

Kitten History: Havana Brown

Your kitten's coat of rich, warm colors of brown earned him the name Havana Brown.

Stacy Hackett

The rich mahogany color of your Havana Brown kittens coat brings to mind the dark color of tobacco in fact, your kitten owes his name to this resemblance. Like a fine Cuban cigar, his coat picks up all the warm shades of brown that earned the breed its name.

Brown cats appeared in the organized cat fancy as early as 1890, parading through shows in Europe. They disappeared for many years until resurfacing in the early 1950s. A group of dedicated British breeders worked to isolate the genetics of a self-brown cat, producing a chestnut brown kitten from a black shorthair and a chocolate point Siamese.

The breed soon made its way to the United States, imported by Elsie Quinn of Quinn Cattery. The first American-bred Havana Brown, Quinns Brown Satin of Sidlo, was the first Havana Brown to achieve Grand Championship status in the Cat Fanciers Association in 1959. Today, all U.S. Havana Browns can trace their lineage back to Brown Satin.

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