

Persian

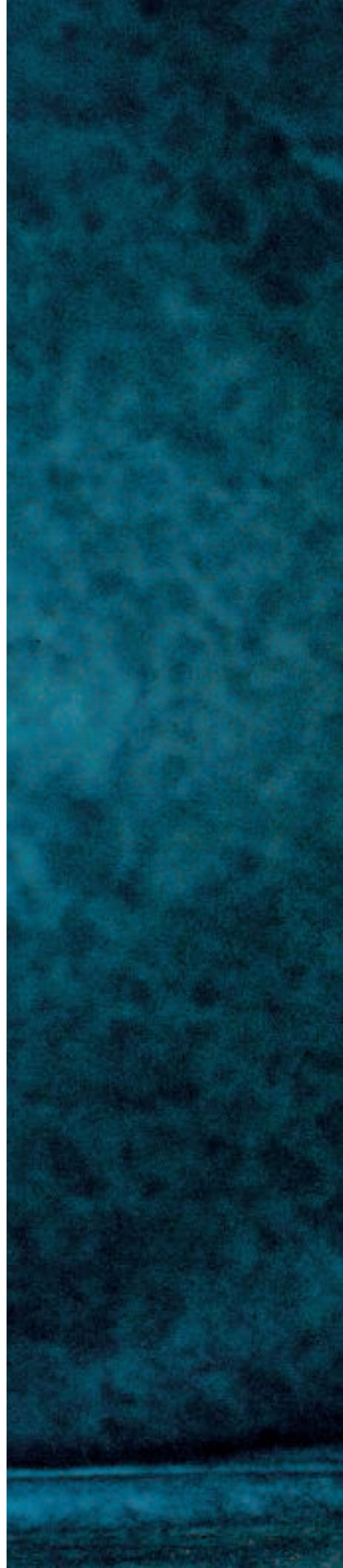
Country of Origin: Great Britain
Other Name: Longhair



The world's most famous breed

Longhaired cats were unknown in Europe until around the mid-16th century. The Persian's first ancestors were imported from Persia (now Iran) to Italy in the 17th century by Pietro della Valle. Later, Nicholas-Claude Fabri de Peiresec, an advisor to the Parliament of Aix-en-Provence, brought two cats to France from Turkey (perhaps they were Angora in type). These cats were highly prized by the European aristocracy. Louis XV had a white Angora Persian. In the first half of the 19th century, some "Persians" bred in Italy and brought to France and England were crossed with "Persians" of Turkish origin. The first specimens were shown in London's Crystal Palace in 1871. At that time, British breeders organized a selective breeding program. Crosses were made with Angoras to improve the coat. In addition, a systematic effort aimed at increasing the range of colors and patterns was begun, leading to over 200 varieties today. Thus, the smoke Persian, the product of black, white, and blue Persians, was shown in Brighton in 1872. A cat named Silver was the first chinchilla Persian shown in London in 1888. Colorpoint Persians, called Himalayans in the United States and considered a separate breed by T.I.C.A. and Kmehr (or Kmer) in Germany, appeared around 1920. Tabby Persians, which appeared over a century ago, were shown in Paris in 1927 as "tigers." Also in the 19th century, British breeders selected the roundest, most massive cats. Around 1930, American breeders obtained an extremely short-limbed type called the "Peke face" (after the Pekingese dog). Possibly the world's most famous feline breed, the Persian was probably used to create the Birman and the British Shorthair.







Persian



GENERAL

Medium to large in size. Short-limbed type with a massive body. The limbs are short. The fur is very long. Royal, majestic bearing. Weight: 3.5 to 7 kg.



COLORPOINT

HEAD

Round, massive, domed. Very broad, round skull. Rounded forehead. Round, full cheeks. Strong, prominent cheekbones. Short, broad nose, sometimes slightly turned up. Marked break between the eyes. Short, broad muzzle. Strong, full, well-developed chin. Broad, powerful jaws (▼).

EARS

Small, rounded at the tip, widely spaced. Not too open at the base, well-furnished inside.

EYES

Large, round, wide open, well-spaced. The intense, deep color corresponds to that of the coat (gold to copper for all colors; green in

the chinchilla, silver, and golden; blue in the colorpoint; heterochromatic in some white-coated Persians, etc.).

NECK

Short, strong, very muscular.

BODY

Medium to large, massive (cobby), powerful. Broad, deep chest; shoulders and hips of equal width. Broad, short back. Short abdomen. Short, massive bones. Firm, well-developed muscles.

forming a plume. Carried fairly low.

COAT

Very fine fur with long hair in the topcoat and

(white, black, blue, red, etc.). White Persians with a pink nose and paw pads can have three eye colors: - Light blue: the most

etc. Orange coloration produces a so-called "smoke cameo" coat.

Bicolor coats with white patches. Among the recognized varieties (in combination with white) are black, blue, chocolate, lilac, red, and cream. Bicolor coats include:

- strict bicolor: white covering 1/3 to 1/2 the body
- harlequin: white covering 1/2 to 3/4 the body
- van: the entire body is white except for the tail and two spots forming a hood around the eyes and the base of the ears (cap)

- Tabby coats, including:
 - blotched tabby: broad stripes, characteristic "M" on forehead, dark lines (mascara markings) on the cheeks, continuous necklaces on the upper chest, butterfly wings between the shoulders, rings around the legs and tail.



prized and the oldest officially recognized color

- Orange or copper
- Heterochromatic ("odd-eyed"): one light blue eye and one orange eye.

- Tortoiseshell coats and variants. Combination of patches of hair with orange pigmentation and patches of black hair. Normally, only females can be tortoiseshell.



- Coats in which the base of the hair is diluted: smoke Persians. The hair root is pure white, and the tip is the darkest possible. The ideal proportion is 1/3 white and 2/3 colored. The most common colorations are black smoke, blue smoke, chocolate smoke, lilac smoke, tortie smoke,

LEGS AND PAWS

Short, strong, straight. Powerful bones, well-developed muscles. Broad, round, strong paws. Long tufts of hair between the toes.

undercoat. Dense, silky, long hair on the entire body (10 cm on average and up to 20 cm on the frill). All colors are recognized.

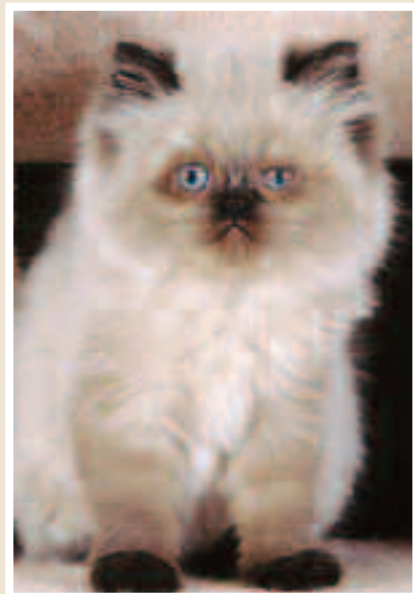
TAIL

Short, in proportion to the body, well-furnished with very long hairs

CLASSIC VARIETIES

Self-colored coats (solid with no stripes or tabby markings). All colors





light bands)

- Chinchilla Persians and variants, originating from a cross between a smoke Persian and a silver tabby Persian. General appearance of the classic Persian but often smaller in size, less short-limbed, and with a less massive head. Very light coat with silver highlights. Tipping (dark pigmentation limited to the hair tip) covers 1/8 the length of the guard hair. The base of the hair is white. Green eyes and a brick red nose with a dark outline.

VARIANTS

- Mackerel tabby: narrow stripes that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to a longitudinal stripe running down the spine
- spotted tabby: circular spots evenly distributed up to the belly. Hairs between spots are agouti-type (with alternating dark and

- Silver shaded Persian: base of the hair is pure white. Tipping covers 1/3 the length of the hair, producing the silver shaded appearance.
 Gold shaded Persian: base of the hair is apricot, with black tipping. This gives the coat its apricot or gold shaded appearance.

- Colorpoint Persians: produced by crossing a Siamese with a Persian. Persian wearing a Siamese coat. Blue eyes.
 • Seal colorpoint: buff body, dark brown markings
 • Blue colorpoint: white body, blue-gray markings
 • Lilac colorpoint: white body, pinkish-gray markings



• red colorpoint: cream-white body, red markings. Colorpoint Persian kittens are born white. Markings appear by around 6 months.

- "Peke face" Persians: This supertype is not always very popular. It suffers from complications involving head deformities (overproductive tear ducts that lead to constant tearing, underbite, difficulty breathing due to a pushed-in nose, etc.).

NOTES

Allowable outcross breeds: Exotic Shorthair (shorthaired Persian).



FAULTS

Long or narrow head. Long nose, narrow muzzle, obvious underbite. Large, pointed ears that are too close together. Small, slanted eyes too pale in color. Narrow, slender, long, high-standing body. Tail too long. Oval paws, long toes. Disqualify: lockets or buttons; kink in the tail, serious jaw deformity (■).

CHARACTERISTICS



The placid, calm, phlegmatic, sedentary Persian is perfectly suited to apartment life. Sociable, peaceful, never aggressive, gentle, and very affectionate, he is very attached to his owner. Persians get along well with other cats, dogs, and children. They are more distant toward strangers. For their well-being, they need a tranquil life. They can tolerate solitude. They rarely use their soft voice. Persians reach maturity at the age of two. They enter puberty late (at approximately 12 months). The breed is not very prolific, and birthing is difficult. Grooming (brushing, combing, and cleaning) is a considerable undertaking. The Persian's long hair is prone to the rapid formation of knots and tufts. It is therefore essential to untangle the coat every day. Persians shed in spring and summer. Their eyes, which produce tears constantly, must be cleaned regularly.



