

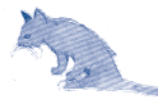


10-1-2002

Animal Crackers

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University of Pennsylvania

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Egyptian Mau

In ancient Egypt, cats were highly valued. Egyptian art after 3000 B.C. shows cats helping to fish, hunt and catch rats. Bastet, the cat-headed Egyptian goddess, presided over all things feminine, including child-bearing. Cats were protected and mourned after death and often were mummified and buried in sacred ground. Last century, thousands of these preserved bodies were shipped to England. Many were ground up and used as fertilizer. Some of these reached the British Museum where scientists examining them and found most resembled Abyssinians and Egyptian Mau. The Mau (Egyptian for cat) is the only naturally occurring spotted domestic cat. It was introduced in the United States in 1957 by Princess Troubetskoy.

The Egyptian Mau is recognized by the Cat Fanciers Association. It comes in three colors – silver, bronze and smoke. Eyes are gooseberry green.

It is a medium-sized cat with the lean and elegant lines shown in Egyptian paintings. The coat is short and requires little maintenance. Comb to reduce shedding. Polish the coat with a soft chamois or silk scarf.

Trivia

Crossword puzzle aficionados may know the terms used to describe groups of animals and birds – others find them interesting and amusing.

Swarm of bees	Clowder of cats
Host of sparrows	Litter of puppies
Clutch or brood of chicks	Pod of seals
Exaltation of larks	Gang of elk
Muster of peacocks	Band of gorillas
Charm of finches	Pride of lions
Cloud of gnats	Flock of sheep
Murder of crows	Troop of kangaroos
Plague of locusts	Sleuth of bears
Bevy of swans	String of ponies

The cheetah is reported to be the fastest animal (200 mph) while the Peregrine falcon had been clocked at 70 mph.

The average length of pregnancy in the elephant is 624 days. In the horse the average is 336 days and in the cow it is 280 days. The average for cats and dogs is 63 days. These number may be lower or higher in individual animals.

New Breeds

On January 1, 2003, two breeds become eligible to compete for championship points at AKC dog shows – the toy fox terrier in the toy group and the German pinscher in the working group.

The toy fox terrier is an American breed and is sometimes referred to as the Amertoy. It was developed by breeding small smooth fox terriers with other toy breeds, including Chihuahuas and Maltese. The erect, pointed ears are a distinguishing feature. It must be under 11.5 inches and over 8.5 inches in height. There are a number of disqualifications in the breed standard. More than 50% of the body must be white, but the head may not be more than 50% white. The head and body spots must be the same color. Judges at the shows will have to study the standard carefully.

The toy fox terrier has a milder disposition than many other terrier breeds. It is alert, intelligent, friendly and good with children.

The German pinscher is a medium size, short coated dog, smaller than, but similar to, the Doberman. Except for the short coat, it resembles the standard schnauzer which originally was called the wire haired pinscher. German pinschers are known for their vermin

hunting skills and are considered excellent watchdogs and companions. Dogs are strong-willed and can be stubborn and manipulative. Consistent, gentle discipline is a must.

It is always a good idea to investigate a breed before buying a puppy. Try to see adults with the breeder or at dog shows. Don't make your decision based on what you might see on television. A wealth of information about breeds, breed clubs, dog shows, etc. is available on AKC's website – www.akc.org.

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Volunteers are needed for Fair Hill International

Thursday, October 24th
through
Sunday October 27th

International Olympic
quality riders and
a carriage competition.

Volunteers for the Vet box
on Saturday should contact
Bodgie Read at 302-737-2499.

Any other volunteers should
contact Cheryl Bagnal at
410-620-9350 or
email cheryl@eclipsedel.com