

## It's a Matter of Class

**Do you think a pedigreed cat is out of your price range? Think again.**

*Susan Cameron*

Posted: Tue Feb 27 00:00:00 PST 2001

"I sell my pet-quality Persians anywhere between \$150 and \$300, depending on the bloodline," says Nancy Thomas of Katazphere Cattery in Salem, Ore., who says she keeps her retired cats as personal pets or gives them away to friends.

"Whatever the age or price of my cats, they're all weaned, know where their litter box is and are healthy and clean," Thomas adds, echoing other breeders' comments on what a buyer should expect. This includes all relevant immunizations and feline leukemia virus testing. Papers should include a pedigree going back three or four generations, a registration slip from a national cat registry and an agreement of sale, including a health guarantee.

"I don't give out the registration slip for my younger cats until proof of spaying or neutering is returned to me," Thomas says, stating a common practice that ensures controlled breeding. Many breeders now alter their kittens before sale.

Once you make the big decision to find a special pedigreed pet, the search, in itself, can be fun and rewarding. A wealth of written information is available concerning the distinctive characteristics of each fascinating breed, and you'll find many experts willing to help you make the right choice. Once purchased, your cat will become a new friend, one whose quality of love knows no class boundaries.

- More Kittens -

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