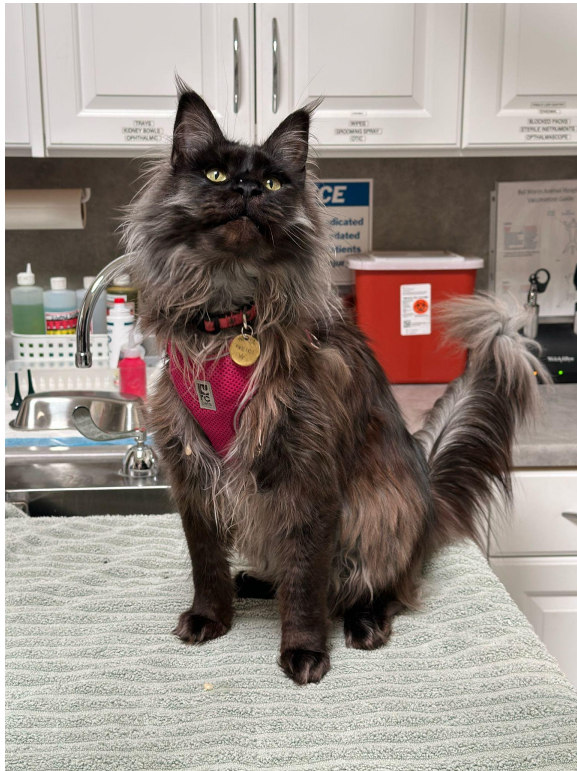


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Weekly Contributor: Pet Spotlight

A Beginner's Guide to Cat Breeds

This week is dedicated to our feline friends, focusing on three beloved breeds: the majestic Maine Coon, the versatile Tabby cat, and the affectionate Ragdoll. Emphasizing the significance of choosing adoption over shopping not only diminishes health concerns, but also plays a crucial role in supporting local shelters, particularly those at risk of high euthanasia rates. Your decision to adopt contributes to the well-being of these animals and aids in maintaining lower shelter populations.



Maine Coon/Mix

The Maine Coon cat, originating from the U.S. state of Maine, stands as one of the oldest feline breeds and continues to capture hearts as a popular choice. Renowned for its family-friendly nature, this breed is known for its easy going demeanor and intelligence. Weighing in between 13-18 pounds and having a lifespan of 15-18 years, the Maine Coon's charm is coupled with certain health considerations. Given their predisposition to various health issues, it is imperative to either select a responsible breeder or assess health concerns upon adoption. Genetic mutations in this breed can lead to heart conditions, emphasizing the

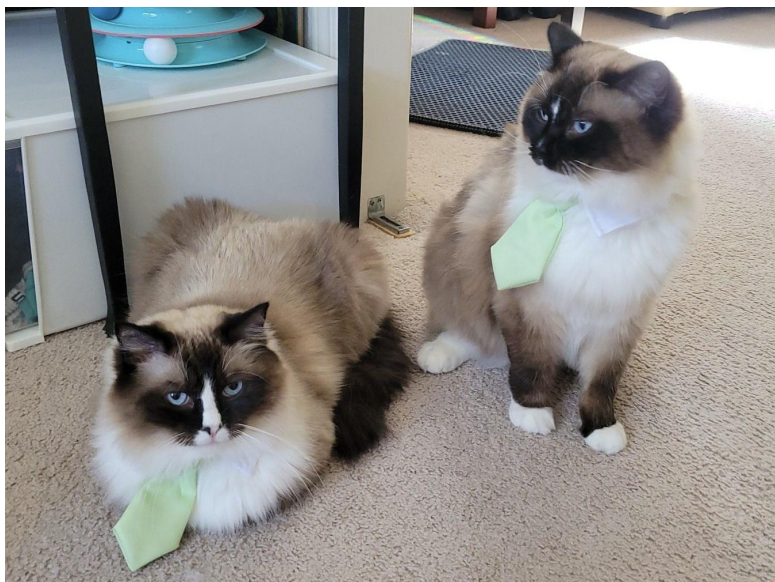
importance of watchful care. As they age, monitoring for obesity becomes crucial, and attentiveness to signs of arthritis and hip dysplasia (often associated with their large size) is important. Despite these considerations, the Maine Coon stands out as an ideal choice for those seeking a warm and affectionate feline companion.

Tabby Cat

The tabby cat, a beloved and ancient breed with roots that trace back to Egypt. This feline is not defined as a specific breed, but rather by its distinctive coat pattern. These patterns, observable both in the wild and among domesticated cats, variations such as the classic (with thicker stripes), mackerel (featuring thinner stripes), and spotted, among others. Adding to the appeal, this feline



presents an array of colors, including orange, cream, silver, brown, and more. With an average lifespan ranging from 15-18 years and a weight spectrum of 8-13 pounds, tabby cats are a diverse and loving companion. Yet, when it comes to behavior, the unpredictability of this breed adds an element of surprise. Addressing potential concerns such as age-related weight gain, kidney issues, and periodontal disease becomes key in providing optimal care for these fascinating felines.



Ragdoll/Mix

Introducing the Ragdoll, an affectionate feline originating from Riverside, California. With an average lifespan of 15-18 years and a weight range of 10-15 pounds, these fluffy companions embody their name, transforming into cuddle bugs that go delightfully limp when cradled. As these charming cats age, it's essential to be

mindful of potential health concerns. They may be susceptible to various conditions such as heart problems, obesity, and urinary tract infections. Attentiveness to their well-being becomes important, ensuring these endearing felines continue to grace our lives with their sweet and tender presence.

Each of these breeds have unique qualities, making them extraordinary companions. It's crucial to highlight that placing cats on a kibble diet can potentially impact their kidneys and thyroid levels. Opting for a well-balanced diet that includes wet food or other high-moisture alternatives is key to ensuring these felines lead a lengthy and joyful life alongside their owners.