

FACT SHEET ON BUYING A BIRMAN KITTEN

WHAT IS A BIRMAN AND HOW DO I PURCHASE ONE?

The BIRMAN is a longhaired cat with the advantage of having a long coat that does not matt, making them ideal for those who like longhaired cats but do not have the time required to care for a Persian.

Similar to the Siamese and Colour point Persian in coat pattern and eye colour, this is where the similarity ends. The type is quite different from either of these other breeds. Birmans have a heavier body than a Siamese but not as cobby as a Persian.

Their head also differs, being less extreme than a Siamese and not as rounded or as bold in the eye as a Persian. The head is strongly boned with the width greater than the length, the nose has no 'stop' but is slightly Roman in shape giving the cat a very aristocratic profile. The eyes are round with a slightly flattened top corner and not bold, with a very sweet expression. The eye colour is usually a melting dark blue.

The temperament is quieter than most oriental cats but they are more active and adventurous than the average Persian, truly the best of both worlds. The white gloving, combined with the Himalayan pattern is unique to the Birman. They are now available in a wide range of colours and patterns on the points yet still retaining the creamy white body of the original Seal and Blue points.

Birmans are an easy-going, independent and adaptable breed making an excellent family pet and a devoted, loyal companion for someone needing a friend.

AVAILABILITY

The Birman Cat Club of New Zealand (Inc) operates a kitten information service run by volunteer Birman club members who, upon receipt of a stamped self addressed envelope, or advice of an email address will send you a list of our breeders and their contact details. These Information Officers are also available on-line (see email addresses) or can send you our information package by Fax.

The price for your birman is set by the breeder but as a guide the average price appears to be around - \$450-\$500 at present.

Your chosen breeder should supply you with all details of diet and daily care and also information on de-sexing. Most breeders will ask you to sign a de-sexing contract. Upon receipt of a statement from a veterinary surgeon stating that the kitten has been de-sexed (usually at about six months of age) the breeder will send you the pedigree papers and transfer the kitten to the buyer's name through either the NZ Cat Fancy or Catz Incorporated.

No breeder should sell a kitten less than 10 weeks of age as stated in the N.Z.C.F. and Catz Inc rules. The kitten must be free of parasites, have clean eyes and ears, a healthy feel to its coat and **MUST** have had at least ONE vaccination. **Please ensure that you as the purchaser, are supplied with a vaccination card, a fact sheet outlining diet and care and a de-sexing contract.**

Remember, when you buy a kitten you are buying a pet that will require love and care for about 15 years, sometimes even longer. This is commitment that cannot be taken lightly. However, when you take a Birman into your home and family you will wonder how you ever lived without one. It will ask for very little but will give so much pleasure in return.

The Birman Information Officers for the Club are:

Auckland – Sandy Steward 09 420 5179, email: sandy.steward@xtra.co.nz

Waikato – Cheryl Blake, 07 862 4993, email: adorabella@paradise.net.nz

Central N.I. – Margaret McDougall 06 753 3981, email: the.mcdougalls@xtra.co.nz

South Island - Susan Edwards 03 455 7136, email: ayesha@imagemz.co.nz

RESCUE

The Birman Cat Club of NZ Inc also runs a rescue service. If you hear of a Birman that seems to be lost, stolen or strayed or if you are interested in putting your name down for a Rescued Cat/Kitten please contact our Rescue Officer's **David Armstrong** on P: 09 271 3464 or 025 837420, e-mail davidarm@xtra.co.nz, **Sandy Steward** on P: 09 420 5179, email: sandy.steward@xtra.co.nz, **Cheryl Blake**, P: 07 862 4993, email: adorabella@paradise.net.nz, or phone a Birman owner near you.

SHOWS

The 25th Annual Birman Show will be held on **Saturday, May 23th 2009 in Auckland – venue – Howick, Rec Centre, Pakuranga Highway, Howick.** For further information regarding this Show, please contact our Information Officers. The show will be open to the public from 9.00am until 4.00pm.