

## History

“Little is known about the origin of the Russian Cat, however, stories and legends abound. Many believe the Russian Cat is a natural breed originating from the Archangel Isles in Northern Russia. It is also believed that they were brought by sailors from the Archangel Isles to England and Northern Europe in the 1860s.

The Tartars ruled southern Russia as part of a vast empire, known as the Golden Horde for more than two centuries. Thus began an era of Russian isolation from the West. At the same time however, trade routes with the Middle East and China were established. Smaller boned, shorthaired cats of southern climates were able to follow the trade routes and intermingle with the wild cats of Russia. Over centuries, these cats adapted to their frigid environment; the result was the origin of their short, thick coat that carried a mutation of wild grey, reminiscent of the ticking of a wild grey rabbit or the Russian silver fox.

The history of the Russian Cat will most likely continue to elicit the imaginations of its admirers however it is likely that the first blue, or dilute, mutation did indeed occur in Russia. That this colour would define the breed is an oversight due its early discovery. The natural breed would undeniably have included black and tabby, two genetic variables necessary in the development of the Russian Blue we see today. The Russian of generations past must also include a white variety, as white Russians were common to many and rumoured to dwell amongst seemingly barren snowfields.

First shown in 1875 at Crystal Palace in England as the Archangel cat, the original Russian Cats competed in a class for all short-haired cats. It was not until 1912 that the Russian Cat was given a class of its own.

## Intellect

Russians are smart cats. Some are known to entertain a crying baby and learn to use the human toilet. They have what it takes to train their slaves into giving them snacks, take them for walks, get them to throw a ball so they can play fetch and ask their slaves for food when dinner time approaches. Russians enjoy being taken for quiet and peaceful walks, even if it means having to do so with on harness and leash.

## Family Oriented

Russians tend to choose their human and will be loyal to that human. They don't shy away from being part of a greater family with kids, as long as they are not tormented, irritated or constantly picked up by the younger members of the family. A Russian rules the house in a friendly and quiet way.

## Affection

They are very affectionate on their terms, but love to be loved. They are well known for their early morning purrs, cold noses, cold feet and head butts. Russians are lap cats once they have chosen their lap slaves. In winter, you will find a Russian on your lap more frequently. You will also find that a Russian will make “dough” kneading on soft blankets, it is something they do early on in life when they drink from their mother. It is a sign of contentment, pleasure and that they feel safe and loved.

## **Laidback**

These cats are laidback and not very needy cats. They love to spend their time sleeping or observing what goes on around them. If a bird flies past or a different type of flying object, you may have some very alert chirping action happening. ☺

## **Friendly & Confident**

They are indeed friendly and very interested cats but can also err on the cautious or shy side, depending on the situation. If the Russian has decided that there is no real threat, the “have to know” what is going on, boosts their confidence and before you know it you have a Russian around your feet to investigate.

## **Water and Russians**

Russians only like water when it's for drinking, other than that water is wet.

## **Great Companions**

They follow their slave from room to room and often help you do your work on your laptop by walking over your keyboard to ensure quality control at the end of the day. You can rest assured that wherever you are in your home, a Russian will be in close proximity.

## **Gentle, Sensitive, Playful**

They are gentle, sensitive as well as playful cats. They are habitual and homely beings and do not cope too well out of their home environment. Russians are sensitive to your mood and intuitively know exactly what you need.

## **Talkative**

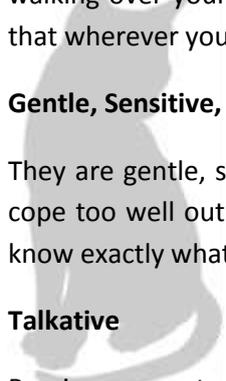
Russians are naturally quiet cats but do occasionally find their voice to help you understand exactly what they mean. Mostly it is done with a gentle and soft meow.

## **Appearance**

The Russian is a medium sized cat sporting a short, plush double thick coat with a dense undercoat. The average weight of a male cat varies between 5kg to 6kg's, whereas the females are smaller in size and averages in weight between 3kg to 4kg's. Of course there are exceptions. Russians have an elegant but athletic body, with long legs, long tapering tail and small oval feet. The ears are wide at the base, large in size and vertical on top of the head. The head or skull must be flat, profile straight with a 45 degree angle at brow from straight nose to top of head. The muzzle or whisker pads must be prominent and the chin firm. The eyes are almond shaped, set wide apart and vivid green.

## **Eye Contact**

Russians do not necessarily like eye contact. They can hold your gaze for a couple of seconds but then tend to look away to focus on something else.



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### **Health & Lifespan**

Russians are healthy and hearty cats with no genetic health issues and can live well past 16 or 18 years of age.

### **Coat Colour**

Blue, Black, White and Blue Spotted Tabby

This piece was written by the RCIG from information gathered over the years - 2015



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