

HOW I SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY

The first known Scottish fold was my great-great-great grandmother Susie, who lived a happy feline life at a farm in the Scottish county of Perthshire. In 1961, she got noticed by a neighbor, a cat breeder and enthusiast who was so captivated by Susie and her kittens that five years later he set up a breeding station for this breed.



THREE TYPES OF FOLDS

1. Single fold
2. Double fold
3. Triple fold



THREE TYPES OF FOLDS

The era of our ear folds was kicked off by my great-great-great-grandmother Susie. But just to let you know, it isn't as simple as it may seem. Some of us have ears that are folded just a teensy little bit—simply put, their tips are the only thing that's tilted. The ears of others are folded straight in the middle. And some of my relatives have ears that are pressed close to their heads, making their adorable faces seem perfectly round.



TEMPERAMENT

Generally speaking, I'm a walking advertisement for feline happiness. I tend to be in a good mood and love my human family, children, and animal companions. I like to play, especially out in the wild, and will come asking to be pet every once in a while. But I have a mind of my own. I wouldn't be a cat if I didn't, would I? And don't leave me alone for too long, I hate that! Spit, scratch!

LIKE BUDDHA →

I've discovered the secret of divine comfort! Simply squat, straighten up, stretch your hind legs forward, and place the front ones on your tummy. People say I look like Buddha when sitting like that.





MEOW NEWS



26th YEAR — No. 1530  SINCE 1892  TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020  25 CAT HAIRS

Text by Helena Haraštová
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ATLAS OF CATS



Did you know that some cats don't have five fingers, but six? We're not pulling your whiskers—it's true! Whether you have your own pet at home or whether you just like these adorable little rascals—read our illustrated cat atlas, which will introduce you to the most interesting, lazy, cuddly, and wild cat breeds in the world, from the common European tabby to the silky-haired Persian cat and the unusual Lykoi. And don't worry, that one over there isn't a tiny werewolf—it just looks like one. And if you enjoy bedtime stories, don't forget to cuddle up in bed and immerse yourself in the *Meow News*, a newspaper that comes with the atlas. It contains many stories, interviews, and news from around the world of renowned feline celebrities, as well as lesser-known cat heroes and heroines.

Illustrations by Giulia Lombardo

ADVERTISEMENT

A kind and calm Norwegian Forest cat (how unusual!) with fluffy ginger hair, along with two beautiful pots for digging and one little hamster friend, is looking for a human who will gladly serve her delicious meals and comb her soft coat. P.S.: I will share my heart with you!



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