

PASSION *for* PETS

Bengal - Information Sheet



ORIGIN - Originally christened the Leopardette, the Bengal is a hybridisation of domestic cats & Asian Leopard Cats (a small wild cat). In 1963 Jean Sudgen of Yuma, Arizona purchased a female Asian Leopard cat (named Malaysia) from a pet store. Believing the cat to be lonely, she put a black domestic cat in her cage for company. The animals mated & produced two kittens, a male & a female called KinKin. Sadly, the male was fatally mauled by Malaysia but KinKin was safely removed & raised by a Himalayan queen.

DESCRIPTION - The Bengal cat is a medium to large cat with a long, muscular body with robust bones. It's hind legs are slightly longer than the front legs, the feet are large & oval. The head is broad modified wedge, which is longer than wide, with small ears & pronounced whisker pads. Eyes are black rimmed & almond shaped. The tail is thick, tapering to a black tip. The coat is thick, beautifully sleek & soft feels more like a pelt than fur. The belly is whited & should also have spots. There are two Bengal patterns. Spotted & Marbled. Spotted: The spots should be dark & clear, with a crisp outline with a good contrast to the background colour. The spots can be either solid, arrow shaped or as rosettes. Spots should be found on the body, including the belly, the legs will have spots & or stripes. Spots should be random or horizontal in alignment. Marbled: The marbled pattern consists of contrasting horizontal swirls along the side of the cat. The contrast must be extreme.

COLOUR - There are three different coat colours of the Bengal: Traditional Tabby colours: Brown Spotted & Brown Marbled. Sepia Tabby Colours: Seal Sepia Spotted Tabby & Seal Sepia Marbled Tabby. Mink Colours: Seal Mink Spotted Tabby & Seal Mink Marbled Tabby.

COAT LENGTH – Short

AGE EXPECTANCY - Bengals generally live until their early teens

WEIGHT / HEIGHT RANGE - Bengals normally weigh between 4 - 8kgs

PERSONALITY - Bengals are intelligent, active, energetic cats. Bengals have a love of water. They are agile, love to climb & can be vocal with a distinctive voice. They get along well with other pets & people. Bengals enjoy high places & are enthusiastic climbers. Many Bengal owners have trained their cat to walk on a harness, so they can enjoy the great outdoors in safety.

ENERGY – High

NOISE – Low

CHILD SUITABILITY – Low

COMPATABILITY WITH CATS – Medium

OTHER ANIMAL COMPATIBILITY - Low

FEEDING & GROOMING

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FEEDING – Bengals are a large cat and requires approximately 80 Kcals of food per kg of bodyweight per day. Although this is a large cat it must not be obese and a careful watch must be kept on the diet.

UPKEEP - The short close lying coat of the Bengal does not require much grooming although they do appreciate the attention that comes with it.

SHEDDING - Moderate