

Kitten History: Persian

You'll know this kitty instantly by its flowing coat, open expression and laidback personality.

Stacy Hackett

The Persian kitten makes a beautiful, loving pet. Its no wonder that Persians comprise the most popular breed in the cat fancy.

Long the darlings of cat shows and loving homes, just where did these beloved companions originate? Legend has it that longhaired cats were treasured pets in Persia (present-day Iran). As desert caravans made their way west, the cats were bartered and traded with other travelers, eventually making their way to Europe and North America.

Today, the Persian comes in a rainbow of colors. In the Cat Fanciers Association, breeders can register their pets in seven divisions: solid color, silver and golden, shaded and smoke, tabby, particolor, bicolor and Himalayan. Potential owners are sure to find a longhaired beauty in a color and pattern to match their tastes.

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