



# American Bobtails

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# The American Bobtail

## About the American Bobtail

So you've decided on the American Bobtail cat for a pet. Bobtails are an American breed that appeared in the 1960's. These felines are strong and powerful looking yet they make gentle and loving pets. It is important to know all you can about the breed you have selected to make the home transition smooth. It is also imperative that you have a working knowledge of your pet so you can make wise and beneficial decisions concerning your pet, his health, and overall well-being. We have prepared this book for you so that you can easily access information concerning pet care.

## Pet Selection

Now that you have decided what kind of pet you want to acquire, you have a few more decisions to make. The first is do you want to purchase a pet or do you want to try to find one that is being given away. The later option doesn't allow a lot of room for selection as you generally have to take whatever you can find. If you decide to purchase, you still have a couple of choices. Are you going to go to the local humane society or shelter and adopt one? Do you prefer to go to a breeder and find exactly what you want? All these are acceptable choices but they are also very personal choices that only you can make.

## On Adoption

Adoption is an excellent way to acquire a pet. Most cities and counties have local shelters or pet rescue programs. With adoptions there is a small fee that usually includes some shots. There will also be a contract in which you promise to spay or neuter your pet if he is not already fixed. This is to help control the unwanted and stray pet population. With adoption, there sometimes is not a clear or complete history that comes with the pet. You should ask questions of the staff about the actions and demeanor. This could provide clues to his personality.

## On Breeders

Purchasing your pet from a breeder is also an appropriate option; especially for those owners who do not live on a fixed income. When choosing a breeder you can make a list of characteristics you want in a pet and then find a breeder who can meet your wants. A breeder can provide registration papers, shot records, and a complete history of the pet you have selected. You should be able to find a list of suitable breeders online. Your local veterinarian may also be able to suggest a breeder.



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## General Characteristics of the American Bobtail

The Bobtail is a strong, intelligent cat that originally evolved to survive the elements. It has a medium to large build with a moderately long and noticeable body. It has a rectangular shape stance, which exhibits his power and agility. Bobtails have either short medium semi dense hair or medium length long hair that is all weather and water resistant. The topcoat of the bobtail's hair is hard with a down like undercoat that insulates his body from the weather. These breeds come in many different colors and shades. The Bobtail's trademark bobtail is naturally occurring. It is clearly visible when alert and will not exceed the hook in length. The best tail is articulate and nearly strait with the slightest of curves. No two tails are exactly the same but the average tail is between 1 and 4 inches long.

These wild looking animals have a great disposition and can adapt to new situations and/or environments with ease. Unlike most cats, Bobtails get along well with dogs and are excellent with children. Bobtails are unique as they are devoted cats and can get along with other household pets.

Average Weight	8-12 pounds	Coat	Short/medium length dense hair
Average Height	7-12 inches	God with Children	Yes, especially good as they adapt to changing noise and stress levels very gentle
Temperament	Gentle, loyal, loving	Health Concerns	Chronic renal failure, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, liver disease, and chronic bronchial disease

## Before You Bring Your Bobtail Home

Now that you have selected your new kitten, there are a number of things you should do before bringing him home to make the adjustment easier for both you and your pet. You should "kitty proof" your home right away. Make sure there are no dangling power cords or venetian blind cords hanging in sight. You should also do a little research and see which plants are ok for kitty because many common household plants and flowers are poisonous to cats.

You should make a list of things you'll need. A litter box, scratching post, and good quality kitten food are only a few items you will need. Cats are intelligent and fairly easy to train so you should have some treats to reward desired behavior. You should keep in mind though that cats are mischievous but can be trained to not act improperly. You must not forget a bed to sleep in and bowls for kitty's food and water.

### Your Bobtail Kitten

Your kitten will be rambunctious and full of energy. You should play with him and spend time with him frequently. Ten to fifteen minutes several times a day will help curve kitty's mischievous ways and help build a strong bond between the two of you. It is important that you feed your kitten food specially formulated for his growing needs. Your vet or breeder can recommend the best one. You will need to feed him twice a day for about the first year. Always make sure he has clean drinking water available. There should always be plenty of toys and balls to keep your kitty active and to keep him from playing with things he shouldn't.



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You'll need these basics before your Bobtail comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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This is also the time set up an appointment with your veterinarian. It is imperative that your kitty gets all his shots in order. There are several diseases such as feline leukemia that are preventable if a cat receives all his vaccinations on time. Kittenhood is also the time to get other healthy habits started. You should always feed him right being careful not to overfeed. This is also the time to get your cat used to grooming. It is best to introduce grooming and nail clipping at an early age so they will become accustomed to these rituals.

### Your Adult Bobtail

As your kitten grows to a cat, you will notice several changes in his behavior. Though he will still play around some he will not be as playful as when smaller. Everything is not a game to him anymore. He will not need to eat as often either. Once a day is adequate feeding for the full-grown adult cat. By now he has a spot or two picked out that are his own. It may be in the window sill or on your favorite chair back. If your baby is an inside cat, you should be sure you have a good scratching post for him. It will take about two years for your cat to be considered a full grown adult.

### Your Aging Bobtail

As your Bobtail cat begins to age, he will experience a number of changes. Most felines are considered geriatric by the age of twelve. This will, of course, depend on his early lifestyle. Cats that are kept inside tend to live longer than those kept outside. Either way, as cats start to age, their metabolic rate slows down causing a decline in energy needs. Their ability to regulate body heat and intolerance to heat and cold become more predominant. They gain more weight and their hair becomes dull.

You will notice a decrease in mental alertness and their grooming and litter box activities will not be so neat. An aging feline has a much greater susceptibility to disease and sickness. You must provide proper dental care especially to the aging cat as their teeth can be the bridge to many other sicknesses. Occurrences of certain diseases, such as chronic renal failure and diabetes mellitus, are much higher in the aging cat. However, if diagnosed and treated soon enough, your cat can still live a fairly long life.

## Feline Medical Considerations

Cats are susceptible to several diseases. Diseases such as feline leukemia and rabies are included in their inoculations upon their visits to the vet. It is extremely important that your cat has regular checkups. In addition to the diseases that are vaccinated against, cats also suffer from chronic renal failures, hyperthyroidism, diabetes mellitus, liver disease, and chronic bronchial disease.



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