



EGYPTIAN MAU NEWSLETTER 2023

Welcome to 2023! This spring seems a timely occasion to issue a missive to all our Egyptian Mau owners! Hopefully you will enjoy the content and update us with any interesting articles and responses for our next issue.

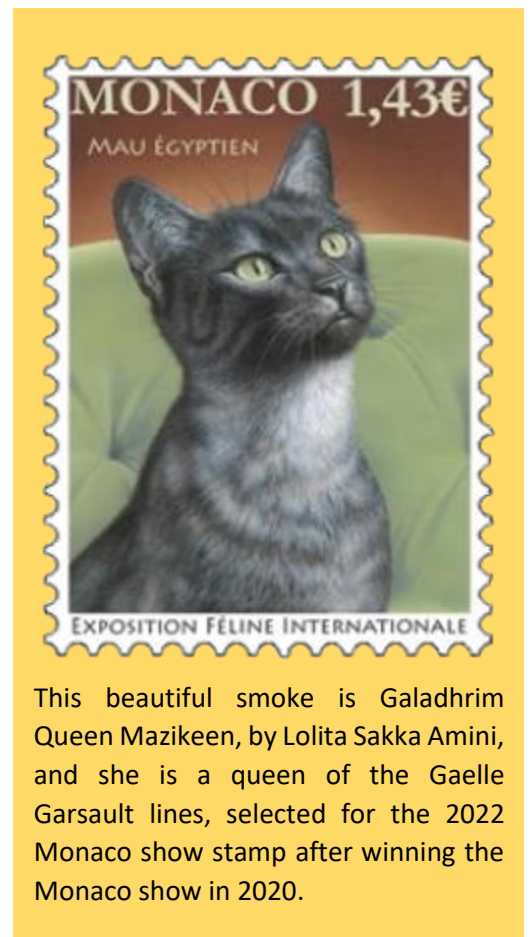
A Word from the Chairman of the Egyptian Mau Society,
Lynda Ashmore.

I hope you are all well and managing to stay warm. The weather in my neck of the woods has been horrendous with deep snow drifts which meant I was confined to barracks for several days. Today has been better with some lovely spring sunshine and the first sighting of my beloved spring bulbs.

At the end of 2022 the club had some changes of personnel and I was asked to stand in as chairman. Clubs are extremely important to me and small breed clubs in particular, so I accepted the position. The annual show has now moved to July so plans are underway for that. We hope to see more of you there as very few Maus are being shown and indeed bred these days. In 2021, fifty seven Maus were registered but in 2022 that number fell to thirty nine. We need more on the bench to showcase the Mau to the general public and thus increase their popularity.

I have never owned a Mau but have judged them since 2003. The picture on the Egyptian Mau Society website carries a picture of one of my all-time favourite Maus; UK Imperial Grand Premier Santillo Feromeses Mercury, (Kneazle to his friends) owned by Georgina and Bob Anderson Keeble. He (the cat not Bob) has that very special 'look' and such style and grace even when he put on a few extra pounds. 🐱

Lynda



This beautiful smoke is Galadhrim Queen Mazikeen, by Lolita Sakka Amini, and she is a queen of the Gaele Garsault lines, selected for the 2022 Monaco show stamp after winning the Monaco show in 2020.



In this issue you will find: Show matters, Take YOUR cat to a Show, Titles and Awards, Happy Retirement, Ancient Egyptian Proverbs, Social Media, The Naughtiest Maus, Urate Study Update, Cut out & Keep, Maus in Odd Places, Keeping a Stud Cat, Let's talk Grooming, Feature Cats Benji & Lula.

This publication is Copyright © the Egyptian Mau Society 2023. All rights reserved. To find out more about the EMS, please go to our website – www.egyptianmausociety.co.uk – and please consider joining us.

Do you have a story to tell? A Naughty Cat's hijinks? Why not get in touch with us on the clubs FB page.

Show Cats



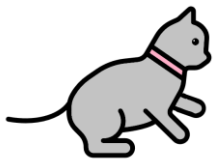
This silver Egyptian Mau is the world's first World Winner Egyptian Mau, WW'22 NO*Gooseberry Ivy JW - winning the title at an International show in Rakkestad, Norway. Photo by Cat'chy Images.



In December, the stunning Nala won the National Cat Club Best Of Breed, and Grand Champion title, bred by Janet Williams.



Breeder Michele Clare with her kitten Diva, after winning her Grand Champion title at the Doncaster cat show. Another great photo by Michael Eames, of Abydreames, who breeds Abyssinians.



Show Matters

The Egyptian Mau Society is affiliated to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF). Therefore, the show dates, where shown, will be for GCCF shows only. You may find a full list of GCCF shows at <https://www.gccfcats.org/shows-activities/>. In GCCF, Maus meeting the standard of points criteria are shown in Section Four of any **ALL BREED** or Specialist shows, see the list of shows below. Details of how to show any cat at a GCCF show may be found at <https://www.gccfcats.org/shows-activities/shows-events/getting-started/>.

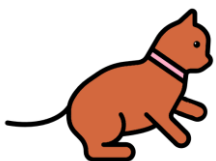
For shows that belong to other registries such as TICA, CFA, Fife, etc. please visit their own websites. At the 'other registry' you can enter your cat for any of their shows (aka "cat extravaganza's").

Specialist Egyptian Mau Show Dates for 2023

Egyptian Mau Club – 7th May, at a new venue, Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8DX (just off the M5 jn 6). The show is shared with the Central All Breed cat club, Midland Counties cat club, Progressive Ragdoll Breed cat club. This means that your Mau can enter any **TWO** of the three shows, with the potential of winning TWO certificates (saving on much travel!) and if they're lucky, gain 3 challenge certificates.

Egyptian Mau Society – 29th July, at Sports Connexion Leisure Centre, Leamington Road, Ryton on Dunsmore, near Coventry (close to the M40, M42, M6). This show is shared with the Shorthaired cat club and other breed clubs, meaning your Mau can, if they're lucky, get 2 challenge certificates.

Take YOUR cat to a Show!



Taking your cat to a show can be a great experience; it is the chance to learn more about both Egyptian Maus and other cat breeds. You can watch the cats being judged for the top table and see how the judges handle them and what characteristics they are looking for.

The GCCF have a great beginners guide to showing your cat. This guide includes many FAQ's which anyone who is new to showing generally ask, such as:

- Would you like to show your cat?
- Should I show my cat?
- How to enter a cat show
- Preparation
- Show day

This is a link to their landing page

<https://www.gccfcats.org/shows-activities/shows-events/getting-started/>

You won't need to spend HOURS grooming them or fluffing their coat, but they do need some maintenance, especially if you're after the top titles. They should be brushed regularly to help maintain a healthy coat, and you should always keep their eyes clean, and their nails clipped. See our article on Grooming later on.

<https://www.gccfcats.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Guide-for-new-exhibitors-2022-FINAL.pdf>



Titles and Awards

Cat Title:

Champion (CH), Premier (PR) or Mastercat (MC)
 Grand Champion (GRCH), Premier (GRPR) or Mastercat (GRMC)
 Imperial Grand Champion (IGCH), Premier (IGPR) or Mastercat (IGMC)
 Olympian Bronze/Silver/Gold (OB/OS/OG)

Top Cats, like those featured in Show Cats have won many titles and awards. Titles can be broken down into three categories.

Cats who MEET their breed Standard of Points have a choice of two depending on their status – adult or neuter - are shown in the Pedigree section of a show. Cats which DO NOT meet their breed Standard of Points, are shown in the Household Pet section of a show.

- 1, Cats which are not neutered or altered – so are still entire and who are over 9 months of age on Show Day, are called Adults, and they compete for Challenge Certificates.
- 2, Cats which have been neutered and are over 9 months of age on Show Day are called Neuters and they compete for Premier Certificates.
- 3, Cats which DO NOT meet their breeds Standard of Points compete in the Household Pet Section for Mastercat Certificates. Known as Pedigree Pets, these cats must be neutered and over 9 months of age.

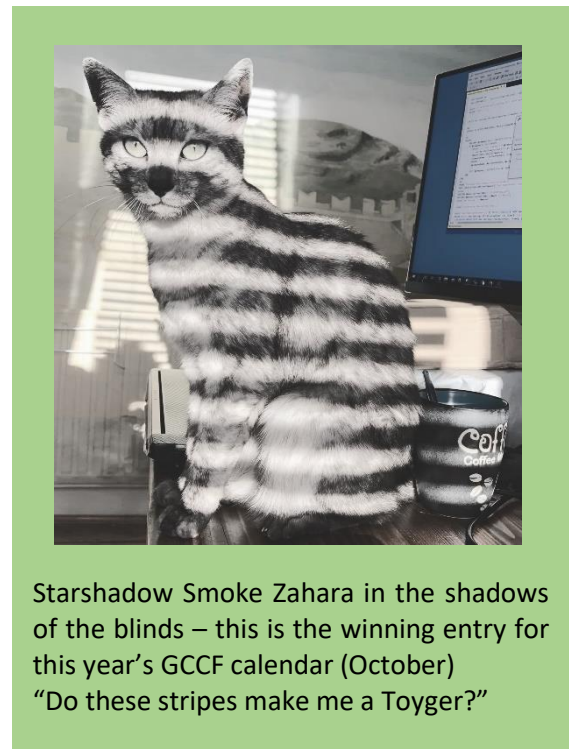
There is a full list of titles and explanations to be found here:-

<https://www.gccfcats.org/shows-activities/shows-events/certificates-and-titles/>

During the afternoon at a GCCF show, it's possible to watch the best of the best cats in each section being judged head to head to win overall Best In Show.

At other registries the cats are divided into kitten/adolescents/cat/neuter/pet classes, and owners watch the judging for all classes, and you see the other breeds being assessed on the table too. 'Pet' quality Maus can be entered in the 'Household Pet' section (of most other registries) of the show, but if you're not sure, ask your breeder.

As we've touched upon, the criteria that our cats are judged against is called the Standard of Points. These can be found on the GCCF website at <https://www.gccfcats.org/getting-a-cat/choosing/cat-breeds/egyptian-mau/>.



Starshadow Smoke Zahara in the shadows of the blinds – this is the winning entry for this year's GCCF calendar (October)
 "Do these stripes make me a Toyger?"

Number of Certificates (by different judges) to qualify:

3x Certificates
 3x Certificates
 5x Certificates
 5x Certificates per level with 4 at All-Breed shows

The landing page from the link will also give you a profile on the Egyptian Mau, the breeding and registration policies, links to both clubs, as well as the Standard of Points and the Breed Advisory Committee for the Egyptian Maus in GCCF.

The GCCF page <https://www.gccfcats.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GuidelinesOnEntering-Shows.pdf> explains more about taking your cat to show. Some cats can find the sight of the road and traffic distressing, so you may want to cover their travel carriers with a blanket to diminish the disturbing noise and light. If the journey is more than a couple of hours, you can even stay in a 'pet friendly' hotel - the editor took her two for the first time at the age of five, and despite all the worry, they were beautifully behaved and loved the chance to sleep in the bed...



Rounding up the Show Section of this newsletter, we'd like to wish the following a happy retirement from Breeding!

So, what happens when we no longer see the cats, that are in pedigrees. We spoke to some of their owners to explain their (the cat's that is) retirement plans... ...all of which are now living the life of Riley!

Highlander

from Egyptian Mau Cats UK

Highlander is a silver Egyptian Mau, as imported from the Merri Hart in the US, by Christopher. Having retired last year from the Eskimaus cattery, he travelled the length of the country to his new home, all the way from Edinburgh to the Channel Islands. He surely is one well-travelled cat. We hope he's keeping his air miles!

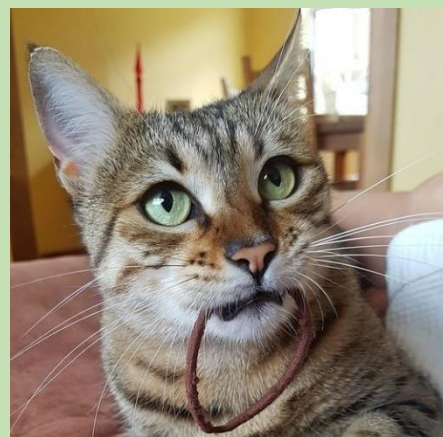


Grand Champion Fellpurrs Ramasees aka RamiBoy

RamiBoy has been a very important boy for the bronze Egyptian Maus since 2017, as he was a new import for UK bloodlines. He retired this spring after fathering five beautiful kittens with Christine Whitehouse's Bastet. All Patrick's cats live with him all their lives (with a very delux day room!), and Patrick says *"so evidently he will stay at home with us (in Essex not far from Maldon). He does not have a favourite toy per say, only, I'm the toy LOL, as soon as I'm around he is on my shoulders and all he wants is cuddles!"*

Champion Geniemau Nebula aka Nebs or 'Pickle'

Neb's owners have this to say about her: - "If one of the cats is going to get in a mess for being too playful, silly, or inquisitive, it'll be Nebs... getting herself in a pickle! She was neutered in 2020 and still lives with us. Favourite toy: a hair bobble. Nebs loves a game of hair bobble fetch! Nebs was a very timid cat after an incident with another of our queens, Serenity, but over the years she's become much more comfortable and confident and now regularly cuddles up with the other two, or plays chase with her mum, Lottie."





Grand Champion Geniemau Lady Charlotte aka Lottie

Lottie was neutered in 2020 after her final litter departed. She moves so slowly around the house you'd think she's a little old lady, but it's just her being completely relaxed... permanently. When she goes outside and sees a mouse or similar, she really moves! Lottie is immensely affectionate and it's rare for me to be sat down in the house and not have her trying to lay across me, lick my face or suck on my hand. Lottie's favourite 'toy' would have to be our wood burning stove; there are times she sits just two ft from it and stares longingly into the flames. She also absolutely adores, and spends most of her time cuddled up with Leo. Don't you think Lottie has fabulous green eyes?

Grand Premier Accio Severus Smoke aka Sev

Long since retired, but still a comparative rarity on the Show Bench, as a Smoke. He was retired at Imp level when one judge commented he was a lovely cat "but a pity about his spots, I'd have awarded him the title if he didn't have any!" Since then, things of course have moved on. Sev is a cat with more than the nine lives, having once bitten through the power cable of his owners laptop – They said of him at the time – Sev shot across the living room, through the kitchen, into the conservatory and out in the pen, where he stopped and pretended to be instantly interested in a leaf nearby. Rather overweight now, his most hated name is... ..Sevvy Wevvy Noodle

Doodle to which he will scowl and try to show his displeasure by walking away.



UK & Imperial Grand Premier Santillo Feromeses Mercury aka Kneazle

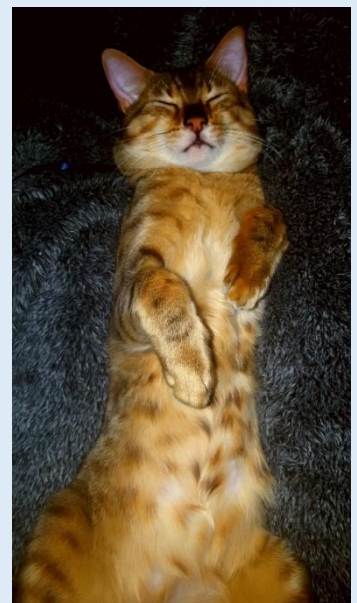
Georgina & Bob say of Kneazle – "Kneazle was our introduction to Maus, and is one of the most forceful personalities we've ever met. He will tell you when wants feeding (most of the time), when he wants to cuddle (most of the rest of the time – he ADORES cuddles and will hug our arms into his chest as if we were his teddy!) Although he is neutered, he's quite the ladies' man and is usually found sleeping with the girls when not cuddling us. His favourite toy is "sticky thing" which is the end of any wand toy, which he'll carry around like a dog – with the rest of the cats following the toy on the end. Having had some serious health problems in his life, we're still very lucky to have him with us. He's been on TV, in magazines, a photo shoot, and had a cuddly toy made in his image."

Kneale NEVER lets you forget he's special 🧡

**Imperial Grand Champion Leo de Denderah
AKA Superstud**

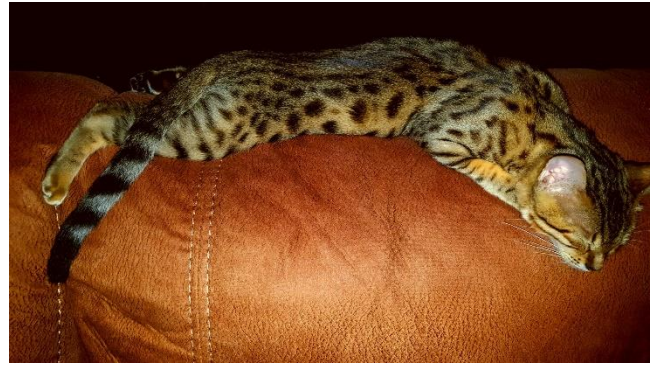
According to his owners: "Leo was neutered in 2020 and is very much still the man of the house; friendly, independent, and confident... a little too confident at times and I always need to warn the food delivery driver to check his van before he leaves. The girls will go and seek Leo's attention, cuddling up to him, and Nebs will frequently nudge him to ask for a wash. Leo loves the outside and when the cats first went out in March 2022, we were in rented accommodation. We were in the annex of a £2M house complete with its own wood! After 5 months, we left there at the end of April 2022 by which time many a mouse and bird had come a cropper, and Leo even brought us a rabbit! It didn't quite make up for me having to borrow an extra-long ladder from the landlord the week before to retrieve him from a huge tree, but I tried to at least appreciate the gesture."

Leo loves having his tummy rubbed.



Grand Champion Geniemau Serenity Astartes aka Saren (Welsh for 'star') or 'Princess' (because she thinks she is!)

Serenity is queen bee, and she knows it. Due to problems with our other girls we had to rehome her. My step-daughter said she'd try having her when we went on holiday. After two weeks with Saren, they didn't want to give her back and so there she stayed, which is great because I still get to see her regularly and she always comes as soon as she hears my voice and we have a big cuddle until I leave. Serenity has even developed a strong bond with my grandson (now 4) and is very protective of him. This diva, however, will remain a house cat. To quote "We've seen the way she looks at the cats that go in our garden. There's no way we're letting her out there!"



TiggerMau Jemima aka "The Queen" aka Pheonix

Her owner says of her retirement Plans: "She's the female matriarch at MonkeyMaus and 100% staying with us! Her favourite thing: Kittens. Her other favourite things: freeze dried treats, DaBird / Flying Frenzy [the editor's cat's favourite too!] Snuggle Safe, Drinking from her paws and then drying her feet on Cat Mum. Life is not dull when you have a Phoenix. She follows me everywhere, here she is, she's scanned her own backside! I took the photo on the left after Phoenix had sat on the scanner, pressed the button, and here she is watching it happen. I swear she has been here before..."



Ancient Egyptian Proverb: Never Laugh at a Cat.

Ancient Egyptians liked to write down stories, poems and letters, providing us with remarkable examples of early African thought. This particular proverb was one of a number that students, lucky enough to be learning the art of writing, would scribe. They would be set writing exercises and marked by their teacher. Usually this would be in a script called hieratic at first, the hieroglyphs being learnt later, in the same way that children learn to print before cursive script.

These exercises would be done on pottery shards (papyrus being expensive) as would shopping lists and household messages. There were some standard texts for pupils, such as the proverbs like "Never Laugh At A Cat", others being a father writing instructions to his son, and a teacher writing to his pupil (e.g. Anastasi III text, including "The scribe of superior intellect, with sound advice, over whose speech there is rejoicing...") – which have been found with corrections made by the teacher.

These sayings were likely taken from the Instruction of Ankhsheshonq, which he wrote to his young son after he was imprisoned by Pharaoh generally thought to be around the Ptolemaic period:

"You may trip over your foot in the house of a great man; you should not trip over your tongue."

"He who is bitten of the bite of a snake is afraid of a coil of rope."

From a lecture by Dr Carole Routledge. (there is more fascinating detail, including calculating rations for an army in this lecture). <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/transcript-of-dont-laugh-cat>

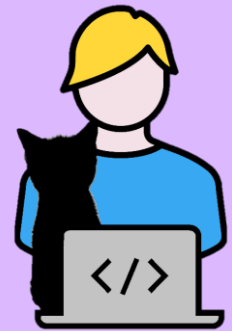


A Blue faience cat figure from the Middle Kingdom, Dynasty 12, 1981-1802BC. Wiki-commons from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Egyptian Maus on Social Media



Here are some Facebook groups/pages, and Instagram accounts, about Egyptian Maus that you can follow to see pictures of everyone's cats, looking cute and getting up to mischief! It's not a complete list, just the ones the author has found and likes. Please be advised that the Egyptian Mau Society does not endorse any Facebook or Instagram groups or their contents (except our own – of course). Your admission to these groups will be at the discretion of the list owner.



The Egyptian Mau Society at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EgyptianMauSociety/>
Egyptian Mau Love at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1820918267937865/>
Gooseberry Green II at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/595445201252870>



A picture of Dots pretending to be a snow leopard by Saskia Geelen, posted on Gooseberry Green in August 2022.

Pedigreed EGYPTIAN MAU .. owners, lovers, and breeders at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/274722484234537/> "A group to celebrate the gorgeousness of our Egyptian Maus and their friends and humans xx."

Egyptian Mau friends--stories & pictures at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/linda47/> "The purpose of this group is to share pictures and stories about Maus and their families, which may include other pets in their households and to unite us in a warm family-like atmosphere."

Silver Egyptian Mau - Mau Egyptian Silver at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/103018133235809/> "This group is for all lovers of Silver Egyptian Mau: breeders, owners, or just enthusiasts! To You, who want to share your passion for this wonderful cat, authentic descendant of the Pharaohs, We welcome you!"

Smoke Egyptian Mau appreciation page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/446975201988615/> "Myself and Lizzie thought it would be a good idea to create a smokes page to promote the smokes :) We believe they are becoming popular and this will be a great page to post smoke pictures, stories and experience. We do love all Egyptian Mau colours however :) feel free to add in others :)"

Bronze Egyptian Mau - Mau Egyptian Bronze at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/467029263369409/> "This group is for all lovers of bronze Egyptian Mau: breeders, owners, or just enthusiasts! To You, who want to share your passion for this wonderful cat, authentic descendant of the Pharaohs. To You, who are seduced by its warm bronze colour, original and natural, available in different shades, We welcome you!"



Instagram:

Geniema at

https://www.instagram.com/egyptian_mau_bronze_cats/

following GCCF Registered Egyptian Maus Morse, Meer, Daisy,

Storm & Thumbelina - We believe, The smallest feline is a masterpiece & so does 'Da'Vinci.

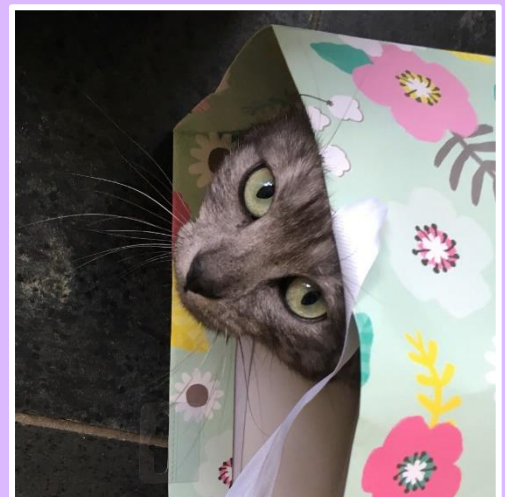
Baguette at https://www.instagram.com/baguette_mau#, a Proud London girl Egyptian Mau.

Ellipse Maus at ellipse_mau about Elli and Nemo.

Memphis & Cash at memphisandcash_

Purr-fect Maus at purrfectmaus about Neiti and Aatos.

NO*Gooseberry Egyptian Mau in Norway at gooseberry.mau.



Gr Pr Starshadow Smoke Zahara playing hide and seek.



Do you have the naughtiest Mau? *These are some of the answers on a FB when Mau owners were asked if they had been naughty...*

Thanks to having to install a dog door, Della became an indoor/outdoor cat. During her adventures I learned that she gave our old neighbours a tour of their house before they bought it 😊 she used to have sleep overs at a women's recovery home a block over until they got in trouble for having her, and she had two little girls across the street that would give her tuna, make her a bed, and play with her all day lol. Her adventures got her kittynapped for a week at one point also - thank goodness I got her back! To stop her adventuring, I started taking her to work with me as punishment that turned into a punishment for me if she *didn't* go so 5 years later she still goes to work with me lol. Glad to hear she's not the only terror of a smoke Mau out there! by Shelli Jaloszynski Herbst.

They ate my Venetian blinds. DE on Egyptian Mau Love.

My smoke pushes things off the counter that the dog isn't supposed to have...I'm convinced he is trying to get rid of the dog! LB on Egyptian Mau Love.

Our smoke boy used to 'train the kits' to do the Andrex roll trick on the kitchen roll. GAK.

He tore my curtain (covering the blinds) in the middle and looked down at me as he was climbing up like a "wild cat!" He was three months old at that point. MB on Egyptian Mau Love.

Violet once crept up on me whilst I was eating my dinner, grabbed the biggest piece of chicken off my plate, and ran off with it! SR on Gooseberry Green.

My previous Mau (Spyder) dropped a half-dead mouse on my face while I was sleeping. He couldn't understand why I would scream and fling such a wonderful gift across the room.... 😊 LN on Gooseberry Green.

Honourable mention:

One of my Birmans, some years ago now, brought in a whole pizza through the cat flap. He also used to raid the washing lines for socks. The trouble was they never matched. His best present was a size eight thong! MY

Mine can and do open doors. My smoke was the first one to figure out how to turn a doorknob. Then she taught the others. DS on Gooseberry Green.

When the girls were young, I had taken my wedding rings off to wash my hair. I placed my rings on a little shelf area. When I got done the rings were gone. Huge panic. Two guilty looking Maus. Luckily both rings were halfway down our stairs, SR on Gooseberry Green.

Zelda steals chicken at any opportunity, and Zaga opens doors.....Solar steals hairbands from my bathroom and spreads them around the house. Sonic is a perfect angel and never does anything bad! AG on Gooseberry Green.

I came down all the meds were gone and Sooty, my beautiful Smoke boy, was sat washing his face. He had eaten if the lot. Made a call to the vet (22.00) explained the problem, he found it amusing, told me not to worry as none of them were harmful, the worse side effect I could expect was a dicky tummy. Sooty was fine, no side effects at all. I've learnt my lesson; I'd never do that again! PE on Gooseberry Green.

Flynn, silver, flicked a whole, beautifully cooked duck breast off a plate. Unfortunately for him, my poodle got it. MM on Gooseberry Green.

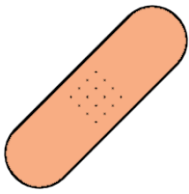
We got some take out tacos and brought them home to eat. As Sharon was taking a bite out of her first taco, a Mau decided to take a bite out of the other end, lol! Pretty bold move and we were so stunned that he got away with it. I believe it was Khan who did it. Mau's do love their food, any anyone else's that they can steal as well. JP.

Janet Crosby : When my female Mau is bored she waits under the bed in the master bedroom for one of the other cats to come in and use the cat box. She stalks them until mid-pee then shark attacks them from under the bed. JC on PEM owners lovers breeders.

My Lexi climbed up the ivy growing on the wall of the house and my husband had to climb up a ladder to lift her off the roof. GB on Egyptian Mau Love.

Doing the Andrex toilet roll trick. DS on PEM owners lovers breeders.





Egyptian Mau Health Matters – Update on the Urate Stone Study 2023

The study is requesting additional DNA from any cat affected by urate stones, as comparative DNA! **Can you help out?** See the links at the bottom of the article for details.

This is an international Study on the Egyptian Mau breed. Our breed. We have the attention and interest of the highest scientists on the planet who want to help our Maus with this painful condition.

The Study follows on some previous work that proved that Egyptian Maus are far more prone to urate stones than other breeds, and indeed, non-pedigree cats.

Owners with affected Maus, and the Urate Stone study have found enormous support in global Facebook groups. The groups are looking for owners to contribute DNA to the study. There are 203 members.

Recent headline developments are:

- * Antony Nichols, (Member of the GCCF genetics committee) contacted Carolle Fleury, (Global lead, in Canada), to offer his support & interest in the Egyptian Mau urate stone study and in the group.
- * Carolle Fleury is back coordinating the study with owners across the globe (after time away, given she has another Mau with a diagnosis of urate stones).

The purpose of the study on urate stones in Egyptian Maus is to find and isolate the causal gene that causes formation of stones after the ingestion of purines. Somewhere the digestive system decides that it becomes a machine to build urate when high content purine proteins are ingested by our cats - as cats are carnivore beings, there is no way around having purine in their diets. Oddly, there are different levels of urate production in different cats.

Once this gene is identified, a test could be developed to identify the cat(s) that carry that gene. Future generations could become urate stone free, as breeders test their cats, and manage breeding partners to avoid the problem gene.



Adsinch Silver Fiora looking impossibly cute.



The study is extremely fortunate to have these geneticists:

- * Dr. Leslie Lyons who has accepted to add to her studies the Egyptian Mau cat.
- * Dr. Philippa Lait at Langfords, UK.
- * Dr. Heather Lorimer in Youngstown USA.

Dr. Lyons, I may add, is quite excited about this attempt of moving forward. Let's bombard her with samples! The owners need to supply two blood samples for genome sequencing (comparative detailed sample). As Dr Lyons already obtained JoNatan's DNA (Carolle Fleury's 2nd affected Mau), another sample of an affected cat that is not closely related (Jo is an Emauge cat, you should be able to see if the Emauge name

occurs in your cat's pedigree) would be ideal.

There's more information at our page <https://www.egyptianmausociety.co.uk/health-matters>. The study groups are at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/268154663991868/> and <http://www.egyptianmaubc.org/uratestudy.html>

Link to the study page: <https://felinegenetics.missouri.edu/egyptian-mau-urate-stone-genetic-study>

Thanks to Lesley Turner of Geniemau cattery, for the update.

15-20 yrs

6-13lbs



Low

The Egyptian Mau



CUT OUT AND KEEP – YOUR QUICK EASY GUIDE TO A MAU



HISTORY

In ancient Egypt small cats were first domesticated around 4000 years BC and were depicted in their art. Today the Egyptian Mau is a natural breed derived from the modern street cats of Egypt and bears a close resemblance to those ancient cats. The breed as we know it today was initially developed after WW2 in the USA, Canada, Japan, and continental Europe. The first Egyptian Maus were imported to the UK by Professor Melissa Bateson in 1998. The breed was fully recognized by GCCF in 2006.

APPEARANCE

Coat: Medium length, close-lying with a lustrous sheen. In the silver and bronze colours, the hair is dense and resilient. In the smoke colour, the hair is silky and fine in texture.

Body: Slim medium-sized, elegant, well-balanced, strong, solid, and muscular. The medium length head is a slightly rounded wedge without flat planes. Their unique 'worried' look is generated by large, almond shaped eyes set beneath a level brow and on either side of the parallel lines of the nose. Longer hind legs make it seem to stand on tip-toe. A loose skin flap extends from the flank to the knee of each hind leg. Males can be larger in size than females.

Colours: Silver, smoke, and bronze. Maus are characterised by a random spotted pattern seen both in tabby and smoke colours. Eye colour gooseberry green.

TEMPERAMENT/BEHAVIOUR

Wilful	Devoted
Playful	Loyal
Intelligent	Active

The unique build of the Egyptian Mau allows them to run much faster than other domestic cats. They love to fetch and retrieve toys, and many have no fear of water. Affectionate and loving they thrive on human attention and can be very insistent. As they are so inquisitive, they are best kept in pairs or with other animals.

CARE/GROOMING

Enjoys a soft brush for pleasure. Avoid overfeeding. Make sure they have a secure outdoor space and plenty of toys and games for mental stimulation.

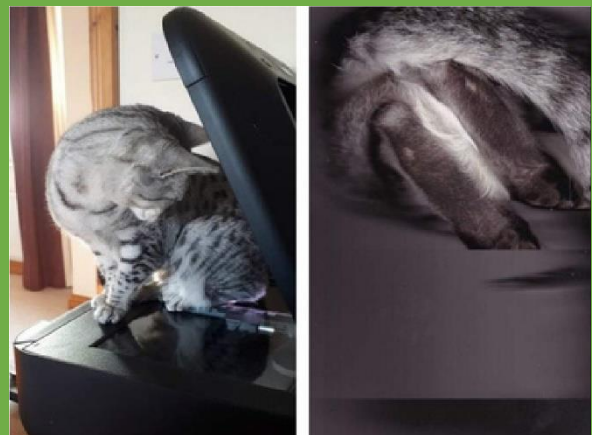
POSSIBLE HEALTH ISSUES

Occasionally skin sensitivities may develop which can manifest in itchiness, especially around the head and neck. While other breeds may suffer anaemia from genetically inherited Pyruvate Kinase Deficiency, having genes for this condition does not adversely affect the health of the Egyptian Mau.

Maus like odd spaces



Kneazle trying to persuade Sam to give up his kneazle on the boiler – which is fairly high up. The best bit, the boiler wasn't even on at the time.

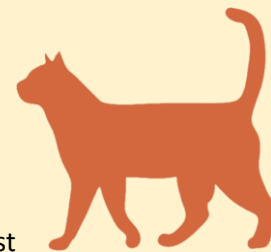


Retired Tiggamau Jemma scanning her own bottom sent in by EB.



Storm deciding to use her brother Sev as a comfy pillow, sent in by GAK.

An account of keeping a Stud cat, by David Garwood



Here's a post by David, writing as Bronze Egyptian Maus, back in 2021. Leo features in our list of cats that we are wishing a happy retirement to – I'm sure he's going to be very pampered!

"Without a doubt, one of the most challenging aspects of breeding cats is keeping a stud. It's fairly obvious that they need to be kept separate from the girls to prevent the girls continuously getting pregnant, which is just not healthy. However, that's really the tip of the iceberg...

Once the boys reach maturity, they want to start advertising themselves. Cats don't have fancy bars they can frequent, or internet dating websites they can turn to (well, not that they know about at least, although Leo's services were advertised online!). So instead, they do their own version of 'peacocking.' This involves shouting rather loudly to let any would-be paramour know they are available and spraying their homemade 'brand of perfume' around their boudoir. What's more, when a lady-friend comes to visit, it's important that the cats aren't just dropped in a room together.

When I began, I constructed a cat pen joining onto our utility room via the fan-light window to allow the cats some outdoor time whenever they wanted and limit the damage caused by Leo's M'Eau de Parfum. The cat pen has an inner and outer section separated by wire mesh and each section has an insulated, wind and Welsh-rain* proof cosy den. This allows Leo and lady-friend to meet and get to know each other in a safe environment until the girl begins to call.

Pepi and Uncle Morse, Pepi is the son of Leo and Daisy.



Daisy and the kittens.



The girls' hormones cycle and they'll usually be ready to meet a boyfriend roughly every 3 weeks between March and October (at least in my experience).

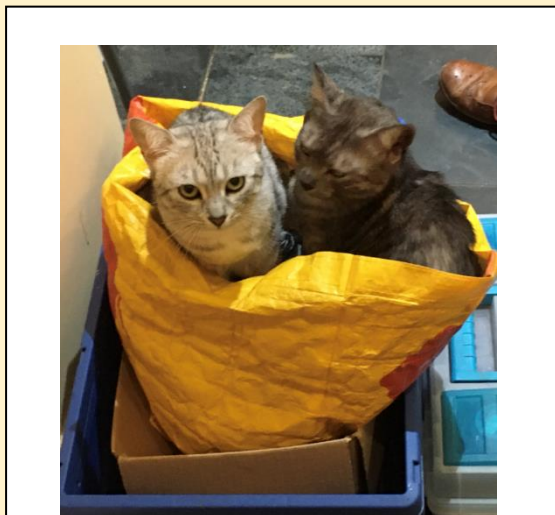
However sometimes even just a change of scenery can upset them and they may stop calling for a while, e.g. immediately after arriving! They might even just not take a fancy to the boy as was the case with Freyja when she visited from Finland. Leo had to put a lot of work in to make any progress over 6 weeks!

Even that was nothing compared to Lottie who took a 12 month vow of celibacy when she left her old home to come and live with us. Honestly, I think she was just very sad to leave her old home and took a while to settle in, but now she's very happy and spends almost every minute in the same room as Leo.

Ch Geniemau Daisy lives 'oop t'North and is the sister of Ch Geniemau Nebula. She came to visit Leo three years ago and was his first of only two visiting lady-friends. If I remember correctly, she skipped a week and had a two-week cycle rather than three which caught us all off-guard and her breeder had to make a quick dash down to us to avoid missing the window of opportunity. I admit I was immensely relieved at how smoothly the whole thing went. Daisy settled into her section of the cat pen immediately and I spent some time sat with her keeping her company. The following day, Leo and Daisy met and stayed together happily until Daisy was collected about a week later. It really doesn't get any easier than that!

Two months later, Daisy had three kittens: Linus, Gr Ch Missy Mau and Pepi. You can see some lovely photos of the whole litter, Mum, and Uncle Morse on the Bronze Egyptian Mau Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/bronzeegyptianmaus>



Grand Premiers, Starshadow Ziver Zephyr, and Starshadow Smoke Zahara wondering why they can't both fit in the Ikea bag.

Uncle Morse is a neutered male and these can often be great companions to a litter as we found with Leo once he was neutered. Uncle Morse is a bit of a superstar himself and has worked as a cat model a few times! Grand Champion Missy Mau remains an active queen and currently lives in Barnsley with her boyfriend and active stud Gr Ch Sechem Phoenix (from Sophie Marchand in France, the only bronze entire boy in the UK). Linus and Pepi have both gone to their forever homes as neutered pets.

As I've mentioned a few times, occasionally things don't go smoothly and Pepi was fought extremely hard for to give him a chance in life which proved totally worth the effort. A sign of a good breeder is someone who will fight for each life regardless of the cost so long as it's in the best interest of the cat. Despite it being Daisy's first litter and a true baptism of fire, Pepi is now 2 years old and fighting fit and Daisy is still a healthy active queen; all a testament to the resolve, commitment and moral fibre of Daisy's owners.



Let's talk Grooming...

Egyptian Maus are relatively easy to groom. Unlike some breeds of cat, more noticeably the longhaired or semi longhaired varieties, cats which have short, straight fur do not, as a general rule, require hours upon hours of grooming each week. There are some short haired cats which do need more maintenance than others, those which fall into the British category who have very thick and dense, plush fur, however Egyptian Maus are classified as a Foreign breed and will not require this level of dedication.



However grooming isn't just about making sure your cat looks physically at their best it's also a way to interact, bond and play with your cat – it should be a gentle pleasurable 'me' time for both of you, both relaxed and happy and content in each other's company – rather than the determined wrapping of your cat in a large bath towel while you detangle a knot of fur from their back, clean their ears, clip their claws or remove a bit of muck from their eyes.

Regular, short, productive grooming sessions will become a pleasure for both of you (treats and small rewards can be offered if necessary), so let's proceed from there.

The breed standard for Egyptian Maus states the following: *"Hair is of medium length, close-lying with a lustrous sheen. In the silver and bronze colours, the hair is dense and resilient in texture and accommodates two or more bands of ticking separated by lighter bands. In the smoke colour the hair is silky and fine in texture."* From the standard we can therefore determine that though Maus do indeed enjoy being groomed,

the slightly resilient (slightly rough and a tiny bit springy) texture to their coat is required, you're not looking to produce a puffball by the time you've finished.

General grooming

The coat. Unless dire circumstances make it necessary you should never need to bath your Egyptian Mau. Hand grooming (stroking) or using a soft brush, gentle comb, or chamois should be all that's necessary to keep your cats coat looking good. You'll only need to do this once a week as Maus are fastidious about their coats and fully able to keep it clean themselves. As mentioned in the previous paragraph however, smoke coloured Maus have a slightly different texture and feel to their coat and will probably thank you for a tiny bit more attention in this area as they tend to moult slightly more than the silvers do in general.

Ears

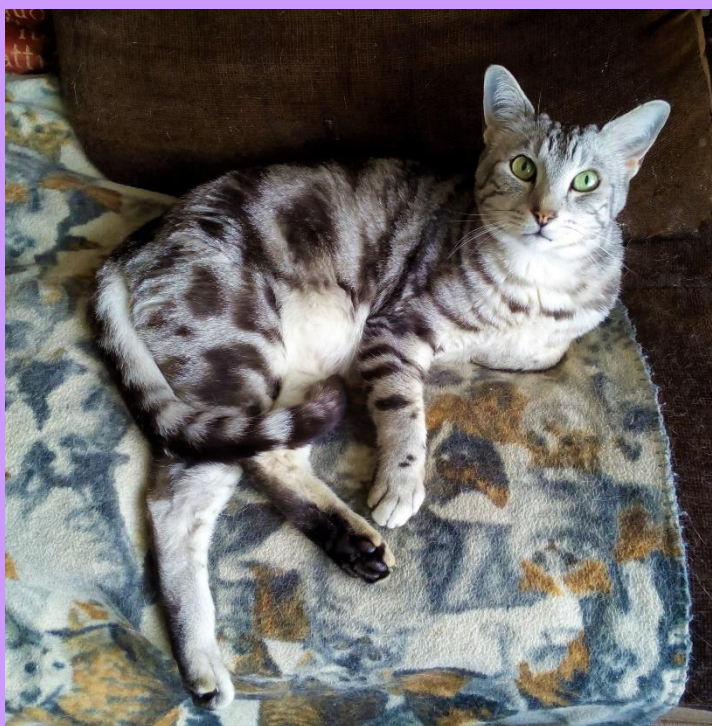
Check your cats' ears for signs of wax once a week by very gently bending them back a tiny way. The cat won't particularly like this and you have to be very careful as cats' ears are delicate. If you find wax deposits they can be very carefully removed by a little warm water on the end of a cotton bud. Do this with care and take your time. If you see anything you're not sure of, visit your vet immediately.

Eyes

All cats get a tiny bit of dark coloured dirt and build-up at the corner of their eyes from time to time. These can be removed by warm water on a small piece of cotton wool. Patience and care may be required to remove some very dried bits. If you see any discharge in or around your cats' eyes, visit your vet for a check-up as soon as you can.

Nose

As a general rule of thumb, you shouldn't need to touch your cat's nose (one of their most sensitive organs) for any reason. If your cat has a runny nose, again a vet's visit is advised to see if they've picked up an allergy or have hay fever.



Mastercat Samsonite – is a good example of a Pedigree Pet. Both his parents were full Egyptian Mau, but as he lacked the 'spotting gene' and has a classic, he could not enter the pedigree section of a show. Instead, he entered the Household Pet section and has achieved the rank of Mastercat (so far) which is equivalent to Champion or Premier in the pedigree section.



Adcinsh Silver Fiora and Adcinsh Silver Cecina at 3 weeks old. Cecina was an outdoor cat and was run over at a year old.

Claws

Cutting a cat's claws can be a rather tricky and delicate business. Unless started from a very early age, most cats will not willingly give you their paws or allow you to cut their claws. A good pair of clippers are essential, as is the trust of your cat. And a great amount of care is needed to ensure that you never trim the claw too much. You MUST only cut the clear part of the nail – the pink bit which follows is full of nerves and will bleed for a long time; you'll cause your cat extreme pain and will destroy a lot of the trust you've build up. It's always advisable to take less off then more. Most vet surgeries will offer a claw clipping service for very little money and if you're unsure at all about cutting your cats claws yourself, take your cat to them. Otherwise choose a time when the house is quiet and calm and have your cat sitting comfortably on your lap. You should try spreading their paws out gently first to show there is nothing to fear before going any further, and gradually build up their trust.

There is a good "How To" guide from the GCCF at <https://www.gccfcats.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Claw.clipping.pdf> just remember, grooming should be a pleasant happy time for both of you.

Feature Cats – Sue Krein’s gorgeous Benji and Lula

Benji was born 13/10/06 Baakhouf De Fondcombe and Lula was born 18/8/15 L’Ange Bleu. Despite the age different they are content and very happy together and never cease to amaze with their crazy games and loving snuggles. When Lula arrived in December 2016 at 4 months it took just 3 hours for them to bond. Benji was the last litter of the Fondcombe dynasty as Marie Christine passed away through illness and Didier her husband died, a short time later. They were lovely people who did so much work for the Maus.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/595445201252870>

Gooseberry Green II



Zivile MenSalon and her MauMau Sugar. This was when he won Best In Show at the Vilnius International Cat Show in December.



Cat Seated under a Chair, from a mural of the Puyonlapo Drummers, in the Tomb of Ipy. Dates from the reign of RamessesII in the New Kingdom period. Photo by Norman de Garis Davies, donated to Wikimedia by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, from Wiki-Commons.