

Cats USA 2007 Editor's Note

Quest for a Great Kitten

By Jackie Franza

There's nothing better than a warm, purring cat lying in your lap. Whether you're watching television, catching up on the bills or getting ready to fall asleep, the calming presence of a kitty always seems to make everything much more enjoyable.

People who love cats know that these wonderful creatures run the gamut of personalities. Some cats are laidback, languid types, content to wile away a lazy afternoon snoozing under the coffee table. Others are active, curious charmers, always poking their noses into all the action in the household.

If you're thinking about adding a new kitten to your family, it's important to identify your feline preferences before you start searching. After all, this cat will be a part of your life for the next 12 to 15 years or more. Those years will be much more enjoyable if the cat lives up to your expectations.

So, what type of feline do you fancy? Do you prefer a calm lap cat or a feline comedian? A quiet kitty or a chatterbox? In addition to personality preferences, determine your favorite feline look. Some people prefer no-nonsense shorthaired cats—petting is often all the grooming they need. Others enjoy luxurious longhaired cats—even if it means daily brushing and combing to keep that gorgeous fur tangle-free.

The great thing about pedigreed kittens is we know a lot about their personalities and what they will look like as adults. For instance, Siamese and Orientals tend to be active and vocal, and always have a short, sleek coat. Persians and Ragdolls are usually quiet and mellow, with plush, longhaired coats. If you have an idea of the traits you're looking for, a little research will help you choose a great breed for you. Check out the breed profiles in "What's Your Cat Style?" on page 8 for some ideas, then go online, pick up a breed book or even visit a cat show to narrow your choices down. (See "Check Out a Cat Show" on page 110 for more information.) Once you've decided on a breed, "Where to Find Your Pedigreed Kitten" on page 20 will help you learn how to select a reputable breeder.

Of course, the real fun begins once you bring your kitten home. Your kitty's silly antics will have you laughing for sure—and don't forget about all that relaxing cuddle time with your new pet. Once you discover the pure joy a feline friend brings to your life, you never look back.