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Bengal maine coon kittens

We'll never resolve the "cat versus dog" debate, but when it comes to diversity, man's best friend is the clear winner. Domestic dogs are way more variable than their feline counterparts. On top of the vast differences in ear shape, snout length and limb proportions, our canine pals come in a huge range of sizes — the largest dog breeds are around 40 times bigger than the smallest ones.Still, it's not like all cats are created equal. Here's an overview of two plus-sized breeds with personalities to match their statures: the Maine Coon and the Norwegian Forest cat.Winter FursAs they say in Norway, there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. To endure the harsh winters of Scandinavia, the Norwegian Forest cat — also called the "Wegie" (pronounced "wee-gee") — evolved a double layer of thick, waterproof fur. Mystery surrounds the breed's origins; it may be descended from Siberian cats or Turkish longhair cats who entered present-day Norway.Regardless, written records tell us that a new and distinctive type of domesticated cat had arisen in this corner of Europe by about the year 1000 C.E. The ancestors of today's Wegies were likely used to keep Viking ships and settlements clear of mice.Full-grown adults of both sexes are very muscular animals — and heavy, to boot. Mature females usually weigh 9 to 12 pounds (4 to 5.4 kilograms) while males regularly tip the scales at 16 pounds (7.3 kilograms) or more. Accordingly, the Norwegian Forest cat is one of the biggest breeds available.But the Maine Coon has it beat. Capable of weighing 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms), this all-American beauty is downright gigantic. In fact, on May 22, 2018, a Maine Coon named Barivel set a new Guinness World Record as the longest known domestic cat. From one end to the other, he measures 47 inches (120 centimeters) in length. By the way, the previous record-holder in this category was another Maine Coon. Sounds like they've got a furry dynasty going.True to its name, the Maine Coon is a product of northern New England. Here again, we've got a creature whose backstory is unclear. According to one popular fable, the first Maine Coons can be traced to (of all people) Marie Antoinette. During the French Revolution, she supposedly had her beloved cats shipped to North America, where they interbred with local felines. The truth may be less glamorous, but Maine Coons probably do have European roots. Historians think the breed is descended from long-haired cats whom seamen ferried across the north Atlantic.Like Scandinavia, New England gets a lot of snowfall and some serious windchill every winter. Shaggy coats help protect Maine Coons from these frigid conditions. They've also got wide, tufted "snowshoe paws" that occasionally sport extra digits.Heads and TailsSome enthusiasts think the Norwegian Forest cat is the Maine Coon's direct ancestor. (After all, we know Norse settlers occupied modern-day Newfoundland during the 11th century C.E.)The idea speaks to the many similarities between these long-haired, big-bodied breeds. Yet as Sandra Cagan will tell you, there are plenty of differences as well.A resident of Florida, Cagan owns the Orlando Cat Café, a coffee shop where the patrons get to hang out with adoptable felines who need good homes. She personally owns two purebred Maine Coons and is well-acquainted with the breed's idiosyncrasies."The Maine Coon has a wider muzzle than a Forest cat," Cagan explains via email. In contrast, the latter breed has a flattened forehead, straight nose and triangular-shaped skull, giving it what Cagan describes as "more of a 'regular cat face.'" Meanwhile, with its high cheekbones and broad snout, the Maine Coon looks rather lion-esque — at least facially.Other distinctions reside in the fur. Although Wegies and Maine Coons are available in lots of different colors, there's an iconic hairstyle specific to each breed."Both breeds have distinctive ear tufts, but the Maine Coon's are larger," says Cagan. Also, while Wegie tails end in pointed tips, the end of a Maine Coon's tail is bushier and less shapely.Beyond looks, the felines may communicate differently. "Maine Coons tend to be very vocal; they are known for their chirping sounds," Cagan tells us. "Norwegian Forest cats tend to be quieter." That said, they both like to emit contented purrs, which can get fairly loud.In terms of disposition, Wegies and Maine Coons are often described as "dog-like." Norwegian Forest cats love socializing with their favorite people while Maine Coons engage in all sorts of canine behaviors. "I know of several Maine Coon owners who have taught their cats to give 'high fives' or 'shake paws' like a dog would do," says Cagan.Not only are the big guys easy to train, but they've got an endearing habit of carrying their toys around like excited terriers. "Many of them also play fetch," Cagan adds. What's more, she notes that several owners have taught their Maine Coons to use leashes. "One of my two loves to walk on his leash, the other not so much," she tells us.So come to think of it, maybe we can settle the whole cat versus dog debate. If you're in want of a pet and feeling indecisive, just split the difference and get yourself a Maine Coon. Or a Wegie.Originally Published: Nov 12, 2019 Maine coons are one of the most well-known domesticated cat breeds in the United States. While the breed's exact origins are unknown, Maine coons have been around long enough to get their namesake from the state of Maine, where they're also the official state cat. Despite their popularity, most people don't know much about Maine coons other than their large size and luxurious long fur. While these are notable and defining qualities of the Maine coon, there's much more to these gorgeous cats than meets the eye. 1. Personality and demeanor Maine coons are a popular choice for people looking for a cat companion. They are known as "gentle giants" with a laid-back attitude and affectionate demeanor that make them a great pet. Main coons are generally not "lap cats" who spend most of their day napping or relaxing; rather, owners often describe them as gentle but playful and even dog-like. Alen MacWeeney / Getty Images bubblemlkktasavannah/Instagram Given their wild ancestry, Bengal cats haven't been around all that long—and they originated in America. In the 1960s and 70s, a pediatrician named Dr. Willard Centerwall began breeding Asian leopard cats with domestic cats to study their genetics. According to his work, they were immune to feline leukemia, he hoped this research could eventually be applied to humans with compromised immune systems. Centerwall became critically ill and gave his hybrid kitties to Jean Sudgen Mill. She had experimented with cross-breeding exotic cats and domestic cats in the early 1960s but took a break from breeding when her husband passed away. After receiving Centerwall's hybrids, Mill continued to mate the cats and promote the newly developed breed. She originally called the cats the "leopardette," but their name was changed to Bengal in honor of their scientific name, *Prionailurus bengalensis*. After years of work, Mill successfully had the Bengal recognized by The International Cat Association in 1983. Continue to 2 of 7 below. Get Your Free Kitten Care Guide! There's a lot you need to know to make things go smoothly with your new friend. @felixandesmerald / Instagram At the first American cat show held in New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1895, a brown tabby Maine coon named Cosy took first place. After the New York City cat show, their popularity skyrocketed. When the Cat Fanciers Association formed in 1908, a Maine coon named Molly Bond was the fifth cat ever registered. Then in 1968, the Maine Coon Breeders and Fanciers Association was formed. Today, Maine coons are the third most popular breed in the United States and are highly prized in Europe and Japan, too. Continue to 7 of 9 below. The Maine coon cat is a natural breed and one of the largest of domesticated cats. Its body is medium to large, muscular, and broad-chested, with a well-balanced rectangular appearance. The Maine coon's coat is heavy and shaggy, but shorter on the shoulders and longer on the britches and stomach. It sports a handsome front ruff, ear tufts, foot tufts, and a long flowing tail. Equally at home with children, dogs, or older persons, the Maine coon cat is an ideal pet, handily earning its status as the third most popular breed in America, and the nickname "gentle giant." Weight: 9 to 17 pounds Length: 3 feet, head to tail Coat: Long, double coat Coat Color: More than 75 color combinations Eye Color: Green, gold, green-cold, or copper Life Expectancy: 9 to 15 years Affection Level: Medium Friendliness Medium Kid-Friendly High Pet-Friendly High Exercise Needs High Playfulness High Energy Level High Intelligence High Tendency to Vocalize Medium Amount of Shedding High Contrary to popular folklore, the Maine coon cat is not the result of a cat breeding with a raccoon. It resembles Norwegian forest cats and it is not hard to imagine some brought over by Vikings. More likely is the story of a cross between an American domestic cat and a long-haired cat (possibly an Angora), brought by ship from Europe with settlers or traders. With lynx-like ear tufts and foot tufts, these strikingly beautiful but robust cats are a perfect fit for Maine's extreme climatic conditions. Maine coon cats served as barn cats and mousers throughout New England. The first show featuring Maine coon cats was held in the late 1860s in Maine. In 1895, a Maine coon cat won Best in Show at the first North American cat show, which was held in New York City. The brown tabby named Cosy was owned by Mrs. Fred Brown. However, the breed almost disappeared as other longhaired breeds such as the Persian took over the show ring. It was revived by the Central Maine Cat Club and, after repeated denials, was accepted by the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) in 1976. The Maine coon cat was declared the official state cat of Maine in 1985. The typical Maine coon cat is often a brown tabby, but the breed comes in a rainbow of colors. The CFA standard allows most colors and patterns, including tortoise and particolors, with the exception of pointed patterns (like the Siamese or Himalayan) or the colors chocolate or lavender. Notable Maine coon cats have been recognized by the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the longest cat in the world, including one that measured 48 1/2 inches from the tip of the nose to end of the tail. A full-grown Maine coon can be an armful. On average, it takes three to four years for the coon to reach its full size. While they are easy-going, loyal, and affectionate, they are not prone to being clingy lap cats. They show independence but the ability to charm you as well. They will climb into your lap on their own terms when they are ready. Their glorious coat actually requires only a standard amount of grooming. Combing your cat weekly will help remove the dead hairs that can lead to hairballs. You should trim your cat's nails every couple of weeks and provide a scratching post. Help your cat with dental hygiene by brushing its teeth regularly and getting regular cleanings at the veterinarian. Your Maine coon cat will want to observe everything you are up to, even if it is not demanding your attention. Keep this smart cat occupied with interactive toys. You can train this cat to play fetch and chase a laser pointer. They are a little less likely to be climbers. Maine coon cats are sociable with other cats and cat-friendly dogs but can be reserved around strangers. They retain their skills as mousers, so they are not a good match if you have pet rodents. These cats will do well in a family with children as long as the kids are old enough to treat the cat with respect. They are known to put up with playing dress-up if they are treated right. Maine coon cats do well in cold weather, but it is good to keep any cat as an indoor-only cat. This protects them from diseases, fights, attacks by predators, and motor vehicle accidents. A Maine coon cat should receive the usual vaccinations and preventative veterinary treatments as any domestic cat. There are a few conditions that they are more prone to: Feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an inherited condition of an enlarged heart that may lead to heart failure and blood clots Spinal muscular atrophy, an inherited condition leading to muscle atrophy and weakness Hip dysplasia, a deterioration of the hip joints In addition, Maine coon cats were known in New England for having extra toes. This condition called polydactylism is considered a defect for show cats but it has no effect on the cat's health. Maine coon cats do not need any special diet beyond that which is healthy for all cats. Most experts say choosing either dry food or wet food is a matter of preference, but feeding some of both kinds might strike the right balance. Maine coon cats take longer to reach maturity, so they should stay on kitten food until they are 9 months old. Be sure to note whether your cat is getting overweight as obesity will shorten your pet's lifespan. Discuss any nutritional needs with your veterinarian to get recommendations. You may be able to find a pure-bred Maine coon cat through a breeder in your area, but if you would rather adopt from a rescue organization, check out: Whether you intend to show or breed your Mangal coon or just want a pet for your family, your main objective will be to select a healthy, friendly cat with no harmful genetic defects. Talk to other Maine coon cat owners, responsible breeders, and rescue organizations. If you are interested in large cat breeds, look into these to compare pros and cons: There are many cat breeds out there. With a little research, you can find the right one to bring home. @m.a.c94 / Instagram Despite the stereotypes of loner kitties, cats aren't totally independent, solitary animals. When they're left alone for too long, they can become bored and lonely, which can lead to "acting out" with bad behaviors. Better negative attention than no attention, right? That's why it's vital to keep your cat stimulated and entertained, especially if you work outside the home or have a super busy schedule. Adopting two kittens at the same time will ensure your kitties always have company—and a reliable source of entertainment. While you check off your to-do list, they'll play, cuddle, and snooze the day away. Want to ensure your kittens will not only entertain each other, but will also get along? Look for kittens from the same litter or a pair that bonded during their time in the animal shelter. Continue to 2 of 8 below. The Bengal tiger is an iconic cat, arguably as famous as any other type of tiger left on the planet. Like all tigers, however, it is both admired and endangered, revered by the same species that is wiping it out. Yet Bengal tigers have been clawing back in recent years, and while they are still far below their historical numbers, they have become a rare bright spot for their beleaguered species. In hopes of shedding more light on these enigmatic cats — and on their struggle to coexist with us — here are a few lesser-known facts about the legendary Bengal tiger. Tigers were once divided into several subspecies, but more recent research suggests there are just two subspecies: *Panthera tigris tigris* in mainland Asia, and *P. tigris sondaica* in the Greater Sunda Islands. The Bengal tiger was previously considered a subspecies, but is now generally classified as a specific population within *P. tigris tigris*, which also includes the Caspian, Indochinese, Malayan, Siberian, and South China tigers. That may seem like a demotion, but the taxonomic details don't diminish the importance of any of these populations, and they have little effect on the longstanding cultural cachet held by Bengal tigers. Bengal tigers are among the largest big cats of any kind left on Earth. eROMAZE / Getty Images Bengal tigers have the longest canine tooth of any living cat, and also rival the Siberian tiger for the title of largest cats on Earth, both in terms of length and weight. The Siberian (or Amur) tiger is often cited as the largest cat overall, capable of growing up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) long and weighing more than 660 pounds (300 kilograms). They are highly variable in size, though, and may now be smaller overall than in the past due to selective pressure from human hunters killing larger individuals. Bengal tigers may not quite match the largest of their Siberian cousins, but they can grow to similar sizes and weights. The largest Bengal tiger on record reportedly weighed 569 pounds (258 kg) and stretched about 10 feet (3 meters) long. Bengal tigers largely prey on ungulates, including a wide variety of deer, antelopes, wild pigs, and wild bovids, but they also hunt smaller prey such as gray langur monkeys. In some places, tigers may get as much as 10% of their food by killing domesticated livestock, posing a challenge for conservation as their habitat is increasingly fragmented by farmland. There have been a few known instances of Bengal tigers taking down Indian rhinoceroses and Indian elephants, and they're also known to sometimes attack other predators, including sloth bears and leopards. They have even been found to prey on venomous snakes; in a post-mortem of one male Bengal tiger from 2009, researchers found a king cobra and a monocolled cobra in his stomach. A tiger can be seen on the righthand side of the Pashupati Seal from the Indus Valley Civilization. Columbia University / Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain Bengal tigers have been woven into the cultures of India and surrounding countries for thousands of years. A tiger is one of the animals depicted on the Pashupati seal, a roughly 4,000-year-old artifact from the Indus Valley Civilization, and also features prominently in the symbols of the Chola dynasty. Bengal tigers have remained an important source of symbolism for the region ever since, and today serve as the national animal of both India and Bangladesh. Tigers have a long literary legacy, too, from Shere Khan of "The Jungle Book" to Richard Parker in "The Life of Pi." The Bengal tiger is native to the Indian subcontinent, where it has lived for at least 12,000 years, dating back to the Late Pleistocene. Today, it exists in the countries of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. With a population of roughly 3,000 Bengal tigers, India now has the largest remaining population of Bengal tigers, as well as the highest number of wild tigers of any kind in a single country, representing about 70% of the species' entire wild population. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bangladesh is home to between 300 and 500 Bengal tigers, Nepal has about 200, and Bhutan has somewhere between 50 and 150. Overall, there are more tigers living in captivity in the U.S. alone than there are living in the wild globally. Bengal tigers, however, are rarely found in captivity outside India. They've been bred in captivity since 1880, but widely interbred with tigers from other range countries. As a result, many "Bengal tigers" in captivity outside India are not true Bengal tigers, and thus inappropriate for conservation-breeding programs aimed at reintroduction to the wild. Of about 200 registered Bengal tigers in captivity, all reportedly live within India. A Bengal tiger and her cub walk through Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India. Shivang Mehta / Getty Images As a species, tigers across Asia numbered as many as 100,000 individuals in the early 1900s, but then suffered a steep and prolonged decline, due largely to a mix of habitat loss and unsustainable hunting. Between 1875 and 1925, an estimated 80,000 tigers were killed in India alone, and by the 1960s the country's tiger population was on the brink. That prompted a series of efforts to save Bengal tigers from fading away. India outlawed the killing or capture of wild tigers in 1971, made the Bengal tiger its national animal in 1972, and launched its Project Tiger conservation program in 1973, sparking a boom in tiger sanctuaries around the country that's still growing. After having dropped to a low of fewer than 2,000 tigers, India's total tiger population had grown to 2,200 in 2014 and nearly 3,000 in 2018 (the country conducts a census every four years). India has achieved great success in boosting its tiger population, but there have been problems. Although tigers have been reproducing, some conservationists worry they aren't dispersing enough into new territories. A single male tiger may require a territory of nearly 40 square miles (100 square km), and aside from causing issues with their fellow tigers, running out of space can lead to conflict between tigers and people. Tiger habitats are increasingly fragmented by roads, railways, farmland, logging, and other forms of human development, resulting in more cats preying on livestock or otherwise clashing with people. Along with ongoing poaching and depletion of prey species, this has limited the success of India's tiger conservation efforts, although experts do see reasons for optimism. According to renowned tiger expert Ullas Karanth, if prey species can rebound and people can be kept out, there is currently enough connected forest cover in India to support a population of 10,000 to 15,000 Bengal tigers. Choose wood furniture created from reclaimed wood rather than teak or red cedar logged in India. Refuse to buy products made from tiger parts. Support legislation to protect tigers. Donate to support reputable conservation organizations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society.

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