

Kitten History: Egyptian Mau

The Egyptian Mau's extraordinary appearance originates from ancient Egypt.

Stacy Hackett

Your Egyptian Mau kitten bears the spots and regal attitude of ancient cats worshipped by the Egyptians and painted on the temples. Your kitten seems to know this, demanding respect in her cute, kitten ways. But though the legends add to her appeal, her roots go back to a Russian princess and her precious pet cats.

In 1956, an exiled Russian princess named Natalie Troubetsky emigrated to the United States with her pet cats: two silver females, Baba and Liza, and a bronze male, Jojo. She settled in New York City and established the Fatima Cattery, and the Egyptian Mau immediately caught the attention of the cat fancy.

As the breed's popularity grew, more and more gorgeous Maus made the rounds of the cat shows, until the breed was finally accepted for championship status in 1977. Today the Egyptian Mau enjoys worldwide acclaim, appearing in shows in Europe, Japan, Canada and the United States.

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