



# Balinese Cats

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# The Balinese

## About the Balinese

With the distinguishing feature of the long coat, the Balinese cat has commonly been mistaken for the Siamese cat. They have blue and almond-shaped eyes with a variation of colors, which include blue, lilac, seal and chocolate. Contrary to belief, they were named because of the similarity of their elegant shape and movement to the early Balinese Temple Dancers on the Island of Bali. Ms. Marion Dorsey of California began breeding and showing the longer-haired variety in 1955. In 1961, the Balinese was recognized and accepted in the Cat Fanciers' Association. The Balinese is a medium sized cat and resembles the body shape of the Siamese. One distinguishing characteristic of the breed is the gorgeous long plumed tail, which does not require as much grooming as other long coated breeds. The Balinese cat is a very beautiful and graceful breed and is rated the highest in intelligence of all longhaired breeds.

Average Weight	12-16 lbs males, 8-12 lbs females	Temperament	Loyal, intelligent, curious, loving
Average Height	Medium sized	Good with Children?	Playing and easily adapt to children activities
Coat	Fine and silky	Health Concerns	Crossed eyes

## Balinese Characteristics

These cats are extremely intelligent, curious and loving. The Balinese socializes well with other cats and dogs, but still retains a level of independence by wanting to be left alone. They have more loyalty to their owners than most people expect from a cat. Often times, they will follow their owners and wait outside of any door of a room you occupy while waiting to get on your lap. These cats are very agile, swift, muscular and extremely intelligent. It may not be uncommon to see them playing fetch or any other made up games.

## Selecting Your Balinese Kitten

Prior to obtaining a cat, you may want to visit other cat owners or research information on cat breeds. It is important to know that all breeds are not the same and you should determine what type of personality is most appropriate for you. When you make your decision, whether it is from a breeder, a rescue or adoption agency, your local shelter, friend or newspaper ad, cats are very good pets to have. It is of the utmost importance that you have your cat spayed or neutered to keep the cat population under control. Breeders are your best source of obtaining a pure Balinese. These cats can cost \$250 and up which may be a small price to pay from reputable breeders.



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## A Few Words About Adoption

Rescue and Adoptions centers can provide a supply of healthy cats. Although the history may not be available, physicals and required shots are provided. There may be a nominal cost for the adoption, which may include the service for spayed or neutered cats.

## A Few Words About Breeders

Reputable breeders are your best source for locating a Balinese. Information concerning the Balinese should be available on the background, genetic traits, personality, vaccinations, and health of the cat. Always verify that the breeder has a valid reputation. Contact the breeder about any return policies for health reasons. Verify with the breeder that the Balinese has had an opportunity to socialize with other cats.

## How to Choose your Balinese

One thing to consider about a Balinese is that they do not tolerate being mistreated. If you have children, these cats may be considered a great pet because they adapt easily to the noise and activity of children. Like the other feline counterpart the Siamese cat, Balinese cats hate being left alone for long periods of time and will often create mischief if left alone or bored. When planning to choose a Balinese cat it is probably a good idea to get a pair together.

## Bringing Your Balinese Home

Before you bring your kitten home, you will need a place to sleep, a scratching post or pad, and a litter box and litter. One important factor is that you must be willing to invest the time for future development, health and well-being. Toilet training can be accomplished with patience, persistence, and the right cat.

## The Balinese Kitten

People have a tendency to choose kittens over adult cats because of their energetic playfulness. Oftentimes, there is nothing quite as much fun as playing with a kitten or watching him at play. Maintain a consistent diet because sudden changes in their eating patterns can cause an upset stomach and diarrhea. Check with your breeder or veterinarian if you're not sure where to start for a diet. Schedule the first exam after the kitten has been weaned about 6 to 9 weeks of age. Breeders make kittens available between twelve and sixteen weeks of age. After twelve weeks, kittens have developed basic physical and social stability that may be needed for a new environment. Deciduous or "milk teeth" begin to appear when the kitten is about four weeks of age. At six weeks of age all 26 deciduous teeth are present. From 11 to 30 weeks of age, kittens lose their deciduous teeth. During this time they may eat less because of sore gums. The veterinarian will check the kitten's heart, ears, eyes and nose and check for internal and external parasites. As a general rule, these cats should never be left outside.



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## The Balinese Adult

When choosing a Balinese, personality, health, appearance and grooming needs should be considered. Balinese are easygoing, affectionate, lap cats that are gentle with children. One advantage of the adult cat is that they adjust to a new home without difficulty and they bond just as easily with humans as kittens. Unfortunately, an adult cat may come with habits that may not be so easily appreciated. Adult cats can also learn to change their behavior when you take the time to work with them.

As your cat ages, his nails, paw pads, coat, skin, eyes and ears need ongoing attention. Make grooming a happy time for your cat. Also keep claws trimmed as needed and keep teeth tartar under control.

## The Balinese Senior

Regular doctor visits are essential to the longevity and quality of life for the Balinese. These cats are known for their robust health and long life spans. Some cats have lived as long as 18-20 years.

Most cats are considered old cats at age 10, but most cats will live 15 years or more. Senior pets may have changes in disposition and could easily be stressed out by active young children. They may show signs of irritability when being handled. It is important to know that senior animals tend to do things their own way and in their own time. Care for your senior in a loving, gentle manner mixed with a little patience and understanding.

## Medical Considerations

Regular doctor visits are suggested for the Balinese. It is recommended that you monitor your cat's body condition to avoid overfeeding. When a cat turns 7, it is considered an older cat and is at risk for developing health problems due to age. Often times an owner may not recognize the signs of aging until they see the activity level decrease. During the lifetime of the Balinese, a cat will develop two sets of teeth. One set of deciduous set and a permanent set. Kittens are born with 26 deciduous teeth and adult cats have a total of 30 teeth. On occasion, extra teeth may be found in cats. If the Balinese's teeth cause crowding or injury to soft tissue or other teeth, it is recommended that you contact the veterinarian to remove these teeth.

Certain genetic health disorders may be more or less of a problem in a particular breed than in other breeds. For example, a breed may have a slightly higher incidence of gum disease than the cat population as a whole, but have a lower incidence of heart disease or liver disease. By working with a responsible breeder who will speak openly about health issues, you are encouraging sound breeding practices.

The most common inherited health problems are gingivitis (red inflamed gums), which will cause an affected cat to require careful dental care, and cardiomyopathy, which can cause anything from a minor heart murmur to severe heart trouble. Again, neither of these problems is specific to the breed.



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